

ENERGY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

This section discusses the identification of energy sources and the conservation and use of energy in Solano County. Other policies related to energy conservation, including land use patterns that decrease automobile use, are located in the Land Use chapter.

Planning Context

Energy resources are essential to achieving a high quality of life for county residents. Residents, workers, and visitors use energy resources in their daily lives in transportation, work, recreation, and relaxation. Transportation-related activities use the most energy, the majority of which is nonrenewable fossil fuels imported from outside the county. Fossil fuels are known to cause air pollution and climate change and are becoming an increasingly expensive and problematic fuel source. To ensure the availability and affordability of energy resources in the future, the County will need to increase the development of renewable energy sources and energy conservation. Solano County has been a leader in renewable energy production and will continue to increase its use of wind, solar, and other alternatives to fossil fuels.

Energy Resources

A variety of existing and potential sources of energy are located in Solano County. This section describes these resources, their roles in the county, and opportunities for development.

Fossil fuels, primarily in the form of gasoline and natural gas, currently produce the majority of the energy used in Solano County. While fossil fuels have been relatively inexpensive and readily available over the last 50 years, prices have increased dramatically over the last few years. Over the life of the General Plan, it is likely that environmental regulations, climate change strategies, national security requirements, and the depletion of the earth's oil reserves may cause fossil fuels to become a substantially more expensive and less viable fuel source. While fossil fuels are currently an important part of Solano's energy sources, alternatives to this type of energy are key to ensuring energy resources for the future.

No power plants powered by fossil fuels are located in Solano County, but three that provide a portion of the county's electricity are nearby. They are the Potrero Power Plant in San Francisco, the Pittsburg Power Plant in Pittsburg, and the Contra Costa County Power Plant in Antioch. All are powered primarily by natural gas.

Natural gas is harvested throughout Solano County and contributes to the economy in various ways. Most of the new gas retrieval is taking place in proven gas fields, though field boundaries are being extended when new drilling proves successful. Natural gas fields in Solano County are located

in the Denverton Creek field, East Dixon, Lindsey Slough, Van Sickle Island, Elkhorn Slough, Davis Southeast, Saxon, Ryer Island, Suisun Bay, the Rio Vista field and other parts of the county. One substantial natural gas storage area exists in the county at Kirby Hill.

Natural gas is a common fuel for commercial, industrial, and residential uses as well as electricity production. Natural gas is produced in Solano County and throughout California, though the majority is imported from other countries. Natural gas consumption in Solano County and the United States in general is expected to increase as it burns cleaner and causes relatively less-harmful pollution than other fossil fuels like coal and oil. While natural gas reserves are predicted to last slightly longer than oil reserves, natural gas is not a permanent fuel source, contributes to global warming, and cannot increase over the long run.

Though California has not recently experienced a natural gas shortage, the possibility of a shortage exists in the event of a colder-than-average winter, increased demand in other states, or a natural disaster. Both California and Solano County need to expand their ability to determine the adequacy of natural gas infrastructure and likelihood of peak demand spikes in the event of a shortage.

Gasoline is an important source of energy in the county as well, primarily for transit and automobiles. Essentially all of Solano County's petroleum is imported. However, substantial operations for refining petroleum are active in the county, including the Valero refinery in Benicia, and are important contributors to energy production and the local economy. While refinery operations are likely to continue throughout the life of the General Plan, the anticipated decline in fossil fuel production and use will eventually require that more renewable sources of energy production replace both the economic and energy-producing role of the refinery.

Solano County does not currently have a nuclear power plant. Concerns with waste disposal, safety in the event of a disaster, and radiation have made nuclear power unattractive to decision-makers as a source of future energy production; therefore, the County does not encourage the development of nuclear power plants.

Wind energy converts the movement of wind to electricity through mechanical wind turbines. Wind electricity can be generated both on a small scale in agricultural and residential land and on a large scale through wind farms. Climatic conditions have blessed Solano County with excellent wind energy resources, and the county is one of five major utility-scale producers of wind energy in California.

While the county has extensive wind energy resources, numerous environmental concerns remain related to wind turbines. The biggest of these issues is the potential for bats and birds to be caught in the turbines and killed. A number of design improvements which have become standard practice have reduced these potential effects on bat and bird populations.

