

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

March 14, 2008

Mission

Idaho State University is setting this policy in writing to comply with the State of Idaho Governor's Executive Order No. 2005-12 which provides guidelines on energy supply and use in state buildings. It is the University's mission to continuously: 1) encourage energy and water conservation programs; 2) strive to reduce use of non-renewable resources; 3) promote usage of renewable resources; and 4) reduce greenhouse gas emissions from campus-based activities. The intention of the University is to develop sustainable practices and promote stewardship of the environment.

Definitions

Sustainability: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."¹

Renewable sources: Energy resources that are naturally replaced or replenished, e.g. solar, wind, biomass, hydroelectric, geothermal, etc.

Non-renewable sources: Energy resources that are not naturally replaced or regenerated within a reasonable amount of time compared to its rate of consumption, e.g. oil, coal, and natural gas.

Specific Measures

Idaho State University students, faculty, staff, and visitors are encouraged to cooperate and endeavor to achieve the following specific measures whenever possible. ***Exceptions to any of the following must be approved by the Associate Vice President for Facilities Services.***

New Construction & Remodeling of Existing Buildings

- Consider environmentally sustainable design, construction methods, and products in new and remodeled buildings.
- Attempt to meet or exceed the minimum sustainable building standards developed by LEED, ASHRAE and the US Green Building Council.

¹ Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, United Nations, Brundtland Commission, UN General Assembly document A/42/427, August 4, 1987.

Computer & Office Equipment

- Power-down and energy-saving features may be used during working hours.
- During non-working hours such as evenings, weekends, and if equipment will not be used for two hours, power consuming equipment should be shut down.

Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning

- During summer season the temperature in buildings will be set to the range of 74 degrees to 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
- During winter season the temperature in buildings will be set to the range of 68 degrees to 70 degrees Fahrenheit.
- During non-working hours buildings may not be heated or cooled for a small group of people.
- Vending machines may use power saving devices such as “vending misers.”
- Continually replace non-energy-efficient systems with energy-efficient systems.
- In buildings which are mechanically cooled and heated, all windows and doors should be kept closed to avoid loss of conditioned air.
- Space heaters must be UL approved, tilt or tip-proof, thermostat controlled, and meet Idaho General Health and Safety Standards.
- If building heating or cooling is needed during non-working hours or weekends, requests must be made to the HVAC Department in Facilities Services at least 48 hours prior to the event to allow efficient scheduling of building utilities.
- All buildings will be shut down during holidays to conserve energy, with the exception of areas such as animal facilities, cadaver storage, plant facilities, food storage, freezers, etc. Exceptions must be requested by the department to Facilities Services two weeks in advance and only with department head approval.

Water

- Use xeriscaping for landscaping and promote native plants in situations that are appropriate.
- Reduce water use in specific areas of the campus and allow some lawn areas to go dormant when directed to and in cooperation with the city’s request for water curtailment.
- Use minimal quantities of water for irrigation, especially during drought season.
- Use efficient, low-water toilet flushes and faucet restrictors.
- Manage on-campus stormwater by retaining surface water runoff in specified locations.
- Minimize the effluent from the campus as resources allow and will use its lawn areas to treat the surface water wherever possible with the available resources.

Lighting

- Architectural design consideration may include natural lighting, also known as daylighting, as a means of reducing the electrical demand in buildings.

- If office areas will not be occupied for ten minutes or more, lights should be turned off.
- Except if required for campus safety, all exterior building and parking lot lights may be turned off or have their wattage reduced to minimum levels to conserve electricity.
- All interior building lights during non-working hours such as evenings and weekends should remain off. If internal lights are needed for security and safety reasons, requests must be approved by the Associate Vice President for Facilities Services.
- All exterior building and parking lot lights must remain off during daylight hours.
- Custodial crews must switch off lights as they complete work in an area and before moving on to the next work area.
- Luminaries should use energy-efficient bulbs, tubes or lamps such as T8, T5 and compact fluorescent lamps.
- The use of decorative lighting, such as Christmas or other holiday lighting, should only be ON during working hours and OFF during non-working hours to minimize the waste of energy.
- Use office and hallway motion-based occupancy sensors.

Purchasing

- Buy energy-efficient or “EPA Energy Star” designated equipment.
- Participate in renewable energy purchase through the local electricity supplier if the cost to the taxpayer is not greater than the regular electricity, or if enabling legislation is passed to allow for the purchase of more costly electricity.
- Provide a mechanism to recycle and exchange equipment among the various departments within the University. If the equipment cannot be used on campus, provide other state organizations the opportunity to explore its use before disposing of it.
- Purchase recycled office paper, compostable, and biodegradable products.

Finance

- Evaluate construction, natural resource, and utility projects based on life-cycle costing.
- Pursue mechanisms for energy and water-based system upgrades through energy saving performance contracts.
- Pursue mechanisms to utilize energy and water savings generated from current conservation systems to fund future conservation efforts.

Energy Awareness

- Make efforts to raise energy awareness on campus whenever possible.
- Participate in community energy awareness projects, e.g. community environmental fair, earth day, etc.

- Recognize the need to raise awareness on the local, national and global climate-change levels.
- Incorporate sustainable energy and water resource related coursework in academic curriculum.

Transportation

- Purchase energy-efficient campus fleet vehicles.
- Use clean alternative fuels.
- Perform regular maintenance, as per manufacturers guidelines, on campus fleet vehicles to maintain efficiency in vehicle operation and minimize emissions.
- Vehicles should not be left idling.
- Provide bike racks and encourage multimodal transportation systems, alternatives, and facilities to allow for their use, circulation, and storage, i.e. buses, bikes, scooters, segways, and pedicabs.

Miscellaneous

- Encourage research, development, and use of renewable energy sources.
- Develop a long-term plan to reduce the carbon footprint of the University.
- Reduce the consumption of energy by establishing and following good stewardship actions, behaviors, and responses.
- Classes, especially evening and weekend classes, should be scheduled in as few buildings as possible to minimize energy use and maximize building usage.
- Encourage recycling and reduce disposal of materials in the solid waste stream.
- Encourage digital exchange of documents instead of photocopying.
- Printing and photocopies should be double-sided.
- Electronic waste, batteries, and fluorescent light bulbs should be disposed off as per the University's hazardous policy.
- Provide a mechanism for the University community to report energy waste, for example: If you find an energy, water, or building system that needs repairs or maintenance, report it immediately to the Facilities Services Department.

Suggestions

The Sustainability Committee of the Campus Planning Council encourages suggestions from students, faculty, staff, and community members on promoting sustainability on the Idaho State University campuses. Suggestions can either be sent to the Sustainability Committee of the Campus Planning Council or to the Environmental Specialist in the Facilities Services Department at energy@isu.edu.