

PIERCE COUNTY'S ENERGY CONSERVATION POLICY

1.0 PURPOSE

This policy establishes the requirements for an energy reduction program for Pierce County. This policy advocates using energy efficiently, reducing Pierce County energy costs and benefiting environmental quality through:

- Ensuring that new and existing county facilities are designed, maintained and upgraded, as required, to be energy efficient based on life-cycle evaluations.
- Implementing and maintaining energy conservation efforts within all departments, county-owned facilities and operations.

2.0 BACKGROUND

In 2009, the Pierce County Executive and Council adopted a Sustainability Plan that identified the need for energy conservation across the organization. In 2010, the Office of Sustainability set a goal to reduce energy consumption by 15% countywide by 2015 compared to 2009. A resource conservation position was created to assist all County departments to achieve the goals and outcomes, with the focus on energy, water, and waste reduction. To date, energy conservation has been the primary focus.

Participation from all departments will be necessary in order to reach the Office of Sustainability's energy consumption reduction goal, save taxpayer money, and operate County government in a sustainable manner.

3.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Pierce County consumes significant amounts of energy in its operation of buildings, utility services, and facilities. Pierce County is committed to supporting and adding emphasis to its energy management and conservation initiatives. Pierce County will:

- Reduce energy costs and waste and conserve resources by using efficient and cost-effective methods.
- Create a culture of energy conservation among all departments and employees.
- Incorporate energy efficiency into the decision-making process during the design and acquisition of facilities and equipment, emphasizing the use of renewable energy sources.
- Increase energy efficiency through capital investment and improved operations.
- Establish partnerships with local utilities in order to utilize all energy conservation funding opportunities.
- Recognize and promote individual and organizational achievements in conserving energy, advancing county energy policies, and realizing monetary savings.
- Reduce operational costs by designing and implementing standards and best practices.

This policy provides a framework for a countywide effort. Employees and departments are encouraged to be creative and suggest beneficial actions or procedures for energy use reduction and consumption.