

PORTSMOUTH COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN

ELEMENT 8 -ENERGY

8.1 ENERGY VISION

PORTSMOUTH WILL BE A COMMUNITY THAT IS ENERGY EFFICIENT IN ALL ITS MUNICIPAL FUNCTIONS AND SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

8.1 INTRODUCTION

As a forward-looking community, Portsmouth is in the process of examining its energy usage patterns as a starting point in planning for the future and reducing reliance on fossil fuel and other nonrenewable forms of energy. Portsmouth intends to examine its baseline usage related to:

- Municipal school buildings
- Vehicle fleet
- Street lighting

The Town will then consider opportunities to improve overall energy efficiency, improve conservation and to implement renewable energy projects. The goals, policies and implementation actions listed below are intended to support Portsmouth's overall vision of energy efficiency and move to renewable sources of energy.

8.2 GOALS, POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

GOAL E - 1

Produce a set of programs and policies that call for the efficient use of energy, the development of sustainable energy resources and the utilization of energy-efficient transportation options.

Policy E - 1.1

Advance the efficient use of energy in all capital projects, municipal purchases and cooperative agreements.

Action E - 1.1a – Undertake a detailed study of energy usage by municipal buildings, equipment and vehicles to determine where improvements in energy conservation and efficiency can be realized.

Action E - 1.1b – Create a municipal energy conservation and efficiency program and commit to specific reduced energy consumption targets.

Action E - 1.1c – Provide an annual report to include a summary/status of energy projects completed by the Town, School Department and private property owners as well as the Town's progress toward achieving energy reduction targets.

Action E - 1.1d – Complete the acquisition of local streetlights and their conversion to LED technology or the most advanced technology available.

Action E - 1.1e – Consider adopting Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Program policies.

Policy E - 1.2

Seek to improve the overall energy efficiency of all municipal fleet vehicles.

Action E - 1.2a – Consider instituting a Green Fleet Program for municipal vehicle operations.

Policy E - 1.3

Support the development and maintenance of sustainable renewable energy resources in both the public and private sector.

Action E - 1.3a – Amend the zoning ordinance and adopt performance standards for the siting of renewable energy production.

Action E - 1.3b – Develop performance standards for ground-mount solar, wind turbines or other emerging technologies as accessory uses in all districts.

Action E - 1.3c – Continue to abide by all contractual obligations having to do with the existing wind turbine at Portsmouth High School.

Action E - 1.3d – Work with Federal, State, regional and utility partners to capitalize on grants and other incentives to help fund public and private energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Policy E - 1.4

Encourage residents and local businesses to adopt energy-efficient measures and pursue renewable energy systems through public information campaigns and business incentives.

Action E - 1.4a – Consider participation in the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing Program which provides low-cost financing for residents and businesses to make energy-efficiency upgrades to their property.

Action E - 1.4b – Consider development and implementation of a town-wide “Go Green” program wherein businesses and other entities can be rewarded “Go Green” certification based on a set of established energy efficiency / sustainability criteria.

Action E - 1.4c – Establish an annual workshop to inform citizens about alternative energy opportunities and available resources to assist with energy conversion projects.

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