2011 Progress Summary

Milwaukee County's Green Print Initiatives

January 2012

Milwaukee County Green Print 2011 Progress Summary

Background

Milwaukee County has a long history of providing quality services and recreational facilities to its residents. Over the past decade, however, rising energy costs and budgetary constraints along with concerns over deteriorating air and water quality have placed increased importance on the need to effectively manage our limited resources.

In 2007, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and County Executive approved a resolution intended to control long-term operating costs and improve environmental quality through a series of initiatives referred to as the Green Print. The Green Print includes 16 separate initiatives, covering issues ranging from energy to storm water management to recycling.

Milwaukee County employees, contractors, and partners play an important role in the implementation of these initiatives. Designers incorporate energy efficiency and sustainable elements into our facility improvements. Construction and maintenance staff adhere to best management practices that reduce environmental impacts resulting from the work performed. Staff involved in purchasing select products made from recycled materials. And all staff can participate in recycling. Through these efforts Milwaukee County can and should continue to be a leader in environmental stewardship while responsibly managing our fiscal resources.

What is 'sustainability'?

Various definitions abound. One of the more commonly used is "*meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*" from the Bruntland Commisssion.

Green Print Goals

- Retrofit public buildings with energy efficient technology to save money
- Require County-supported construction projects to follow LEED standards
- Reduce the amount of storm water runoff and seek ways to use water more efficiently
- Enhance recycling efforts at County facilities
- Return passive use park land to native grassland and prairie reserve areas
- Examine the use of renewable energy sources
- Purchase when applicable, cleaner technology fleet vehicles
- Improve staff awareness of green initiatives and programs
- Encourage staff participation in efforts to support green initiatives at work and at home
- Require departments to look for ways to improve energy efficiency
- Pursue the use of environmentally preferable products
- Replace traffic signals with LED signals

This Report

This report provides a brief summary of the accomplishments through the end of 2011. Additional information can be obtained from the County's Green Print website, update reports prepared for the Parks, Energy and Environment Committee, or by contacting the County's Sustainability Coordinator.

Web Page:
http://county.milwaukee.gov/DPW/milwaukeecountysgreenprint.htm

Contact: Steve Keith, Sustainability & Environmental Engineer (414) 278-4355

Energy Efficiency

Green Print Goals:

Adopt a wide-scale performance contracting initiative to review and retrofit 20% of all County public buildings annually with high-performance, energy efficient technology,
and
Require all departments to perform an internal audit of ways to improve energy efficiency and report back with recommendations and initiatives that have already taken place.

Background

Buildings account for 40% of the energy consumed in the U.S., so making buildings more energy-efficient is economically and environmentally prudent. In 2008, Milwaukee County spent over $20 million in utility bills for its 500+ buildings. Performance contracting provides one mechanism for funding retrofits through the savings gained from the energy-saving measures implemented.

Accomplishments:

Energy audits have been performed on 60 buildings, and approximately $10 million has been invested in energy retrofits using Performance Contracting. These energy savings measures include lighting upgrades, new building control systems, insulation, energy-efficient motors, and motion sensors. All of these projects combined are projected to result in energy savings of more than 10 million kilowatt-hours of electricity and over 200,000 therms of natural gas per year, which equates to over $1 million in avoided utility bills, and nearly 10,000 tons per year reduced CO2 emissions.

In 2011, dozens of other energy savings projects were implemented, such as LED lighting at GMIA and Timmerman; lighting upgrades at Public Museum, CCFS and Research Park; more energy-efficient HVAC systems at Fleet Admin and Transit Admin buildings.

