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THE COUNTY ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PROGRAM AREAS

The following is a more detailed description of the County's Energy and Environmental Policy Program areas and current, ongoing activities under them.

Energy and Water Efficiency

This program area focuses on reducing the County's consumption of energy (electricity and natural gas) to achieve the goal of a 20% reduction in energy consumption in County facilities by the year 2015 (using 2006 as the benchmark year). This goal is consistent with the Governor's Green Building Executive Order (S-20-04) and the State Energy Action Plan, which establishes a similar goal for State facilities. County departments shall reduce energy and water consumption through initiatives that include:

- Implementing and monitoring energy and water conservation practices

  The Internal Services Department (ISD), Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Chief Executive Office (CEO) shall assist County departments in conserving electricity, natural gas, and water through various conservation programs. These programs focus on reducing energy consumption during expensive, "peak-usage" periods. The programs encourage such items as setting thermostats (heating and cooling) at appropriate levels, turning off unused lighting, watering at ideal times of the day, and other changes in behavior and procedures. ISD convenes regular major energy user group workshops to review conservation measures and departmental results.

- Implementing energy and water efficiency projects

  ISD and CEO shall assist County departments in conserving electricity and natural gas by optimizing building systems (also referred to as "retro-commissioning") and implementing energy efficiency projects. Retro-commissioning returns buildings to their peak energy performance by repairing and tuning-up energy systems, such as cooling, heating and ventilation. ISD's Energy Management Division, the County's central energy management organization, procures utility incentives, rebates, and other funding and financing opportunities to implement energy efficiency projects.

  ISD and other County building maintenance service providers are assisting departments by implementing water conservation measures by installing low-flow devices, drought tolerant landscaping, leak detection devices, improved water metering, and conservation-based water rates. DPW's Recycled Water Task Force is also assisting departments by facilitating increased usage of recycled water for irrigation and other uses at County facilities.

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➢ Monitoring progress of energy and water efficiency goals and other programs

Progress towards the County's 20% energy reduction goal by 2015 is tracked on the County's Energy and Environmental Programs website: www.green.lacounty.gov. The County tracks the impacts of energy and water conservation measures by department and throughout large County facilities, in an effort to identify the most effective programs. This website will be refined and enhanced to provide updated information on all relevant County programs.

➢ Enhancing employee energy and water conservation awareness through education and promotions

The County will embark on additional energy conservation and awareness programs, such as the Quality and Productivity Commission's "How's Your Energy"? Program. This program will be re-implemented and marketed on an expanded basis and will be monitored to ensure conservation measures remain an integral part of all County operations. Employee education and promotion programs will be integrated into a more comprehensive effort to implement County sustainability practices throughout County operations.

Green Building Construction and Operations

This program area highlights two significant businesses: 1) designing and constructing new County buildings and refurbishing existing County buildings in energy efficient and environmentally sound ways and 2) to the maximum extent possible, conducting all aspects of County operations in a "green" or sustainable manner.

➢ Designing and Constructing New County Buildings

CEO and DPW have developed a sustainable design policy for the County's Capital Construction Program, consistent with the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification program. The sustainable design policy shall establish:

- A process for incorporating sustainable design, construction, and operational characteristics in County capital projects, including achieving LEED Silver certification in new County buildings greater than 10,000 square feet.

- A planning and design protocol that creates healthy work environments and extends a facility's useful life.

- Performance measures to determine the LEED level of certification achieved.

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ISD, through the County Office of Sustainability (COS), shall support the Capital Construction Programs' sustainable design policy by developing project-specific assessments on State and local programs that provide subsidies, incentives, and assistance in implementing particular energy and water efficient technologies or other sustainable design features.

ISD, CEO, and DPW shall establish criteria, in accordance with LEED standards, to measure life-cycle energy and environmental costs and benefits for County capital construction projects. ISD, CEO, and DPW shall report the results of the costs and benefits analysis, as well as the LEED level of certification achieved, for each capital construction project to the Board of Supervisors.

The CEO and DPW shall work with ISD to ensure that criteria developed during the LEED certification process for new construction is provided to ISD-COS and customer departments to support efforts to acquire LEED Existing Building certifications (described below).

