
STRATEGIC INITIATIVE # 7.3

GOAL # 7: ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Protect and sustain our natural environment and address future energy needs



INITIATIVE 7.3: DEVELOP A COORDINATED RESPONSE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO ADDRESS ENERGY POLICY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Co-Champions: Paul Folkers, Assistant City Manager
Ed Regan, Assistant General Manager for Strategic Planning

Sponsoring Commissioner: Pegeen Hanrahan, Mayor (At-large)

Committee: Regional Utilities Committee

Stakeholders: GRU Customers, City residents, Gainesville Energy Advisory Committee, City employees, regional forestry industry, MTPO, FDOT, UF, and Alachua County

Desired Outcome: Reduce growth in electrical load 60% by 2015. Reduce carbon emissions from City operations sufficiently to meet the Kyoto Protocol target of 7% below 1990 rates of carbon emission by 2012, in part by increasing the use of biomass and solar energy. Achieve Florida Green Local Government Standard.

Background: This strategic initiative incorporates integrated resource planning that has been on-going since 2003, when GRU began evaluating long-term energy supply strategies. Integrated resource planning addresses the trade-offs between rates and the environmental implications and energy security of both renewable and fossil forms of energy. The City Commission is committed to NOT expanding our generation resources with coal or petroleum coke technologies. Instead, long-term energy supplies for our community will be secured through a major commitment to energy efficiency, solar and biomass forms of renewable energy. More specifically, the City has joined the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement program which includes a commitment to meet the Kyoto Protocols for greenhouse gas reduction. Within General Government operations, many actions have been taken and others are in process or being explored to meet the goal of energy conservation and environmental stewardship.

Progress to Date:

The City of Gainesville has been developing a coordinated response at the local level to address energy policy and climate change through the implementation of the following projects: utility energy conservation plan; selection of a biomass power plant alternative; policies to financially support solar energy; energy efficient urban infrastructure; partnership with FDOT, UF and Alachua County to fully fund the Traffic Management System; forest stewardship incentive plan; tracking of carbon emissions and offsets; partnership with UF to enhance RTS service to reduce vehicle trips and "Green the Gator Nation" through the biodiesel pilot program whereby 22 RTS buses serving the UF campus shuttle routes will be powered entirely with biodiesel fuel; promotion of commercial recycling and increasing the placement of recycling containers throughout City facilities; General Government fleet reduction of (14) vehicles and "take home" privileges of (20) employees; and establishment of an anti-idling policy by the Public Works Department.

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Supporting Documentation:

- [GRU Information on Future Power Needs](#)
- [Public Works Strategic Plan](#)
- Carbon inventory
- Carbon management plan
- Report on City's Conservation Improvements

Action Plan to Address Energy Policy and Climate Change for FYs 2009 – 2010

Action Steps	Estimated Completion Date:
1. Implement and measure the results of the utility energy conservation plan	On-going
2. Negotiate the contract for the construction and operation of a 100 mega-watt biomass power plant, to be sited at the Deerhaven Power Plant.	November 2008
3. Refine solar rebate and net-metering policies.	October 2008
4. Complete installation of LED Traffic Signals	January 2010
5. Complete installation and implementation of the Transportation Management System (TMS)	2010
6. Adopt forest stewardship incentive plan	October 2008
7. Periodically update carbon inventories	June 2009
8. Achieve Florida Green Local Government Standard Designation	TBD
9. Increase annual transit ridership by 760,000	2010
10. Increase annual tonnage of recycling collected to 6,6160 tons	2010

Critical Success Measures

- Meet the energy conservation goals for GRU
- Meet the Kyoto Protocol
- Achieve the Florida Green Local Government Standard Designation
- Meet State requirements for renewable portfolio standards and carbon cap and trade