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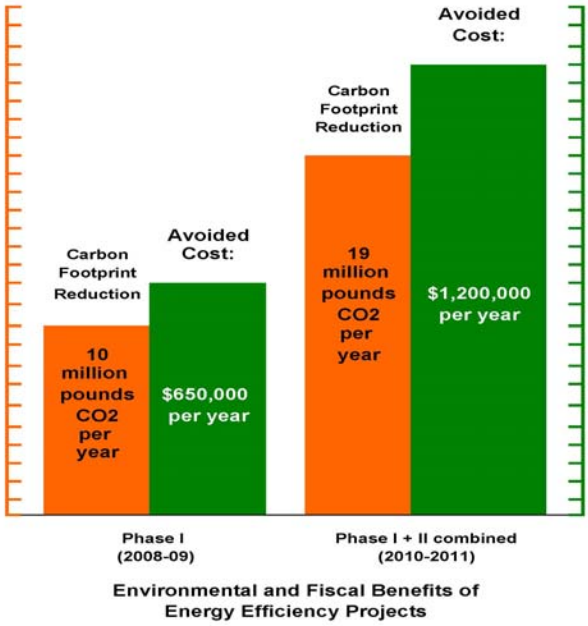
To help measure our improvements, Milwaukee County has been benchmarking its progress at some of the largest energy-using facilities, using tools such as Portfolio Manager.



Environmental and Fiscal Benefits of Energy Efficiency Projects

Opportunities

- Revisit facilities after the first round of energy-savings measures to see if additional opportunities exist.
- Explore small-scale performance contracting by departments
- Develop more quantitative targets and measures
- Require each department to submit annual energy savings report
- Install more metering systems
- Acquire software or services to help facilitate energy tracking, benchmarking, and internal reporting
- Create more incentives for departments to be energy-efficient

Energy Efficiency

Success Stories

Milwaukee County Court House

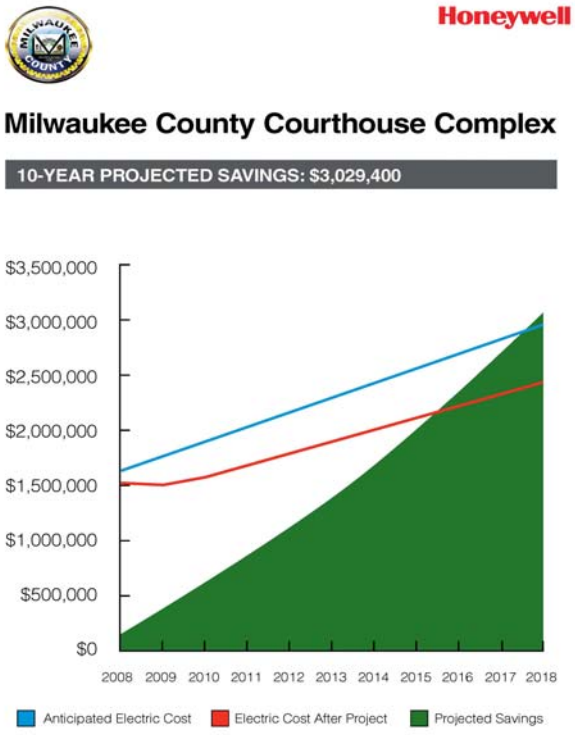
The Milwaukee County Court House is one of the largest energy-consuming facilities operated by Milwaukee County. Adjoining the Court House is the Criminal Justice Facility. These two buildings comprise over 1.1 million square feet of floor space. Beginning in 2007, Milwaukee County began a series of energy-savings projects, which included replacing over 15,000 light fixtures, dozens of motors, steam traps, and building control systems. The result has been a reduction in electricity consumption of more than 20%. That translates into over $350,000 per year in avoided cost.

Part of the work was funded using Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contracting, whereby the money saved from the improvements is used to pay for the improvements themselves, and part was paid through the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program.

General Mitchell International Airport

Wisconsin's busiest airport was busy becoming more energy-efficient in 2011 with a wide range of projects. Nearly 500 light fixtures in Concourse E and the Administration wing were replaced with more efficient lamps that use less than half the amount of power. Occupancy sensors and individual lighting controls were also installed and provide additional savings.

