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**Environmental Sustainability Initiative  
for Los Alamos County**  
*March 2008*

Document Reviews:

Reviewer	Review Date	Revisions	Direction
Tony Mortillaro	12/11/2007	Yes	Proceed to Board and CAO
Solid Waste Advisory Board	12/20/2007	Yes	Use as basis for FY09 Work Plan for new Board
Max Baker	1/25/2008	Yes	Present to Senior Management then Council
Senior Management Team	2/6/2008	Yes	Share with staff
Public Works Department	2/21/2008	Yes	Work with division managers on planning
Dept of Public Utilities	3/6/2008	Yes	Incorporate reference to Charter, partner as appropriate
County Council	3/18/2008	Yes	Implement Initiative including Board and organizational changes.

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## Introduction

Governments around the world are beginning to plan for providing services in a future likely to present challenges including high energy prices, resource limitations and increased regulation. Counties are already experiencing impacts such as water quality degradation, more frequent droughts, natural disasters damaging infrastructure, and increasing cost of resources. Los Alamos County is also on the verge of significant construction and growth projects. Implementing a strategy to make County operations and the community at large environmentally sustainable provides benefits to citizens including energy security, cost control, cleaner air, and healthier lifestyles. Many communities have demonstrated that implementing environmental sustainability is an opportunity for cost savings and economic development. Commitments to the environment and a better quality of life are articulated in Los Alamos County's mission statement:

"Los Alamos is a unique combination of science and setting. We will preserve our safe, small town atmosphere, the natural surroundings and our past. We prize excellent schools, outdoor recreation, and the relaxed pace of life where shopkeepers and neighbors know your name. We will protect these treasures, even while we envision changes that will add to our quality of life."

The National Association of Counties Environmental Platform for 2007-2008 has extensive policy for addressing environmental sustainability for Counties. An excerpt from the Environmental Platform states:

"The National Association of Counties believes protection of the environment and wise development of our nation's resources are obligations shared by citizens, private enterprise, and all levels of government. Counties are the primary service providers and have a responsibility to protect the health, welfare and safety of its citizens, and to maintain and improve their quality of life. Implementing environmentally sensitive and cost-efficient strategies to fulfill this responsibility can only be accomplished by planning for the appropriate use of natural resources. Therefore, counties must be involved as a significant partner in the formative stages of developing standards, policies and guidance and have the ability to develop specific standards, where appropriate."

The opportunities for Los Alamos County in pursuing environmental sustainability include:

- Responsibly planning for the future
- Managing costs and reducing lifecycle costs
- Branding Los Alamos County as an environmental leader
- Delivering on stated goals
- Demonstrating community values
- Building partnerships

Los Alamos County and the Department of Public Utilities, like community governments across the state and the nation, have already established goals and programs for environmental sustainability.

Existing strategic goals include:

- Maintain quality essential routine services

## Environmental Sustainability Initiative

- Maintain environmental quality
- Diversify the economy
- Improve transportation and mobility
- Provide 85% of peak electric with owned sources including renewables

Existing programs include:

- High performance green building
- Recycling
- Regional transit
- Renewable energy portfolio
- Low flow turbine at Abiquiu Dam
- Water conservation
- Open space and trails management

Major milestones have been achieved in each of these areas including ground breaking for the first building designed to LEED gold standards; launching a comprehensive local bus service; using energy saving LEDs in traffic signals; and recycling 40% of the waste brought to the County Landfill. The Department of Public Utilities has achieved major milestones in conservation and hydrocarbon independence including offering LA Green power to electric utility customers; expanding effluent use; educating the public about water conservation and xeriscaping; and hiring a Water and Energy Conservation Officer.

By incorporating a value of environmental sustainability into County activities there is an opportunity to lead by example, control costs, inspire community and staff, and preserve the environment for future generations.

## Environmental Sustainability Initiative Overview

This proposal outlines a coordinated approach to incorporate a value of environmental sustainability in County actions and achieve environmental, cost control and social benefits for the community. Building on existing County programs; programs in other communities and recommendations of national organizations the program areas listed below are proposed for Los Alamos County:

- Environmental Sustainability Policy
- Waste and Recycling
- Hydrocarbon Independence
- Water
- Land Use
- Economic Development
- Education and Outreach
- Measurement and Reporting

Table 1 lists: proposed activities in each program area; estimated time frame; priority; budget; and owner division for each activity. Activities will be undertaken and accomplished as assessment deems appropriate and as resources allow. All activities may not be accomplished in the proposed timeframes. The list of activities may be adjusted and changes reported.

## Environmental Sustainability Initiative

Achieving environmental sustainability will require action by every County department, the Department of Public Utilities, County employee and citizen. To ensure coordination, regulatory compliance, and measurable progress, leadership of the initiative within the County is required. It is proposed to reprogram the Solid Waste Manager position to be the Environmental Manager who will utilize project management techniques to coordinate the environmental sustainability programs, while maintaining responsibility for solid waste management. The Solid Waste Division would be renamed the Environmental Services Division and no increase in FTEs is recommended at this time. The Department of Public Utilities and the Utilities Board will maintain ownership and jurisdiction over activities according to the County Charter. The Environmental Services Division will partner with the Department of Public Utilities on initiatives such as building guidelines and increasing efficiency of County operations.

To provide public input, review policy and make recommendations to Council, the creation of an Environmental Sustainability Board is recommended. The new Board would have responsibilities related to recycling and solid waste management as well as other environmental sustainability activities such as green building. It is recommended that the Solid Waste Advisory Board be sunset since the new Board would have waste and recycling in its purview. The Environmental Sustainability Board, in partnership with other Boards, would review policy on environmental sustainability initiatives and make recommendations to Council. The Utilities Board would maintain ownership of matters related to the public utilities as defined in the County Charter. The Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) could have subcommittees for initiatives and the chair of the subcommittee, or staff liaison, could attend meetings of other Boards working on the initiative to coordinate efforts. Additional public involvement activities would include stakeholder meetings and website ability to accept questions and suggestions.

Table 1 lists the Owner Division where the primary responsibility for performing an environmental sustainability activity lies. The Environmental Manager, as the project manager for environmental sustainability initiatives outside of the Department of Public Utilities, will support owner divisions by: defining the regulatory context and making recommendations for compliance with regulations; recommending local regulations; synthesizing opportunities and input to guide programs; identifying and applying for grant funding; facilitating stakeholder input; establishing public information campaigns; preparing and monitoring budget and expenditures; holding project/program meetings; managing associated contracts; providing input to new state regulations, and ensuring and tracking progress toward goals. The Environmental Manager will be responsible for project managing environmental sustainability initiatives except those residing in the Department of Public Utilities (DPU).

The cost to begin the environmental sustainability initiative is minimal since assessments and planning would be the first activities. It is recommended to budget for the initial environmental sustainability activities in the fiscal year 2009 budget. Implementation costs would be quantified and included in budget planning in the years to come, starting in fiscal year 2010. Table 2 shows the projected timeframe for the activities listed in Table 1. Investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and waste reduction are likely to result in some cost savings over the long term. Actions toward environmental sustainability may be required by state regulations in the future. The cost of some actions will fall on departments across the County, such as the cost for hybrid vehicles or recycled content products, while

## Environmental Sustainability Initiative

other costs may be born by the Environmental Services Division such as the cost of the public information about green building. The estimated FY09 costs are approximately \$40,000. These initial expenses could be funded by the Environmental Services Division. Future expenditures could include increased costs for hybrid vehicles, facility improvements and system replacements, consulting costs for program development and analysis. Options for future funding mechanisms will be evaluated and could include grants and possibly a user fee for environmental sustainability.

Many resources exist to support Los Alamos County in pursuing environmental sustainability. Partnerships with local and state governments and organizations will allow Los Alamos County to progress rapidly by leveraging lessons, tools and program designs. Programs and tools aligned with County goals include the Cool Counties Program, Energy Star, LEED™ and Clean Cities. Organizations and communities that have expressed a commitment to partner with Los Alamos County include Los Alamos National Laboratory, Department of Energy, City of Albuquerque and Sierra Club Pajarito Chapter and Los Alamos Sustainable Energy. An important element of the initiatives will be to collaborate with these and other organizations in seeking additional resources and support in achieving mutually desirable environmental sustainability goals.

Los Alamos County is well suited to establish itself as a leader in environmental sustainability. It is envisioned to showcase achievements and encourage collaboration through an annual sustainability summit organized by Los Alamos County. A comprehensive public information campaign will be developed to inform and engage the public and County staff as well as brand Los Alamos County as a clean community. On an annual basis the Council will be presented a progress report and updated program plans to ensure that we are accountable and on the right course.

