



# **Long-Range Energy and Utility Management Plan and Procedures**

---

Updated  
April 27, 2023

Maintained by:  
Jennifer Malaniuk, Director of Energy & Sustainability

## **Purpose**

---

In accordance with Texas Education Code Section 44.902, The board of trustees of a school district shall establish a long-range energy plan to reduce the district's annual electric consumption by five percent beginning with the 2008 state fiscal year and consume electricity in subsequent fiscal years in accordance with the district's energy plan. This plan and procedures document will serve as the district's long-range energy plan.

Recognizing that utilities (electricity, natural gas, refuse, and water) are the largest expenditure for the district after payroll, we believe that the prudent use of our natural resources will aid tremendously in maintaining the highest level of fiscal responsibility. This, in turn, aids in ensuring that more of every taxpayer dollar is utilized for creating the appropriate environment for exceptional student achievement.

## **Implementation**

---

Implementation of this plan requires the joint effort of the trustees, administrators, teachers, staff, support personnel, and students of the district. Our aim is to save utility dollars while ensuring an environment conducive to learning and working.

## **Objectives**

---

- Raise awareness for students, staff, and community members about utility consumption and opportunities for savings
- Reduce purchased utility consumption, while maintaining a safe and acceptable environment
- Measure and track utility usage, in accordance with House Bill 3693 and Texas Education Code Section 44.902
- Ensure that prudent conservation measures are used in construction and renovation
- Explore opportunities to lower costs (rates, billing structure, etc.) associated with utilities
- Maintain an Energy Committee to ensure representation of all district stakeholders
- Create Energy Dashboards to support campus-based initiatives that promote awareness
- Set reasonable guidelines to achieve successful energy management while providing an environment conducive to student achievement

## **Efficiency Strategies**

---

### **Strategy #1: Track and Report Utility Usage and Cost**

A critical component of managing utility dollars is tracking and reporting utility usage and expenditures. This data aids in determining the effectiveness of our efforts and determining where those efforts may be best focused. It is the responsibility of the Facilities Department to track and report this usage in a usable manner with reasonable frequency. This is accomplished by:

- Comparing current usage to historical baselines to account for current performance
- Benchmarking performance in order to assess if costs are reasonable
- Generating facility-specific reports to share with principals and administrators

- Generating district reports and posting on the district web site, in compliance with HB 3693
- Evaluating conservation measures implemented by analyzing performance data
- Recommending improvement actions based on this data

**Strategy #2: Generate Awareness of Usage/Auditing/Incentive Programs to Save**

With the data compiled and provided to the district, it is the responsibility of the Facilities department to generate awareness of the current state of our utility usage and cost, as well as to communicate best practices to achieve greater savings. Additionally, other educational opportunities about utility efficiency may be implemented to raise awareness within the district.

Periodic visits to district sites are conducted to deliver an update on utility efficiency and to communicate additional opportunities for savings. The Facilities team will perform an annual walk-through audit of each site to ensure the site is operating efficiently and to identify potential areas for improvement.

**Strategy #3: District-wide Energy Committee**

An energy committee has been formed and will be maintained in order to ensure that all district stakeholders are included in creating efficiency programs and standards. This committee may include interested parties from the administration, teachers, students and/or staff, as well as community members and board members who would like to participate. Committee members will be selected on an annual basis. The committee will conduct itself in the following manner:

- Meet on a quarterly basis at a minimum and additionally as needed
- Receive reports on current state of utilities in the district
- Review any plans and procedures to ensure that all factors are considered in implementing efficiency measures
- Determine and/or investigate additional efficiency measures for consideration
- Plan and implement energy programs
- Discuss or review any matters of concern that may arise
- Assist in communicating with all district stakeholders
- Review the RISD Energy Management Plan and Procedures document annually

**Strategy #4: Facility Use Guidelines**

The manner in which we operate district facilities will have the most significant impact on district utility costs. We aim to efficiently use our district’s resources, similar to the manner in which we might do so in our homes. In order to control unnecessary costs, the following measures have been implemented:

Scheduling Guidelines

- The Director of Energy & Sustainability sets reasonable general school day operating schedules for district buildings, listed below. Additional operation of HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning Equipment) is scheduled to accommodate the needs of those conducting appropriate school business outside of these hours, as described below. Equipment will be scheduled to operate at optimal set point in all buildings during the times listed below.

**Administration Buildings: 6:30am – 6:00pm**

**Elementary Schools: 6:30am – 5:00pm**

**Middle and Junior High Schools: 6:30am – 5:30pm**  
**High Schools: 6:30am – 7:00pm**

Additional operation of HVAC equipment must be requested through the campus scheduler and submitted via the Facilities Work Order System, WebTMA, at least two working days in advance. This allows sufficient time to ensure schedules are accommodated properly. Efforts will be made to accommodate all reasonable requests and to locate after-hours events in the most efficient manner possible, according to location and attendance. Periodic checks will be made to ensure that facilities are used during the requested time periods.

