

# GOAL 13

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ENERGY  
CONSERVATION

STATEWIDE  
PLANNING

GOAL 13:

To conserve energy.

CLATSOP  
COUNTY GOAL

13:

To conserve energy, reduce waste and increase self-sufficiency.

OVERVIEW

Land use decisions can have a direct effect on the energy a community consumes. For example, high-density uses along major streets improve the efficiency of public transportation systems, make it easier to walk or bike to a variety of locations, and thereby reduce gasoline consumption.

Goal 13: Energy Conservation, requires local governments to consider the effects of its comprehensive planning decisions on energy consumption. Goal 13 encourages communities to look within existing urban neighborhoods for areas of potential redevelopment before looking to expand, and to "recycle and re-use vacant land." In urban settings, this is often referred to as "in-fill development." The goal also directs cities and counties to have systems and incentives in place for recycling programs.

At the time the goal was enacted, Oregonians were particularly concerned by development of new homes that blocked neighbors' sunlight, which can have impacts on passive heating and availability of natural light. These concerns are expressed in the goal language.

Today, concerns about renewable energy sources are seen through a different lens. Innovation in the areas of solar and wind energy have made them increasingly popular in Oregon. Concern about climate change has resulted in an increase in public and private interest in and development of alternative energy sources. Goal 13 was not written to govern or direct the production of energy, but its conservation.

# GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

## GENERAL POLICIES

**Policy A:** The County recognizes the need for energy conservation through support of actions that public entities and private individuals and businesses can voluntarily undertake. Such actions may include, but are not limited to:

1. Methods to reduce energy consumption such as enforcing strict temperature and lighting controls in government buildings and incentive programs for carpooling and telecommuting, etc.
2. Encouraging new government buildings and major renovations to existing structures to be energy efficient. Decisions on design and selection of equipment should not be based on the lowest initial cost alone. Operating and energy costs for a reasonable life expectancy of the building should receive equal consideration. Consideration should also be given to the use of solar energy and other renewable energy sources in heating and cooling all new government buildings.
3. A partnership between the County, the cities, Extension Service and Community College to:
  - a. Promote energy conservation through seminars, other educational programs, and information dissemination.
  - b. Coordinate with local utility companies to provide technical assistance to individuals desiring to retrofit their homes or buildings with improved insulation and alternative energy sources.
4. Continued promotion and possible expansion of recycling opportunities.
5. Coordination with cities to discourage businesses from the use of non-compostable/non-recyclable consumables.

**Policy B:** Consistent with Statewide Planning Goal 13, Implementation measure B(1)(d), the following land use practices shall be considered to conserve energy and promote the use of alternative systems:

1. Open space should be located whenever possible to buffer structures from shadows cast by other buildings.
2. Existing solar access is to be protected.
3. Encourage solar energy use where practical.
4. Encourage using open spaces or parcels not suitable for development for

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a community solar program. Consider tax incentives for landowners who allow their land to be used for this purpose.

- Policy C:** The County shall, whenever possible, encourage the use of renewable and alternative energy sources such as total energy systems where, for example, electricity is generated and the waste heat is utilized for space heating and cooling purposes.
- Policy D:** When reviewing changes to land use designations, the County shall consider energy conservation before reclassifying resource lands as RURAL LANDS and DEVELOPMENT lands.
- Policy E:** The County should notify all local Native American tribes when public notices are required.
- Policy F:** When siting energy production and distribution facilities the county shall indicate when proposed sites are in tsunami hazard zones.

### CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES

**GOAL 1:** Clatsop County shall work to protect watersheds, surface waters, aquifers and drinking water supplies from the impacts of climate change.

- Policy A:** The County should promote water conservation and reduced use to avoid unnecessary waste and consumption.

### ALTERNATIVE SITING POLICIES

- Policy A:** The County should identify a future site or sites for the installation of a solid waste disposal site to accommodate a biodigester or other system for the temporary treatment and/or storage of septage.
- Policy B:** Clatsop County should identify sites for the stockpiling and disposal of organic fill/waste that has been removed from other development sites.

### HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

- Policy A:** Clatsop County shall continue to require new development projects (subdivisions and commercial developments, or projects in rural communities) to incorporate bus stops, walking paths and/or bicycle/horse paths whenever possible and appropriate.
- Policy B:** The County should encourage new development to incorporate alternative/renewable energy sources and high-efficiency products into construction. Clatsop County should also consider constructing new public buildings to LEED standards.

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- Policy C:** In order to increase resiliency, electric vehicles can be used to power homes. The County should encourage the installation of these types of systems in new residential construction.
- Policy D:** The County may support organizations and programs that assist homeowners to retrofit and upgrade to energy-efficient technologies and appliances. This should include dwellings, as well as accessory buildings.
- Policy E:** Existing building codes may not adequately address weather conditions in the county and additional requirements may be needed at the local level. The County should work with the Oregon Building Codes Division to identify and implement additional weather-proofing requirements to increase energy efficiency and decrease owners' energy costs.
- Policy F:** When appliances are replaced, the County should encourage replacement with energy-efficient models.
- Policy G:** Clatsop County should encourage new developments to provide expansion opportunities when installing new subdivision utilities in order to accommodate new utility technologies.
- Policy H:** Composting toilets and the use of other alternative sewage treatment systems should be encouraged by Clatsop County.

