



7.4 ENERGY

ISSUE:

Cities are heavy energy users, but many opportunities exist for savings. Cities can reduce energy costs without affecting the services they provide for citizens. Richmond has won the Municipal Power Smart Award several years in a row because of its outstanding efforts to maintain energy efficiency standards in the community. If this direction is to continue, the City has to pursue a lead role to develop new energy-saving programs, and to assist the community with energy programs and services.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Promote a sustainable energy future by increasing energy efficiency in all sectors of the City.

POLICIES:

- a) Recognize that efficient use of energy has a positive effect on the well-being of the community, through decreased energy costs, improved environmental quality, and more efficient urban land utilization;
- b) Modify traditional methods of development, construction and transportation, where appropriate, to achieve energy-efficiency objectives;
- c) Support utility companies' regulatory changes to encourage more utility investments in energy efficiency;
- d) Support aggressive energy conservation awareness and education programs for the general public;
- e) Continue to pursue alternative energy source systems to heat and cool buildings, e.g. Ground-Source Heat Pump at the Thompson Community Centre;
- f) Establish a municipal energy policy to improve energy efficiency in municipal and residential buildings, and in commercial and industrial facilities; and to promote increased recycling, decreased waste, and the development of telecommunication as an energy-efficiency strategy;
- g) Improve power safety and avoid service disruption by undergrounding wires, particularly in areas of intense development activity.