

AGENCY SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES PLAN OUTLINE

Agency Name:

Washington State School for the Blind

Responsible Agency Staff:

Mr. Rob Tracey

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0351

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Policy Statement and Long-Term Goal Focus:

The Washington State School for the Blind is committed to protect the health and safety of its students and employees, implement practices that utilize environmentally friendly products and equipment that reduce negative impacts on the environment. Through the use of energy efficient practices, the use of environmentally friendly products, the agency will contribute to a healthy Washington economy and fulfill the responsibilities under Executive Order 02-03.

(Attachment: 1)

Assessment of Opportunities:

The Washington State School for the Blind will continue to assess all aspects of it's operation to determine efficient, safe and environmentally friendly practices.

Health and Safety Programs: WSSB's safety committee will meet on a monthly basis and implement all aspects as determined in it's charter.

Capital projects, building maintenance: WSSB will assess all projects and maintenance practices to assure that environmentally friendly products are being utilized and that efficient systems and construction practices are being implemented to lower operation costs.

Grounds maintenance, including chemical use and watering: WSSB will assess current practices to determine efficiencies that can be implemented and assure that safe and appropriate practices are being utilized in the use of ground maintenance products.

Fleet transportation practices: WSSB will evaluate the use and type of vehicle utilized to determine efficiencies that can be gained, which should result in more environmentally friendly practices.

Procurement: WSSB will assess procurement procedures to assure that environmentally friendly products become a top priority in future purchases.

Action Plan:Health and Safety Program:

Agency Sustainable coordinator will become an active member of the agency's safety committee. (Fall-2003) – Mr. Rob Tracey

- Safety committee will share information with staff on sustainable practices through meeting notes and informational meetings. (Beginning fall 2003)

Capital Projects:

- All capital projects (to extent possible) will implement the use of green building standards. (Currently WSSB has the only state building that incorporates active solar (13.5K), passive solar, and an eco-roof system along with D.D.C. controls and state-of-the-art window systems)

including 100% day-lighting through indirect outside light) – **Largest use of photovoltaic system per square foot in the Pacific Northwest – (see attachment #2)**

- WSSB is in the process of getting the green tags for this building/project. Once completed, WSSB will be able to sell power back to the BPA Green Energy Foundation for \$.17 per KW.
- The green energy tags will help bring the life cycle costs for the solar panels to less than 10 years.
- Full implementation of D.D.C. Controls within 4 years.
- Alternative energy sources will be implemented (i.e. Solar – passive and active, Hydronic loops, etc.) (examine options on all future projects–report on progress over the next two years).
- All campus building windows will be upgraded within the next 2 years with energy efficient products.
- Efficient boilers will be installed within the next 2 years.
- Data will be collected on newly installed photo-voltaic solar panels to determine efficiency and cost recovery. (By July 2004)
- Lighting systems will be evaluated and upgraded over the next two years to provide safe and efficient systems.
- Evaluation of newly installed eco-roof for energy efficiency and ground water treatment. (by July 2004).

Maintenance/Building and Grounds:

- WSSB staff will continue to examine all cleaning practices to assure that environmentally friendly products are being utilized. (On-going goal)
- WSSB irrigation system has been separated from city water and operates on the campus well (over the next two years WSSB will complete campus irrigation work so that better regulation of watering can occur).
- WSSB has purchased one hybrid car to determine efficiency and effectiveness for outreach programs. Determination on future purchases to be made based upon agency evaluation. (By March 2004)
- Continued upgrading of lighting systems for safety and efficiency. Addition of classroom sensors to be operational (fall of 2003). New construction will incorporate occupancy sensors as part of new projects.
- Increase partnerships with other agencies and organizations to maximize building use for the recovery of operating expenses. (Currently 40,000 people per year use WSSB facilities, which assist us in meeting our operating expenses)
- Complete campus-wide card lock system to eliminate additional cost for re-keying and improve security (over next two years).
- WSSB Student recycling program has been operational for numerous years. This is part of student jobs to collect campus-wide recycled material.

Role and responsibilities:

Mr. Rob Tracey – Facility Manager for WSSB will work with the superintendent in reporting, educating and communication of activities.

Communication and Education:

- Articles will be written providing staff, students, parents and the general public with information on sustainable practices.
- Monthly state of the school addresses will provide part of the focus in this area.
- Dedication of the Ogden Resource Center will occur on October 9, 2003; emphasizing the design and use of energy efficient state buildings. (Solar and eco-roof system building.)

- WSSB new Ogden Resource Center will be part of the National Solar Homes and Buildings Tour on October 4, 2003 from 1:00–4:00pm
 - Working with local PUD in partnership with this project and future projects.
- Staff will be actively involved in the remodeling and redesign of facilities to guarantee function and efficiency.
- WSSB will present at various meetings and conferences on the energy efficiency that has already been attained.

Performance Measures and Continuous Improvement:

- All aspects of WSSB's programs focus on both performance and continuous improvement whether it is student growth and or the reduction on consumable resources.
- The goal of WSSB is to become as self-supporting in a number of areas as possible. In all other areas the school's goal is to operate an efficient and effective organization. (If the school had not been working on efficiencies over the past 10+ years we would not be providing the type of programs we are capable of providing today. Much of what we are providing is due to savings in consumable areas that have been re-directed into direct service to blind and visually impaired children.)

