

ENERGY POLICY

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEREBY RESOLVES AND DECLARES THAT IT IS THE POLICY OF THE COUNTY TO:

1. Continually improve the efficient use of all energy resources in order to insure a future with a secure and sustainable energy supply. Fuels availability and the need to improve air quality may limit energy use of fossil fuels.
2. Seek creative ways that the public sector can take advantage of cost-saving opportunities presented by utility restructuring, including undertaking an aggregated cooperative competitive procurement of electricity supply at the earliest opportunity practicable; look to increase the amount of clean and renewable energy purchased in a competitive marketplace; and serve as an education and information resource about restructuring for the County's residents and businesses.
3. Integrate energy consumption and sustainability considerations into land use, development and transportation planning as a means of evaluating the impact of growth and development on energy consumption and the environment in the County.
4. Increase energy efficiency in County facilities and vehicles; work with the private sector to encourage enhanced energy efficiency for commercial buildings, dwellings & vehicles.
5. Promote increased use of alternative-fueled vehicles in the County fleet, and in private fleets that operate in the County.
6. Integrate requirements for greater energy efficiency into commercial and residential building codes and effect adequate energy code enforcement.
7. Promote the efficient use of energy through example, education, and legislation.
8. Support government funding for projects that promote public and multi-person modes of transportation as one means of conserving energy, alleviating traffic congestion and reducing harmful emissions. Use legislative, regulatory and fiscal policies to discourage use of single-occupancy vehicles and encourage use of mass transit.
9. Educate the citizens of Montgomery County to the importance of more efficient energy consumption and the direct linkages between energy usage and a healthy environment.
10. Seek intergovernmental cooperation in developing effective, cost-efficient methods to meet the requirements of federal energy and environmental legislation.
11. Encourage the reduction of per capita energy consumption in Montgomery County from 1995 base levels by 20% by the year 2010; support further per capita reductions in energy consumption thereafter as deemed practicable and appropriate.
12. Recognize and reward individual initiative and collective efforts that contribute to the County's energy/environmental policy goals.