The County has identified the Collinsville-Montezuma Hills south of SR 12 as the primary wind resource area in the county. Noncommercial accessory wind turbine installations are allowed with a building permit in any agricultural or natural resource zoning district. These types of installations are defined as less than 100 feet in height, with a total rated power output of 100 kilowatts or less. The guidelines and standards found within the General Plan implementation programs are directed at commercial, nonaccessory wind turbine installations. Agricultural lands within the county are particularly appropriate for wind harvesting as turbines generally do not interfere with daily agricultural operations and can provide additional revenue on these properties.

Wind energy development is inappropriate in certain areas of the county, in order to protect public health and safety and natural resources. These areas are urban areas, the Suisun Marsh Primary Management Area, the Stebbins Cold Canyon Natural Area, San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and the Jepson Prairie preserve owned by the Solano Land Trust.

In other areas of the county, wind energy development will be processed under the normal use permit procedure. Additional documentation may be required due to lack of existing data. Wind energy development, depending on size and location of the project, may require both wind resource verification and an environmental impact report to meet CEQA requirements. The County incorporates by reference the most up-to-date mapping of wind resource areas available from the California Energy Commission, or subsequent agency, into the General Plan. Applicants seeking permits for commercial wind turbine installations shall be required to demonstrate that the wind resource in their area is adequate using the mapping, wind studies and technology current to their permit application. Any future development of wind energy must be consistent with Airport Land Use Plans and air operations of Travis Air Force Base and the Rio Vista Airport.

Solar energy uses the heat of the sun to produce electricity or to directly heat buildings or water. Solano County has numerous opportunities for the development of solar energy. Some small solar development has occurred throughout the county, including the Solano County Government Center. Solar energy is more practical on a smaller scale as it is space-intensive, and Solano County will continue to promote residential and commercial solar development in the future.

Hydroelectric facilities use rivers, streams, irrigation canals, and water treatment plants to generate electricity. Solano County contains some hydroelectric facilities, though most electricity production occurs at the Monticello Dam. The detrimental environmental effects of large dams make future large hydroelectric projects unlikely, but potential exists for development of additional small-scale hydroelectric projects in the county.

Geothermal power uses heat from below the earth's surface to produce electricity or to heat buildings and water systems. This type of power generation produces very little air pollution, is extremely reliable, and can

be used on a variety of scales including residential heating systems and large power plants that provide large amounts of electricity.

While geothermal power is currently being used in other parts of California, the potential for its use in Solano County is still largely unknown. Federal and state geologic surveys have not indicated that Solano County possesses any high-temperature resources useful for geothermal power production, but the potential for the discovery of geothermal resources remains.

Transformation projects, also known as resource recovery projects or “waste-to-energy” development, convert agriculture byproducts and municipal wastes to fuel or electricity. The transformation projects’ primary purpose is to dispose of waste, but as waste decomposes, it releases a variety of gases that can be harvested for energy. Solano County currently produces large volumes of agricultural byproducts, much of which are disposed of by open burning. Transformation plants could be an alternative method of disposal, which would be beneficial in energy production and in the reduction of emissions associated with open burning.

Energy Efficiency Programs

Increasing efficiency, along with producing more renewable sources of energy, will assist the county in reducing its reliance on fossil fuels. The County has taken steps toward energy conservation in the construction of green County buildings such as the Solano County Government Center. Additional steps include reducing energy consumption in all new and existing residential, commercial, and industrial development. Conservation is best achieved by reducing electricity use through energy efficient appliances, solar orientation of buildings, and reduction in private automobile use through land use and transportation policies that encourage fewer and shorter vehicle trips. Energy conservation has numerous benefits beyond environmental stewardship, including financial savings for individual businesses and families.

Related Plans, Programs, and Agencies

The California Legislature has become increasingly interested in reducing the emissions from burning fossil fuels. Assembly Bill 32, passed in 2006, requires that California reduce carbon dioxide emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. While this legislation has profound energy implications, it has left many of the details of implementation to local jurisdictions and the private sector. Energy conservation measures and renewable energy sources will help Solano County to do its part to fulfill the requirements of Assembly Bill 32. A variety of state and national programs are relevant to reducing Solano County’s energy use, and to developing renewable energy. These programs are referenced in the “Policies” and “Implementation Programs” sections.

Title 24

Title 24 in the California Code of Regulations delineates energy efficiency standards for residential and nonresidential buildings. The standards are updated periodically to incorporate new energy-efficient building technologies and methods.