### ALTERNATIVE / NEW ENERGY POLICIES

- Policy A:** The County may consider encouraging utilizing the flow of the Columbia River as a renewable energy resource.
- Policy B:** Clatsop County should encourage the private use of energy-generating technologies such as solar panels, wind energy, geothermal heat pumps, and other developing energy sources in order to reduce transmission costs and pollution generated by the consumption of regionally-produced and -oriented energy sources.
- Policy C:** The County may coordinate with the Oregon Military Department to encourage the installation of solar panels at Camp Rilea.
- Policy D:** The County should coordinate with the Oregon Military Department to encourage the installation of wind generation turbines at Camp Rilea.
- Policy E:** The County should encourage the installation of wind turbines on higher grounds within the planning areas. While the County should provide particular consideration to properties on the Clatsop Ridge as potential wind generation sites, the County should preserve as much of the Clatsop Plains as

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possible as open space.

- Policy F:** The County may review and determine the costs and benefits of converting its fleet to electric vehicles or other alternative technologies. This process should be ongoing to keep abreast of rapidly changing technology and manufacturing developments and associated economic factors.
- Policy G:** The County may encourage the use of biofuels, biogas and wood gasification whenever possible.
- Policy H:** The County should encourage utility companies, businesses, individuals and other entities and institutions to utilize alternative energy sources to back up critical energy facilities. An emphasis should be placed on the use of the most environmentally-friendly alternative energy sources as determined by scientific research.
- Policy I:** The County recognizes that there are limited agricultural lands within the Clatsop County, but there is also a need to balance that limitation with the need for renewable, sustainable energy sources. To achieve that balance, the county should encourage the use of small-scale solar installations that integrate grazing or other agricultural practices with the solar installation.
- Policy J:** The County should encourage the State to incentivize the installation of solar panels through low interest loans or tax abatement/exemption programs.
- Policy K:** The County should coordinate with state and/or federal agencies to explore potential sites for off-shore energy generation and to review development proposals. The County, in coordination with state and/or federal agencies shall ensure on-shore environmental impacts on lands within are minimized.
- Policy L:** The County should encourage the conversion of excess energy from non-polluting sources to hydrogen.
- Policy M:** The County should request the Oregon Department of Energy conduct a new study to identify potential wind generation sites and reassess previously-identified sites.
- Policy N:** Clatsop County should encourage the development of alternative power systems; especially for remote rural areas and to provide emergency back-up power.
- Policy O:** The County may consider renewable energy sources as a critical component of a natural hazards mitigation strategy in the event of a prolong power outage.

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- Policy P:** Major manufacturing operations should be encouraged to develop their own sources of energy through waste treatment or other alternatives which utilize renewable resources.
- Policy Q:** The County may encourage the use of alternative energy sources and the development of private and community energy systems.

### WATER ENERGY POLICIES

- Policy A:** When new water supply systems are installed, the County should encourage the use of in-watermain-hydro technology, similar to that used by the City of Astoria.
- Policy B:** The County should encourage the use of upper/lower reservoirs and pump stations to generate electricity (pumped storage sites)
- Policy C:** The County may encourage appropriate state agencies to review existing studies and regulations to determine the costs and benefits of using small in-stream hydropower generation.
- Policy D:** In order to ensure that the County is not requiring surplus capacity to serve development, the County should review its minimum water flow requirements for new development to ensure that its requirements are consistent with actual usage patterns. Required water flow may be based on the number of fixtures and/or house size.
- Policy E:** The County should encourage new innovation and concepts to conserve and/or reduce water usage including, but not limited to grey water recycling, as permitted under OAR 340-053.
- Policy F:** The County shall continue to monitor water management and conservation plans of surrounding jurisdictions and special districts for consistency with the county comprehensive plan.
- Policy G:** The County should encourage water storage/holding tanks/catchment systems for new residential and commercial development.

### RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING POLICIES

- Policy A:** The County should encourage community composting.
- Policy B:** The County should identify a site for an organic waste dump / composting facility.
- Policy C:** In order to reduce energy consumption and reduce trash in landfills and roadside litter, the County should encourage businesses to reduce the

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amount of single-use and recyclable customer products.

**Policy D:** When single-use products must be used, the County should encourage the use of recyclable or biodegradable products.

**Policy E:** The County will continue to support, promote and expand recycling opportunities.

**Policy F:** In order to increase recycling opportunities, the County should work with franchise haulers to establish additional recycling centers in underserved or unserved areas of Clatsop County.

### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

**Policy A:** Explore priority areas and funding methods for construction and ongoing maintenance of walking paths and/or bicycle paths east of Highway 101.

**Policy B:** In order to provide opportunity for and encourage development of public transit and car/bike sharing programs, the County should require clustered development whenever possible.

#### IMPLEMENTING OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (OAR):

None

#### COORDINATING AGENCIES:

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE)

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Oregon Water Resources Department

Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)

#### BACKGROUND REPORTS AND SUPPORTING DATA:

[Oregon Territorial Sea Plan](#)

[Future Climate Projections Clatsop County](#), Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, February 2020

[Goal 13 Background Report](#)