

AGENCY SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES PLAN OUTLINE

Updated Plan/report - Blue print

Fall - 2004

Agency Name:
Washington State School for the Blind

Responsible Agency Staff:
Mr. Rob Tracey

Agency Number:
0351

Phone Number:
360-696-6321 ext. 131#

E-mail:
rob.tracey@wssb.wa.gov

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.

Assessment of Opportunities:

The Washington State School for the Blind will continue to assess all aspects of its 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 its 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

* Fall 2004 - This is in place at this time. Rob also works with the Board of Trustees Facility committee which reviews any safety related issues.

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)

- Fall 2004 - All future capital projects are being closely examined for sustainability. Currently WSSB is designing a building to meet at least LEED Silver, possibly Gold.

* Full implementation of D.D.C. Controls within 4 years:

- Fall - 2004 - About 90% complete in this goal at this time.

* Alternative energy sources will be implemented (ie. Solar - passive and active, Hydronic loops, etc.) - (examine options on all future projects. - report on progress over the next two years)

- Fall - 2004 - New physical education building under design is incorporate the campus micro-climate to heat and cool the building. Design to LEED Silver, possibly Gold.

* All campus building windows will be upgraded within the next 2 years with energy efficient products.

- Fall - 2004 - 95% completed

* Efficient boilers will be installed within the next 2 years.

- Fall - 2004

* Main campus boilers upgrade - high efficiency low pressure steam.

* Irwin Building - migrated to high efficiency hot water boilers

* New building under design will have high efficiency hot water boiler system

* Data will be collected on newly installed photo-voltaic solar panels to determine efficiency and cost recovery. - (by July 2004)

- Fall - 2004 - Estimates for the Ogden Resource Center (ORC) from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation for the generation of green energy for one year was: approx. 10,000 Kw., Actual was a little over 17,000 Kw.

* Lighting systems will be evaluated and upgraded over the next two years to provide safe and efficient systems.

- Fall - 2004 - lighting systems upgraded - approximately 75% completed on campus. Next step will be to determine which lights can also be moved to motion sensors for safety and energy conservation. Looking for the perfect blend.

* Evaluation of newly installed eco-roof for energy efficiency and ground water treatment. (by July 2004)

- Fall - 2004 - Eco-roof has proven to be very efficient, have had some minor problems with leaks, but these have been resolved. Bio-swale concept on top

of the building has not only been a good insulation factor, but made available additional space for other functions that would have been consumed by exterior bio-swales.

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)

- Fall - 2004 - Custodial have moved away from a number of cleaning chemicals that were more toxic and have utilized longer lasting waxes, etc. that require less work intensive maintenance.

* WSSB irrigation system has been separated from city water and operates on the campuses own well (over the next two years WSSB will complete campus irrigation work so that better regulation of watering can occur.

- Fall - 2004 - WSSB is moving from traditional irrigation to more drip systems where possible

* 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 of 2004)

- Fall - 2004 - replaced two outreach vehicles with hybrid cars. Will continue to do this as able to due so in our budget.

* Continued upgrading of lighting systems for safety and efficiency.

- Fall - 2004 - approximately 90% of internal lighting has been replaced with high efficiency lighting systems.

* 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)

- Fall - 2004 - Increased partnerships to assist WSSB with energy expenses and to maximize facility usage. Most recent additional partner on campus: Vancouver Police Department Detectives Division located in the Alhsten Building. This not only reduced WSSB energy cost, but also helped over custodial, maintenance cost and increase security on campus and in the local community surrounding the school.

* Complete campus-wide card lock system to eliminate additional cost for re-keying and improve security (over next two years)

- Fall - 2004 - approximately 75% completed

* Electronic gates were added to the south side of campus, which are on the card lock system. This improved security by limiting access to various parts of campus.

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.

- Fall - 2004 - Some information has been written and shared through board minutes and the Lions Roar - newsletter that goes to over 2,000 individuals.
- * Monthly state of the school addresses will provide part of the focus in this area.
 - Fall - 2004 - each month the superintendent provides updates on all capital projects and energy related issues to all staff on campus. This also includes information of a variety of other topics.
- * 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)
 - Fall - 2004 - dedication occurred
- * ORC was also included during the summer of 2004 as one of the building on the National Tour of Solar Buildings.
- * ORC building is also used as an example building for the environmental science class at Clark College.
- * Staff will be actively involved in the remodeling and redesign of facilities to guarantee function and efficiency.
 - Fall - 2004 - this is on-going
- * WSSB will present at various meetings and conferences on the energy efficiency that has already been attained.
 - Fall - 2004 - ORC featured at the National Solar Conference which was held in Portland, summer of 2004.
 - Received a Community Pride Award for Design for the design of a very energy efficient building.

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
- * Fall - 2004 - these are also goals that are part of our budget documents. Since the fall of 2004 - partnerships have continued to increase both on campus and in through the outreach programs with local school districts.
- * Place more emphasis in actively involving parents in their child's program
- * Fall - 2004 - increase parent participation through a variety of activities - in process
- * Continue to place a heavy emphasis on WSSB as a hub of service delivery for the state as a demonstration center for "Best Practices"
- * Fall - 2004 - expansion of outreach services through distance/digital learning options - WSSB is currently helping to facilitate a national digital learning commons program for

the blind that will result in highly specialize curricular materials being available from multiple sources on a virtual one location.

- * Develop programs to assist students in developing positive self-image about blindness
- * Fall - 2004 - continual progress
- * Strengthen Educational and Residential programs through short-term placement with all goals leading toward independence
- * Fall 2004 - pre-school program developed to meet unmet needs, transition program LIFTT in operation to meet statewide needs
- * Fall - 2004 - 9% of WSSB fall campus enrollment are students from other states where parents have relocated to Washington so that their child could get a better education. Students from: California, Michigan, Idaho, Oregon, Florida, and Texas.
- * 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
- * Fall - 2004 -
- * Distance/digital learning option added - needs to be expanded in order to reach students in need throughout the state.
- * Outreach programs continue to expand. - These services are paid for through contractual funding from LEAs.

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
- * See WSSB's 2003-2005 budget document

