

Pierce County Annual Sustainability Report 2010

Leaner & Greener

April 2011



Pierce County
Office of Sustainability

“Pierce County is emerging from the recession a leaner and greener government. In 2010 we saved more than \$565,000 by using less energy, less gasoline and buying fewer office supplies. With gas and energy prices rising we are going to have to continue to become more efficient in our daily operations. Our efforts towards becoming a more sustainable government are off to a good start.”

-Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive



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2015 Pierce County Sustainability Goals

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Updated Pierce County Government Sustainability Goals



Air Quality: All areas of Pierce County are in compliance with federal air quality standards.



Employee Sustainability Training: When surveyed, 90% of Pierce County employees take sustainability into consideration in their jobs



Energy Efficiency: Reduce by 15%* electricity and natural gas use in County facilities over January 2010 levels. All new County facilities are built to a LEED Silver or better standard.



Green Purchasing and Recycling: At least 50% of office products purchased have recycled content. Reduce purchase and consumption of copier/printer paper by 15%. Increase recycling by 35% **. Reduce the amount of landfill waste by 30%.



Transportation: 50% of Pierce County's general use fleet to be hybrid/electric/alternative fuel vehicles. 25% of Pierce County employee commute trips will be public transit, carpool/vanpool, bicycle, walk, drive electric vehicles, telecommute or compressed work week.



Water Quality and Quantity: Reduce water use in our 43 owned buildings by 10%.*** On average Pierce County streams grade to a B- or better (Currently C).***

Expanded Goal*, Decreased Goal**, New Goal***

2010 Highlights

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“County efforts are producing results. Taxpayer dollars are being saved through reductions in fuel and electricity use and through more efficient use of supplies. At the same time, government operations are reducing their impacts on the environment. This is a double win for the families of Pierce County.”

Roger Bush

-Roger Bush, Pierce County Council Chair

Air Quality

Pierce County remains out of attainment for Particulate Matter 2.5 air quality. The primary reason for the poor air quality is wood smoke from our homes. Because the Tacoma/Pierce County non-attainment area is mainly urban the problem is worse than it would be in a rural area. PM2.5 is closely linked to asthma attacks and bronchitis in children. It is also linked to cancer, heart attacks and strokes in adults. To learn more visit www.woodsmoke.us



Employee Sustainability Training

More than 1,400 employees filled out the County Sustainability survey. Of those, 78% take sustainability into consideration in their daily assignments. Employees who consider sustainability save the county money and make better decisions for the health of our local environment.

Energy Efficiency

Pierce County met its 2015 goal of reducing energy use in its 43 buildings by 10%, which saved more than \$265,000. The departments of Facilities Management, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works and Utilities are responsible for this savings and deserve praise. Employee decisions also factor into this energy savings. The new 2015 Pierce County goal is to reduce energy use by 15% in our 43 owned buildings.

2010 Highlights Continued...

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Green Purchasing and Recycling

Pierce County employees increased their office recycling by 30% in 2010 thanks to an improved recycling program. By doing this we expect to reduce our garbage pickup cost by more than \$12,000 annually. We also were able to move our percent of recycled office products up to 27.6% in 2010 while purchasing over \$173,000 less office products. We also were able to reduce paper use by 9% in 2010. Because we are purchasing less as a County we expect that our original goal of 50% more recycling was too high. We are changing that goal to 35% to better reflect a realistic 2015 goal.



Transportation

The entire Pierce County Fleet drove 42,507 more miles in 2010 than in 2009, but we used 26,451 fewer gallons of gasoline because of improved fleet fuel efficiency. Our general use fleet has 35 hybrids making up a total percentage of 18.4% of the fleet. County employees were reimbursed for 36,575 fewer miles in 2010 than in 2009. By being more efficient and driving less in our personal cars Pierce County saved significant money and improved the health of our local environment.

Water Quality and Quantity

Pierce County reduced our water use in our 43 owned buildings by 3%. Pierce County streams remain at a water quality grade of C. Stormwater remains the major threat to clean water in our streams, lakes and Puget Sound. Pierce County continues to work on reducing nitrogen loads from our sewer treatment plant in University Place.





