

Summary of Policy

The purpose of the Energy and Sustainability Policy is to control energy consumption and embrace energy efficiency, energy conservation, and sustainability to:

- Avoid unnecessary expenditure
- Help in protecting the environment
- Improve cost effectiveness, productivity, and working conditions
- Prolong the useful life of fossil fuels by using resources more efficiently

Metro's long term objectives are to:

- Reduce, whenever possible, Metro's use of fossil fuels through the use of ambient and renewable energy sources
- Buy fuels and electricity at the most economic cost
- Use fuels and electricity as efficiently as possible
- Reduce the amount of emissions, especially carbon dioxide (CO₂), caused by our required consumption

Metro's immediate objectives are to:

- Gain more control over our energy consumption by aggressively pursuing renewable energy sources, take advantages of rebates and subsidies for energy and water conservation wherever feasible, conduct energy audits of Metro divisions and facilities, and implement energy conservation measures where they are feasible and fiscally prudent.

- Construct all new facilities and projects, including new transit corridor projects, using energy efficiency and conservation strategies. For buildings or structures over 10,000 square feet, projects must be constructed to achieve leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification, at minimum.

Historical Perspective

Metro spends approximately \$30 million per year on utility costs for electricity, gas, and water alone, with \$26 million of those costs being just for electricity. Of the \$26 million expended on electricity, \$20 million is for propulsion power for the Metro Redline and other light rail lines, whereas \$7 million is for operation of our bus and rail maintenance facilities, layovers, terminals, and headquarters building. As the years progress, Metro also expects that these costs will rise along with periodic utility rate increases that will occur in future years. Staff believes that in this volatile and costly energy market, embracing sustainability, energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy sources is a primary pathway towards gaining control of, and reducing, Metro's energy costs.

In June 2007, the Board adopted the Energy and Sustainability Policy to control energy consumption and embrace energy efficiency, energy conservation, and sustainability. Adoption of the Energy and Sustainability policy will not only help to immediately lower our electrical and water bills, but will provide the baseline and business case to further our sustainability goals at Metro.

As staff began the formulation of the policy, staff performed a review of energy policies for other federal, state, and local

agencies to determine what other similar agencies had adopted. The policy was then written to incorporate lessons learned from our interagency review, as well as the comments of Metro staff in affected departments.

Last Board Action

June 28, 2007

The Board approved on consent calendar the Energy & Sustainability Policy

See Also

[Compressed Natural Gas Hedging](#)