Energy Star

Energy Star is a joint program of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy. The program establishes criteria for energy efficiency for household products and labels energy efficient products with the Energy Star seal. Homes can be qualified as Energy Star homes as well if they meet efficiency standards. In California, Energy Star homes must use at least 15 percent less energy than the Title 24 regulations, pass the California Energy Star Homes Quality Insulation Installation Thermal Bypass Checklist Procedures, have Energy Star windows, and have minimal duct leakage.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a program of the United States Green Building Council. Green buildings are LEED certified based on criteria for energy efficiency, environmental design, indoor environmental quality, water savings, and materials selection.

Community Choice Aggregation

Community Choice Aggregation permits any jurisdiction to aggregate the electric loads of residents, businesses, and public facilities to facilitate the purchase and sale of electrical energy, while each customer is given an opportunity to leave their community's aggregation program and thereby continue to be served by the incumbent distribution utility. The establishment of a Community Choice Aggregation program allows a jurisdiction greater choice in the source of its power, allows the purchase of renewable energy to increase, and does not necessarily increase the cost of electricity for its constituents.

Policies

RS.P-49:	Ensure energy conservation and reduced energy demand in the county through required use of energy-efficient technology and practices.
RS.P-50:	Provide incentives for city and county residents and businesses to produce and use renewable sources of energy.
RS.P-51:	Promote Solano County as a model for energy efficiency and green building.

Resources Chapter

- RS.P-52: Ensure adequate and affordable supplies of energy to meet the energy needs of the county.
- RS.P-53: Enable renewable energy sources to be produced from resources available in Solano County, such as solar, water, wind, and biofuels to reduce the reliance on energy resources from outside the county.
- RS.P-54: Reduce Solano County's reliance on fossil fuels for transportation and other energy-consuming activities.
- RS.P-55: Require responsible extraction, storage, and transportation of natural gas resources that minimize the impact on the natural environment.
- RS.P-56: Provide information, marketing, training, and education to support reduced energy consumption, the use of alternative and renewable energy sources, green building practices, recycling, and responsible purchasing.
- RS.P-57: Encourage the use of technology or siting to minimize adverse impacts from energy production facilities on the environment, including wildlife and agricultural resources.
- RS.P-58: Require the siting of energy facilities in a manner compatible with surrounding land uses and in a manner that will protect scenic resources.
- RS.P-59: Encourage on-site renewable energy production and use and energy conservation measures.

Implementation Programs

Regulations

-
- RS.I-37: Amend and maintain the Zoning Ordinance to guide the siting of commercial, nonaccessory wind turbine installations. Include the following standards into the ordinance:
- Require a minimum setback of 1,000 feet or three times total turbine height, whichever is greater, from a dwelling unit, residential building site, or land zoned for residential uses.
 - Require a minimum setback of three times total turbine height from any zoning district (other than residential) which does not allow wind turbines.
 - Require a minimum setback of three times total turbine height from any property line, public

roadway, transmission facility, or railroad. This minimum setback may be waived in the case of wind farms located on adjacent parcels, provided an agreement has been reached between the neighboring property owners.

- Require a setback of 1/4 mile from the right-of-way of any scenic roadway.
- In the Cordelia Hills, wind energy development shall be set back to those areas which are beyond the sight of existing residential neighborhoods and areas planned for residential development, and set back to areas beyond view from I-80 and I-680. No turbine shall be sited within this zone.
- Define noncommercial wind energy generators as “wind-driven machines” that convert wind energy into production of electrical power for the primary purpose of on-site use and not for resale, that are 100 feet or less in height, and that have a total rated power output of 100 kilowatts or less.
- Establish a procedure for plan check and testing of wind electric generators prior to use permit or building permit approval. Certification of all detailed plans for electrical systems, electrical substations, support towers, and foundations by California licensed professional engineers shall be required. Performance testing of wind turbine generators shall be required to ensure against catastrophic failure.
- Include commercial wind turbine development as a permitted use in the following zone districts:
 - Exclusive Agricultural (A)
 - Limited Agricultural (A-L)
 - Water-Dependent Industrial (r-WD)
 - Limited Manufacturing (M-L)
 - General Manufacturing (M-G)
 - Watershed and Conservation (W)
- Non-commercial wind energy development shall be allowed in districts as currently provided for in the ordinance.