The exterior lighting in the south ticketing roadway were replaced with new LED technology lighting. The total connected wattage was reduced by almost 75% and maintenance requirements reduced by over 50%. The result is lower operating cost and improved customer service.



Sustainable Design

Green Print Goal:

Require that all county-supported construction projects meet Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) standards beginning in 2008.

Background

The LEED rating system was introduced in 1998 as a design, measurement and certification tool. It has become the most widely accepted rating system. LEED, however, is more applicable for new buildings or complete renovations as opposed to partial retrofits which make up the bulk of capital improvement projects at Milwaukee County. Therefore, a set of design guidelines were developed, based on LEED, for County staff and consultants to use.

Accomplishments:

As part of the consultant selection process, Milwaukee County now requires consultants provide their experience in sustainable design as part of their qualifications submittal. Designs also require the contractor provide a construction waste recycling plan when applicable.

General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA) has applied LEED concepts to a variety of projects including restroom renovations. A re-designed Combined Maintenance Facility at GMIA will include an energy-efficient building envelope, natural lighting, rainwater capture and reuse for truck washing, construction waste recycling, and solar hot water heating. The GMIA Baggage Claim project will include natural lighting, high-efficiency light fixtures, ventilation adjusted based on CO2 levels measured in the area, water-conserving restroom fixtures, green roof and water-efficient landscaping, materials of construction containing recycled products, recycling construction demolition waste, paints, coatings, adhesives and sealants to meet low volatile organic carbon (VOC) emissions requirements.

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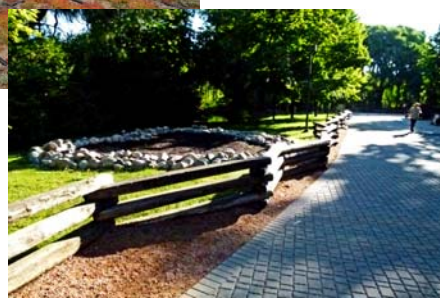
Parks Playground Reconstruction projects require that rubberized surfaces be made from recycled tires, and allows the use of recycled asphalt in the hot mix asphalt furnished for the project as well as the use of recycled concrete as a base course.

At the Zoo, permeable pavement has been installed at the terrace area, and also along the north edge of the main parking lot. These areas were formerly paved with asphalt but a permeable pavement was substituted over a portion of the asphalt to manage stormwater better. Rainwater draining through the permeable pavement is collected in an underdrain system which either percolates rain water into the ground or overflows into adjoining rain gardens.



Opportunities

Update current design guidelines and develop new guidelines for projects such as renewable energy system installations.

Explore opportunities for incorporating sustainable design in transportation and roadway projects.

Storm Water Pollution

Green Print Goal:

Review the storm water management plan with Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) to reduce the amount of storm water runoff from County facilities that aid MMSD in its efforts to reduce runoff throughout the County, and adopt plans to manage runoff from new development projects.

Background

Pollutants in storm water runoff can adversely affect our rivers and lakes. The WDNR and MMSD have regulations intended to reduce impacts from new development projects.

Accomplishments:

As part of its NR 216 County-wide stormwater permit, Milwaukee County staff performs regular monitoring of storm water outfalls and discharges. Reports of illicit connections or discharges are investigated and tested.

Storm water runoff at Bradford Beach and McKinley Beach is being directed to rain gardens, bio-infiltration swales, and sub-surface infiltration galleries instead of discharging across beach sands into the lake. The Bradford project was awarded APWA's "Best Of" in 2010 and Mayor's Design Award in 2011. Bradford Beach is Blue Wave certified since 2009.

At GMIA, deicing fluids are being captured using a system of sewer drains and vacuum trucks. A dedicated deicing area was added at the former 440th air base ramp, to de-ice planes more efficiently and capture used deicing fluids.

The County DTPW prepared a design guidance document to encourage the use of Best Management Practices to reduce polluted stormwater runoff from our parking lots. The document provides technical guidance for County staff and consultants to deploy practices such as bioinfiltration swales, subsurface stormwater chambers and porous pavement.