**Table 1. Proposed Initial Activities for Environmental Sustainability**

Program		Proposed Initial Activities	Time Frame <sup>i</sup>	Pri- ority <sup>ii</sup>	Budget Estimate	Owner Division <sup>iii</sup>
<b>Environmental Sustainability Policy</b>						
1	Commitment to Sustainability	Develop and adopt goals and resolution(s)	short	1	No additional	Environmental Services
2	Public Board	Define Sustainability Board and amend County Code	short	1	No additional	Environmental Services
3	Funding	Research costs and funding options	short	1	No additional	Environmental Services
<b>Waste and Recycling</b>						
4	Increase recycling	Recycling in County offices	short	1	No additional	Environmental Services
		Increase recycling by local businesses	short	2	No additional	
		Identify additional opportunities for recycling	mid	3	TBD	
5	Reduce amount and toxicity of waste	Permanent residential HHW & E-waste drop off	short	1	In FY08 budget	Environmental Services
		Pollution prevention in County operations	mid	3	TBD	
6	Green purchasing	Establish goals (recycled, recyclable, non-toxic, energy)	short	1	No additional	Purchasing
		Policy and purchasing preference into County Code	short	1	Up to 5% on some purchases	
<b>Hydrocarbon Independence</b>						
7	Non-hydrocarbon energy portfolio	Develop additional hydroelectric energy	long	2	TBD	Department of Public Utilities
		Develop solar energy	long	1	TBD	
8	Increase use of public transit	Increase County employee use of public transit	short	1	TBD	Public Works
		Increase other employer use of public transit	mid	2	TBD	
9	Energy Efficiency County	Reduce energy use in County buildings	mid	1	TBD	Environmental Services Public Works Department of Public Utilities
		Reduce residential energy use	mid	2	In DPU budget	
10	Energy Efficiency	Energy performance code for private building	mid	3	No additional	Environmental Services Department of Public Utilities
		Assess feasibility of winterization assistance	short	2	TBD	

Environmental Sustainability Initiative

Program		Proposed Initial Activities	Time Frame <sup>i</sup>	Pri- ority <sup>ii</sup>	Budget Estimate	Owner Division <sup>iii</sup>
	Residential	Assess incentives for residential energy efficiency	short	2	TBD	Community Development
11	Green building	Assess feasibility of green County remodels	short	1	Implement cost TBD	Community Development Public Works Department of Public Utilities
		Assess feasibility green operations of County buildings	short	1	Implement cost TBD	
		Green building code for private development	mid	2	No cost County, cost to builders TBD	
12	Fuel efficiency and alternative fuels County	Assess feasibility of County using hybrid vehicles	short	1	No cost assessment, TBD to implement	Public Works
		Assess feasibility of alternative fuels in County vehicles	short	1	No cost assessment, TBD to implement	
13	Fuel efficiency and alternative fuels community	Encourage private fuel efficient/alternative fuel vehicles	mid	3	No cost assessment, TBD to implement	Environmental Services
14	Increase use of renewable energy	Benchmark performance of solar on Eco Station	mid	1	No additional	Environmental Services Department of Public Utilities Public Works
		Assess feasibility alternative energy on County buildings	short	2	Implement cost TBD	
		Increase County's use of LA Green Power	short	1	TBD	
		Solar information and possible demonstration	short	2	TBD	
<b>Water</b>						
15	Ensure water supply	Assess development of San Juan Chama water	mid	1	DPU budget	Department of Public Utilities
		Increase effluent use	short	1	DPU Budget	
		Reduce residential water use	mid	1	DPU budget	
16	Reduce County water use	Assess saving water in County operations	short	1	No additional	Environmental Services Department of Public Utilities
		Implement County operations water savings	mid	1	TBD	

Environmental Sustainability Initiative

Program		Proposed Initial Activities	Time Frame <sup>i</sup>	Pri- ority <sup>ii</sup>	Budget Estimate	Owner Division <sup>iii</sup>
<b>Land Use</b>						
17	Preserve open space & trails	Establish open space goals	short	2	No additional	Community Development Parks and Recreation
		Open space development code	short	3	No additional	
<b>Economic Development</b>						
18	Encourage green businesses	Assess feasibility of a sustainable business network	mid	3	\$1,000	LACDC Environmental Services
<b>Education and Outreach</b>						
19	Involve public and partners	Public involvement events	short	1	\$3,000/year	Environmental Services Department of Public Utilities
		Establish Environmental Sustainability Board	short	1	No additional	
		Sustainability Summit for government and organizations	short	1	\$7,500/year	
20	Change behavior with information and training	Virtual Resource Center	short	1	\$5,000	Environmental Services Department of Public Utilities Public Works
		Train County staff and Boards	short	1	\$4,000	
		Environmental Education in Schools	short	1	No additional	
<b>Measurement and Reporting</b>						
21	Baseline energy, water, waste, open space	Assess approaches for baselines	short	2	No additional	Environmental Services Department of Public Utilities
		Perform baselines	short	2	No additional self perform	
22	LA Scores measurement	Establish and collect data for measures	short	1	No additional	Environmental Services Department of Public Utilities
23	Reporting	Semi annual reports at strategic planning sessions	short	1	No additional	Environmental Services Department of Public Utilities

<sup>i</sup> Timeframes estimate the time to produce results on the activity. Short = 1-3 years; Mid = 3-6 years, Long = 6-10 years.

<sup>ii</sup> Priorities are assigned since staffing resources are limited and all activities cannot be undertaken at once. Priority was assigned based on the importance of the activity toward achieving goals while taking into consideration immediate opportunities, readiness to pursue the activity and expected impact of the activity. Generally, Priority 1 items will be undertaken first and priority 2 and 3 items undertaken as resources are available.

<sup>iii</sup> Owner divisions will be responsible for research, policy development and implementation of initiatives. The Environmental Manager will coordinate initiatives.

Environmental Sustainability Initiative

**Table 2. Environmental Sustainability Activities by Time and Priority**

Time Frame & Priority	Proposed Initial Activities	1-3 years	3-6 years	6-10 years
		2008	2011	2014
Priority 1 Short Term	Develop and adopt Environmental Sustainability Policy Establish Environmental Sustainability Board Research costs and funding options Recycle in County offices Permanent residential HHW & E-waste drop off Establish green purchasing goals and incorporate into Code Increase County employee use of public transit Assess feasibility of green County remodels & building operation Assess feasibility of County hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles Increase County's use of LA Green Power Assess saving water in County operations Conduct public involvement events and Sustainability Summit Create a Virtual Resource Center Train County staff and Boards Education in schools Increase effluent use			
Priority 1 Mid Term  Priority 2 Short Term	Reduce energy use in County buildings Benchmark performance of solar on Eco Station Assess development of San Juan Chama water Reduce residential water use Increase recycling by local businesses Assess feasibility winterization assistance & efficiency incentives Assess feasibility of alternative energy on County buildings Possible solar technology demonstration Establish open space goals Develop energy, waste and open space baselines			
Priority 1 Long Term  Priority 2 Mid, Long Term  Priority 3 Short, Mid, Long	Develop non-hydrocarbon energy portfolio Increase other employer use of public transit Reduce residential energy use Water savings in County operations Energy performance & green building code for private buildings Encourage private fuel efficient/alternative fuel vehicles Assess feasibility of environmental sustainable business network			

## **Proposed Approach**

### ***Organizational Structure***

To ensure coordination, regulatory compliance, and measurable progress, leadership of the environmental sustainability initiative is required. It is proposed to reprogram the Solid Waste Division to be the Environmental Services Division and reprogram the Solid Waste Manager position to be the Environmental Manager. The Environmental Manager would provide overall coordination for the environmental sustainability programs outside of the Department of Public Utilities while maintaining responsibility for solid waste management. No increase in FTEs is recommended at this time.

The Solid Waste Management Specialist position would be renamed the Environmental Services Specialist and this position would support environmental sustainability initiatives with public information campaigns, special events, drafting policy, benchmarking programs and identifying funding opportunities.

### ***Interdepartmental collaboration***

The Environmental Manager would partner with owner divisions to plan, implement and monitor environmental sustainability programs. The Environmental Manager would be the project manager working with owner departments to implement programs much like capital improvement projects are managed by project managers partnering with owner organizations and stakeholders. Each program activity would have regular project meetings documented by meeting minutes that would establish action items, responsible parties and due dates. The Environmental Manager would be responsible to establish the regulatory context for each initiative, identify funding/grant opportunities, coordinate activities and lead stakeholder involvement. Owner divisions would be responsible to provide subject matter expertise and execute implementation plans.

The Department of Public Utilities and the Utilities Board will maintain ownership and jurisdiction over activities according to the County Charter. The Environmental Services Division will partner with the Department of Public Utilities on initiatives such as building guidelines and increasing efficiency of County operations.