Related Policies: RS.P-22, RS.P-37

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Resources Chapter

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: By 2011

RS.I-38: Require all new and remodeled residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and civic construction to exceed current (2008) Title 24 state energy-efficiency requirements by at least 20 percent, and require that all new residential homes and major renovations comply with the guidelines for the California Energy Star Homes Program. If the state increases the requirements of Title 24, examine the feasibility of increasing County energy efficiency requirements. Adopt an energy efficiency ordinance that requires upgrades as a condition of issuing permits for substantial remodels or additions. Require disclosure of the energy consumption of a home during the sale or lease of a residence or building.

Related Policies: PF.P-3 RS.P-49, RS.P-50, RS.P-51, RS.P-52, RS.P-54, RS.P-56

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: By 2011

RS.I-39: Restrict construction and drilling in tidal marsh and managed wetland areas to occur only during the dry months of the years to ensure these activities will not disturb wintering waterfowl.

Related Policies: RS.P-57, RS.P-58

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Funding, Physical Improvements, and Capital Projects

RS.I-40: Require all County operations to use renewable energy for 50 percent or more of their energy needs.

Related Policies: RS.P-51, RS.P-57

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-41: Require that all new County buildings and major renovations and additions achieve LEED certification or meet equivalent performance standards. A LEED Silver certification level and reduced operational costs are preferred outcomes.

Related Policies: RS.P-49, RS.P-50, RS.P-51, RS.P-52, RS.P-54, RS.P-56

Agency/Department: Department of General Services

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-42: Replace existing County vehicles with alternative fuel vehicles such as electric, hybrids, natural gas, and fuel cell powered vehicles. New County vehicles must be alternative fuel vehicles.

Related Policies: RS.P-49, RS.P-50, RS.P-51, RS.P-52, RS.P-54, RS.P-56

Agency/Department: Department of General Services

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-43: Seal abandoned gas wells in accordance with Division of Oil and Gas regulations. Remove the drilling or production facilities and revegetate the surface area with native vegetation within one growing season after abandonment.

Related Policies: RS.P-55

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: Project Applicants

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-44: Partner with community services agencies to fund energy efficiency projects, including heating, ventilation, air conditioning, lighting, water heating equipment, insulation, and weatherization for low-income residents.

Related Policies: RS.P-49, RS.P-50, RS.P-59

Resources Chapter

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund, community services agencies

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-45: Execute an Energy Savings Performance Contract with a private entity to retrofit public buildings. This type of contract allows the private entity to fund all energy improvements in exchange for a share of the energy savings over a period of time.

Related Policies: RS.P-49, RS.P-51, RS.P-59

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Development Review

RS.I-46: Require residential development of more than six units to participate in the California Energy Commission's New Solar Homes Partnership and to construct LEED-certified units or meet equivalent performance standards. For new affordable housing projects, performance standards shall be established pursuant to the requirements of the funding source(s). Require new construction or major renovation of commercial and industrial buildings over 10,000 square feet in size to incorporate renewable energy generation to provide the maximum feasible amount of the project's energy needs. Commercial buildings shall incorporate renewable energy generation to provide at least 20 percent of the project's needs.

Related Policies: RS.P-50, RS.P-59

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: Project Applicants

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-47: Require the use of Energy Star rated appliances and the most energy-efficient Energy Star rated water heaters and air conditioning systems that are feasible in the construction of new homes, in all substantial remodels when appliances are being replaced, and in any case where a permit is

needed to install or replace appliances (e.g., water heaters, air conditioning).

Related Policy: RS.P-49

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: Project Applicants

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-48: Require all commercial, institutional, and industrial development to reduce potential urban heat island effect by using U.S. EPA-Energy Star rated roofing materials and light colored paint, using light colored paving materials for internal roads and parking, and using shade trees to shade south and west sides of new or renovated buildings and to achieve a minimum of 50 percent shading for all parking lots surfaces. Continue to ensure compliance with existing state building requirements for energy-conserving roofing materials on nonresidential buildings in new construction and reroofing. Amend the County Zoning Ordinance to encompass these requirements.

Related Policy: RS.P-49

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: Project Applicants

Time Frame: By 2011

RS.I-49: Require all off-road diesel powered vehicles used for construction to be newer model, low-emission vehicles, or use retrofit emission control devices, such as diesel oxidation catalyst and diesel particulate filters verified by the California Air Resources Board.

