

Goal 13

Energy Conservation

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Overview

The purpose of this goal is to improve present and future energy efficiency, projects, and impacts to the residents of Wasco County.

The policies and implementation help support Goal 13 by leveraging planning to minimize energy consumption, increase access to alternative energy, and coordinate with state and federal partners. State and national energy policy plays a critical role in determining energy prospects in Wasco County.

Historical Perspective

The longstanding energy conservation policies for Wasco County, since at least 1983, have focused on renewable energy, minimizing energy consumption, and encouraging recycling and other efficiencies. There were also some policies that reflected the presence of The Dalles Dam in Wasco County.

The 1983 Comprehensive Plan identified a variety of energy sources important to existing or potential future of Wasco County. These included hydroelectric, pumped storage, thermal, geothermal, oil and gas, and wind.

While current National Scenic Area policies conflict with the development of commercial wind projects in the northern part of the County, a 1980 report (Wind Task Force Final report to the Oregon Alternate Energy Development Commission) demonstrated the feasibility for wind power throughout Wasco County.

In 2009, an application for the first major alternative energy facility was submitted to the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE). In 2018, a solar facility application for a project in south Wasco County was submitted to ODOE.

Also in 2018, an application for a solar facility and an application for a wind facility were submitted to the Wasco County Planning Department for review. In 2019, the Wasco County Planning approved both projects with conditions.

**Statewide Planning
Goal 13**

To conserve energy.

Land and uses developed on the land shall be managed and controlled so as to maximize the conservation of all forms of energy, based upon sound economic principles.

Excerpt from
OAR 660-015-0000(13)

Cross Reference

Additional policies related to this goal: Goal 2

Wasco County Goal 13

Energy Conservation

To conserve energy, reduce waste, and increase self-sufficiency



Staff and applicants visit a wind turbine for pending a application (2018)

Policies

13.1.1 The County will work with appropriate State and Federal agencies to identify and protect, and if feasible, develop potential energy resources, especially renewable energy resources.

13.1.2 Reduce the consumption of non-renewable sources of energy whenever possibleⁱ.

Implementation for Policy 13.1.2:

- a. Conversion of energy sources from non-renewable sources to renewable sources shall be encouraged.
- b. The allocation of land and uses permitted on the land should seek to minimize the depletion of non-renewable sources of energyⁱⁱ.

13.1.3 Minimize energy consumption through the use of zoning and subdivision standards.

Implementation for Policy 13.1.3:

- a. Zoning controls and subdivision design standards shall be developed and administered with consideration for the conservation of energy sources and the reduction of energy consumptionⁱⁱⁱ.
- b. In the review of subdivision plans, consideration shall be made of the following in relation to energy consumption:
 - 1. Lot size, dimension, and siting controls;
 - 2. Building height, bulk and surface area;
 - 3. Density of uses, particularly those which relate to housing densities;
 - 4. Availability of light, wind and air.
- c. Uses developed on the land shall be managed and controlled so as to maximize the conservation of energy.

13.1.4 Considerations should be given to systems and incentives for the collection, re-use and recycling of solid waste and other waste products.

Implementation for Policy 13.1.4:

- a. Recycling centers for the collection of glass bottles, newspapers, tin cans, etc., should be encouraged.
- b. Public awareness and educations concerning the use of recycling centers and methods shall be encouraged.
- c. Encourage the utilization of sewage treatment wastes for fertilizer, methane gas production or other feasible products.
- d. Encourage the utilization of solid waste for fertilizer, methane gas production or other feasible products.

13.1.5 The transportation system shall be diversified with a focus on energy conservation.

Implementation for Policy 13.1.5:

- a. Bicycle paths and pedestrian walkways should be placed whenever and wherever feasible.

13.1.6 Use of renewable energy shall be encouraged.

Implementation for Policy 13.1.6:

- a. Wind generators will be permitted in the forestry, agricultural and rural zones.
- b. Facilities to manufacture alcohol from farm or timber waste products will be permitted as conditional uses in the forestry and agricultural zones.
- c. Where available, incentives will be provided to encourage residential solar.

13.1.7 New energy facilities shall meet the requirements in State Law.

Implementation for Policy 13.1.7:

- a. Applications processed by EFSC or FERC shall be adopted into the Comprehensive Plan as significant energy sources^{iv}.

- b. Applications processed by Wasco County need to include in the application OAR 660-023-030-050 analysis and a program to protect the energy source.

ⁱ Reducing the county's reliance on non-renewable energy sources will result in higher resiliency for residents and businesses.

ⁱⁱ Rural county residents often commute long distances and the Oregon Department of Energy reports Oregonians use more energy (41%) for transportation than any other use.

ⁱⁱⁱ Plans that effectively limit development in some areas and encourage development in others can influence energy consumption by affecting factors such as driving distance.

^{iv} Energy sources are considered a Goal 5 resource and should be protected as required by OAR 660-023.

References

Oregon. Department of Land Conservation and Development. *Goal 14: Urbanization*. Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines.