

NEWS RELEASE

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City Council Sets Sustainable Standard for City Building Construction and Maintenance

The City Council this week unanimously adopted the City of Eugene's first formal "green building" policy, which requires City-owned and occupied buildings to be constructed and maintained in environmentally and economically sustainable ways.

"The City of Eugene has long been dedicated to environmental, economic, and social stewardship," commented Mayor Kitty Piercy. "Adoption of this policy is an important, tangible extension of that commitment. We will continue to lead by example, setting a community standard for sustainable building practices which is applicable to both public and private organizations."

Implementing the principles will also yield cost savings to City taxpayers through reduced operating costs and will provide healthier work environments for staff and visitors, in addition to furthering the City's longstanding goals to protect, conserve, and enhance the region's environmental resources.

The policy requires the City to incorporate principles of sustainability in the planning, financing, siting, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of City-owned and occupied buildings. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design(tm) (LEED) performance criteria developed by the U.S. Green Building Council will be used to evaluate the performance of City buildings.

Key elements of the new policy include:

* New construction and additions encompassing 10,000 or more gross square feet of building area shall achieve a Silver certification level under the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Green Building Rating System for New Construction (LEED-NC). A higher certification rating (Gold or Platinum) should be sought as funding is available.

* New construction encompassing less than 10,000 gross square feet of building area should achieve the equivalent of at least a LEED Silver certification level where technically feasible.

* Projects of any size for which certification is not feasible due to technical reasons, should use LEED-NC as a guide to incorporate as many sustainable features as economically feasible.

* All existing City of Eugene buildings should use the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Green Building Rating System for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB) as a guide for the sustainable operation and maintenance of City buildings. This will maximize sustainability benefits within existing resources, and provide the means for measuring and evaluating environmental and financial performance

improvements. Certification of existing buildings under LEED-EB will be evaluated and pursued at the highest feasible level of certification on a case-by-case basis as funding is available.

* A report evaluating the City's implementation of sustainable building practices will be submitted to the City Council each year.

The City has for several years included sustainable practices in its building construction and maintenance. For example, the new Downtown and Santa Clara fire stations incorporate daylighting, solar hot water, highly reflecting roofing, high efficiency heating and cooling systems, preference for local and renewable materials, low emissions paints and laminates and 90% construction waste recycling. The City's ongoing energy conservation program saves about \$300,000 per year in utility costs due to upgraded heating and air conditioning systems in several public buildings. The new policy formalizes the City's commitment to incorporating sustainable practices in City buildings to the greatest extent feasible.

For more information on the City's sustainable building policy, please contact Glen Svendsen, Facilities Division Manager, at 541-682-5008 or by email to: glen.l.svendsen@ci.eugene.or.us