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A green roof was recently installed at the Milwaukee Public Museum (early October). The green roof is a modular design. The roof is funded through the assistance of a grant from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District.

The reconstructed parking lot at the County Parks Sports Complex will incorporate over 2 acres of pervious pavement that will help reduce polluted runoff to the Root River.

County staff have been active members of various local NGOs focused on water quality, including Sweet Water Trust, Menomonee River Group, and Root-Pike WIN.

Opportunities

- Evaluate opportunities to further reduce runoff from highways and roadway projects.
- Continue to seek capital funding for storm water management and pollutant reduction projects.
- Continue work with MMSD, NGOs and other muni's on storm water education.

Water Conservation

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Green Print Goal:

Examine the potential use of "gray water" for applications where treated water may not be needed and report back…with potential applications and associated costs.

Background

Although we live next to the largest fresh water bodies in the world, over-consumption, drought and poor water management have led 36 sates to anticipate water shortages this decade and prompted the formation of the Great Lakes Compact. Becoming more efficient with how we use water not only reduces consumption costs, but also reduces the amount of water directed to over-burdened sewers.

Accomplishments:

Milwaukee County continues to reduce water consumption through the progressive replacement of older fixtures with more water-efficient versions. More than a half-dozen restroom renovation projects this year incorporated upgrades to more water-efficient fixtures which can reduce consumption by as much as 50%.

Water supply controls and water-efficient fixtures installed at the Milwaukee County Zoo will reduce the water consumption by more than 100 million gallons per year.

Rainwater harvesting systems have been installed at Boerner Botanical Gardens and at the Primate House at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

At the Mitchell Park Domes, the reflective pools were replaced with previous pavement and water fountains to provide outdoor space for visitors and school children. Rainwater collected from the rooftops of the domes is diverted to storage tanks under the pavement that can be used to irrigate the planting beds.

Opportunities

Old plumbing fixtures use up to twice the amount newer fixtures use. Upgrading to current (EPACT) standards and addition of faucet aerators can significantly reduce water use.

Xeriscaping (drought-tolerant plants) should be considered in all future landscaping projects.

Continue active participation in the MMSD's Green Seams program, which promotes maintenance of pervious green space.

Work with Milwaukee Water Council Stewardship Committee to promote water conservation in the region.

Water Conservation

Success Stories

Water Conservation at the Milwaukee County Zoo

As part of a $1.5 million guaranteed energy savings performance contract, Zoo curators and engineers from Johnson Controls, Inc. identified various ways to reduce the amount of water needed for the exhibits. Examples included turning off water at night in certain exhibits and for decorative displays and waterfalls when not needed; and putting control valves on drinking trays in the Aviary Building. These options were carefully considered by curator staff so as not to affect the zoo animals. When combined with other water-saving features such as low-flow sinks, aerators, toilets and valves, the combined actions will result in a reduction of over 100 million gallons per year in water consumption by the Zoo. That's more than 20% reduction!

Rainwater Harvesting at Boerner Botanical Gardens - DPRC

At Boerner Botanical Gardens, stormwater runoff is turned into a water resource. Reinders Inc., Aquascape and Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens partnered with Milwaukee County to design a plan that involved harvesting rainwater runoff from the roof of the Education and Visitor Center and using it to water nearby gardens. In addition, the runoff from the parking lot would be captured and sent through an infiltration basin in a man-made wetland, where it would be further filtered. The project received a grant from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. In 2011, the project was expanded with a rain garden and educational component. The rain garden captures runoff from the rain harvesting system during heavy rains.

Recycling

Green Print Goal:

Direct the Director of Parks to place receptacles for recyclable materials in all Milwaukee County Parks where applicable.

Background

Although Milwaukee County is not a Responsible Unit under the state's recycling law, it is still required to comply with state and municipal regulations for recycling at its facilities. Recycling includes not just paper, cans and bottles, but light bulbs, oil, batteries, tires, construction waste, etc.