Future Direction Statements:

- Improve statewide services through effective partnerships.
- Place more emphasis in actively involving parents in their child's program.
- Continue to place a heavy emphasis on WSSB as a hub of service delivery for the state as a demonstration center for "Best Practices".
- Develop programs to assist students in developing positive self-image about blindness.
- Strengthen Educational and Residential programs through short-term placement with all goals leading toward independence.
- Continue to set high expectations for all students.
- Strengthen programs by making sure that each student accepted for enrollment has vision loss as a primary disability (It is important to note that this is not an acuity dependent issue, but dependent upon each child's independent evaluation and functional/ performance-based vision assessment.)
- Work with all consumers of services in developing school and agency pride.
- Continue to develop creative solutions through on-campus and outreach services in providing for the needs of students, parents and LEAs throughout the state.

VALUES:

- Comprehensive skill development and high expectations for each blind and visually impaired child to include: Braille, independent travel, social skills, use of technology, personal management, use of low vision aides, and job skills.
- Literacy for all those who are blind and visually impaired.
- Helping families support and understand their visually impaired and blind children
- Development of collaborative partnerships.
- Efficient and effective use of resources.
- Trained and competent personnel.

More in-depth information:

- See WSSB's strategic plan (**attachment - #3**)
- See WSSB's 2003-2005 capital budget document (**attachment - #3**)

EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-03

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES BY STATE AGENCIES

- **WHEREAS**, the state of Washington is committed to the mutually compatible goals of economic vitality, a healthy environment and strong communities;
- **WHEREAS**, sustainability provides for current needs without sacrificing the needs of future generations;
- **WHEREAS**, within state government, sustainable practices require decisions based on a systematic evaluation of the long-term impacts of an activity or product on health and safety, communities, and the environment and economy of Washington State;
- **WHEREAS**, reversing the steady decline in the natural resources and ecosystems on which people and economic vitality depend is critical to our future;
- **WHEREAS**, the regional and global implications of climate change, loss of biological diversity, and threats to resources such as clean water require us all to examine and change behaviors; and
- **WHEREAS**, state government should model sustainable business practices that contribute to the long-term protection and enhancement of our environment, our economy and the health of current and future generations;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Gary Locke, Governor of the state of Washington, declare my commitment that state government operations be conducted in a manner consistent with these principles of sustainability and contribute positively towards the quality of life of all citizens.

It is **THEREFORE** ordered and directed that:

1. Each state agency shall establish sustainability objectives and prepare a biennial Sustainability Plan to modify its practices regarding resource consumption; vehicle use; purchase of goods and services; and facility construction, operation and maintenance.

Plans should be guided by the following long-term goals:

- Institutionalize sustainability as an agency value;
- Raise employee awareness of sustainable practices in the workplace;
- Minimize energy and water use;
- Shift to clean energy for both facilities and vehicles;
- Shift to non-toxic, recycled and remanufactured materials in purchasing and construction;
- Expand markets for environmentally preferable products and services; and
- Reduce or eliminate waste as an inefficient or improper use of resources.

Initial plans may be modeled on the outline accompanying this executive order and shall include descriptions of currently used sustainable practices. Each agency shall complete its initial plan by September 1, 2003. Subsequent plans shall be completed by September 1 each even-numbered year thereafter.

Each state agency shall report annually on its progress in implementing its Sustainability Plan. The first progress report shall be submitted to the Office of Financial Management by October 15, 2004. Subsequent progress reports shall be submitted each October 15.

2. The Office of Financial Management shall designate a Sustainability Coordinator to assist state agencies in meeting the goals of this executive order. The Coordinator shall:
 - Assist agencies in developing their Sustainability Plans;
 - Assist agencies in educating their employees on sustainable business practices;
 - Chair an inter-agency work group to promote information-sharing and cooperation;
 - Create and maintain a Sustainable Washington Internet Website where agency plans and accomplishments can be viewed by state agencies and the public;
 - Develop incentives to recognize innovative agency practices that foster sustainability;
 - Work to eliminate barriers to sustainable practices; and
 - Identify opportunities for coordinated sustainable activities by state agencies such as the purchase of sustainable products through state contracts.
3. The Sustainability Coordinator, in consultation with state agencies, shall establish Sustainability Advisory Council consisting of representatives from the private sector and others with sustainability expertise to advise state agencies on how to make state government operations more sustainable.

The Sustainability Advisory Council shall report to me by February 1, 2004 on the status of agency sustainability activities, opportunities for improvements based on effective strategies used elsewhere in the public and private sectors, and the best means to integrate sustainability into state government policies and actions.

I invite institutions of higher education, public schools, elected officials, commissions, and others to participate in implementing this executive order within their organizations.

This executive order shall take effect immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the seal
of the state of Washington to be Affixed at
Olympia this _____ day of September A.D.,
Two Thousand Two

Governor of Washington

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Secretary of State