"Greening" County Operations

Both the ISD and DPW headquarters buildings are preparing applications for LEED Certification for Existing Buildings (LEED EB). Achievement of these certifications will form the basis for developing a County Best Practices Program for building operations and maintenance. ISD and DPW will work together to develop a program for promoting, assessing, and implementing LEED EB measures and/or certification for other County buildings. LEED EB measures impact an existing building's operations and maintenance programs related to: building and site management, energy and water efficiency, purchasing and contracting practices, waste management, and indoor air quality. These efforts will form the foundation of a program to "green" basic County operations on a large scale and to enhance existing County programs already implemented or being implemented, including:

- Environmentally Responsible Purchasing Standards

  The County is investigating and implementing requirements and preferences for environmentally friendly packaging, environmentally safe cleaners and solvents, greater emphasis on recycled products, minimum energy efficiency standards (e.g., "Energy Star") for appliances, and other sustainable purchasing policies. In addition, the County has adopted the Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) to assist in the identification of products that have been designed to reduce environmental impacts throughout their lifecycle. The County has adopted the EPEAT certification standard for all solicitations for desktops, laptops, and other office computing products.

  The County is also developing a program and schedule for banning the purchase of expanded polystyrene (EPS) food packaging at all County facilities. Program

recommendations also include maximizing the use of durable and reusable goods and implementing the use of non-EPS products, such as compostable and recyclable alternatives.

- Recycling Programs

  The County is increasing recycling and waste reduction programs within County buildings by utilizing the resources provided by DPW's Environmental Programs Division, ISD, and other departments' building maintenance organizations. DPW and ISD install recycling bins in visible areas of County buildings for the segregation of paper, plastic, glass, and other recyclables from normal waste. This program also provides bins for the collection and disposal of household hazardous waste items, such as batteries and computer equipment.

- Transportation and Fleet Management

  The County has implemented a program that allows employees to purchase train and bus passes using "pre-tax" dollars. In addition, the County promotes ridesharing and telework as strategies to reduce traffic congestion, air pollution, and commuter costs. The County encourages employees to utilize various rideshare programs, including carpooling, telecommuting, public transportation, and alternate work hours. The Clean Fuel Policy of 1995 requires County departments to report their fleet composition and their progress toward acquiring clean fuel vehicles. ISD reports annually on behalf of all County departments with the exception of Sheriff, Fire, and Public Works departments, who file their own reports.

  On February 12, 2008, the Board of Supervisors established a Vehicle Purchasing Services Program (VPSP) for alternative fuel vehicles. The program provides an incentive for County employees, retirees, family members, and contractors/sub-contractors to purchase "green" vehicles.

Environmental Stewardship

This element of the Energy and Environmental Policy Program shall prepare the County for adherence to potential greenhouse gas reduction legislation requirements and participation in future emissions reduction credit markets. The County shall participate in organizations and collaborations that will assist in measuring and reducing the environmental impacts of both County internal operations and the carbon footprint of the region as a whole. In particular, many local governments are now measuring and establishing goals to reduce the amount of air pollutants (e.g., greenhouse gases) produced as a result of municipal operations and throughout their jurisdictions as a result of community energy use, transportation, and other processes.

- Industry Organizations

The County has joined The Climate Registry (Registry), a nonprofit public/private partnership that serves as a voluntary greenhouse gas registry to protect, encourage, and promote early actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ISD shall work with the Registry to assist the County in developing measurement and reporting protocols and establishing goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. This type of emissions monitoring and reporting may be required by the State as part of the implementation of the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32).
The County has also pledged to be a "Cool County." The Cool County pledge includes establishing a greenhouse gas emissions footprint, developing a greenhouse gas mitigation plan, working with local entities to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050, and supporting federal legislation to raise Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards.

- Regional Collaborations

The County is a charter member and steering committee member of the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability (LARC). The LARC is a dues paying membership based organization committed to the development and implementation of regional efforts to quantify greenhouse gas emissions and establish regional reduction goals and implementation strategies for achieving those goals. Other members of the LARC include local cities, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and private business interests. The LARC encourages regional cooperation to maximize the effectiveness of climate change mitigation and sustainability policies and practices countywide.

Under the LARC, the County and the City of Los Angeles have earmarked ARRA funding for the development of a Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) which shall develop a regional greenhouse gas emissions baseline report, establish regional reduction targets, develop regional strategies and implementation plans, and develop a regional climate adaptation model (an analytical model which forecasts climate impacts across the region).

This effort is also intended to support DRP's efforts toward developing a Climate Action Plan specifically for County unincorporated areas, which will be an integral component of the County's General Plan Update.

Public Outreach and Education

The Public Outreach and Education element of the program shall utilize existing and new County community responsibilities and functions to develop and implement programs in support of general sustainability legislation, regulations, and policies. The

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DPW and DRP have developed ordinances that require new development in County unincorporated areas to be more sustainable.