	2009	2010	COMMENTS
Air Quality			
Pierce County is in compliance with Federal air quality standards	NO	NO	Out of compliance for Particulate Matter 2.5
Employee Sustainability Training (2008 survey, 2010 Survey)			
% of employees who take Sustainability into consideration in their jobs	N/A	78%	2015 Goal is 90%
% of departments who take sustainability into consideration often or very often	37%	44%	An increase of 7 percentage points since 2008 survey
Building Energy Efficiency (43 owned buildings)			
Electricity use	46,209,090 kwh	43,112,061 kwh	10.1% reduction in energy; 2015 Goal up to 15%
Natural gas use	648,304 therms	522,251 therms	
Energy Star Portfolio Rating (1-100, 75+ = Energy Star)	56	61	5 point improvement against 2009 average
Sewer Treatment Energy Star Score (1-100, 75+ = Energy Star)	70	69	1 point decline
Average Cost of Energy per square foot	\$1.24	\$1.10	Decreased by \$.14 per square foot
Money spent on electricity and natural gas	\$2,888,551	\$2,623,320	Saved \$265,231
Traffic light energy use at 32 intersections (LED Conversion)	\$15,321.07	\$9,108.77	40.5% reduction in cost of energy, saved \$6,212.30
Green Purchasing and Recycling			
% of office products purchased with recycled content	24.96%	27.64%	Increased 2.68%, 2015 Goal of 50%
Money Spent on Office Products	\$1,070,009	\$896,971	Saved \$173,038 by ordering less office supplies
Money spent on printer and copier paper	\$213,880	\$194,644	9% reduction, 64.3% recycled paper
Pounds per month per employee of recycled material	18.81 pounds	24.45 pounds	29.98% increase in recycled material
Transportation			
% of Hybrid in general use fleet	15.3%	18.4%	35 Hybrids in Fleet, 2015 goal of 50%
Unleaded gasoline burned (all fleets, ferry and reimbursements)	642,385 gallons	603,425 gallons	Decreased by 38,960 gallons, 6% reduction
Diesel fuel burned (all fleets & ferry)	421,375 gallons	433,884 gallons	Increased by 12,509 gallons, 3% increase
Total gallons of fuel(all fleets, ferry & reimbursements)	1,063,760 gallons	1,037,309 gallons	Decreased by 26,451 gallons, saved \$79,353
Average miles per gallon for general use fleet	14.08 mpg	12.90 mpg	Decreased by 1.18 MPG
Miles reimbursed by county	449,664 miles	413,089 miles	Saved \$40,770 over 2009 costs
Total Pierce County government miles (all fleets & reimbursements)	8,667,781 miles	8,710,288 miles	Increased by 42,507 miles, .04% increase
Average carpool, vanpool or transit trips per employee per year	16.74 trips	15.51 trips	Decreased by an average of 1.23 trips/employee
Water Quality and Quantity			
Water use in 43 owned buildings	173,365.1 kGal	168,276 kGal	3% decrease, saved \$1,023.19, goal 10% reduction
Water Quality for streams scientific grade	C	C	2015 goal is B- for stream quality

2010 Total Savings = \$565,627.49

Coming in 2011...

March



Every county employee will be issued an ORCA card as part of a pilot program to increase ride sharing. Pierce County is joining other public and private employers in offering this commute option as part of its requirements under the Commute Trip Reduction Act. Pierce County's Sustainability Plan also sets a goal of reducing employee trips by 25 percent. The pilot program is easier for employees to use and less expensive for the county to administer. And since the county only pays for trips taken, there is no additional cost if employees don't use their ORCA cards.

April

Pierce County Sustainability Education Network

PCSEN is a communication forum and information resource for organizations throughout Pierce County. By establishing the Sustainability Education Network, we are building on the experience and successes of our partner organizations to expand support, share resources and exchange ideas and best practices. PCSEN will meet 4-6 times a year and discuss best practices around energy management, air quality, water quality, fleet management, land use, green purchasing and recycling and employee sustainability education. Membership in the PCSEN is free and is open to businesses, schools, governments and nonprofit organizations.

November



Pierce County has one of the worst wood smoke problems in the country. The wood smoke stakeholder group will finalize its six month stakeholder process in November. This stakeholder group will recommend local fixes to deal with our wood smoke/air quality problem. These community recommendations will be crucial to giving local governments a path forward in dealing with this health and economic development problem. Figuring out the best way to clean our air and make sure everyone stays warm in their homes will be a challenge.

December



The Pierce County fleet has ordered three Nissan Leafs for the county pool. These electric cars will charge using local hydro-power and will emit no air pollution nor leak any gas into Puget Sound. Pierce County will install five electric vehicle chargers at County facilities, and two will be available for public use. Electric vehicles will help reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.