

# Implementing Sustainability: Public Works & Utilities (2010-2015)

## Leaner & Greener

April 2011



Pierce County  
Office of Sustainability

*"The implementation of this department plan will reinforce the great things that are already being done by department staff while at times, pushing us to a higher level. The payoff will benefit County government and the community."*



Brian Ziegler, Public Works and Utilities



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# 2015 Pierce County Sustainability Goals

## Leaner & Greener

### 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\*\*\*

# Public Works & Utilities – Leaner & Greener

## Energy Efficiency

- **Reduce** energy use for all PWU-owned facilities by at least 15% overall.
- **Apply** to PWU-leased facilities the energy reduction actions used to achieve the 15% reduction in PWU-owned facilities
- **Conduct** energy audits of all PWU-owned facilities
- **Purchase/lease** only Energy Star rated electronic equipment for all PWU offices and support areas (kitchen, break rooms)
- **Analyze** the feasibility of using low-impact energy sources, such as solar, and **implement** where feasible
- **Monitor** Department operations and **evaluate** opportunities for reducing energy use

## Transportation

- **Purchase** hybrid, electric, or highly fuel-efficient vehicles as replacements or additions to PWU's vehicle fleet
- **Audit** all assigned vehicle usage to insure that the vehicles assigned are of appropriate size and adequately serve Department needs
- **Implement** the results of PWU's pilot telecommuting project and **expand** where possible
- **Reduce** the Department's business-related vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 10 %
- **Create** new opportunities and increase existing online transactions with our customers.



## Air Quality

- **Enforce** the County's "no idle" program for all PWU vehicles and other gas-powered equipment
- **Work** with the individual facility managers to reduce the use of gas-powered equipment by modifying frequency and duration of use
- **Increase** the planting of native trees and vegetation at PWU owned facilities and projects
- **Analyze** the feasibility of actively managing the PWU-owned forests
- **Audit** indoor air quality in leased and owned facilities and **implement** changes to improve the air quality where feasible

## Water Quality

- **Publish** County-accepted standards for the various best management practices (BMPs) that fall under PWU's purview and **implement** Low Impact Development practices
- **Assess** the health of water bodies by continuing to use the PWU scorecard developed for that purpose
- **Require** that LID BMPs used on public projects comply with the updated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit definition of "feasible"
- **Reduce** potable water use for irrigation at PWU facilities
- **Design** and begin the construction of the Chambers Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion project to increase the quality of the wastewater treatment.

## Green Purchasing

- **Require** new office supply purchases to be made of recyclable materials (cardboard, metal, glass) instead of plastic or a high percentage of post-consumer materials. Only when neither is available will purchases of new plastic items be allowed
- **Reduce** total Department paper usage (letterhead, plans, and display maps) by 15%
- **Ensure** that all department computers and printers with duplexing capability default to duplex (double-sided) printing and copying
- **Expand** the practice of transmitting copies of letters and documents electronically and not in hard copy through a department-wide policy.
- **Contract** with Builder's Exchange (or similar business) to publish electronically all department plans and specifications
- **Reduce** the number of printed documents and **encourage** electronic access to those documents on the Department's website

## Education and Outreach

- **Educate** all PWU employees about the department's Sustainability Plan goals
- **Develop** incentives to encourage both staff and the public to put sustainability into practice
- **Incorporate** sustainability education and practice into Department retreats or division meetings
- **Establish** a Green Team of Department employees whose goal it is to assist others in overcoming cultural inertia on issues related to sustainability

# 2010 Department Sustainability Snapshot: Public Works & Utilities

## Department Size

Employees: 612



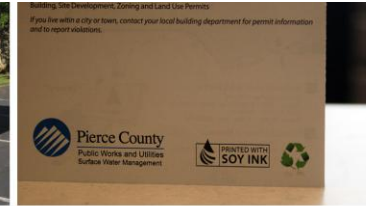
Energy Efficiency



Employee Education & Recycling



Transportation



Green Purchasing & Recycling

## Energy Efficiency

- Building EnergyStar Score:
  - Environmental Service Building (**37**)
  - Wastewater Treatment Plant (**69**)
- Reduction in energy use in office buildings:
  - Anderson Island Ferry (**+23.1%**)
  - CMF (**-1.4%**)
  - East County MF (**-7.7%**)
  - ESB (**-1.5%**)
  - North County MF (**-33.4%**)
  - Orting Quarry (**-3.3%**),
  - Steilacoom Ferry Landing (**+12.8%**)
  - Traffic Operations Center/ESD (**-16.3%**)
- Annual Building Energy Cost per Sq Ft:
  - Anderson Island Ferry (**\$3.14**)
  - CMF (**\$1.81**)
  - East County MF (**\$1.08**)
  - ESB (**\$1.29**)
  - North County MF (**\$2.90**)
  - Orting Quarry (**\$2.40**)
  - Steilacoom Ferry Landing (**\$1.63**)
  - Traffic Operations Center/ESD (**\$0.99**)

## Employee Sustainability Education and Training

- **47.5%** of employees have filled out the sustainability survey.
- **78%** of employees take sustainability into consideration in their jobs.
- General Sustainability Training: **No**
- Education on what creates greenhouse gases and strategies for reducing: **No**
- Wood stove educational training: **No**

## Transportation

- Vehicles Operated by Department: **393**
- Hybrid/Electric vehicles: **14**
- Mileage Reimbursements: **34,751 miles**
- Gasoline use:
  - 114,301** unleaded gallons
  - 291,804** diesel gallons
  - 406,105** total gallons of fuel, **up 37,420** gallons in 2009
- Fleet MPG: **26.8 mpg, up from 23.5 mpg in 2009**
- Ferry Use: **135,778** gallons of diesel, **21,566 less** than in 2009

## Green Purchasing and Recycling

- **21.4%** of office products have recycled content: **up from 16% in 2009**
- **19.7%** reduction in Paper use since 2009