Related Policy: RS.P-54

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: Project Applicants

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-50: During review of wind turbine generator proposals, consider the following:

"Planning for a Sustainable Solano County"

- Wind turbine generators shall not be located in areas that conflict with the mission of Travis Air Force Base or other air operation facilities.
- Commercial turbines and non-commercial turbines over 100 feet in height or with a total rated power output of more than 100 kilowatts in designated wind resource areas require a public hearing and use permit approval by the Planning Commission.
- Following use permit approval, building permits and grading permits are required. Non-commercial turbines 100 feet or less in height and 100 kilowatts or less in rated power output require only building permits and grading permits.
- Submittal requirements for use permit applications within the wind resource areas include the following:
 - Permit application
 - Project description form (requires information on size and characteristics of project, physical and performance specifications of equipment, transmission system, certification, project schedule and phasing, circulation, and access).
 - Acoustical analysis
 - Archaeological survey
 - Geotechnical report (must correlate to standard County requirements for geotechnical analysis)
 - Site plan
 - Elevation package (elevation drawings to scale of proposed turbines and accessory uses).
 - Notification of the Federal Aviation Administration of any application with wind turbines over 200 feet in height within 20,000 feet of a runway of any airport.
 - Notification of the utility and the California Public Utilities Commission of application filing.

- Notification of application filing to microwave communications link owners within 2 miles of the proposed installation.
- Adjacent property owner's notification package.
- Current aerial photographs or panoramic photographs of the site.
- Evidence of liability and workers compensation insurance.
- Map locating all residences within 2 miles of the proposed project.
- Certification of detailed plans for electrical systems and transmission lines, substation, support towers, generators, and foundations by California licensed professional engineers (electrical, civil, and structural).
- Performance test documentation by a licensed engineer for all proposed turbine types.
- Contribution to escrow account for removal of inoperable or unsafe wind equipment and associated uses, including foundations.
- Following review of the applicant's site plan by County planning staff, a biological assessment would be required if it is determined that sensitive biological resources identified by the Resource Conservation Overlay (Figure RS-2) could be affected by the proposed project. If the proposed wind turbine siting would fall within or near areas of sensitivity, additional biological assessment of the probable impacts of the project would be required as part of the permit application. Findings of the biological assessment would determine need for biological resource monitoring and mitigation for protection of biological resources. For projects proposed in areas of low biological sensitivity, no additional biological information would be required.

Submittal requirements for building permit and grading permit applications shall be as follows:

- Completed permit application.

- Detailed plans and specifications for structures, foundations, electrical systems, certified by a California licensed professional engineer. Plans will be checked for compliance with such codes as the Uniform Building Code, the National Electrical Code, and applicable ANSI and IEEE standards.
- Grading and erosion, sediment, and runoff control plans.
 - A standard set of minimum conditions would apply to every permit approval. These conditions could be modified or added to at the discretion of Resource Management Department staff, Planning Commission, or Board of Supervisors.

Additional environmental information beyond that required for permit processing would not be required for projects proposed within wind resource areas south of SR 12 in the Montezuma Hills.

In addition to the required safety setbacks, applicants would be required to demonstrate that the CNEL 50 influence area of proposed wind turbines would not coincide with residential areas or individual dwelling units. No turbines which exhibit high infrasonic noise generation potential would be permitted within one mile of residential uses or land zoned for residential uses.

The Zoning Ordinance should require a bond or other guarantee, such as a contribution to an escrow account, for removal of inoperable or unsafe wind equipment and associated uses, including foundations, after use permit approval.

Related Policies: RS.P-22, RS.P-50, RS.P-52, RS.P-53, RS.P-54, RS.P-56, RS.P-57, RS.P-58

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-51: Adopt a County "green building program." Require all new and renovated commercial, office, and institutional buildings over 10,000 square feet in size to achieve LEED certification, or meet equivalent performance standards. Amend the County Zoning

Ordinance to encompass these green building requirements. Provide permitting-related and other incentives for building projects that exceed the County’s energy efficiency standards by greater than 5 percent.

