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## Objective

Good Shepherd Parish will strive to be a good steward of God's creation by protecting and caring for the many resources that are entrusted to us. Good Shepherd will investigate ways to reduce its energy uses and take prudent actions to incorporate environmental stewardship into all aspects of parish life. According to a statement by Pope John Paul II, "respect for life and the dignity of the human person extend also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God."

## Energy

Recognizing that the majority of human-produced greenhouse gas emissions are the result of fossil fuel energy use, energy conservation and efficiency measures in our church buildings provide the greatest opportunity for protecting our God-given gift of the atmosphere that supports life.

### 1. Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC)

- a. Heating and Air Conditioning in the Church and Parish Center are computer-controlled and adjusted by professional maintenance personnel to the comfort level needed for the season. The HVAC system uses a chiller/boiler system to heat/cool and dehumidify air. The system is extremely sensitive and actual temperatures may be lower when the system is attempting to adjust humidity.
- b. Air conditioning and heating in the *Church* will be turned off when not in use.
- c. Air conditioning in the *Parish Center* will be set at the highest comfort level needed for summer (measured temperatures in offices are between 76-78 degrees) Individual air conditioning units will be configured so that they can only be adjusted by those trained. Heating in the *Parish Center* will be set at the lowest temperature needed for comfort in the winter (measured temperatures between 65-68 degrees). Individual heating units will be configured so that they can only be adjusted by those trained. Individual heating and cooling units should only be used when an individual room is in use.
- d. Meetings will be scheduled so that they are clustered in one wing of church facilities in order to allow the heating/cooling units in other wings to be turned off.
- e. Air conditioning in the *Community Center* will only be turned on when a scheduled event is being held in the building. When in use, the air conditioning will be set between 72-75 degrees two hours prior to the event. Heating in the *Community Center* will be turned off when not in use and will be set to 65-68 degrees two hours prior to use. All air conditioning and heating fixtures will be cleaned and maintained monthly so that they will operate at their highest efficiency.
- f. The HVAC system will be inspected annually by a qualified contractor.
- g. Designated employees should be solely responsible for monitoring energy measures and monthly maintenance requirements.

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## 2. Lighting

- a. All exterior lighting will be placed on timers that will run from dusk to 9:45 PM. A designated employee will adjust the automated timer for daylight saving time changes.
- b. Lights will be turned off in all areas when not in use.
- c. The use of motion sensing light fixtures and timers will be maximized throughout facilities.
- d. The newest form of florescent lighting technology will be incorporated in the interior and exterior of all buildings when lights are replaced.
- e. Fluorescent task lighting will be used for individual work spaces when appropriate.

## 3. Other Electric Usage

- a. When replacing appliances and equipment, highly-rated energy-efficient models will be considered first.
- b. All computers will be set to sleep mode when not in use. The copier and all other electronic equipment will only be turned on during office hours or when in use.
- c. Water heater temperature will be set to 120 degrees or lower as allowed by code.
- d. The water heater circulation pump will be placed on a timer or turned off when not in use.
- e. Electric water heater(s) will be replaced with gas models when feasible.
- f. All TV's, VCR's and DVD players will be unplugged when not in use.

## 4. Water Usage

An employee should be designated to inspect for water leaks monthly. Leaks should be fixed promptly. Inspections should include toilets, faucets, outside spigots, irrigation system and water heater PT valves.

## 5. Procurement of Goods and Products

- a. When purchasing durable goods, Green Seal, Energy Star and other environmentally-friendly products will be favored.
- b. Purchase of used (equal or greater energy efficiency) equipment will be considered.
- c. Items will be repaired rather than replaced when possible.
- d. Recycled-content products will be preferred over products made from virgin materials (e.g., office paper, disposable paper products, and trash bags).
- e. Use of disposable items will be minimized and use of reusable items (i.e., cups, forks, knives, plates, etc) will be encouraged.
- f. Styrofoam will not be used. Use paper products instead if disposables are used.
- g. Purchase of kitchen goods will favor low packaging content.
- h. Locally grown foods and less-processed food items will be preferred when possible.

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- i.** Least-toxic cleaning products will be sought for kitchen and maintenance (biodegradable, no phosphate, no dyes/fragrance).
- j.** Donated products should be environmentally friendly.
- k.** Fairly traded food products (certified Fair Trade) including coffee, and other products as they become available will be used at parish events.

#### 6. Recycling/Waste Reduction

- a.** Good Shepherd will strive to reduce, reuse and recycle in order to reduce environmental impact in the community.
- b.** Paper, cans, and plastics will be recycled within church facilities and at church events.
- c.** Copying will be done two-sided whenever possible.