

# UNIVERSITY ENERGY POLICY

November 14, 2007

## Introduction

For the last decade, two over-arching issues have increased the focus on energy sources and usage on an individual, institutional, and global scale.

First, there is a growing awareness that the dependence of human economic activities and economic growth on fossil fuels is unsustainable and environmentally damaging. Fossil fuels are a non-renewable resource that will become increasingly difficult to extract and burning fossil fuels produces greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change.

Second and more immediately, fossil fuel prices have escalated dramatically in recent years due to unprecedented world-wide demand, unusually severe weather experiences, and international political tensions. As a result, the need to curtail energy consumption and improve energy efficiency has taken on new urgency as cost containment measures. The University of Illinois is spending more than \$100.0 million per year on energy and costs have been increasing about 15 percent per year. These energy expenditures consume resources that could otherwise be used for academic purposes.

In addition to improving our own energy performance, the University must assume a leadership role in Illinois and beyond in achieving greater efficiency in energy production and consumption, in developing renewable energy sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As part of this leadership role, the University will expand its teaching, research, and public engagement programs related to energy production and conservation and alternative and renewable energy sources. Success in these areas will save money, help the environment, and educate University students about energy practices that will be important throughout their lifetimes.

Because measurement, feedback, and incentives are important in improving performance, each campus unit must assume responsibility for energy efficiency and conservation. Campuses, working with University Administration, must develop a budgeting and reporting system that establishes cost management responsibilities and accountability for energy consumption and conservation at all levels of administrative and academic organization--campus, college, department, and building operations.

## The University Energy Policy

The University must be fiscally, operationally, and environmentally responsible. The University must articulate broad goals to achieve immediate and long-term improvements in energy efficiency while also setting the stage for more effective use of alternative sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

University energy goals must recognize and accommodate differences among University of Illinois campuses. Our campuses and their facilities differ in size, age, the number and nature of academic programs, and the infrastructure needed to support those programs. Each campus also has its own unique energy supply arrangements.

Despite these differences, all campuses can benefit from communicating that individuals, departments, colleges, and central administration must join together to improve energy efficiency. All must increase efforts to utilize existing space more efficiently. All will benefit from more energy-conscious building standards for new construction and major remodeling. All will benefit from incentive programs that provide shared benefits for success in reducing energy consumption and achieving greater efficiency.

Each campus, working with University Administration, must develop a plan to achieve these objectives. However, the goals that follow set a framework within which each campus can create specific steps based on its own circumstances.

### Energy Goals

- **Reduce energy consumption and cost** by eliminating waste, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, in electrical equipment, and University transportation vehicles, and promoting the construction of green buildings.
- **Measure energy consumption** through the use of meters and develop energy conservation procedures.
- **Reduce our reliance on fossil fuels** by conserving energy and developing alternative and renewable energy sources, including attention to alternatives such as geothermal, biomass, solar energy, and ethanol.
- **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions** from energy generation, agricultural operations, and transportation.

**Next Steps**

The University of Illinois will make energy conservation and energy efficiency a high priority and will develop and implement initiatives to address the energy goals articulated in this policy. The Board directs the President and chancellors to develop detailed policies and guidelines to inform development of energy plans. The President and chancellors will inform the Board of Trustees annually on progress toward these energy goals.