

Issues Paper on the Energy

Priorities

1. Promote Energy Conservation and Reduce Energy Usage

- Peak-based pricing.
- Programmable thermostat control, buy energy efficient appliances and equipment.
- Weatherize residential and commercial buildings.
- Increase energy costs.
- Sustainable development that promote mixed use, walkability and compactness.

2. Use Nontraditional/Alternative Energy Sources

- Solar panels.
- Wind generator.
- Geothermal.
- Waste pyrolysis.
- Drive hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles.
- Ride a bicycle or walk.

3. Education

- Energy audits for residential and commercial buildings.
- Promote energy efficiency programs throughout the local schools.
- Efficiency Kansas program.

4. Offer Incentives

- Tax incentives and bill rebates for energy conservation and efficiency.

Barriers

1. Cost to Improve or Retrofit

- Start-up cost associated with efficiencies can be expensive at the beginning.

2. Public Education and Behaviors

- Become more aware of tax credits on energy efficient changes – appliances, windows, insulation, etc.
- Educate people on both the short-term and long-term Return on Investment of making behavioral changes.

Opportunities

1. Collaboration and Education

- Encourage denser, mixed use development where appropriate.
- Partnerships of collective impact – identify local ‘champions’ to work toward policy changes.
- Educate others on how to ‘reduce, reuse, and recycle’.

2. Provide Incentives for Sustainable Choices

- Tax credits for consumers.
- Develop policies to increase energy efficiency.

3. Improvements in Your Built Environment

- Carpool, ride your bicycle, walk, take transit – make the shift from single-occupant vehicles for all trips.
- Weatherize residential and commercial buildings: added insulation, programmable thermostat, energy-efficient appliances.
- Recycle.
- Use alternative energy sources.
- Water conservation

Evaluating Success

1. Measurable Factors

- Establish baseline data, measure current progress, set goals, and measure results.
- Reduction in monthly energy bills; reduced personal energy consumption.
- Reduced vehicle miles traveled to work and for other trips.
- Improved air quality.
- Thriving neighborhood centers with easy access by multi-modal transportation.