

ENERGY MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION and SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

PURPOSE:

As the School Committee of the North Kingstown School Department, we believe it to be our responsibility to insure that every effort is made to conserve energy and natural resources while exercising sound financial management.

PHILOSOPHY:

The implementation of this policy is the joint responsibility of the school committee members, administrators, teachers, students and support personnel and its success is based on cooperation at all levels.

POLICY:

The district will maintain accurate records of energy consumption and cost of energy and will provide information to the local media on the goals and progress of the energy conservation program.

The principal will be accountable for energy management on his/her campus with energy audits being conducted and conservation program outlines being updated. Judicious use of the various energy systems of each campus will be the joint responsibility of the principal and head custodian to ensure that an efficient energy posture is maintained on a daily basis.

Curriculum will be developed to ensure that every student will participate in the energy management program in the district as an “energy saver.”

Specific areas of emphasis include:

1. Every student and employee will be expected to contribute to energy efficiency in our district. Every person will be expected to be an “energy saver” as well as an “energy consumer.”
2. Effective immediately, all unnecessary lighting in unoccupied areas will be turned off. All lights will be turned off when students and teachers leave school. Custodians will turn on lights only in the areas in which they are working.
3. Energy management on his/her campus will be made a part of the principal’s annual evaluation. Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVAC) equipment will be used only as needed.
4. The head custodian at each school will be responsible for a complete and total shutdown of the facility when closed each evening.

5. ENERGY STAR POLICY

The District believes: “The North Kingstown School Department abides by the Federal Energy Policy Act of 1992 which took affect October 1997, which requires that all replacement parts or motors be energy efficient and or NEMA premium efficiency standard.”

6. BUS IDLING POLICY

In accordance with energy conservation and the intent of RIGL 31-16.1-3:

- a) Busses are not to idle for more than 5 minutes.
- b) Busses may idle when it is necessary to operate heating, cooling or auxiliary equipment to maintain a safe temperature for special needs students.
- c) Busses may idle when temperature is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, when the operator is in the process of receiving or discharging passengers on a public highway or public road or when operating safety equipment installed on the school bus if applicable.

7. CFC/HCFC POLICY

The District will ban the use of CFC or HCFC based refrigerants in building HVAC and refrigeration systems. All renovations, replacements and upgrades will conform to this policy. Any existing equipment containing these products will be phased out of service within the next five years.

8. SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS PURCHASING POLICY:

- a) Procure environmentally preferable products and services where criteria have been established by governmental or other widely recognized authorities (e.g. Energy Star, EPA Eco Purchasing Guidelines).
- b) Integrate environmental factors into the District’s buying decisions where external authorities have not established criteria. Examples:
 - a. replacing disposables with reusable’s or recyclables;
 - b. supporting eco-labeling practices by buying products bearing such labels in preference to others, where they are available and provide value for money
 - c. taking into account life cycle costs and benefits;
 - d. evaluating, as appropriate, the environmental performance of vendors in providing products and services;
 - e. Raise staff awareness on the environmental issues affecting procurement by providing relevant information and training;
 - f. Encourage suppliers and contractors to offer environmentally preferable products and services at competitive prices;
 - g. Encourage providers of services to consider environmental impacts of service delivery.
 - h. Comply with all environmental legislative and regulatory requirements in the procurement of products and services.

9. INDOOR AIR QUALITY:

The North Kingstown School District firmly believes that achievement of energy and environmental responsibility goals must be done in a safe manner. The North Kingstown School District will align with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “Tools for Schools” indoor air quality (IAQ) program, per <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/tools4s2.html#> District Wide.

The District recognizes Implementing the *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program district-wide is the standard approach for schools initiating an IAQ management program. The district also acknowledges that it will be challenging to implement the Program in all schools simultaneously. Using the tools and frameworks of the EPA program we will be implementing a district-wide program and components that ensure a successful program from the start. The EPA has developed 15 steps to make the process of launching a district-wide program organized and straightforward. These steps to introduce the program will be followed, and the program will be modified and enhanced to remain at or above EPA standards for School IAQ.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as requiring a department, agency or contractor to procure products that do not perform adequately for their intended use or are not available at a reasonable price in a reasonable period of time.

Procedures and Guidelines may be established as necessary to ensure the continuation of a strong Environmental Procurement Program.

Whereas the School Committee bears responsibility for the best use of tax dollars, and whereas public education can provide leadership in developing a realistic energy ethic and awareness of energy needs and costs, Therefore, the School Committee of the North Kingstown School Department directs the superintendent and/or his/her agents to develop short and long range strategies in the areas of facilities management and curriculum development dealing with energy awareness and conservation.

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