



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Simpson, Brown, Helgeson, Manning and Mital
FROM: Steve Newcomb, Environmental Manager; Suzanne Adkins, Environmental Supervisor
DATE: February 19, 2016
SUBJECT: Revised Board Policy SD2, Environmental Policy
OBJECTIVE: Board review and feedback of policy SD2

Issue

As part of the regular cycle of policy revisions, Management reviewed the Environmental Policy to make any necessary updates. The Environmental Policy (SD2) has not been reviewed/updated since 2005. An updated version was provided to the Board at the January meeting. In response to comments at the meeting and through follow-up e-mail communications, further revisions are presented to address comments and concerns raised. The primary change from the January draft is inclusion of language related to community education programs EWEB provides in support of environmental stewardship. The changes, shown in redline, attempt to acknowledge the importance of education without specificity on particular programs that are better suited to strategic planning goals or annual work plans.

Background and Discussion

The environmental policy was originally adopted in 1997 and updated in 2005. In making the revisions to EWEB's policy, we conducted outreach and research from a wide range of organizations ranging from our regional neighbors such as PGE and Seattle City Light, to progressive businesses with big ideas about environmental stewardship like Disney and Rockwell Automation.

The result is a simple, comprehensive, and hopefully powerful statement about EWEB's environmental policy, and incorporates statements that tie together EWEB's efforts related to greenhouse gas and waste reduction goals, and Sustainability.

Recommendation

Management is requesting feedback from the Board on the draft revisions to SD2 at its March 1 regular meeting. The draft SD2 will be revised, based on Board direction, and re-submitted for final approval at a subsequent Board meeting.

Attachments include the original and the revised Environmental Policy (SD2)

Policy Number: SD2
Policy Type: Strategic Direction
Policy Title: Environmental Policy
Effective Date: _____

EWEB strives to establish a positive environmental legacy for the community we serve and for future generations. In doing so, we are committed to minimizing overall impact on the environment while encouraging environmentally responsible behavior within our own operations.

We will identify, measure and understand the direct and indirect impact of our operations and develop innovative and realistic solutions for mitigating those impacts. We will comply with, and in some cases exceed environmental laws and regulations. Finally, EWEB is committed to communicating regularly its progress in implementing the policies and achieving the targets that it has established as well as continually improving our environmental programs.

Environmental Focus Areas

Compliance

We comply with all applicable environmental laws, regulations, and company procedures. We perform internal audits to confirm compliance with environmental laws governing our operations.

Environmental Planning

We employ a triple bottom line decision-making approach that considers environmental, social and economic impacts.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction

We will reduce harmful GHG emissions by identifying the sources and implementing solutions, including source elimination, efficiency improvement, minimizing transportation and other fuels, and increasing the use of clean and renewable fuels.

Waste Minimization

We will minimize waste in our operations and business activities and will incorporate waste reduction into all activities; reducing waste through innovative supply chain management, and end-of-life recycling.

Water and Energy Conservation

We will improve water and energy efficiencies in existing operations and invest in new technologies and systems that enhance water and energy conservation. We will include water and energy management as an integral part of planning for future projects to reduce the consumption of water and energy.

Watershed Protection

We protect EWEBs drinking water supply with programs to measure the balance between watershed health and human use over time, and to implement actions, which maintain a healthy balance for production of exceptional water quality.

Natural & Cultural Resource Protection

We protect the lands, waters and ecosystems entrusted to our care which provide habitat for native fish and wildlife, clean water, healthy soils and recreational opportunities.

Transportation

We will adopt reasonable, environmentally friendly transportation solutions to limit emissions from utility-owned and personal vehicles.

Employee Education

We continue to shape environmental awareness and behaviors by helping our employees understand their role in meeting our environmental objectives.

Inspire Action

~~We engage and inspire employees, customers, and partnering agencies to make positive impacts on the environment~~We seek opportunities to provide leadership and expertise to our employees, customers and partner agencies to promote wise stewardship of our energy and water resources and support community education programs that bring environmental awareness to future generations.-

Policy Number: SD2
Policy Type: Strategic Direction
Policy Title: Environmental Policy
Effective Date: April 19, 2005

EWEB takes responsibility for the environmental consequences of our actions. The Board believes that environmental protection and enhancement are sound business practices that are beneficial to the economy, our community, that support a sustainable future for our world and that enhance EWEB's success as a publicly owned utility. EWEB conducts business in an environmentally sensitive and responsible manner while providing our customers with safe, reliable and responsive utility service. We are committed to innovative, cost effective approaches to environmental challenges, to integration of environmental considerations in all aspects of our activities, and to continual improvement of our efforts to protect and enhance the environment.

The objectives for EWEB's environmental commitment are to:

- Prevent, minimize, or mitigate the environmental impacts of EWEB's products and services.
- Meet or exceed compliance with the letter and spirit of applicable environmental statutes, regulations and standards.
- Actively support our customers with technical and financial assistance to improve their efficient use of energy and water.
- Strive to provide resources that are renewable, sustainable, and have minimal environmental impact to meet our customer's needs.
- Safeguard human health in the conduct of our business.
- Focus on pollution prevention throughout EWEB's facilities and operations.
- Recycle and reuse materials to reduce waste generated by EWEB's activities.
- Foster stewardship of the McKenzie River watershed resources to ensure sustainable watershed health.

Source: Board Approved 11/04/1997, Ratified 04/19/2005