### ***Public Involvement***

Boards and committees provide a proven and effective avenue for public involvement. According to Section 8-1 of the County Code: "The primary purpose of most volunteer citizen boards and commissions is to gather public input, to review policy recommendations by staff when requested, and to make policy recommendations to the County Council...". Valuable contribution can be continued in this subject area either by reconstituting the Solid Waste Advisory Board as an Environmental Sustainability Board or by creating ad hoc committees for specific issues on an as needed basis. The experience of the Solid Waste Advisory Board leads the Board and staff to recommend the former to have the benefit of the consistent public input to the environmental sustainability initiative. Multiple ad-hoc committees for various issues could be difficult to manage and would not have the

## Environmental Sustainability Initiative

benefit of developing a broader perspective the issues and programs. Draft language to create the Environmental Sustainability Board in Chapter 8 of the County Code is included in Appendix A.

There is a lot of public interest in recycling and environmental sustainability that can help to shape and market a successful program for the community. Stakeholder meetings will be utilized for certain activities to involve and educate additional community representatives. The recently published Public Involvement Guide for Boards and commissions is an excellent aid and should be used in any of these involvement formats.

The Sustainability Board would have responsibility to review policy on environmental sustainability except where the policy related mainly to the public utility and were therefore, under the jurisdiction of the Utilities Board. The Sustainability Board could have subcommittees for each initiative and the chair of the subcommittee could attend meetings of other Boards working on the initiative and report back to the Sustainability Board. The staff liaison to the Sustainability Board would have ultimate responsibility for coordinating efforts and would attend other Board meetings whenever appropriate.

### ***Budget and Funding***

Incorporating a value of environmental sustainability into County and community activities will probably introduce an incremental increase in initial cost which could, in some cases, result in long term operational cost savings. For instance replacing a vehicle when it is scheduled for replacement with a hybrid vehicle could most likely cost a little more than a standard sedan but may have lower operating costs. The same logic follows for investments in green building and renewable energy sources. It is proposed that these incremental costs would be included in the budgets of the user organizations or capital improvement project. See Appendix B for life cycle cost analysis of hybrid cars and green building.

Other types of costs that may arise as part of the Environmental Sustainability Initiative include costs for consulting services, organization memberships, public information and technology demonstrations. Some of these costs can be born by the Refuse Enterprise Fund which will be managed by the new Environmental Services Division. As the Environmental Sustainability Initiative evolves, it will likely develop funding through partnership with the Department of Public Utilities, grants and possibly user fees. Should significant revenue streams be developed, a separate fund would be created.

### ***Potential Partners***

Many organizations throughout the region have environmental sustainability initiatives and are good candidates for partnering with Los Alamos County.

Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Department of Energy  
University of New Mexico Los Alamos  
Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation  
Los Alamos Public Schools  
Bandelier National Monument  
Valles Caldera Trust  
New Mexico State University- Cooperative Extension Agency

City of Santa Fe  
City of Albuquerque  
Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency  
North Central Regional Transit District  
State of New Mexico

## **Environmental Sustainability Policy Survey**

### ***National Association of Counties***

The National Association of Counties 2007-2008 Environmental Platform addresses environmental sustainability extensively. A summary of the platform is below, a larger excerpt is included in Appendix C.

"The National Association of Counties believes protection of the environment and wise development of our nation's resources are obligations shared by citizens, private enterprise, and all levels of government. Counties are the primary service providers and have a responsibility to protect the health, welfare and safety of its citizens, and to maintain and improve their quality of life. Implementing environmentally sensitive and cost-efficient strategies to fulfill this responsibility can only be accomplished by planning for the appropriate use of natural resources. Therefore, counties must be involved as a significant partner in the formative stages of developing standards, policies and guidance and have the ability to develop specific standards, where appropriate."

Areas identified for action:

Public Education and Communication

Air Quality

Solid and Hazardous Waste Management

Resource Conservation

Land Use

Cleanup of Federal Installations and Weapon Site

Energy

Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Energy Conservation

Renewable Energy

Energy Efficient Building Standards

### ***Federal Policy and Programs***

The federal agency responsible to protect human health and the environment is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA website provides a definition of environmental sustainability and provides links to dozens of programs available to assist communities and organizations to protect the environment and improve quality of life. Excerpts from the website are shown below.

Federal Agencies have been directed to conduct operations in an environmentally sustainable fashion for years; recently enacted policy strengthens that directive. Since LANL is a federal facility, it is required to implement environmental

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sustainability policy as directed by executive order. In order to achieve goals, LANL is partnering with Los Alamos County on renewable energy and recycling and has expressed an interest in further partnerships in areas such as biofuels. Excerpts of the Executive Order are below.

### **EPA**

The EPA administrator states: "We have a responsibility to sustain - if not enhance - our natural environment and our nation's economy for future generations." -Steve Johnson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. EPA provides the following overview of sustainability:

What is sustainability?

Sustainable development marries two important themes: that environmental protection does not preclude economic development and that economic development must be ecologically viable now and in the long run. Common use of the term "sustainability" began with the 1987 publication of the World Commission on Environment and Development report, *Our Common Future*. Also known as the Brundtland Report, this document defined sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This concept of sustainability encompasses ideas, aspirations and values that continue to inspire public and private organizations to become better stewards of the environment and that promote positive economic growth and social objectives. The principles of sustainability can stimulate technological innovation, advance competitiveness, and improve our quality of life.

What is EPA doing?

A combination of forces-including unprecedented growth in population, economy, urbanization, and energy use-is imposing new stresses on the earth's resources and society's ability to maintain or improve environmental quality. Meeting these new challenges, EPA research, policies, and programs are evolving from an emphasis on pollution control to pollution prevention to sustainable practices. EPA recognizes that every day hundreds of decisions are made that affect our quality of life and that of future generations. Collectively these decisions determine how sustainable our future will be. Dozens of EPA programs, policy tools, and incentives assist governments, businesses, communities, and individuals to be good stewards of the environment, make sustainable choices, and manage resources effectively.

### **Federal Executive Order**

In January 2007, an executive order "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management" was signed. Exerpts of the policy and goals from the executive order are listed below. The entire executive order is contained in Appendix D. Exerpts are below.

Policy statement: "It is the policy of the United States that Federal agencies conduct their environmental, transportation, and energy-related activities under the law in support of their respective missions in an environmentally, economically and

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fiscally sound, integrated, continuously improving, efficient, and sustainable manner."

Goals of the Executive Order Include:

- improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- ensure renewable energy from generation projects on agency property
- reduce water consumption
- green purchasing including biobased, environmentally preferable, recycled-content
- reduce use of toxic and hazardous chemicals and materials
- increase diversion of solid waste and maintain recycling
- new construction and remodeling for high performance sustainable buildings
- reduce fleet consumption of petroleum products and increase use of hybrids
- energy efficient electronics

### ***State of New Mexico***

The State of New Mexico is addressing environmental sustainability with policies and programs with particular focus on clean energy and emission reduction. A summary of policies and programs is below.

Executive Orders directing action on environmental sustainability include:

- ☐ EO2004-019 declaring New Mexico the 'Clean Energy State' and establishing the Clean Energy Development Council
- ☐ EO2005-033 establishing goals to reduce New Mexico's greenhouse gas emissions to 2000 levels by the year 2012, 10% below 2000 levels by 2020 and 75% by 2050.
- ☐ EO2005-049 entitled "Requiring the Increased Use of Renewable Fuels in New Mexico State Government"
- ☐ EO2006-01 entitled "State of New Mexico Energy Efficient Green Building Standards for State Buildings".
- ☐ EO2006-069 established the Climate Change Action Implementation Team

The Climate Change Advisory Group provided policy recommendations to achieve emission reductions. The recommendations include:

1. Establishing State Greenhouse Gas Reporting
2. Energy Efficiency Requirements
3. Green Power Purchasing
4. Solar Hot Water as an Element of Building Codes for New Buildings
5. Greening Government Operations (including procurement)
6. Education and Outreach for Building Professionals
7. Solid Waste Recycling, Source Reduction and Composting
8. Mandate Renewable Energy - 10% by 2011
9. Nuclear Power
10. Alternative Fuel Use
11. Smart Growth Planning, Modeling, Tools
12. Multimodal Transportation
13. Promote LEED for Neighborhood Development
14. Open Space and Croplands Protection
15. Biodiesel Production

One of the State Departments, the New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), is actively promoting resource conservation and the development of alternative energy through grants, policy and programs.

## **Benchmark Communities and Programs**

### ***Los Alamos County Accomplishments***

Los Alamos County, like community governments across the state and the nation, has already established goals and programs for environmental sustainability.