Accomplishments:

In 2011, Parks contracted services for additional recycling containers and pick-up at 22 park facilities. It is estimated that these services resulted in collection of over 14,000 pounds of mixed recyclables.

Parks now requires special events contracts to provide for recycling of bottles and cans.

For 2011, Facilities recycled 40,000 lbs of office paper, over 180,000 lbs of mixed paper and over 90,000 lbs of cardboard, generating over $8,000 in revenue.

DHHS recycles paper, glass and aluminum containers. In 2011, the Records and Volunteer Center and BHD recycled over 140,000 pounds of office paper, over 80,000 pounds of cardboard, over 35,000 pounds of electronic waste, and over 10,000 pounds of steel, generating more than $18,000 in revenue.

Several County facilities, such as the County Correctional Facility South (CCFS) and the Zoo, expanded both the quantity and types of materials they recycle, thereby increasing revenue and decreasing expenditures.

Additional recycling containers were added at the Courthouse and City Campus in 2010 and 2011.

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In 2011, Milwaukee County prepared a County-wide recycling plan. The plan summarizes current recycling practices and provides recommendations for improvements. The planning group is currently developing standard procurement contract for recycling services.

Milwaukee County has been implementing a construction waste recycling policy on applicable size projects over the past year. Over 1,000 tons were recycled in 2011.

GMIA began implementing a waste reduction pilot at the Admin offices, using smaller waste baskets to promote greater recycling.

Opportunities

Develop a standardized RFP for recycling services to maximize revenue and accounting.

Explore potential benefits for blanket contracts or multiple-facility recycling service contracts.

Explore benefits of establishing satellite recyclables collection locations, in order to gain greater economies of scale.

Link purchasing policies with recycling policies.

Enhance signage to promote participation.

Land Conservation

Green Print Goal:

Direct the Director of Parks to create a plan to return areas of park land, not actively utilized by the public, to native grassland and prairie reserve areas that will require no physical maintenance or the burning of fossil fuels; this plan should be presented with a scope of work and cost to the Parks Committee for approval by September 2007.

Background

Milwaukee County Parks manages over 15,000 acres of parkland, most of which is green space. Large portions are turf grass and require regular mowing. The conversion of underused areas to natural areas would reduce maintenance requirements and runoff, but must be done properly to be effective.

Accomplishments:

Over the past several years approximately 300 acres of underutilized turf areas have been converted to trees and grasslands through USDA's Conservation Reserve Program. In addition, Parks has planted an additional 19-20 acres to prairie, and 5.5 acres have been planted to hardwood trees along the Root River. Parks has also submitted a grant application to convert another 60 acres of turf to hardwood trees.

Parks Department's Natural Areas staff and volunteers have been active in the removal of over 20 species of non-native invasive plants and implementing habitat restoration at more than 40 County Parks (1,200 acres). These are cooperative efforts between Parks staff, volunteers, and partners. In 2010 the Natural Areas staff worked with 51 different partner organizations and 2,800 natural areas volunteers that donated nearly 17,000 hours toward improving the quality of the Parks Department's natural areas.

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Parks Natural Areas staff completed an extensive inventory of the 10,000 acres comprising the Parks Natural Areas Program. The inventories provide a database on vegetative cover, invasive species, ephemeral wetlands, wildlife populations, and native plantings that will prove to be useful in future management. In addition to restoration activities staff planted 19 acres of prairie and 5.5 acres of hardwood trees while expanding existing pollinator gardens.

The County updated its Land & Water Resources Management Plan for 2011-2016. The plan provides an overview of Milwaukee County's land and water resources and identifies the major concerns with the long-term maintenance of them.

Opportunities

Planting more trees in County parkways may help reduce the level of mowing required while also reducing the volume of storm water runoff.

Interest in urban gardening has been growing. Milwaukee County has been supportive of these organizations (e.g., creating community gardens at McGovern Park and providing land to UW-Extension for urban gardens) and should work with these organizations to identify additional ways we can provide support to our mutual benefit.

