

Information Technology

Environmental Policies and Plans

The City's 2012 Climate Sustainability Plan outlines expectations for the IT Department to lead by example in energy efficiency and waste reduction. From procurement practices to digital solutions, IT plays a central role in reducing the City's environmental footprint across operations. The City's plan outlines specific goals for the IT Department.

Objective 1.5

"Source Reduction"

Implementing actions:
"Adopt office practices that reduce the volume of waste such as setting default copying and printing programs for City equipment to reduce paper and ink use."

Objective 2.2

"Use energy efficient office equipment in all City operations"

Policy: "All new office equipment purchased by the City should be ENERGY STAR compliant. ENERGY STAR labeled copiers, for example, are equipped with a feature that allows them to automatically turn off after a period of inactivity, reducing a copier's annual electricity costs by over 60%. High-speed copiers that include a duplexing unit set to automatically make double-sided copies can reduce paper costs by \$60 a month and help to save trees."

Climate Sustainability Plan Directives for IT

Energy Efficiency Optimization

- Optimize energy use across servers, data centers, networks, and end-user devices.
- Participate in energy audits to identify opportunities for power savings.

Sustainable Procurement

- Standardize the purchase of ENERGY STAR or equivalent efficient hardware.
- Include environmental impact and sustainability when evaluating vendors, also in line with Council Resolution 2017-2.

Waste Management and Source Reduction

- Enforce responsible e-waste disposal and recycling.
- Promote paperless systems and digital workflows to cut down on printing.

Support Broader Sustainability Goals

Reducing IT's energy demand supports the City's transition away from fossil fuels and increases compatibility with renewable energy systems.



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy

Resolution 2017-2

This policy provides flexibility to achieve the procurement goals of the Climate Sustainability Plan: environmentally preferred IT products and services, comparable in quality and function, may be selected even if they cost up to 10% more.

What This Means for IT Staff

- **Lifecycle Thinking:** Choose products with reduced energy use, fewer toxins, and sustainable or recycled materials.
- **Waste Reduction:** Prioritize devices that reduce waste, support recycling, and enable digital alternatives to paper.
- **Vendor Engagement:** Ask vendors about sustainability practices and product certifications during procurement.

100% Renewable Energy

City Council Policy Resolution 2020-1

The City has committed to sourcing 100% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

What This Means for IT Staff

- **Aggressive Energy Reduction:** The City must reduce energy use by at least 5% annually. IT must lead improvements in server rooms, workstations, and infrastructure through better power management, hardware consolidation, and virtualization.
- **Informed Procurement:** Every purchase should be not only ENERGY STAR rated but also chosen with its total energy footprint and renewable readiness in mind.
- **Energy Audits and Benchmarking:** IT's operational data will be key to tracking energy performance and guiding improvement.
- **Leverage Upgrades:** Use infrastructure upgrades as opportunities to lower the City's energy load with smarter, more efficient technologies.

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