Existing strategic goals include:

- Maintain essential services
- Maintain environmental quality
- Improve transportation and mobility

Policy

- Resolution 06-06 directed staff to evaluate feasibility of; high performance green building standards for new construction and renovations; a program to support green building outreach; a program to encourage the green building supply industry and green building technologies; support recycling. Included in Appendix E.
- Resolution 06-18 dictating that all Los Alamos County funded new construction of public buildings in excess of 5,000 square feet would be designed and built to a minimum rating of "LEED™ Silver" using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED-NC™ rating system.

Existing programs

- High performance green building
- Recycling
- Regional transit
- Renewable energy portfolio
- Water conservation
- Open space management

Major milestones have been achieved in each of these areas including ground breaking for the first building designed to LEED gold standards; availability of LA Green power to electric utility customers; launching a comprehensive local bus service; using energy saving LEDs in traffic signals; expanding effluent use; hiring the Water and Energy Conservation Officer and recycling 40% of the waste brought to the County Landfill.

## ***Cool Counties Program***

Cool Counties is a program developed to assist Counties in reducing carbon emissions and is endorsed by the National Association of Counties. It is based on the Cool Cities program to which over 750 cities have committed. Cool Cities in New Mexico include: Alamogordo, Albuquerque, Capitan, Las Cruces, Ruidoso, Santa Fe, and Taos. The program elements match the program proposed for Los Alamos however the Cool Counties program requires a resolution that establishes program goals that are different than the goals already adopted by Los Alamos County Council. Should Los Alamos choose to register, it could be the first County in New Mexico to register in the Cool Counties program. More information is available at [www.coolcities.us](http://www.coolcities.us).

Cool Counties Policies and Programs Template outlines 7 Solution Areas:

1. Energy Efficiency - includes green building and recycling
2. Renewable Energy
3. Fleets/Vehicles/Equipment
4. Land Use
5. Transportation
6. Education and Outreach
7. Water Conservation

## ***Clean Cities Program sponsored by the Department of Energy***

The mission of Clean Cities is to advance the energy, economic, and environmental security of the United States by reducing the use of petroleum in the transportation sector. Clean Cities coordinators lead local geographically-based coalitions composed of local fleets, fuel providers, and decision-makers that focus on a united goal: petroleum reduction. Since its inception in 1993, Clean Cities and its stakeholders have displaced more than 1.2 billion gallons of petroleum.

LANL is interested in having Los Alamos County participate in Clean Cities and this program is aligned with Los Alamos County's goal of becoming hydrocarbon independent.

The goal of Clean Cities is to expand and stimulate alternative fuel and advanced technology markets to reduce petroleum consumption by 2.5 billion gallons by 2020. Clean Cities is focusing on three primary methods to achieve this goal:

- Replacement: Replacing petroleum used in transportation with alternative fuels and blends of non-petroleum replacement fuels.
- Reduction: Reducing petroleum use by promoting energy efficiency in vehicles through advanced technology and efficient vehicles.
- Elimination: Eliminating petroleum or other fuel use by promoting advanced technologies and greater use of mass transit systems, trip elimination measures, and other congestion mitigation approaches.

## ***Sustainability Program in the City of Albuquerque***

The City of Albuquerque has implemented a comprehensive environmental sustainability initiative called "Albuquerque Green". The logo for the initiative is shown below and is used on the extensive public information campaign.

The City has established the following "Green Goals":

- Safe Water
- Alternative Energy
- Zero Waste
- Clean Air
- Alternative Fuels
- Healthy Trees
- Green Building
- Alternative Transportation
- Stop Global Warming



The City's accomplishments in this program are listed in Appendix F.

## ***Sustainability Program in Flagstaff, AZ***

The City of Flagstaff Arizona has a population of approximately 53,000 and an elevation of approximately 6900 feet. Flagstaff has a Sustainability Program directed by the Sustainability and Environmental Management Division (SEMD) and the Sustainability Commission. Programs include Sustainability and Climate Management; Brownfield Land Recycling and a Hazardous Products Center. The Environmental Management Division has 10 staff lead by the Sustainability and Environmental Manager and Sustainability Manager. Additional details about the Flagstaff's program are included in Appendix G.

## ***Sustainability Program in Truckee, CA***

The town of Truckee, California has a population of approximately 16,000 and an elevation of approximately 5,980 ft. Truckee's primary sustainability initiatives are green building and recycling. Truckee has a public Green Building Committee with designated seats for representatives from industry, the planning board and the community at large. Truckee is implementing the building energy efficiency standards required by the State of California. Truckee also has a Waste Management Advisory Committee and is implementing the 50% waste diversion rate required by the State of California. Additional details are included in Appendix H.

## **Appendix A - Draft of County Code Chapter 8 to Establish the Environmental Sustainability Board**

### **ARTICLE X. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD**

#### **Sec. 8-231. Purpose**

The environmental sustainability board is established to serve as the coordinating body for environmental sustainability interests of the County and as an advisory body to the County Council on sustainability initiatives.

#### **Sec. 8-232. Membership, Terms and Qualifications**

The board shall consist of seven members. The members shall be appointed for staggered terms beginning on September 1 and ending on August 31.

#### **Sec. 8-233. Duties and responsibilities.**

The environmental sustainability board shall serve in an advisory capacity to the county council and shall have the following functions, responsibilities and duties:

- (1) Gather and provide citizen input to staff and Council on ways and means for improving the County's environmental sustainability efforts. For this purpose, the board shall gather public input in ways appropriate to the circumstances.
- (2) Recommend ways to involve and educate the community on environmental sustainability issues. Develop an annual work plan for consideration by the County Council. Review and comment on public involvement and information plans (PIIPs) related to environmental sustainability projects outside the Department of Public Utilities.
- (3) With the purpose of collecting public input, review and comment on proposed changes to the County Code affecting environmental sustainability policies, programs, and services
- (4) Review and comment to Council on Environmental Sustainability master plans.
- (5) Review all environmental sustainability related matters submitted to the Board by Council.
- (6) Coordinate with other Boards as appropriate on Environmental Sustainability activities.

## Appendix B - Lifecycle Cost Analysis

Harnessing the Power of

# ADVANCED FLEET VEHICLES

A Hybrid Electric Vehicle Fact Sheet for Government Officials ♦ February 2004

Written and produced by the Center for a New American Dream in collaboration with the National Association of Counties



Hybrid electric vehicles (hybrids) are exciting new additions to the car market for government fleet purchases. Powered by both an internal combustion engine and a battery-operated electric motor, hybrids can achieve up to twice the fuel economy of a conventional car and produce 30 to 50 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to reducing our dependence on oil and improving the environment, hybrids can offer cost savings over the lifetime of vehicle ownership.

For governments wanting to improve air quality and set an example of environmental stewardship for their community, hybrids are an attractive option. And because nearly 20 percent of all new car registrations are fleet vehicles, fleets not only have the potential to shape the future of the vehicle market, but also to make advanced technologies more widely available and affordable for both institutional purchasers and everyday consumers.

### What Are Hybrids?

Hybrid electric vehicles combine the best features of conventional and electric cars to improve environmental performance without sacrificing convenience. They get their driving power from both an internal combustion engine and a battery-powered electric motor, which results in greater fuel efficiency and cleaner emissions than most conventional cars. And unlike other alternative fuel vehicles, hybrids use standard gasoline pumps for refueling.

### The Bottom Line for Government Officials

Although the retail price of hybrids exceeds their conventional counterparts by about \$4,000, hybrids can save money when the total cost of vehicle ownership is taken into account.<sup>1</sup> Higher resale values, excellent warranties, lower projected maintenance costs (because the combustion engine receives less wear), and lower fuel costs (as much as 50 percent lower depending on terrain and other driving conditions) can offset hybrid vehicles' higher initial purchase price.

King County, Washington, for example, assessed the economic life cycle of the Chevy Malibu versus the Toyota Prius, based on certain assumptions (see Figure 1), and showed that hybrids can be a viable, even profitable, alternative to conventional vehicles. King County projects a \$2,660 savings per vehicle with the Toyota Prius. Using

**The 2005 Ford Hybrid Escape (above), a compact sport utility vehicle that uses advanced hybrid technology. Photo provided by Ford Motor Company.**

### Why Choose a Hybrid?

Several technological features distinguish hybrids from conventional vehicles.

- Unlike all-electric cars, hybrids do not need to be plugged in to recharge the battery. The battery recovers and stores energy normally lost as heat during braking through a process called *regenerative braking*. The battery is also recharged by the engine when it produces more power than is needed to drive the wheels.

- Because of the extra power the electric motor provides, gasoline engines in hybrids can be built smaller without compromising the vehicle's peppiness. By allowing the engine to operate more efficiently, *engine downsizing* increases the environmental performance of hybrids and their fuel economy.

