
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: August 16, 2004

TO: Chuck Soules, Public Works Director

FROM: Laura Routh, Recording Secretary on behalf of the
Recycling and Resource Conservation Advisory Board (RRCAB)

RE: Recommended Energy Conservation Strategies for City of Lawrence

CC: Bob Yoos, Solid Waste Division Manager
Mollie Mangerich, Operations Supervisor

The purpose of this memo is to submit a series of recommendations on energy conservation and sustainability opportunities for the City of Lawrence to consider – per direction given by the City Commissioners to the Recycling and Resource Conservation Advisory Board (RRCAB) in the fall of 2003.

The RRCAB asks you review this document and forward to the City Commissioners on behalf of the board. We would be happy to provide further information on any of our recommendations. Please let the RRCAB know when you have forwarded our recommendations on – either directly to us or through WRR Operations Supervisor, Mollie Mangerich.

The International Energy Conservation Code (2nd Edition) describes what we believe to be sound principles for promoting wise energy use. We support these principles and believe they provide a solid foundation for sustainable energy policies for our community. In the Code's introduction, these principles are outlined and paraphrased as follows:

“ ...Based on the intent to establish a code that adequately conserves energy; does not necessarily increase construction costs; does not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; is designed to be compatible with the entire family of International Codes.”

Recommendations:

1. Beginning January 2005, City staff research the energy conservation advocacy resources and use these sources of information to develop materials promoting energy efficiency through established methods of City/public communications, including press releases, mailing, public service announcements and outreach to other city committees. Outreach materials should be in production and distribution no later than July 2005.

2. Provide necessary staff resources and funding to continue and enhance the Annual Home Energy Conservation Fair and Sustainable Homes Tour.
3. When the new building codes are adopted (we assume by January 2005), the City of Lawrence should require the new building codes to include simple provisions that promote energy conservation, such as caulking of ducts and openings in the building envelope. The language for the code can be developed in cooperation with the RRCAB and the Code Review Committee. By January 2008 these provisions should be replaced by adoption and enactment of agreed upon principles of the International Energy Conservation Code.
4. As soon as practicable, submit a recommendation that the City of Lawrence Public Library expansion project be designated a “pilot” energy conservation project with a focus on educating the public while saving public dollars on lifetime energy and maintenance costs. This could be achieved by designing the building to be a green or sustainable building that meets the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification criteria.
5. The current environmental purchasing policy should be amended to require that all new construction or renovation of city buildings meet a minimum (to be identified by the International Energy Conservation Code) design standard for energy efficiency.
6. By April 2006, City staff should identify and mandate opportunities for energy conservation with those City programs that provide funding for structures, renovation or appliances for low-income housing projects. A policy should be enacted that mandates when new low income/subsidized housing is built with city/public dollars, energy conservation will be required. When subsidized appliances or renovations are procured with public dollars, energy conservation standards shall be enforced.
7. Research and implement strategies that will reduce adverse effect of man-made light including glare, light trespass, and energy use within the City of Lawrence. This would include, but not be limited to, city and commercial parking lots, fueling stations, and interior lighting of city facilities. Review and renegotiate current contract with Westar Energy, Inc. to incorporate reduced glare lighting and energy conservation light fixtures on public streets, both new and existing, and areas where practicable.