Renewable Energy

Green Print Goal:

Direct the Director of Transportation and Public Works to examine the use of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power for facilities within Milwaukee County and report these findings back to the Transportation, Public Works, and Transit by the July 2007 cycle.

Background

Renewable energy accounts for less than 1% of the County's energy supply. Transition to renewables means steadier cost and less dependency on foreign oil. Milwaukee County is now home to manufacturing of solar photovoltaic (PV), solar hot water and wind energy. While top priority is energy conservation, renewable energy projects are being pursued concurrently on a limited basis in order to position to capitalize on the opportunities once the cost-effectiveness warrants implementation on a larger scale.

Accomplishments:

By the end of 2011, Milwaukee County had eight different solar energy projects in operation, including:

- Flower-shaped solar PV system at the Zoo (1.4 kilowatt system)
- Solar hot water system at the Washington Park Senior Center
- Solar PV system at Juneau Park Comfort Building (3.3 kilowatt system)
- Solar PV system at the Wilson Park Senior Center (3.1 kilowatt system)
- Solar PV panels at the entrance to the Milwaukee County Zoo (10 kilowatt system)
- Solar hot water system Children's Court
- Solar PV system at the Fleet Maintenance Garage (5.0 kilowatt system)

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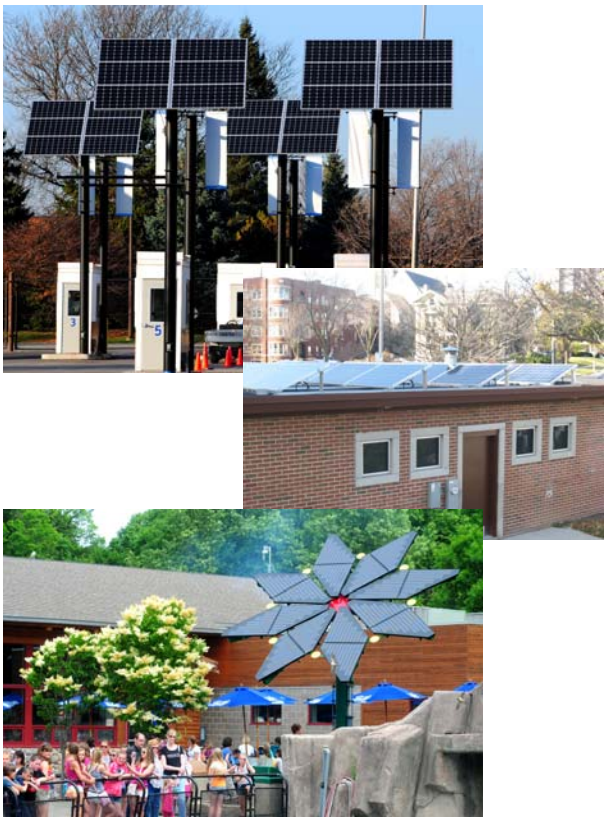
In 2012, the following installations are planned:

- A 0.25 kW solar PV system at GMIA to power the new trash compactor
- Solar hot water system at the Zoo's Aquatic-Reptile Center
- Solar hot water heating system at the Washington Park Boat House



Opportunities

Continue to explore options for renewable energy systems, but only at facilities that have undergone energy-efficiency upgrades.

Establish long-term goals for renewable energy and link with budgets.

Explore potential sites for wind energy systems.

Develop standards for design, operation and maintenance of renewable energy systems.

Clean Fleet

Green Print Goal:

Direct the Director of Transportation and Public Works to purchase, when applicable, new cleaner technology fleet vehicles that use alternative fuels such as bio-fuels, hybrids, and plug-in hybrids

Background

Milwaukee County maintains over 2,000 vehicles and major equipment for law enforcement, operations and maintenance and other purposes, as well as County's pubic transit system. The use of AFVs can help reduce air pollution in our ozone non-attainment area.