- Vehicles with *idle-off capability* can turn their gasoline engines off when stopped. This reduces emissions, which are dirtier while idling, and improves fuel efficiency. Idling off makes hybrids a particularly efficient (and quiet) option in city, stop-and-go traffic.

- Some hybrids have *electric-only drive*, powering the car with the battery alone at speeds up to 10 or 15 miles per hour. This provides significant fuel savings and emissions reductions because combustion engines operate least efficiently at low speeds.

this cost methodology, the City of Houston, Texas anticipates saving about \$5,900 by replacing 1997 Dodge Neons with 2002 Toyota Priuses. King County and Houston's experiences suggest that it takes 3-4 years to

**Figure 1: King County, Washington**

	2003 Chevy Malibu	Adj. For Life Cycle <sup>1</sup>	2003 Toyota Prius	Difference
Initial Purchase Price	\$14,901	\$17,434	\$21,280	(\$3,846)
Projected Residual Value <sup>2</sup>	(\$2,117)	(\$2,477)	(\$4,111)	\$1,634
Net Purchase Price	\$12,784	\$14,957	\$17,169	(\$2,212)
Fuel Miles Per Gallon	24	24	44	20
Est. Fuel Cost <sup>2,3</sup>	\$5,003	\$5,854	\$3,211	\$2,643
Est. Maintenance & Repair Cost <sup>2</sup>	\$4,013	\$4,695	\$2,466	\$2,229
Total Cost of Ownership	\$21,800	\$25,506	\$22,846	\$2,660

Source: Calculations made by Windell Mitchell, Fleet Manager for King County, Washington  
Notes

1. The Prius is assumed to have a life cycle of 100,000 miles and approximately 8 years while the Malibu is assumed to have a life cycle of 85,000 miles and approximately 7 years. Since the Toyota Prius will be driven 17% more during its life cycle than the Chevy Malibu, all of the cost figures for the Chevy Malibu were adjusted 17% upward.
2. Projected Residual Value, Estimated Fuel Cost, and Estimated Repair & Maintenance Cost calculated using a 3% discount factor.
3. Fuel cost estimated at \$1.61 per gallon.



recover the increase in net purchase price, yielding roughly a 30 percent return on the initial investment in hybrid technology over the economic life cycle of the vehicle.<sup>ii</sup>

King County and Houston are examples of two distinct local governments, and their results may not directly apply to every municipal fleet nationwide. The more dominant the following conditions are, the more economically favorable hybrids will be:

- High mileage demands
- Higher gasoline prices
- Majority of city driving
- Moderate climate
- Flat terrain

However, hybrids can save your fleet money even if these conditions aren't present.

### What Are the Additional Benefits?

Choosing a hybrid over a conventional car for your fleet can help improve environmental quality, public health, national security, and the economy. Hybrids attain up to twice the fuel economy of their conventional counterparts, burning less gasoline and therefore emitting fewer greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Decreasing oil consumption can reduce our dependence on foreign oil and minimize the economy's vulnerability to price increases and supply disruptions. Also, most hybrids produce fewer pollutants than conventional cars. This

translates into cleaner air, less smog, and less acid rain as well as gains in public health. As illustrated in Figure 2, switching from the 2004 Chevrolet Malibu to the 2004 Toyota Prius reduces smog-forming pollutants and particulates by 50 to 90 percent, and decreases emissions of carbon dioxide by 49 percent. Correspondingly, the Prius would require 49 percent less gasoline to operate, and would save over 200 gallons of gasoline annually compared to the Malibu.

### How are Hybrids Used in Government Fleets?

A growing number of local and state governments are purchasing hybrids for their fleets. Hybrids are used in agencies' general motor pools, and also can be assigned to specific drivers.<sup>iii</sup> New York City, for instance, has purchased over 650 Toyota Prius vehicles for use in a range of municipal agencies, such as the Departments of Parks and Recreation, Health, Buildings, and Transportation. In Martin County, Florida, the Sheriff's Office uses 11 Priuses and 8 hybrid Civics for detective work, parking enforcement, and other non-emergency tasks. Due to the hybrids' great gas mileage in city traffic, the county estimates that it saves an average of \$103 a



The Second Generation Prius (above left) and Honda Civic Hybrid (above), two popular hybrid choices. Photos provided by Toyota and Honda Motor Companies.

# **The Costs and Financial Benefits of Green Buildings**

A Report to California's  
Sustainable Building Task Force

October 2003

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This report was developed for the Sustainable Building Task Force (Task Force), a group of over 40 California state government agencies. Funding for this study was provided by the Air Resources Board (ARB), California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), Department of Finance (DOF), Department of General Services (DGS), Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Department of Water Resources (DWR), and Division of the State Architect (DSA). This collaborative effort was made possible through the contributions of Capital E, Future Resources Associates, Task Force members, and the United States Green Building Council.

## **Executive Summary**

Integrating “sustainable” or “green” building practices into the construction of state buildings is a solid financial investment. In the most comprehensive analysis of the financial costs and benefits of green building conducted to date, this report finds that an upfront investment of less than two percent of construction costs yields life cycle savings of over ten times the initial investment. For example, an initial upfront investment of up to \$100,000 to incorporate green building features into a \$5 million project would result in a savings of at least \$1 million over the life of the building, assumed conservatively to be 20 years.<sup>1</sup>

The financial benefits of green buildings include lower energy, waste disposal, and water costs, lower environmental and emissions costs, lower operations and maintenance costs, and savings from increased productivity and health. These benefits range from being fairly predictable (energy, waste, and water savings) to relatively uncertain (productivity/health benefits). Energy and water savings can be predicted with reasonable precision, measured, and monitored over time. In contrast, productivity and health gains are much less precisely understood and far harder to predict with accuracy.

There is now a very large body of research, reviewed in this report, which demonstrates significant and causal correlation between improvements in building comfort and control measures, and worker health and productivity. However, these studies vary widely in specific measured correlations. Further, there has been relatively little work completed to evaluate specific, measurable benefits from green building design in California. Clearly, the benefits are significant and not zero, but the data supports a broad range of calculated benefits – in contrast to the more precisely measurable energy, water, and waste savings.

The financial benefits conclusions in this report should therefore be understood in this context. Energy, waste, and water savings as well as emissions reductions can be viewed as fairly precise, reasonably conservative estimates of direct benefits that alone significantly exceed the marginal cost of building green. Health and productivity benefits can be viewed as reasonably conservative estimates within a large range of uncertainty. Further research is necessary to better quantify and capture the precise savings associated with these benefits. Additional studies might include such measures as evaluating green building effects on insured and uninsured health effects, employee turnover, worker well being and, where relevant (e.g. in schools), test scores.

## Environmental Sustainability Initiative

### Appendix C - National Association of Counties 2007-2008 Environmental Platform

Excerpt from the NACO Environmental Platform 2007 - 2008 on ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE.

#### PHILOSOPHY

The National Association of Counties believes protection of the environment and wise development of our nation's resources are obligations shared by citizens, private enterprise, and all levels of government.

Counties are the primary service providers and have a responsibility to protect the health, welfare and safety of its citizens, and to maintain and improve their quality of life. Implementing environmentally sensitive and cost-efficient strategies to fulfill this responsibility can only be accomplished by planning for the appropriate use of natural resources. Therefore, counties must be involved as a significant partner in the formative stages of developing standards, policies and guidance and have the ability to develop specific standards, where appropriate.

#### *Incentive-Based Solutions*

NACO supports federal government incentives to protect the environment and natural resources.

NACO supports the repeal of programs and policies that distort the pricing or development of products in a manner that encourages the exploitation of resources, discourages recycling and conservation, and provides inducements for greater pollution.

#### *Public Education and Communication*

NACO supports federal assistance and increased funding to assist local governments, schools, colleges, and technical and vocation institutions in developing curriculum, furnishing laboratories, training staff, teaching students in environmental fields, increasing public awareness, and facilitating and enhancing environmental air and water quality education within and among county governments. These programs help educate the public about the environmental, social, and financial impacts of implementing national and state environmental, energy, and land use policies.

H. Water Conservation—NACO supports federal water conservation strategies that provide federal financial and technical assistance to state and local governments to design, implement, and evaluate appropriate water conservation measures including the rehabilitation of water supply systems. Water conservation should be given priority in water projects planning and evaluation where there are limited sources of supply. Federal research and grant programs should focus on water reclamation, recycling, reuse, and desalination.

#### *Air Quality*

NACO recognizes the need for on-going and sustained action regarding air quality involving all stakeholders at the international, federal, state, and local levels of government. The transport of air pollutants is a national and international problem and knows no political boundaries. Air pollutants can have significant impacts on human health, the economic vitality of communities, natural resources and recreation areas, quality of life, and the ecological balance of the world.

Motor Vehicle Emissions—NACO urges the federal government to set stricter standards to help reduce motor vehicle emission levels across the United States.

