

Policy 3511: Energy And Water Management

Status: ADOPTED

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The Governing Board recognizes the environmental and financial benefits that can be derived from conserving energy, water, and other natural resources, preparing for extreme weather and other natural events, and providing an environment that promotes the health and well-being of students and staff. To support district goals for energy and water management, the Superintendent or designee shall develop a resource management program which may include strategies for implementing effective and sustainable resource use practices, exploring the use of renewable and clean energy technology and/or sources, reducing energy and water consumption, and promoting conservation principles in the educational program.

The Superintendent or designee may solicit input from staff, students, and parents/guardians regarding the district's resource management program. The Superintendent or designee shall provide staff and students with training and guidance on best practices to achieve the district's goals, and may establish a reward program to recognize outstanding accomplishments.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly inspect district facilities, monitor operations, and make recommendations for maintenance and repairs which may help the district reach its conservation and management goals and improve efficiency.

The Superintendent or designee shall make every effort to identify funding opportunities and cost-reducing incentive programs to help the district achieve its conservation and management goals. The district may coordinate with other local or regional entities to capitalize on their expertise and maximize the efficient use of resources, such as through joint or shared use agreements.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board on the district's progress in meeting its conservation and resource management goals.

Storm Water Management

To the maximum extent practicable, the district shall reduce the discharge of pollutants into the water system in order to minimize the threat to water quality from storm water runoff.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district complies with storm water discharge standards specified by any applicable General Permit coverage required by law, including all requirements of the Construction General Permit issued by the State Water Resources Control Board for any project that disturbs one acre or more of soil. (40 CFR 122.34).

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a storm water management plan that complies with the provisions of the applicable permit and describes best management practices, design strategies, measurable goals, and timetables for implementation. The plan and a resolution authorizing its implementation shall be submitted to the Board for approval. (40 CFR 122.34)

For all projects, the district shall comply with any city or county ordinance that regulates drainage improvements and conditions. (Government Code 53097)

Emergency Interruption of Services

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan to minimize disruption to the educational program in the event of power outages or other emergency interruption of utility services. The plan shall include actions to be taken to facilitate student and staff safety, administrative control of operations, protection of equipment, effective communications, and coordination with local fire, police, and emergency personnel and utility service providers.

Energy and Water Use, Conservation, and Efficiency Program

The Governing Board recognizes that success in achieving optimal energy and water use, conservation, and efficiency requires active cooperation and participation at all levels. Every member of the greater school community is expected to contribute to the district's efforts to conserve as much energy and water as possible while sustaining an environment that is conducive to effective teaching and learning.

Unless otherwise designated by the Superintendent, it shall be the primary responsibility of the Chief Business Officer or designee to manage and administer the district's energy and water use, conservation, and efficiency program. The Chief Business Officer or designee shall maintain accurate records of energy and water consumption and associated costs at all school and work sites and, with the assistance of others as may be necessary, develop short and long term goals designed to:

1. Reduce current levels of energy and water consumption;
2. Transform school facilities into renewable energy producers to the extent feasible through the use of clean, renewable energy sources including solar, hydro, wind, biomass, and geothermal;
3. Protect the natural environment;
4. Be cost-effective; and
5. Provide replicable models for the greater Coastside community.

The Chief Business Officer or designee shall regularly provide the Board with a report on the status of the program and on any new initiatives that are being considered. New goals should be realistic, attainable within a predetermined period of time, and reflective of a thoughtful cost-benefit analysis. Unless otherwise directed by the Board, all costs associated with implementing new goals related to this policy, whether direct or indirect, shall be cost neutral or better to district funds.

Curricular Implications

The Board recognizes that school communities have the potential to make significant contributions to the environment while teaching students to be good stewards of the earth and its finite resources. To the extent practical, students should be actively engaged in all phases of the district's efforts to reduce energy and water consumption and/or implement alternative energy strategies. Such activities should extend into district classrooms at appropriate grade levels and content areas where students will learn sound water and energy management strategies and monitor and report on data associated with the use of renewable energy sources.

New Construction and Major Facility Renovation

It is the intent of the Board that the district will apply principles of energy efficiency and sustainability in all future capital projects, including major facility renovation, while taking into account budgetary constraints and regulatory and programmatic requirements. Alternative energy sources such as passive solar heating and heat recovery should be considered as well as other proven strategies for decreasing building energy consumption in accordance with green building concepts. Primary consideration should be given to connecting and/or extending central systems for heating, cooling, and other electrical and lighting systems.

New construction should be designed and built to minimize energy use. The most recent version of the California Green Building Standards Code shall serve as the minimum energy efficiency guideline. The design process should include an energy life cycle cost analysis. All new construction shall be designed in such a manner that no less than ten percent of the ongoing, total energy required for the general operation of that structure will come from clean, renewable sources.
