

# Water Resource Recovery Facility

## Environmental Policies and Plans

### Climate Sustainability Plan

- Develop outreach and education on employee recycling program
- New City office equipment should be ENERGY STAR compliant
- Complete an energy audit and explore energy demand management strategies to cut electricity consumption at the City's most energy-intensive facility.

### Comprehensive Plan

- Support the City's goal to grow its anaerobic digestion capabilities at the Wastewater Recovery Resource Facility (WRRF) with food-to-energy initiatives.
- Contribute to long-term goals of maintaining high water quality in the Red Cedar River watershed by optimizing treatment processes and reducing pollutant loading.
- Improvements at the WRRF should include feasibility of renewable or alternative energy systems.

### Green Purchasing Policy (EPPP)

#### (Resolution 2017-2)

This policy directly instructs the prioritization of sustainable choices: environmentally preferred products and services, comparable in quality and function, can be purchased with an up to 10% price differential.

#### What This Means for All City Procurement and Operations:

The EPPP mandates that all departments actively seek out and prioritize environmentally preferable products and services. This translates to:

- **Lifecycle Thinking:** Consider the full environmental impact of products and services from manufacturing through disposal. Favor options with lower energy consumption, fewer hazardous materials, and those made from sustainable or recycled content.
- **Waste Reduction Focus:** Prioritize products that reduce waste, are easily recyclable, and support overall waste minimization across City operations.
- **Vendor Engagement:** During the procurement process, inquire about vendors' sustainability practices and product environmental certifications

This is a binding policy directive. Exemptions apply only if:

- The sustainable product or service does not meet the required form, functionality, or utility.
- The sustainable product or service is prohibitively expensive or cannot be competitively priced.
- An emergency or compelling public health or safety reason prohibits the purchase of the sustainable product.

## 100% Renewable Energy

### City Council Policy Resolution 2020-1

The City of East Lansing will derive 100% of the City's electric energy from renewable resources by 2030. As the City's largest municipal energy user and a significant recycling initiative, the Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) plays a critical and leading role in achieving this ambitious target.

### 100% Renewable Energy: What it means

For WRRF staff, this resolution translates into clear responsibilities for energy consumption, efficiency, and renewable energy integration:

- **Lead Energy Consumption Reduction:** The resolution mandates at least a 5% annual reduction in energy consumption across all government facilities. As the largest user, WRRF operations are critical to meeting this target. Actively identify, prioritize, and implement energy efficiency projects within the facility, leveraging energy audit findings.
- **Integrate Efficiency into Capital Projects:** In the course of capital repairs, maintenance, and facility upgrades, continuously seek out and implement renewable energy opportunities and efficiency improvements. This includes exploring on-site generation, such as solar, where prudent and possible.
- **Support Renewable Infrastructure Investment:** Understand that money saved through WRRF's energy efficiency projects can be reinvested across the City into new renewable energy infrastructure and clean energy purchases. These efforts directly fund the broader transition.
- **Maintain Energy Benchmarking:** WRRF staff should support the accurate collection and reporting of detailed energy usage data for the facility. This contributes crucial information to city-wide benchmarking efforts and helps demonstrate progress towards the 2030 goal.

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