

Annual Progress Report FY 2004

Washington School for the Deaf – Sustainability Plan Agency 3530

Section I: Agency Information, Policy and Goals

Agency Contact Information:

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Sustainability Policy Statement

The Washington School for the Deaf is committed to the goals stated in Executive Order 02-03. As both an agency and a school, we have the unique opportunity to model these practices and to educate not only our staff but also the students in our charge. The adoption of sustainable practices will allow the school to meet our social responsibilities by helping to improve the environment and foster markets for environmentally friendly/safe products and practices and to educate future generations.

Long Range Goals

- Institutionalize sustainability as an agency value
- Raise employee and student awareness
- Institute energy and water conservation measures
- Shift to clean energy both facilities and vehicles where possible
- Purchase non-toxic, recycled and/or remanufactured materials for operations and in construction projects, thereby expanding the market for these products.
- Implement a program to reduce waste

Section II: Reporting on Objectives

Increase on campus recycling

WSD has worked with Waste Management to obtain various recycling containers, and place them around the campus and in offices. The following are actions that increase the recycling effort on campus.

1. Cans are now being recycled in the kitchen
2. WSD has doubled the amount of paper recycled over the last year
3. Students are recycling milk and juice containers in the cottage
4. Plastic bottles and jugs are now being recycled

Reduce paper usage – Goal – a 10% reduction over 2 years

Size	Type of Paper	% post consumer content	# of Reams FY 2003	# of Reams FY 2004	% Increase or Reduction
8 1/2" x 11"	White, copier	Zero (virgin)	115	25	-78.3%
8 1/2" x 11"	White, copier	30%	837	890	6.3%
8 1/2" x 11"	Color, copier	30%	36	18	-50.0%
8 1/2" x 11"	Bright, copier	Acid Free	4	5	25.0%
8 1/2" x 14"	White, copier	Zero (virgin)	7	0	-100.0%
8 1/2" x 14"	White, copier	30%	44	0	-100.0%
8 1/2" x 14"	Color, copier	30%	4	1	-75.0%
11" x 17"	White, copier	30%	7	20	185.7%
Total Usage			1,054	959	-9.0%

WSD is close to meeting our goal. Over the next year, we will increase education efforts to enable WSD to meet our established goal.

Increase use of environmentally friendly (green) products for cleaning – Goal - 25% reduction of toxic chemicals used by the custodial department over 2 years

The WSD custodial department now uses only post-consumer paper products.

Liners	Min 15% Recovered Material	154 Cases
Towels	40% Post Consumer Content	11 Cases
Towels	80% Post Consumer Content	83 Cases
Tissue, Facial	20% Post Consumer Content	408 Boxes
Tissue, Toilet	20% Post Consumer Content	49 cases

Janitorial Products – of the 17 products used by the custodial department 8 are now green products. We have reached our target but will be investigating alternatives to the remaining products. Our goal is to eliminate all non-green products as alternatives become available.

Reduce electrical usage - Goal – 1% reduction for the year

Electrical usage for FY 2003 was 1,302,360 KWH. The usage for FY 2004 was 1,375,430 KWH. This represents a 5% increase in electrical usage. While WSD did not meet the goal of a 1% reduction, it does represent a success due to the fact a building renovation was completed and placed back into service. The increase was lower than anticipated. WSD will continue efforts to reduce our electrical usage.

Reduce water usage – Goal – .5% reduction over 2 years

The agency was able to make dramatic reduction in water usage this last year. We reduced the city water usage by 48.6%. This number can and will change over time due to weather conditions. By continuing conservation efforts WSD will be able to sustain a reduced consumption of this resource.

Section III: Communication and Education

Students are recycling the following materials as part of school activity: newspapers, aluminum pop cans, and assorted plastic bottles. Students collect items from all academic staff and classrooms and take these items to recyclers. Students and staff recycle used batteries: standard and hearing aid batteries. Each room in the school is equipped with a recycling container for used papers. Students and staff are encouraged to recycle. All students K/12th grade receive recycling training on the value of recycling.

The residential program has developed an education program in the cottages regarding recycling; 1) recycling bins are in all the cottages; 2) posters identifying recyclable items are posted in each of the cottages; 3) meetings with students on recycling; 4) one-on-one counseling by staff to students on what needs to be recycled.

WSD experienced few barriers this last year. We have had some personnel changes such as the gardener which have slowed some of the composting program but over all the agency has seen a great deal of progress. We will be concentrating on the reduction of toxic chemicals used by the custodial department and continue to expand our educational program.