- County Green Building Program

  The County has developed a Green Building Ordinance which requires green building elements to be integrated into the construction of new projects in the unincorporated areas. These green building standards are intended to conserve energy, protect natural resources, conserve water, divert waste from landfills, minimize impacts to existing infrastructure, and promote a healthier environment. The Low Impact Development (LID) Ordinance, which is also part of the Green Building Program, requires major projects to incorporate land planning and engineering design approaches in managing storm water runoff. LID emphasizes conservation and use of on-site natural features to protect water quality. The LID approach is supported by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is promoted as a method to help meet the goals of the Clean Water Act.

  The Drought-Tolerant Landscaping Ordinance, the final ordinance of the Green Building Program, establishes minimum standards for the design and installation of landscaping using drought-tolerant and native plants that require minimal use of water.

- Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program

  On January 22, 2008, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Los Angeles County Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program, a comprehensive strategy to reduce the consumption and disposal of plastic carryout bags. This program brings together the interests of supermarkets and retail stores, environmental groups, the plastic bag industry, local government, and the public. Every year, approximately 6 billion plastic bags are consumed in Los Angeles County and less than 5% of these bags are recycled. In addition, plastic bags make up about 25% of the litter stream and local governments must spend millions of dollars each year on litter prevention, cleanup, and enforcement activities. This program will reduce the number of plastic carryout bags consumed and their impact on the environment.

- Regional Energy Programs

  As directed by the Board of Supervisors in March 2009, the County will support efforts to promote energy and water efficiency programs throughout the region, specifically through the utilization of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program, authorized under AB 811. Using ARRA grants and other third-party funding sources, the County shall develop additional regional programs that promote energy and water efficiency in private and public buildings. The County shall leverage all available funding sources including: federal, State and local grants; utility incentives; PACE financing; and alternative private/public financing.

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The County has developed a regional PACE Program for residential and non-residential, private property owners and will implement said program when challenges raised by the Federal Housing Financing Authority are resolved.

The County has partnered with the State's regulatory agencies, investor-owned and municipal utilities, cities within the County, and workforce development stakeholders to implement a Whole House Retrofit Program in Los Angeles County under the State's *Energy Upgrade California* brand name. *Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County* will provide property owners with education, information, incentives and financing for comprehensive, home energy efficiency measures under a single, cohesive program.

➢ Environmental Service Centers

Under *Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County*, ISD has begun implementation of Environmental Service Centers (ESCs). Integration and enhancement of ESCs is part of the implementation plan for *Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County* and will therefore occur during the period of the ARRA grants (through September 2012). ISD will identify long-term financing to keep the ESCs in operation indefinitely. This program shall leverage communication and outreach channels to share energy, environmental and general sustainability information, facilitate implementation of assistance programs, and spread information on various sustainability programs offered by other entities. The ESCs shall provide, at a minimum, the following:

- Guidance on existing County environmental and conservation programs, including: Green Building Program Ordinances, DPW's Environmental Programs (e.g., 888-Clean LA), County Water Conservation Programs, sustainability programs sponsored by Parks and Recreation and the County Libraries, information and one-on-one counseling regarding the AB 811 PACE financing, when it becomes available;

- Green job training programs and resources overseen by the Workforce Investment Boards and the Los Angeles community colleges;

- Non-County environmental and conservation programs, including: rebates and programs from utilities, State and federal rebates and incentives, such as Cash for Appliances and the California Solar Initiative;

- Information from local transit agencies, including MTA and other transportation stakeholders.

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The County Office of Sustainability

The COS was created by ISD and approved by the CEO and the Board as part of ISD's budget for fiscal year 2009-10. COS was created to mitigate the fact that different aspects of the County's existing energy and environmental programs are housed in various County departments and that there was no single agency responsible for all aspects of these programs. Under the initial Energy & Environmental Policy, a multi-departmental Energy and Environmental Policy Team (EEPT) was established to further develop existing energy and environmental program goals and objectives, and to monitor these programs.

As the original EEPT did, COS will continue to work with all County departments, other public agencies, and industry organizations to recommend to the Board new energy and environmental programs to be included under this Policy. With the Board's approval, the COS shall develop new program initiatives, goals, and objectives.

Through the COS, ISD shall provide periodic reports to the Board of Supervisors on the status of all County energy and environmental programs and provide information to the public and other entities on the County's green website.