## Environmental Sustainability Initiative

NACo supports programs to enhance transportation alternatives, including, but not limited to, low-pollutant emission vehicles, an increase in mass transit, rail, and carpools.

Greenhouse Gases- NACo urges Congress to aggressively pursue national and international programs to develop carbon-neutral energy sources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Federal funding of sensible and cost-effective technologies to reduce greenhouse gases should be continued.

NACo urges Congress to address global warming, regardless of its source.

### *SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT*

NACo recognizes that improper management of solid and hazardous waste is a national problem, which endangers public health by contributing to air, water, and land pollution. Local governments are integral to waste management, especially through establishing waste reduction and recycling programs.

NACo supports a national integrated waste management system incorporating the following elements:

1) Waste Reduction; 2) Recycling; 3) Waste Recycling; and 4) Waste Disposal

NACo supports the development of a financing mechanism for waste management programs through a manufacturer responsibility system and encourages shared responsibility between local government and industry.

Waste Reduction—NACo encourages federal, state, and local governments to support public education designed to promote participation in activities that reduce the volume and toxicity of municipal solid waste (MSW).

NACo encourages federal legislation in support of **environmentally preferable purchasing** that takes into consideration environmental impacts, cost effectiveness and flexibility and eliminates disincentive for reusable products by government.

NACo supports federal research and incentive programs for product stewardship efforts that will work with manufacturers to minimize or eliminate heavy metals or other toxic substances in household products and packaging and disposable or “throw-away” products.

NACo also encourages federal, state, and local governments to create incentives for the **development of strong, stable private markets for recyclable commodities**. To support market development, specifications must be developed that favor purchasing products containing recycled materials. Any government requirements for recycling of specific products must include end market development of such products.

### *ENERGY*

Energy Conservation—NACo supports federal funding and other incentives to promote nationwide **energy conservation efforts**.

- State Energy Conservation Program;
- Institutional Conservation Program;

## Environmental Sustainability Initiative

- **Weatherization Assistance Program;**
- Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program; and
- **Energy STAR Program**

NACo believes the federal government should work with local governments in the research, development, and **implementation of energy efficient building standards.**

Renewable Energy—NACo supports increased federal resources for researching and developing **renewable energy technologies**, including wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, electricity from landfill gas, and other forms of waste-to-energy which will achieve the objective of clean and safe forms of energy.

NACo supports increased and multifaceted federal efforts to **increase renewable energy sources and consumption**, including consumption incentives to all levels of government to encourage purchase of renewable energy, industry tax incentives, such as R&D credits, encouragement to co-ops to replace wired electricity delivered to remote rural areas that are not cost effective, and further public and private partnerships.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles—NACo supports a national policy promoting lower pollution vehicles, such as Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV's), Hybrids and High Efficiency Vehicles (HEV's), and Advanced Technology Vehicles.

NACo supports a national strategy, including tax incentives, rebates, and promotions, to increase the purchase of lower pollution vehicles by private businesses and all levels of government, including tax. However, federal policy must be established to ensure the availability of a refueling infrastructure and of competitively priced, reliable alternative fuel and alternative fuel vehicles, and should consider its impact on gas tax revenues and the highway trust fund before requiring conversion of motor vehicle fleets.

NACo supports an increase in fueling infrastructure stations to support the promotion of AFVs.

NACo supports the DOE's efforts to decrease reliance on oil by focusing on alternative fuels such as ethanol, methanol, compressed natural gas, electricity, and biodiesel, among other agents. The ethanol used in E-85 is a renewable fuel that provides benefits to American farmers and rural areas of the country. NACo supports increased fuel economy standards for trucks and cars to reduce fuel costs and air pollution.

### *LAND USE*

NACo recognizes that comprehensive land use planning and growth management are central to our social and economic stability. How we use our land directly affects our ability to accommodate development, protect valuable natural resources, minimize pollution, preserve the cultural and historical character of our community, conserve energy, provide community facilities and services, and maintain a high quality of life for current and future residents.

Sustainable development principles should include providing protection for the integrity and health of our natural resources, enhancements for economic vitality of

## Environmental Sustainability Initiative

a region, environmental protection for counties to protect open space, farmland, national landscapes, watersheds, and critical environmental areas, and social equity for all. These principles assume that the benefits derived from smart growth are available to all of its citizens. Counties must retain the authority to plan and manage growth with federal and state laws being respectful of local initiatives, and provide a variety of transportation choices that link transportation decision-making to sustainable land use planning to increase safety, reduce traffic congestion, and improve air quality.

### *Resource Conservation*

NACo supports the option by local government to implement Historical Building tax credits and conservation easement programs for historical preservation or to foster economic development, providing it is approved through local land use plans.

NACo supports all levels of government developing techniques to reduce water and air pollution, generation of solid waste, inefficient and non-sustainable consumption of natural resources, promotion of historic and cultural resource preservation, energy resource conservation, full utilization of human resources, and sustainable uses of natural resources and space.

### *Cleanup of Federal Installations and Weapon Sites*

NACo urges federal recognition that funding to cleanup former and existing federal military and other federal complexes is a federal responsibility. To protect human health and the environment, NACo believes the federal government should:

- Approve full federal funding for environmental cleanup activities at existing and former military, nuclear weapons, and other federal complexes;
- Make a commitment to complete environmental cleanup at its facilities within a reasonable and justifiable timeframe;
- Strive to not only comply with environmental laws, but also be a leader in the field of environmental cleanup to address public health concerns, ecological restoration, and waste management; and
- Consult with local governments regarding transportation and timing of cleanup materials.

### *Parks and Recreation*

NACo supports continued funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), with funding priority given to those areas in greatest need of open space protection.

NACo supports federal programs which make surplus federal real and personal property available at no or reduced costs to local governments for parks and recreational purposes.

NACo opposes legislation to limit the ability of counties to utilize reasonable user fees, as long as they do not deny persons with modest incomes access, to help defray some of the operational and maintenance costs for public parks and recreation programs.

## Appendix D: Federal Executive Order: Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management



For Immediate Release  
Office of the Press Secretary  
January 24, 2007

### Executive Order: Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to strengthen the environmental, energy, and transportation management of Federal agencies, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States that Federal agencies conduct their environmental, transportation, and energy-related activities under the law in support of their respective missions in an environmentally, economically and fiscally sound, integrated, continuously improving, efficient, and sustainable manner.

Sec. 2. Goals for Agencies. In implementing the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the head of each agency shall:

(a) improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the agency, through reduction of energy intensity by (i) 3 percent annually through the end of fiscal year 2015, or (ii) 30 percent by the end of fiscal year 2015, relative to the baseline of the agency's energy use in fiscal year 2003;

(b) ensure that (i) at least half of the statutorily required renewable energy consumed by the agency in a fiscal year comes from new renewable sources, and (ii) to the extent feasible, the agency implements renewable energy generation projects on agency property for agency use;

(c) beginning in FY 2008, reduce water consumption intensity, relative to the baseline of the agency's water consumption in fiscal year 2007, through life-cycle cost-effective measures by 2 percent annually through the end of fiscal year 2015 or 16 percent by the end of fiscal year 2015;

(d) require in agency acquisitions of goods and services (i) use of sustainable environmental practices, including acquisition of biobased, environmentally preferable, energy-efficient, water-efficient, and recycled-content products, and (ii) use of paper of at least 30 percent post-consumer fiber content;

(e) ensure that the agency (i) reduces the quantity of toxic and hazardous chemicals and materials acquired, used, or disposed of by the agency, (ii) increases diversion of solid waste as appropriate, and (iii) maintains cost-effective waste prevention and recycling programs in its facilities;

f) ensure that (i) new construction and major renovation of agency buildings comply with the Guiding Principles for Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings set

## Environmental Sustainability Initiative

forth in the Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings Memorandum of Understanding (2006), and (ii) 15 percent of the existing Federal capital asset building inventory of the agency as of the end of fiscal year 2015 incorporates the sustainable practices in the Guiding Principles;

(g) ensure that, if the agency operates a fleet of at least 20 motor vehicles, the agency, relative to agency baselines for fiscal year 2005, (i) reduces the fleet's total consumption of petroleum products by 2 percent annually through the end of fiscal year 2015, (ii) increases the total fuel consumption that is non-petroleum-based by 10 percent annually, and (iii) uses plug-in hybrid (PIH) vehicles when PIH vehicles are commercially available at a cost reasonably comparable, on the basis of life-cycle cost, to non-PIH vehicles; and

(h) ensure that the agency (i) when acquiring an electronic product to meet its requirements, meets at least 95 percent of those requirements with an Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)-registered electronic product, unless there is no EPEAT standard for such product, (ii) enables the Energy Star feature on agency computers and monitors, (iii) establishes and implements policies to extend the useful life of agency electronic equipment, and (iv) uses environmentally sound practices with respect to disposition of agency electronic equipment that has reached the end of its useful life.