- Requests should include the time period in which the space will be occupied. The control system operators will set up the appropriate heat-up or cool-down time necessary for the equipment in the space.
- Rental requests will be processed per the signed rental agreement by the Facility Leasing Coordinator and in accordance to the district's Facility Use Guidelines and Fees.
- After-hour requests that require custodial support should be requested through WebTMA.
- Due to the high cost of energy during the summer, every reasonable effort will be made to limit summer scheduling or to consolidate activities to limited zones in a building.

#### HVAC Guidelines

- The Director of Energy & Sustainability will institute temperature setpoints that provide a reasonable level of comfort within the framework of appropriate dress. Generally, the setpoint will be 70°-74°F in the cooling season and 68°-72°F in the heating season.
- During unoccupied times, the temperature will be setup to 85°F during the cooling season and setback to 55°F in the heating season. This will protect against potential damage caused by freezing or humidity and decrease the demand on equipment and time necessary to return the space to appropriate occupied conditions. This also provides a reasonable working environment for custodial crews.
- In the event that outside air temperature is consistently below 32°F, the unoccupied setback temperature will be set to 65°F until outside air temperatures reach above freezing.
- Hot or cold complaints should be submitted via the Facility Services Work Order System, WebTMA, in order to address any problems as quickly as possible.
- In temporary buildings, or other areas in which the room occupant has control of the HVAC system, the same guidelines should be applied and the occupant has the responsibility to set back their system appropriately at the end of the day. Custodians should make appropriate adjustments if the occupants have not done so.

#### Other Guidelines

- If using a personal, energy-using device (i.e. refrigerators, microwaves, coffee makers, radios, lamps, etc.) they must be ENERGY STAR certified. If a personal device poses a safety or environmental risk, the occupant will be asked to remove it.



**Use QR for a list of ENERGY STAR certified appliances**

- Lighting is to be turned off when an area is unoccupied. The room occupants are responsible for ensuring the lights are turned off in areas where occupancy or vacancy sensors are not in place. Ideally, lights should be turned off even when sensors are in place.
- Natural lighting should be used when and where possible.
- Outdoor lighting should be off during the daytime. Please report any issues via the Facility Services Work Order System, WebTMA.
- Computers, monitors, projectors, etc. should be turned off at the end of the day.
- Irrigation should not occur when rains have been sufficient or during school hours. Please report any issues to the Facility Services Customer Service Line at **469-593-0100**.

### **Strategy #5: Purchase of Energy/Equipment & Construction Guidelines**

The cost of energy has a significant impact on the district's annual utility costs. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Director of Energy & Sustainability to investigate opportunities to lower electricity rates, as well as identify savings opportunities in billing for all utilities.

In addition, the Director of Energy & Sustainability will be included in discussions regarding equipment selection for devices that consume a significant amount of energy, such as HVAC and lighting. The Director of Energy & Sustainability will also be involved in discussions on construction and renovation design in order to review for efficiency opportunities. These decisions can have a significant impact on potential future costs and it is prudent that the district has all information prior to decision-making.

#### General Equipment Guidelines

The Facilities Department maintains a Facilities Construction Standards document for construction and renovation projects with minimum criteria for cost-effectiveness. These guidelines should be followed in all projects as they represent the greatest value to the district, while maintaining the appropriate conditions. Some of the minimal criteria are listed below:

- Classroom lighting should be T8 lighting with electronic ballasts or LED
- Gymnasium lighting should be T5 lighting with electronic ballasts or LED
- LED lamps should be used instead of incandescent
- HVAC unit selection should be evaluated for life cycle cost, where possible
- Plumbing fixtures should be low-flow
- An Energy Management System or programmable thermostat should be included in all construction.

Please contact the Facilities Department for the most current Facilities Construction Standards.

### **Strategy #6: Explore Opportunities for Efficiency Savings**

There are several ongoing opportunities for efficiency savings in the district that require further investigation in order to determine the cost and savings benefit. The following items have been evaluated by the Director of Energy & Sustainability and viable projects will continue to be delivered to the administration for consideration. These opportunities may include, but are not limited to:

- Additional LED lighting retrofits
- Additional power factor correction
- Rebates or Incentives on construction and renovation projects

- Optimization of outside air intake
- Consideration of irrigation control improvements
- Central automation of outdoor lighting
- Energy demand response control programming
- Renewables

## Contact Information

---

Any additional thoughts or comments are welcome and may be directed to the

Director of Energy & Sustainability, Jennifer Malaniuk, at **469-593-0091** or [Jennifer.malaniuk@risd.org](mailto:Jennifer.malaniuk@risd.org). Contact the Facility Services Customer Service Line at **469-593-0100** for any additional support.