THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM

POLICY ON SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES

Endorsed by

The University of Texas System Board of Regents

February 2009

POLICY ON SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES

The Board of Regents ("Board") of The University of Texas System ("System") is committed to stewardship of the environment and promoting the principals of energy efficiency and sustainability. System's commitment to energy savings goals, reductions in carbon emissions and sustainable design is evident in existing practices. System will continue to implement well-thought-out initiatives that increase efficiencies, reduce emissions, and promote sustainability practices that contribute meaningfully to the environment, while still achieving excellence in higher education. System's decisions and actions regarding sustainability practices will be guided by its mission statement and reflective of budgetary constraints and legal, regulatory and programmatic requirements, while continuing to further the missions of the institutions comprising System ("institutions").

The following initiatives are intended to provide the scope, direction, and expectations underlying System's Policy on Sustainable Practices and to identify best practices to facilitate compliance with this policy.

1. ADMINISTRATION

The Board has delegated authority to the Chancellor for promulgating policy promoting sustainable practices. The Chancellor has delegated (a) authority to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs to implement System policy regarding sustainability; and (b) each institutional president to further define and implement measures for sustainable practices at their respective institutions, all within budgetary constraints and legal, regulatory and programmatic requirements.

The Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, in consultation with the presidents of the institutions, shall form a Sustainability Steering Committee. This committee is intended to further define measures for sustainability practices, to ensure implementation, to establish near and longer term procedures and mechanisms, and to review and make recommendations to the Chancellor regarding the sustainability policy on an ongoing basis with the goal of integrating informed and evolving practices for sustainability. System will provide means for the ongoing participation of students, faculty, and administrators in further development of the Policy on Sustainability Practices.

2. INSTITUTIONAL POLICY

Each institution will develop a policy on sustainability in the institution's master plan and operations and maintenance practices and within budgetary constraints and legal, regulatory and programmatic requirements on or before June 30, 2009.

3. ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY PRACTICES

Each institution will update Energy Management Plans to reflect energy consumption reduction goals as of FY 2011 over the baseline levels established by the Energy Utility Task Force ("EUTF") in 2001. The institutions will report quarterly progress to their energy Management Plans by means of Governor's Executive Order RP-49.

Any new capital or major renovation project will apply, as a minimum, the energy efficiency design and construction principles of ASHRAE 90.1 as established by the State Energy Conservation Office. The institution planning and design process will include consideration of life cycle cost along with other factors in the project planning and design process, recognizing the importance of long-term operations, maintenance, total cost of ownership of System facilities, budgetary constraints, and programmatic requirements. A measurement and verification plan will be prepared prior to the completion of construction of a new building or major renovation, directed toward establishing an energy service consumption baseline during the first 12 months of occupancy. Subsequent energy consumption audits every three years will document 20% variances to the baseline levels. Institutions will require rainwater and gray water harvesting systems for non-potable use for new buildings where practical and within program budgets.

4. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PRACTICES

With a goal of reducing System's non-renewable energy consumption, each institution will evaluate alternative energy designs for new major capital projects.

5. CLIMATE PROTECTION PRACTICES

With an overall goal of reducing greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions while maintaining enrollment accessibility for every eligible student, enhancing research, promoting community service and operating campus facilities more efficiently, Institutions will pursue the goal of reducing GHG emissions.

6. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PRACTICES

To the extent practical, each institution will encourage and develop sustainable transportation practices such as carpooling, use of public transportation, use of fuel-efficient or alternative fuel fleet vehicles, flex schedules, and telecommuting.

7. WASTE AND RECYCLING MANAGEMENT

Each institution will record and monitor annual waste and recycling quantities, and implement procedures to reduce campus waste and increase campus recycling each year. A goal to increase recycling each year should be established.

8. ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING PRACTICES

Institutions will encourage suppliers to demonstrate environmental stewardship. Within the parameters of reasonable business justification and applicable laws and regulations, each institution will (a) utilize its purchasing power to advance the development of sustainable technologies, (b) evaluate the total cost of ownership, including purchase prices, operating costs, maintenance, collection, recycling, and disposal, and (c) encourage environmentally preferable practices, when selecting suppliers.

9. HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS

Each institution will strive to achieve a high performance building comparable to a US Green Building Council Leadership in Energy & Environment ("LEED®") Certified rating or higher whenever possible, excluding laboratory and acute care and patient care facilities, within the constraints of program needs and budget parameters. System recognizes and commends the early leadership and accomplishments of LEED® as a green building certification program; however, that certification currently comes with a significant cost in documentation. Therefore, System strives for a high-performance building standard comparable to LEED® for new major capital projects. Money for certification documentation is better spent obtaining more energy-efficient building systems.

Further study will be conducted before similar sustainable design policies for laboratory and acute care and/or patient care facilities are adopted.

10. SUSTAINABILITY AWARENESS AND TRAINING

Each institution will incorporate its policy on sustainability into applicable existing training programs.

11. CURRICULA INTEGRATION

The institutions will strive for excellence in sustainability education by integrating sustainability concepts into curricula, increasing faculty and student awareness of sustainability issues; and producing graduates who will carry the mission of sustainability into the state, the nation, and the world.

12. ENDOWMENT TRANSPARENCY

The University of Texas Investment Management Company shall disclose to the public information as required pursuant to Section 552.0225 of the Texas Government Code regarding "Right of Access to Investment Information" (private investment information) and the Texas Public Information Act.

13. STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

System will support student participation in sustainability decision making, including the Sustainability Steering Committee. Each institution will integrate sustainability concepts into curricula and support student volunteer programs to increase environmental awareness.

14. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Institutions will share with outside communities the knowledge generated from sustainability research, education and practices with the goal of promoting a global culture of sustainability.

15. ANNUAL PLAN AND REPORTS

An annual plan and report shall be completed by each institution detailing the impact of the institution's sustainability efforts. The Sustainability Steering Committee will maintain responsibility for determining the format and data to be submitted in the annual reports, and the form of the annual reports.