Sec. 3. Duties of Heads of Agencies. In implementing the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the head of each agency shall:

(a) implement within the agency sustainable practices for (i) energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions avoidance or reduction, and petroleum products use reduction, (ii) renewable energy, including bioenergy, (iii) water conservation, (iv) acquisition, (v) pollution and waste prevention and recycling, (vi) reduction or elimination of acquisition and use of toxic or hazardous chemicals, (vii) high performance construction, lease, operation, and maintenance of buildings, (viii) vehicle fleet management, and (ix) electronic equipment management;

(b) implement within the agency environmental management systems (EMS) at all appropriate organizational levels to ensure (i) use of EMS as the primary management approach for addressing environmental aspects of internal agency operations and activities, including environmental aspects of energy and transportation functions, (ii) establishment of agency objectives and targets to ensure implementation of this order, and (iii) collection, analysis, and reporting of information to measure performance in the implementation of this order;

(c) establish within the agency programs for (i) environmental management training, (ii) environmental compliance review and audit, and (iii) leadership awards to recognize outstanding environmental, energy, or transportation management performance in the agency;

(d) within 30 days after the date of this order (i) designate a senior civilian officer of the United States, compensated annually in an amount at or above the amount payable at level IV of the Executive Schedule, to be responsible for implementation of this order within the agency, (ii) report such designation to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, and (iii) assign the designated official the authority and duty to (A) monitor and report to the head of the agency on agency activities to carry out subsections (a) and (b) of this section, and (B) perform such other duties relating to the implementation of this order within the agency as the head of the agency deems appropriate;

(e) ensure that contracts entered into after the date of this order for contractor operation of government-owned facilities or vehicles require the contractor to comply with the provisions of this order with respect to such facilities or vehicles to the same extent as the agency would be required to comply if the agency operated the facilities or vehicles;

## Environmental Sustainability Initiative

(f) ensure that agreements, permits, leases, licenses, or other legally-binding obligations between the agency and a tenant or concessionaire entered into after the date of this order require, to the extent the head of the agency determines appropriate, that the tenant or concessionaire take actions relating to matters within the scope of the contract that facilitate the agency's compliance with this order;

(g) provide reports on agency implementation of this order to the Chairman of the Council on such schedule and in such format as the Chairman of the Council may require; and

(h) provide information and assistance to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Chairman of the Council, and the Federal Environmental Executive.

Sec. 4. Additional Duties of the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. In implementing the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality:

(a) (i) shall establish a Steering Committee on Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management to advise the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Chairman of the Council on the performance of their functions under this order that shall consist exclusively of (A) the Federal Environmental Executive, who shall chair, convene and preside at meetings of, determine the agenda of, and direct the work of, the Steering Committee, and (B) the senior officials designated under section 3(d)(i) of this order, and (ii) may establish subcommittees of the Steering Committee, to assist the Steering Committee in developing the advice of the Steering Committee on particular subjects;

(b) may, after consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Steering Committee, issue instructions to implement this order, other than instructions within the authority of the Director to issue under section 5 of this order; and

(c) shall administer a presidential leadership award program to recognize exceptional and outstanding environmental, energy, or transportation management performance and excellence in agency efforts to implement this order.

Sec. 5. Duties of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. In implementing the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall, after consultation with the Chairman of the Council and the Steering Committee, issue instructions to the heads of agencies concerning:

(a) periodic evaluation of agency implementation of this order;

(b) budget and appropriations matters relating to implementation of this order;

(c) implementation of section 2(d) of this order; and

(d) amendments of the Federal Acquisition Regulation as necessary to implement this order.

Sec. 6. Duties of the Federal Environmental Executive. A Federal Environmental Executive designated by the President shall head the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, which shall be maintained in the Environmental Protection Agency for funding and administrative purposes. In implementing the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the Federal Environmental Executive shall:

## Environmental Sustainability Initiative

(a) monitor, and advise the Chairman of the Council on, performance by agencies of functions assigned by sections 2 and 3 of this order;

(b) submit a report to the President, through the Chairman of the Council, not less often than once every 2 years, on the activities of agencies to implement this order; and

(c) advise the Chairman of the Council on the Chairman's exercise of authority granted by subsection 4(c) of this order.

Sec. 7. Limitations. (a) This order shall apply to an agency with respect to the activities, personnel, resources, and facilities of the agency that are located within the United States. The head of an agency may provide that this order shall apply in whole or in part with respect to the activities, personnel, resources, and facilities of the agency that are not located within the United States, if the head of the agency determines that such application is in the interest of the United States.

(b) The head of an agency shall manage activities, personnel, resources, and facilities of the agency that are not located within the United States, and with respect to which the head of the agency has not made a determination under subsection (a) of this section, in a manner consistent with the policy set forth in section 1 of this order to the extent the head of the agency determines practicable.

Sec. 8. Exemption Authority. (a) The Director of National Intelligence may exempt an intelligence activity of the United States, and related personnel, resources, and facilities, from the provisions of this order, other than this subsection and section 10, to the extent the Director determines necessary to protect intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure.

(b) The head of an agency may exempt law enforcement activities of that agency, and related personnel, resources, and facilities, from the provisions of this order, other than this subsection and section 10, to the extent the head of an agency determines necessary to protect undercover operations from unauthorized disclosure.

(c) (i) The head of an agency may exempt law enforcement, protective, emergency response, or military tactical vehicle fleets of that agency from the provisions of this order, other than this subsection and section 10.

(ii) Heads of agencies shall manage fleets to which paragraph (i) of this subsection refers in a manner consistent with the policy set forth in section 1 of this order to the extent they determine practicable.

(d) The head of an agency may submit to the President, through the Chairman of the Council, a request for an exemption of an agency activity, and related personnel, resources, and facilities, from this order.

Sec. 9. Definitions. As used in this order:

(a) "agency" means an executive agency as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, excluding the Government Accountability Office;

(b) "Chairman of the Council" means the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, including in the Chairman's capacity as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality;

(c) "Council" means the Council on Environmental Quality;

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(d) "environmental" means environmental aspects of internal agency operations and activities, including those environmental aspects related to energy and transportation functions;

(e) "greenhouse gases" means carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride;

(f) "life-cycle cost-effective" means the life-cycle costs of a product, project, or measure are estimated to be equal to or less than the base case (i.e., current or standard practice or product);

(g) "new renewable sources" means sources of renewable energy placed into service after January 1, 1999;

(h) "renewable energy" means energy produced by solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, ocean (including tidal, wave, current and thermal), geothermal, municipal solid waste, or new hydroelectric generation capacity achieved from increased efficiency or additions of new capacity at an existing hydroelectric project;

(i) "energy intensity" means energy consumption per square foot of building space, including industrial or laboratory facilities;

(j) "Steering Committee" means the Steering Committee on Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management established under subsection 4(b) of this order;

(k) "sustainable" means to create and maintain conditions, under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans; and

(l) "United States" when used in a geographical sense, means the fifty states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands, and associated territorial waters and airspace.

Sec. 10. General Provisions. (a) This order shall be implemented in a manner consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(c) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, entities, officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

Sec. 11. Revocations; Conforming Provisions. (a) The following are revoked:

(i) Executive Order 13101 of September 14, 1998;

(ii) Executive Order 13123 of June 3, 1999;

(iii) Executive Order 13134 of August 12, 1999, as amended;

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(iv) Executive Order 13148 of April 21, 2000; and

(v) Executive Order 13149 of April 21, 2000.

(b) In light of subsection 317(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107 107), not later than January 1 of each year through and including 2010, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Senate and the House of Representatives a report regarding progress made toward achieving the energy efficiency goals of the Department of Defense.

(c) Section 3(b)(vi) of Executive Order 13327 of February 4, 2004, is amended by striking "Executive Order 13148 of April 21, 2000" and inserting in lieu thereof "other executive orders".

GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE,

January 24, 2007.

## **Appendix E - Los Alamos County Resolution 06-06 ESTABLISHING HIGH PERFORMANCE GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS FOR COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS PROJECTS**

**WHEREAS**, construction of public buildings to high performance green building standards will improve the health of Los Alamos County employees and citizens, increase the production and use of renewable and non-polluting energy sources, reduce waste, recycle materials, conserve water, reduce CO2 emissions, and empower sustainable economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Government through programs within many of its key agencies and numerous State governments as well as municipalities across the U.S. have adopted high performance green building principles through the incorporation of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system into their Building services; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent study by the Lawrence Berkley Laboratory, Capital E group, and 40 California State Agencies completed the most definitive cost-benefit analysis of green buildings ever conducted and concluded that the financial benefits of green design are between \$50 and \$70 per square foot in a LEED building, more than 10 times the additional cost associated with building green; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction industry in the County of Los Alamos represents a significant portion of our economy through Capital Improvement Projects and proposed economic development, and as a significant portion of the building industry is represented by small business, an increase in sustainable building practices will encourage and promote new and innovative small business development throughout the County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS HEREBY RESOLVES THAT:**

**Section 1.** The County shall consider adopting specific standards to implement and facilitate the use of high performance green building practices for both new and existing buildings throughout the County of Los Alamos.

