

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES IN BUILDINGS

Resolution Summary

Many serious energy challenges continue to confront the United States. Steadily increasing energy demand paired with diminished domestic supply forces the U.S. to rely heavily on foreign imports, and increases U.S. susceptibility to energy price fluctuations. In addition, energy generation and use account for the majority of emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and carbon dioxide, leading to compromised air quality and global climate change.

Energy experts are concerned that supply and demand in the United States are becoming increasingly unbalanced. U.S. energy policy has traditionally focused on increasing energy supply. The situation in the United States—increasing demand, limited domestic supply and heavy reliance on foreign imports—results in higher and more volatile energy prices and a diminished expectation that expanding energy supply can adequately satisfy domestic energy needs. Energy efficiency measures focus on demand-side energy policy and avoid or delay the need for new supplies. Effective use of energy efficiency policy measures saves consumers money, reduces harmful emissions and reduces our reliance on foreign sources of energy.

Buildings account for more than one-third of all energy used in the United States. Increasing the energy efficiency of state owned and operated buildings will not only measurably decrease domestic energy use, but can also save states millions of taxpayer dollars annually in utility costs. Updating statewide building codes to meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, Green Globes standards, or other high performance building standards of energy efficiency will increase the energy efficiency of all new buildings, considerably lowering statewide energy consumption. New technological advances and research in building construction have shown that there is still enormous potential for energy savings for both new and existing buildings.

Additional Resource Information

- American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy: <http://www.aceee.org>
- National Commission on Energy Policy: <http://www.energycommission.org>
- Union of Concerned Scientists: <http://ucsusa.org>

Management Directives

- **Management Directive #1:** Create a sense of urgency, compelling states and businesses to employ energy efficiency strategies in new and existing buildings.
- **Management Directive #2:** Support efforts to increase energy efficiency in state owned and operated buildings.
- **Management Directive #3:** Support efforts to update statewide building codes to LEED, Green Globes or other high performance building standards of energy efficiency.

- **Management Directive #4:** The Council of State Governments will adopt energy efficiency measures to increase energy efficiency in its facilities.

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Resolution on Energy Efficiency Measures in Buildings

WHEREAS, the United States has become highly dependent on foreign energy imports;

WHEREAS, energy costs are steadily increasing and are projected by the U.S. Energy Information Administration to continue climbing;

WHEREAS, buildings account for more than one-third of all U.S. energy use and carbon emissions, and two-thirds of the nation's electricity use;

WHEREAS, energy generation and use significantly impacts the environment, contributes to National Ambient Air Quality Standards violations, and contributes to global climate change;

WHEREAS, energy efficiency measures for buildings can significantly reduce domestic energy use and state utility costs;

WHEREAS, energy efficiency in state buildings can be realized with little to no upfront costs through performance contracting, revolving loans, tax-exempt bonds and utility public benefit programs;

WHEREAS, increasing energy efficiency leads to an increase in energy security, a reduction in harmful emissions contributing to global climate change, and ensures a sustainable energy future.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that The Council of State Governments encourages all states to obtain energy efficiency audits in existing buildings owned, leased or operated by the state, and to incorporate suggested energy savings measures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CSG encourages all new state buildings be built according to LEED, Green Globes, or other high performance building standards of energy efficiency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CSG will adopt energy saving measures in its own buildings to be paid for via performance contracting.

Adopted this 3rd Day of November, 2006 at the
CSG Annual State Trends and Leadership Forum
In Phoenix, Arizona



Governor Jim Douglas
2006 CSG President



Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin
2006 CSG Chair