

Implementing Sustainability Economic Development (2010-2015)

Leaner & Greener

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Pierce County
Office of Sustainability

“Sustainability means many things. From an economic development perspective, having a sustainable economy means having a strong business climate where businesses prosper. Without that, residents must leave the county every day to go to work which negatively affects transportation, the environment, and quality of life. The Economic Development Division works on a number of initiatives to improve our business climate and to directly assist our businesses.”

Denise Dyer, Economic Development Division



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2015 Pierce County Sustainability Goals

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Updated Pierce County Government Sustainability Goals



Air Quality: All areas of Pierce County are in compliance with federal air quality standards.



Employee Sustainability Training: When surveyed, 90% of Pierce County employees take sustainability into consideration in their jobs



Energy Efficiency: Reduce by 15%* electricity and natural gas use in County facilities over January 2010 levels. All new County facilities are built to a LEED Silver or better standard.



Green Purchasing and Recycling: At least 50% of office products purchased have recycled content. Reduce purchase and consumption of copier/printer paper by 15%. Increase recycling by 35% **. Reduce the amount of landfill waste by 30%.



Transportation: 50% of Pierce County's general use fleet to be hybrid/electric/alternative fuel vehicles. 25% of Pierce County employee commute trips will be public transit, carpool/vanpool, bicycle, walk, drive electric vehicles, telecommute or compressed work week.



Water Quality and Quantity: Reduce water use in our 43 owned buildings by 10%. On average Pierce County streams grade to a B- or better (Currently C).***

Expanded Goal*, Decreased Goal**, New Goal***

Economic Development – Leaner & Greener

Energy Efficiency

- Continue to inform Pierce County businesses of emerging energy-related technologies with newsletters and scheduled site visits
- Division staff communicates available loan and grant opportunities for energy efficiencies to businesses in Pierce County

Employee Sustainability Training

- As “best practices” are identified, roll out education programs to Pierce County businesses

Transportation

- Continue to seek completion of the Cross Base Highway and Highway 167 to decrease road congestion in the county and provide for improved freight corridors throughout Pierce County
- Continue to work with Pierce Transit to establish bus routes to employment centers whenever possible
- Attracting businesses to Pierce County enables residents to work locally



Air Quality

- See “Transportation”
- Continue to work with County and regional partners to solve the woodstove smoke particulate issue to permit increased business activity in the County

Green Purchasing and Recycling

- Increase the use of green and recycled materials by the Division
- Using multi media and educational forums, provide Pierce County businesses with the information necessary for them to make purchasing choices
- Through educational forums, empower and encourage businesses to buy local, reducing transportation costs and air pollution

Water Quality

- Assist Pierce County businesses as necessary to comply with future changes to water quality standards

Greenhouse Gas Reductions

- See ‘Transportation’ and ‘Air Quality’ above

2010 Economic Development Sustainability Snapshot

Department Size

- Employees: **7 employees**

Employee Sustainability Education and Training

- % of employees have filled out the sustainability survey: **100%**
- % of employees who take sustainability into consideration in their jobs: **100% yes**
- General Sustainability Training: **Yes**
- Education on what creates greenhouse gases and strategies for reducing: **Yes**
- Wood stove educational training: **Yes**

Energy Efficiency

- Building EnergyStar Score: **Leased Building**
- % reduction in energy use in office building: **N/A**
- Building Energy Cost per Sq Ft: **N/A**

Green Purchasing and Recycling

- % of office products that have recycled content: **29.6%; up from 15.4% in 2009**
- % Paper use: **14% decrease in paper use, spent \$53 less than in 2009**

Transportation

- Vehicles Operated by Department: **0**
- Hybrid/Electric vehicles: **0**
- Mileage Reimbursements: **4,618 miles, 1804 less miles than in 2009**
- Gasoline use: **N/A**
- Fleet MPG: **N/A**