**Section 2.** The County shall investigate the fiscal impact of requiring that all Los Alamos County funded projects 5,000 square feet and above and/or using over 50 KW electrical demand be built to a minimum rating of "Silver" using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED-NC™, LEED-EB™, LEED-CS™, or LEED-CI™ rating system in effect as of the project registration date.\*

**Section 3.** The County shall investigate the fiscal impact of requiring that all renovations of existing County buildings requiring two of the three major system replacements meet a USGBC LEED Silver Certification, and that all other renovations, repairs, and replacements employ best green building practices.

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**Section 4.** The County shall consider development of a program which actively supports green building outreach through County training and technical assistance efforts.

**Section 5.** The County shall evaluate the feasibility of establishing a "Sustainable Business Network" to complement an in-city high performance green building program and to encourage the development of a green building supply industry and green building technologies to foster job and wealth creation in Los Alamos County.

**Section 6.** The County shall make every reasonable and practical effort to support waste management recycling.

**Section 7.** County agencies shall be encouraged to work cooperatively with one another to achieve the goals outlined in this resolution.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 28th day of February, 2006.

## **Appendix F – City of Albuquerque Environmental Sustainability Accomplishments**

### ***Water Supply***

- Secured a sustainable water supply by implementing the San Juan-Chama water project in 2003.
- Reduce water usage in Albuquerque by over 30% in 10 years.
  - Xeriscaping rebate program
  - Low-flow appliance rebate program

### ***Greenhouse Gas Reduction***

- Committed to the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement.
- Completed a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventory for the City. Achieved a 64% reduction in greenhouse gases between 1990 and 2005 in Albuquerque.

### ***Renewable Energy and Biofuels***

- Converted 20% of City's energy to wind power.
- Directed that all purchases of motor vehicles by the City be limited to alternative fuel vehicles, effective March 1, 2006.
- Use anaerobic digesters to convert organic waste removed during the sewage treatment process into methane gas. This has resulted in an estimated savings of \$2,000,000 per year in avoided electricity purchases.

### ***Planting & Maintaining Trees***

- Acquisition and preservation of over 4,000 acres of public open space.
- Restoration of the Albuquerque Rio Grande Bosque including exotic-species eradication.
- Funding to plant 2000 trees per year in Albuquerque

### ***Alternative Transportation***

- Launched Rapid Ride, downtown trolley, downtown shuttle bus systems and Albuquerque-Rio Rancho connection to the NM RailRunner.
- Created Bike & Ride program and one of the most extensive Bike Trail Systems in the country to encourage cycling.

## ***Recycling***

- Albuquerque has a comprehensive recycling program including curbside pick-up and centers for drop-off recycling.
- Zero Waste Commitment - developing a strategic plan for implementation to include waste reduction, recycling, manufacturer responsibility and market development.

## ***Energy Conservation***

- Converting traffic signals in Albuquerque to LED technology. When complete, this will result in an energy savings of 12,000,000 kWh and a financial savings of \$900,000 per year.
- Energy audits on municipal facilities.
- Converted outdated lighting at City Hall, parking structures, police substations, fire stations, and community centers to modern, more efficient lighting technology. This has resulted in an energy savings of 5,000,000 kWh and a financial savings of \$375,000 per year.
- Legislation to set aside 3% of city bond revenues for energy conservation and renewables.

## ***Green Building***

- Established green building standards for all building projects funded by the City, including requirements to meet or exceed LEED Silver rating.
- City agencies work with private industry to recruit "green building supply industries" to Albuquerque.
- Adopted the 2030 Challenge designed to reduce fossil fuels used by the building sector. The goal is that the building industry becomes carbon-neutral by 2030.

## ***Organizational Structure and Partnerships***

- Hired a Sustainability Manager in the Mayor's office
- Established the E-Team to implement sustainability initiatives within the Albuquerque City government and the community.
- Member of U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities program.
- All employees have been trained on sustainability and asked to commit to change two behaviors to achieve goals.

## Appendix G - Sustainability Program in Truckee, CA

The town of Truckee, California has a population of approximately 16,000 and an elevation of approximately 5,980 ft. Truckee's primary sustainability initiatives are green building and recycling. Truckee has a public Green Building Committee with designated seats for representatives from industry, the planning board and the community at large. Truckee is implementing the building energy efficiency standards required by the State of California. Truckee also has a Waste Management Advisory Committee and is implementing the 50% waste diversion rate required by the State of California. Additional details are shown below.

### ***Green Building***

#### Mission Statement

The Truckee Green Building Committee's mission is to provide Green Building support and direction to the Town of Truckee through:

- ✧ Education/promotion of sustainable and green practices
- ✧ Collaboration with other local, regional and State jurisdictions
- ✧ Promotion of innovative green technologies
- ✧ Recognition of success

#### Committee Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Promote a sustainable and green Truckee.

Goal 2: Use and promote green technology when possible.

#### GREEN BUILDING COMMITTEE Committee Member Qualification

Contractor's Association of Truckee/Tahoe  
Sierra Green Building Association  
Truckee Donner Public Utility District  
Professional in design/landscaping  
Tahoe Truckee Engineers Association  
Mountain Area Preservation Foundation  
Tahoe Sierra Board of Realtors  
Building Materials Supply Company  
Local Architect  
At-Large Member  
At-Large Member  
At-Large Member  
Planning Commission  
Planning Commission Alternate  
Council Member  
Council Member  
Staff

## ***Recycling***

FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days.

The Waste Management Advisory Council is comprised of thirteen local residents and the Assistant to the Town Manager. The committee is serving the Town in an advisory capacity to help Truckee meet the State-mandated 50% recycling goal by the year 2000.

Business Waste Reduction Program  
Mixed Office Paper Recycling Program  
Used Oil Recycling

## **Appendix H - Sustainability Program in Flagstaff, AZ**

### **Overview**

The City of Flagstaff Arizona has a population of approximately 53,000 and an elevation of approximately 6900 feet. Flagstaff has a Sustainability Program directed by the Sustainability and Environmental Management Division (SEMD) and the Sustainability Commission.

### **Programs**

- Anti-Litter & Environmental Code Enforcement
- Brownfield Land Recycling
- Environmental Management
- Hazardous Products Center
- Recycling & Compost Education
- Sustainability and Climate Management
- Regional Transit

### **Organizational Structure**

The Sustainability and Environmental Management Division's role is to: "work to ensure that all residents of Flagstaff are provided with a clean, safe, and ecologically sound community. Our mission is to preserve and enhance the environment by implementing natural resource conservation and sustainability through leadership and education. Our programs promote sustainability and conservation strategies with an emphasis on recycling, anti-litter, Brownfield land recycling, climate management, composting, energy efficiency, environmental compliance, landfill management, renewable energy and fuels, safe disposal of hazardous products and wastes, sustainable community planning and waste reduction."

- Sustainability & Environmental Manager
- Sustainability Manager
- Brownfield Specialist
- Brownfield Assistant
- Environmental Program Assistant
- Environmental Project Manager
- Environmental Program Specialist, HPC
- Environmental Technician
- Environmental Code Enforcement Aide
- Environmental Code Specialist

### **Public Board: Sustainability Commission**

The Sustainability Commission consists of seven Council-appointed members. The commission is responsible for recommending and coordinating activities

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in concert with the Flagstaff sustainability program, the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, and other sustainability initiatives.

To accomplish these objective, the commission will address (although not exclusively) climate and air quality; transportation; energy; solid waste and toxic substances; water, wastewater, and stormwater; sustainable building and purchasing practices; and sustainable economic development. Among the commission's directives are promotion of sustainable practices in all spheres of life and educating the public.

### ***Commission Projects***

The Sustainability Commission is currently working with the Sustainability Program Staff on the following projects:

- Community recommendations for the Sustainability Plan
- Earth Day event organization
- Adopt an Avenue clean-up

### ***Flagstaff Sustainability Assessment***

The City of Flagstaff has developed a variety of innovative programs that demonstrate its commitment to sustainability. The Sustainability Assessment will provide a detailed inventory of the City's stewardship efforts, as well as identifying a baseline for the City's pending Sustainability Plan. The Sustainability Assessment will be available to the community and is scheduled for completion in December 2008.