

Chapter 16: Energy Conservation

Survey Results

1. Municipal Regulatory Tools. Please place a checkmark next to all of the tools that have been or may be considered as amendments by **your municipality**:

- 7 On-site energy generation (wind mills, solar)
 - 5 Adaptive re-use of buildings
 - 4 "Green" standards for new construction
 - 2 Preservation and/or expansion of tree cover
 - 2 Locating similar land uses in close proximity (to reduce needed trips)
 - 2 High-density development option
 - 2 Cluster development option
- Other: None

2. Please identify the top three regulatory tools listed above in question 1 that **you** feel would most effectively implement energy conservation in your community and the Region.

- 7 On-site energy generation (wind mills, solar)
- 4 "Green" standards for new construction
- 3 Adaptive re-use of buildings
- 3 High-density development option
- 1 Locating similar land uses in close proximity (to reduce needed trips)
- 1 Cluster development option
- 0 Preservation and/or expansion of tree cover

Summary (questions 1 and 2): On-site energy generation, the re-use of buildings, and "Green" standards for construction were identified as the opportunities with the most potential for the municipalities in the Region. Alternative development options such as cluster development and high-density development were also identified and will be included as part of the Land Use/Housing discussion in September/October 2009.

3. Planning Tools or Techniques (other than regulatory). Please place a checkmark next to all tools that **you** feel could be effective in addressing energy conservation.

- 7 Park and ride lots/shared parking facilities
- 6 Solid waste reduction and re-use

- 6 Increased conventional solid waste recycling
- 5 Public education for conservation awareness
- 5 Expansion of mass transit opportunities
- 4 Re-use/recycling of construction materials
- 4 Alternatives to work commuting (telecommuting, etc.)
- 4 Alternative HVAC systems (geothermal heat pumps)
- 3 Identification of growth areas
- 2 Urban revitalization and investment
- 2 Non-motorized transportation opportunities
- 2 Increasing walkable communities and village centers
- 1 Brownfields/greenfields redevelopment
- 0 Increased pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Other: None

4. Please identify the top three planning tools and techniques listed above in question 3 that **you** feel would most effectively implement energy conservation.

- 4 Park and ride lots/shared parking facilities
- 4 Increased conventional solid waste recycling
- 3 Solid waste reduction and re-use
- 3 Alternatives to work commuting (telecommuting, etc.)
- 2 Public education for conservation awareness
- 2 Increasing walkable communities and village centers
- 1 Expansion of mass transit opportunities
- 1 Re-use/recycling of construction materials
- 1 Urban revitalization and investment
- 0 Alternative HVAC systems (geothermal heat pumps)
- 0 Identification of growth areas
- 0 Non-motorized transportation opportunities
- 0 Brownfields/greenfields redevelopment
- 0 Increased pedestrian and bicycle facilities

Summary (questions 3 and 4): Park and ride lots and recycling issues were seen as the most realistic to be addressed at the regional and municipal level. Expanding mass transit and public education were also seen as important issues, while the results of question 4 seem to indicate that it would be difficult to implement these tools at the local level.

5. Are there any energy conservation practices that are not listed above (on a municipal implementation level) that either **your municipality** is currently participating in or future ideas (such as: Alternative fueling stations) that **you** feel should be included as part of the discussion in the Comprehensive Plan.

- **Farmers growing bio-fuel crops such as switchgrass.**
- **Municipal facilities should be cutting edge demonstration sites for energy conservation and environmental stewardship.**

Summary (questions 5): Education ranks highly in questions 2 and 3, and the second comment seems to indicate a desire to provide municipal guidance and leadership on energy conservation issues.

6. According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA's) *2008 Annual Energy Outlook* the United States will need an additional 16-20% more energy during the next 20 years. With this in mind, in what way or ways do **you** think the municipalities in the Oxford Region most effectively influence change in the usage of energy by the Region's residents, business owners, and visitors. (please check all that apply)

- 6** Providing incentives to residents and business owners who choose to go "green."
- 5** Amend ordinances to ensure they permit energy conservation practices such as solar.
- 4** Educate residents and business owners about energy saving or "green" techniques.
- 3** Support state requirements for utilization of energy conservation practices.
- 3** Amend municipal ordinances to require energy conservation or "green" practices.

Other: Geothermal

Summary (question 6): The highest ranking responses seem to indicate a focus on public education, promoting conservation, and removing obstacles to energy conservation, rather than enacting regulations to require energy conservation practices.

7. What concerns do **you** have about energy conservation?

- **Recycling programs are insufficient in PA. Financial policies should encourage or mandate spending on more efficient energy use.**
- **Energy conservation should be a low priority for local government because this topic should be addressed at the state and federal level. However, local ordinances should not discourage conservation.**
- **People should be more educated to conserve energy, but can municipalities realistically pursue that?**

Summary (question 7): These comments are consistent with the rest of the survey in expressing a local desire to conserve energy. The results seem to beg the question, how well suited are local governments to implement energy conservation and initiatives?