

**GOAL 13**

**ENERGY CONSERVATION**

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**The residents of Benton County value clean air, water and healthy natural systems and recognize their importance in sustaining the quality of life that residents value for themselves, their children and grandchildren.**

Benton County Comprehensive Plan Value Statement

# GOAL 13

## ENERGY CONSERVATION

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### Overview

State and national energy policy controls much of the energy situation in Benton County. In consideration of concerns about potential future problems, the citizens of Benton County can, of course, influence that policy by exercising their rights as members of the state and national electorate. In addition, citizens and their local governments can influence the situation more directly by taking action on the local level.

The purpose of this element of the Comprehensive Plan is to identify actions that Benton County can take locally to improve present and future energy prospects. These policies establish the importance of energy efficiency as a consideration in all County planning and management decisions. Through efficient and sustainable management of its own energy use and support for public energy conservation efforts, the County will serve as a leader in accomplishing this goal.

**The Benton County Sustainability Policy encourages County residents to use, develop, and protect our resources at a rate and in a manner that enables people to meet their current needs and also preserve resources for future generations.**

Administrative Policy  
No. 02-01. 2002.

# GOAL 13

## Benton County Goal

### Statewide Planning Goal 13

#### To conserve energy.

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

Excerpt from  
OAR 660-015-0000(13)

### Energy Conservation

To conserve energy through sound planning and pursuit of sustainability.



### Cross-References

Additional policies related to this goal:

- Goal 6 Air, Water & Land Resource Quality
- Goal 11 Public Facilities

# ENERGY CONSERVATION

## Policies

- 13.1.1 Benton County shall consider energy efficiency when making decisions affecting County operations.
- 13.1.2 Benton County shall be a leader in encouraging the development and use of local renewable energy resources and alternative energy systems.
- 13.1.3 Benton County shall encourage the use of active and passive solar systems and shall develop provisions that protect solar access for owners of existing and future buildings.
- 13.1.4 Benton County shall take advantage of reusing and recycling materials whenever possible.
- 13.1.5 Benton County shall consider life-cycle costing and implications of energy demands when making decisions.
- 13.1.6 When developing long-range plans, Benton County shall consider the energy consequences of the resulting land development patterns.
- 13.1.7 Benton County shall encourage a regional reduction in single occupant vehicles (SOV's) through mechanisms such as ridesharing, public transit, carpools, etc.
- 13.1.8 Benton County shall encourage and publicize programs that offer incentives and promote energy efficiency.
- 13.1.9 Benton County shall develop siting and design criteria that promote energy conservation for buildings, roads, and other facilities.
- 13.1.10 Benton County shall consider the environmental impacts of purchasing, recycling, and disposal of new products.
- 13.1.11 Benton County shall conduct periodic audits of their facilities for energy efficiency.

## 13.1 General Policies



### Defined Terms

- life-cycle costing
- sustainability
- zero net energy building

See **Appendix** for definitions

# GOAL 13

## Findings and References

**13.1.a** Local governments can take a role in energy conservation.

**13.1.b** Reducing the county's reliance on imported non-renewable energy sources will result in a more stable economy and less vulnerability when imported energy supplies are constrained.

**13.1.c** Technology continues to change, providing improvements to both active and passive solar energy systems that can result in zero net energy buildings.

**13.1.d** Opportunities exist in County operations for reusing and recycling materials such as oils, asphalt, base rock, and metals.

**13.1.e** County staff would like to see an evaluation of energy impacts before community decisions are made. For example, adding a 4-way stop sign might improve intersection safety; however, the vehicles decreased fuel efficiency is rarely considered.

**13.1.f** Life-cycle costing evaluates the acquisition, operating, and maintenance costs over the life of the purchase.

**13.1.g** Plans that effectively limit development in some areas and encourage it in other areas can influence energy consumption by affecting factors such as driving distance.

**13.1.h** Rural county residents often commute long distances and the Department of Energy reports that Oregon uses more energy (41%) for transportation than any other use.

**13.1.i** Local utility providers, state and federal agencies, and other organizations often offer incentives that encourage energy efficiency.

**13.1.j** The siting and design of buildings, roads, and other facilities can affect the energy required to maintain such facilities.

**13.1.k** Disposal of products (particularly electronics) can result in an undesirable impact on the environment.

**13.1.l** Public utility providers offer energy audits to determine improvements that can result in energy savings.

### References

Benton County. Administrative Services Department. *Benton County Sustainability Policy*. Administrative Policy No. 02-01. 2002.

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