Accomplishments:

35 Ford Fusion hybrid electric sedans were added to Milwaukee County's fleet in 2011. The hybrids utilize a regenerative braking technology to capture over 90% of the energy normally lost when braking. It is estimated that the County is saving over 4,000 gallons per year in fuel as compared to the previous vehicles. In addition, four hybrid electric bucket trucks are on order with delivery anticipated in 2012. The incremental cost of the bucket trucks was funded through a grant from the Wisconsin Clean Transportation Partners.

General Mitchell Airport has been converting the remote parking shuttle buses to cleaner-burning CNG-powered engines. Two more CNG shuttles were added in 2011, bringing the total CNG-fueled shuttle fleet to nine vehicles out of a total of twelve. Not only do the CNG shuttles use a cleaner burning fuel, but the CNG costs much less than diesel, resulting in a savings of over $100,000 per year. The current CNG shuttle fleet reduces NOx emissions by 2.70 tons/year of this ozone forming air pollutant. GMIA anticipates purchasing an additional two CNG powered shuttles in 2012.

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Milwaukee County Transit has purchased 90 low-emission buses. These buses use state-of-art technology that minimize particulate and NOx emissions.

Fleet has also been using fuel additives that boost mileage while also reducing air pollutant emissions.

Opportunities

Auto manufacturers continue to produce vehicles that are more fuel-efficient. Projections suggest natural gas prices will remain relatively flat in the near term, while gasoline and diesel prices are expected to rise. Electric vehicles on the road are few at this time, but installing EV charging stations at strategic locations could help facilitate the growth of this technology.

Dedicate parking stalls in employee lots for hybrids and EVs to reward employee-owners.

Grants

2011 Progress Summary

Green Print Goal:

Require Department heads to seek all grants in compliance with Milwaukee County Ordinance Chapter 59.06 that focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Background

Grants provide a valuable source of supplemental funding for sustainability projects, and can sometimes provide the impetus for a project.

Accomplishments:

In 2011, Milwaukee County received grants from a variety of sources, including Federal, State and regional agencies. Grant applications were not limited to energy but also included water resources.

Milwaukee County applies for incentives on projects eligible for grants through Wisconsin's Focus On Energy program. Between 2008 and 2010, Milwaukee County received nearly $300,000 in incentive dollars from Focus. We currently have about 20 projects in progress or approved by Focus, which should generate an additional $275,000 in incentives when these projects are completed.

Fleet has secured additional funding to supplement an existing grant to purchase three more electric hybrid bucket trucks. The WCTP offered Milwaukee County an additional $300,000 to cover the incremental cost of replacing these vehicles, which are much more fuel-efficient than the diesel variety.

In 2010 and 2011, Milwaukee County received and administered over $700,000 in EECBG grant funds provided via Federal ARRA. The funds were used for energy-efficiency upgrades at the Courthouse, GMIA, Public Museum, BHD, and senior centers.

The Milwaukee Public Museum received a grant from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District to install a green roof. The green roof was installed in early October and covers a large portion of the 6th floor roof

Opportunities

Hard economic times are making grants more elusive, as grant funds have been reduced and competition for grants increased.

While grant funding is being pursued, the amount of time required to prepare applications and to administer the grants can be considerable. Given the limited availability of staff time, the pursuit of grants requires some degree of selectivity and weighing the potential for a successful application. Many grants require matching funds, which if unavailable, could negate the pursuit of the grant.

Continue to pursue grants from existing programs such as Focus on Energy, GLRI and Wisconsin Coastal Management program. The Fund for Lake Michigan Program is a new water quality program that has potential opportunities for Milwaukee County.

Education

Green Print Goal:

Improve staff awareness of green initiatives and programs so they can be implemented on new project and initiative and encourage staff to participate in education efforts that support green initiatives for applications both at work and home

Background

Education can be provided in a variety of formats, including printed media, electronic news, signage, training workshops, media events, and conference presentations. Education is one of the most cost-effective means of effecting outcomes.

