

Lake Oswego Comprehensive Plan, Current Goals and Policies: Energy and Climate Change

Goal 13: Energy Conservation

“Land and uses developed on the land shall be managed and controlled so as to maximize the conservation of all forms of energy, based on sound economic principles.”

Summary of Major Issues

The following are some of the issues and changed circumstances and conditions which were considered in the update of this element of the Comprehensive Plan

- The Oregon Residential Energy Code was adopted in 1991. It has impacted building practices through stricter regulation and required performance standards and will play a significant role in energy conservation now and in the future.
- Energy conservation and efficiency can be recognized and utilized as an energy resource.
- Transportation systems and land use patterns are directly linked to energy conservation goals and have the potential to impact energy use.
- Energy production and use can impact the environment. When choosing policies, these costs must be considered.
- Awareness of solid waste management reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery of resources as a way to conserve energy has increased and programs have been put in place to encourage these activities.
- Establishing a baseline energy accounting and an acceptable payback period would assist the City in making decisions regarding energy efficiency.

GOAL

The City shall conserve energy.

POLICIES

1. Reduce the City’s overall energy consumption.
2. Promote the use of renewable energy sources.
3. Reduce energy consumption related to transportation by promoting a reduction in vehicle miles traveled through the use of alternative transportation.
4. Require energy-efficient land use and circulation patterns through mixed use development, promoting high density developments near transit and major employment and shopping opportunities, and design of developments to encourage alternative transportation.
5. Promote energy efficiency through site planning for all types of development including residential subdivisions, multi-family, commercial and industrial projects.
6. Require solar orientation for subdivision and partition layout, encourage planned unit developments and clustering, encourage appropriate landscape materials to reduce solar impact in the summer, minimize winter heat loss and buffer against prevailing wind sources.
7. Protect solar access to use natural heating and lighting opportunities.

8. Implement and enforce state energy codes through the building permit review process.

Goal 11, Public Facilities and Services:

Section 5, Administrative and Government Services, Energy, Communications, Schools

"To plan and develop a timely, orderly and efficient arrangement of public facilities and services to serve as a framework for urban and rural development."

Energy and Communication

Several utilities provide energy and communication services to residents and business owners within Lake Oswego's Urban Services Boundary (USB). Portland General Electric provides electricity and Northwest Natural Gas provides natural gas to homes and businesses. US West and General Telephone Company Northwest provide telephone services. TCI and Columbia Cable Television provide cable television and music and data links to a variety of information bases.

Energy and communication services are essential to the community. The City of Lake Oswego coordinates all development applications and public works projects with utilities to ensure service can be provided and to avoid conflicts with existing and future public facilities and services.

Summary of Major Issues

The following are some of the issues and changed circumstances and conditions which were considered in the update of this element of the Comprehensive Plan:

- Other public facilities and services, including administrative and general government services, energy and communication, and schools are important to the well being of Lake Oswego's citizens and are often affected by land use decisions.
- Coordination of the provision and installation of energy and communication services is necessary for economy and efficiency and to avoid unnecessary disruption of service.

GOAL

The City shall ensure the availability of administrative and general government services and shall coordinate with efforts of others to provide schools, energy and communication services.

POLICIES

1. Require energy and communication utilities to be provided to all development.
2. Require developers to establish, and ensure the preservation of easements necessary to provide energy and communication services.
3. Require new energy and communication utilities to be placed underground where practical.

Goal 6 Air, Water, and Land Resources Quality:

“To maintain and improve the quality of the air, water, and land resources of the state.”

Section 1, Air Resources Quality

Summary of Major Issues

The following are some of the issues and changed circumstances and conditions which were considered in the update of this element of the Comprehensive Plan.

- The Portland Metropolitan Region was declared a non-attainment area for ground level ozone and carbon monoxide in 1991.
- Anticipated growth in population and traffic is expected to cause the region to exceed the ozone standard after the mid 1990’s unless further measures are taken to reduce emissions.
- Air quality is a complex regional problem which must be addressed by the region’s governments, business community and individual citizens.
- The Oregon Legislature adopted a number of specific measures to reduce air pollution in the region.

GOAL

Reduce air pollution and improve air quality in Lake Oswego and the Portland Metropolitan Area.

POLICIES

1. Cooperate with federal, state and regional agencies to meet the air quality standards of the Federal Clean Air Act.
2. Ensure commercial and industrial developments comply with all required state and federal air quality regulations and mitigate the impacts of air pollution through design and abatement measures.
3. Preserve and enhance the City’s open space and natural resources to sustain their positive contribution to air quality.
4. Increase the opportunity to use alternative transportation as a means to reduce air pollution by:
 - a. Requiring safe and comfortable pedestrian and bicycle pathways as part of all new street construction projects, where feasible;
 - b. Ensuring new street projects accommodate existing and future transit requirements;
 - c. Requiring the design of new development to be supportive of pedestrian, transit and bicycle users;
 - d. Requiring payment of a systems development charge to be applied to the City’s pedestrian and bicycle path system;
 - e. Providing appropriate pedestrian and bicycle facilities as part of new park projects; and,
 - f. Maintaining an ongoing program to build and maintain pedestrian and bicycle paths.
5. Encourage land use patterns which, while reducing dependency on the automobile, are also compatible with existing neighborhoods.
6. Reduce air pollution associated with municipal operations.

7. Reduce congestion and delay on major streets to lessen localized pollution impacts of automobile travel through methods such as signal timing, access management, intersection improvements, etc.

Section 3, Land Resources Quality

(Solid Waste Management)

Goal 6 Air, Water, and Land Resources Quality

Summary of Major Issues

The following are some of the issues and changed circumstances and conditions which were considered in the update of this element of the Comprehensive Plan.

- The amount of solid waste generated in the Metro area may continue to increase due to population growth. However, recycling and waste reduction programs have the potential to reduce the amount of solid waste generated per capita.
- Significant state and federal legislation has been passed in the last several years which mandates specific solid waste planning, management and reduction programs.
- Metro adopted the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan in 1988 to guide solid waste management activities in Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas County for the next twenty years.
- The activities of local governments pertaining to solid waste reduction, management, and recycling, must be in compliance with the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

GOAL

The City shall manage solid waste to achieve the maximum reduction of material going to landfills.

POLICIES

1. Implement a city wide solid waste management program that:
 - a. Reduces, reuses and recycles solid waste before to sending it to landfills;
 - b. Is cost effective, efficient, and environmentally sensitive; and,
 - c. Is consistent with regional plans, policies and state law.
2. Ensure recycling opportunities are accessible to all households, businesses and institutions.
3. Promote solid waste recycling, reuse and disposal options by providing for the licensing and permitting of persons engaged in these activities in addition to, or part of franchise agreements.
4. Prevent public nuisances, health hazards and unsightliness by prohibiting the accumulation of solid waste on private property.
5. Prohibit unauthorized dumping on private and public lands.
6. Prevent hazardous wastes from entering the waste stream through proper handling and disposal.
7. Require adequate screened and enclosed space for recycling, solid waste storage and compacting within industrial, commercial and high density housing developments and ensure proper access to these areas.

8. Zone adequate land to accommodate recycling and recovery uses and ensure adequate setbacks, buffering and screening are provided to mitigate impacts on adjacent land uses.
9. Reduce the amount of solid waste associated with city government operations by:
 - a. Utilizing recycled, resource efficient and durable materials in both daily operations and capital projects; and,
 - b. Maintaining in-house recycling programs.
10. Reduce the amount of solid waste generated by private and public construction and demolition activities.