Related Policies: RS.P-49, RS.P-50, RS.P-51, RS.P-52, RS.P-54, RS.P-56
 Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management
 Funding Source: General Fund
 Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-52: Require that development projects use landscaping and site design techniques that minimize energy use. These may include designing landscaping to shield or expose structures to maximize energy conservation or acquisition; and taking advantage of orientation, sun-shade patterns, prevailing winds, landscaping, and sunscreens. Amend development standards to require such techniques.

Related Policies: RS.P-49, RS.P-50, RS.P-51, RS.P-52, RS.P-54, RS.P-56
 Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management
 Funding Source: Project Applicant
 Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-53: Review studies and reports and incorporate recommended standards and guidelines to reduce bird and bat mortality rates. These guidelines may include new technology or alternative siting of turbines. The standards and guidelines shall incorporate the California Energy Commission’s *Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Energy Development* or any superseding guidelines and recommendations of the energy and wildlife resource agencies for wind power projects.

Related Policies: RS.P-50, RS.P-52, RS.P-53, RS.P-54, RS.P-56, RS.P-57, RS.P-58
 Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management
 Funding Source: General Fund
 Time Frame: Ongoing

Resources Chapter

RS.I-54: Provide safeguards and require compliance for the production, injection, and drilling of natural gas deposits.

Related Policies: RS.P-50, RS.P-55, RS.P-56, RS.P-57

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-55: Require the design and orientation of all buildings to maximize passive solar heating during cool seasons, avoid solar heat gain during hot periods, enhance natural ventilation, and promote effective use of daylight. Orientation should optimize opportunities for on-site solar generation.

Related Policies: RS.P-49, RS.P-51, RS.P-56, RS.P-59

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-56: Where feasible, include appropriate facilities in new buildings to support the use of low/zero carbon fueled vehicles. This may include charging stations for electric vehicles which use green electricity sources.

Related Policies: RS.P-50, RS.P-54, RS.P-59

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Ongoing Planning Efforts, Public Outreach and Education

RS.I-57: Investigate the feasibility of using solar (photovoltaic) streetlights instead of conventional streetlights.

Related Policy: RS.P-49

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: By 2011

RS.I-58: Protect the viability of renewable energy generation within the county by protecting resources such as solar access on buildings and high value wind energy sites. Facilitate the development of renewable energy generation in the county through the provision of streamlined permitting processes.

Related Policies: RS.P-50, RS.P-53, RS.P-56

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-59: Promote public awareness of energy conservation and efficiency through the development of a publicity program. This program shall include information describing how residents can retrofit existing homes for increased energy efficiency. Encourage the use of low-carbon and renewable fuels and zero emissions technologies.

Related Policies: RS.P-49, RS.P-50, RS.P-51, RS.P-52, RS.P-54, RS.P-56

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-60: Conduct studies that identify methods to expand renewable energy production in the county. Methods may include incentives such as expedited permit processing, reduced fees, and technical assistance to encourage energy-efficiency technology, research and practices.

Related Policies: RS.P-50, RS.P-52, RS.P-53, RS.P-54, RS.P-56

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management; Department of General Services

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: By 2011

RS.I-61: Investigate the feasibility and benefit of establishing a Community Choice Aggregation program by analyzing energy production costs and by establishing a stakeholder advisory group.

Resources Chapter

Related Policies: RS.P-49, RS.P-50, RS.P-51, RS.P-52, RS.P-54, RS.P-56

Agency/Department: Department of General Services

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-62: Ensure that natural gas storage facilities meet all safety standards of the Division of Oil and Gas.

Related Policy: RS.P-55

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-63: Require energy and water efficiency audits for new construction or substantial remodels of commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings. Examine existing usage and potential reductions related to heating, ventilation, air conditioning, lighting, water heater equipment, insulation, weatherization, and water usage by buildings and landscaping. Require energy and water audits of all County buildings.

Related Policies: RS.P-50, RS.P-54, RS.P-59

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

COMMUNITY SEPARATORS

Planning Context

Numerous communities in Solano County have expressed a common desire to maintain a distinct sense of identity and to remain physically separated from other cities. Community separators are an effective means of achieving this goal. All the cities in the county, as well as some neighboring communities, have established agreements and plans in order to maintain land between communities in open space and agricultural uses.

In addition, the County has created the Agricultural Reserve Overlay to contribute to the cities' efforts. The intent of the overlay is to preserve the valued agricultural landscapes that exist in the areas between Vacaville