Accomplishments:

The Green Print webpage provides a succinct summary of the sustainability goals for Milwaukee County, and other useful links.

An electronic newsletter, the Green *Print*, is sent out 2 to 3 times a year to County staff, acknowledging successful County projects, as well as useful tips for office and home.

In 2011, the County supported broader public education efforts, such as the Zoo's "Party for the Planet", and the "Rock The Green Concert" held at Veterans Park, and the "Green Living Festival" at the Mitchell Park Domes. The County has also hosted workshops on road salting and sustainability in local governments. These events feature demonstrations and presentations on ways people can simultaneously save energy and conserve resources while reducing adverse impacts on their environment

Regional collaborations with the City of Milwaukee and Housing Authority helped to generate staff training sessions on the operation & maintenance of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and solar hot water systems.

In 2011, County staff made presentations at conferences, workshops, and webinars on designing sustainable infrastructure and the County's progress on sustainability initiatives.

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The County is an active member is a number of organizations that promote sustainability goals, including Southeastern Wisconsin Watershed Trust, Wisconsin Green Building Alliance, North Star Network, Menomonee River Group, MMSD Technical Advisory Team, Great Lakes Non-Point Abatement Coalition, and the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network.

Opportunities

Upgrade e-newsletter format and frequency of distribution.

Motivate County design staff to become certified as LEED Green Associates or LEED-AP.

Provide more training for County operations and maintenance staff on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Staffing

Green Print Goal:

Authorize and direct the Director of Administrative Services and the Director of Human Resources to develop a position of Director of Sustainability and report back to the Personnel Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee in September 2007 cycle for approval.

Background

The position was not fully funded in years 2010 and 2011. The Sustainability & Environmental Engineer position was created and spends approximately 50% of his time on Green Print issues.

Accomplishments:

A proposal to create a full-time position of Director of Sustainability was approved in the 2012 budget. Establishing a full-time position should increase the County's capacity to address the numerous and varied goals of the Green Print.

Opportunities

A full or part-time position of energy manager may be cost-effective and should be explored. A part-time recycling coordinator could prove to be cost-effective as well.

Partial funding of these positions may be available through grant programs.

Traffic Signal Upgrades

Green Print Goal:

Continue to replace all traffic signals and signs with Light Emitting Diode (LED) signals and signs during regularly scheduled maintenance.

Accomplishments:

Currently 100% of all traffic lights under the jurisdiction of Transportation and Public Works are LED lit.

Opportunities

Lit signage at County facilities could be converted to LED.

Green Purchasing

2011 Progress Summary

Green Print Goal:

Enact the results of the Green Purchasing Task Force that were set in place by Resolution File 06-329 that calls for the use of environmentally preferable products.

Background

Although a Green Purchasing Task Force was created in 2007, no specific recommendations were developed to pursue. The Green Purchasing Advisory Team now serves as a venue to review green purchasing issues.

Many of the types of products the County currently purchases have green versions, e.g., copy paper, toilet paper, paper towels, and cleaning products.

Accomplishments:

During the first half of 2011, Milwaukee County purchased over 300 different products from Office Max that contained recycled content between 30% and 100%. On a dollar basis, these items accounted for 1/3 of the materials purchased.

A draft purchasing policy was developed that outlines overall goals, responsibilities of staff and specifications for certain products and services.

A survey of County staff involved in purchasing office products was performed in July. The survey indicated that about half the buyers were aware of what environmentally preferable products were available from suppliers.

Opportunities

Formally adopt a resolution clarifying the County's position regarding green purchasing, and make the policy effective at all levels of purchasing.

Provide more education of County staff regarding the benefits of green purchasing. Obtain and disseminate information from suppliers on their green products.

Use our buying power as leverage to promote buying local and green purchasing. Collaborate with other governments to maximize fiscal and environmental benefits.