

**Energy Conservation & Resource Efficiency Plan
For
The Texas Board of Professional Engineers
Q4 FY 2009**

Introduction:

In accordance with the provisions of Executive Order RP-49, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers has developed a plan for conserving energy and has set a goal for reducing its usage of electricity, natural gas, and water. The executive order requires the plan to consist of the Resource Efficiency Plan and the Fleet Fuel Management Plan (vehicles). The Texas Board of Professional Engineers does not have vehicles assigned to the agency so that portion of the plan does not apply.

The Texas Board of Professional Engineers is a Self-Directed Semi-Independent agency and is focused on cost savings. The agency does not receive appropriations from the state and must fund all the agency costs.

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY PLAN

For

Texas Board of Professional Engineers

(Updated September 29, 2009)

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INTRODUCTION

To

Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE)

Overview

TBPE was created by the 45th Texas Legislature in 1937 following the New London School explosion in East Texas. Over three hundred students and teachers were killed as a result of improperly designed gas heating system. The Board was established to regulate the practice of engineering through licensing and rules of practice.

TBPE is classified as a small state agency with 30 full-time staff members. The Board, which governs the agency, is composed of six professional engineers and three public members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for six-year staggered terms.

TBPE is one of three state agencies participating in the Self-Directed Semi-Independent (SDSI) project. As part of this project, the agency receives no funds from appropriations; rather, all agency operations are funded from fees collected from licensing and enforcement activities.

Mission

Our mission is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people in Texas by regulating the practice of engineering through licensure of qualified individuals and compliance with the laws and rules.

Services

TBPE issues licenses to engineers and registers businesses providing engineering services to the public. It also enforces violations to the Texas Engineering Practices Act and Rules. Advisory opinions are issued to the public as appropriate to make interpretations of the Act and explain factual or hypothetical situations that may not be clear. The agency also oversees engineering exam administration and provides outreach to its licensees, schools, and the public.

Infrastructure & Energy Conservation

The agency occupies one building of approximately 9,246 gross square feet in Austin, which was constructed in May 1979. There is a basement that is not conditioned and is used for storage.

Thermostat settings for the heating and air conditioning systems are regularly monitored and controlled as necessary. The hot water heater has a timer to ensure it heats water only during the time the members of the staff might be in the building.

Staff members are also instructed to turn off lights when they leave their offices for lunch or at the end of the day. Energy saving settings are enabled on computer workstations to ensure that monitors go to sleep after 20 minutes of inactivity.

1. Accomplishments for FY 2005-2009

1. The agency installed a dedicated air conditioning system for the computer room.
2. The agency had several additional thermostats installed in offices that previously shared the thermostat with the computer room.

3. The agency has replaced single pane windows with double pane windows on approximately 40% of the building.
4. The agency has re-sealed all windows in building.
5. The agency replaced all CRT computer monitors with flat panel monitors.
6. The soda machine was removed which reduces electrical consumption.
7. The refrigerator in the lunch room was replaced with an energy saving model.
8. New water saving toilets were installed in all agency bathrooms.
9. All fluorescent lights and ballasts were replaced with high efficiency F-32 T-8 system. This project replaced a 0.75 amp ballast with a 0.28 amp unit.
10. The air system ductwork was cleaned.
11. The twenty five year old main electrical panel was replaced with an updated panel.
12. The landscape watering schedule was revised to reduce watering frequency and duration during high demand months.
13. The monthly thermostat monitoring schedule was revised.
14. Regularly scheduled maintenance is performed on air conditioning and heating units.
15. Texas Energy Engineering Services (TEES) performed an energy audit and evaluated the building for thermal loss issues and the potential for solar power installation.
16. The agency began participation in the Council on Competitive Government Statewide Management Services Project in cooperation with the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO). This includes utility tracking and recommendations for improvements by LPB Energy Consulting.
17. We worked with City of Austin to replace main electric meter that was reporting erroneous readings.

2. Goals for Utility Consumption Reduction

The Vision of the agency regarding utility consumption is as follows:

The TBPE will take every reasonable action to reduce energy use and use energy as efficiently as possible.

The Mission of the agency regarding utility consumption is as follows:

Provide a comfortable work environment for the staff of this agency within the efficient use of energy and other resources.

The utility reduction goals of the agency indicated below are in support of the agency's Vision, Mission and Goals.

Goal One

Determine and implement all cost effective energy and resource conservation measures that are compatible with the needs of the staff in the performance of their duties. Previously, the agency set a goal to reduce energy and resource use by 10% over the FY 04-09 period. In FY 2010, executive management reviewed the agency resource usage history and set a new goal of a 5% reduction from a FY 2008 baseline during the FY 2010-2012 period.

This will include operations of the building and its systems as well as cost effective replacement of equipment or the installation of equipment that will save energy and reduce energy costs.

In order to decrease energy and resource consumption by 10% the following energy saving and resource reduction measures will be implemented:

- Track the energy usage after installation of new fluorescent lights and ballasts (high efficiency F-32 T-8 system). We anticipate an annual reduction in lighting power consumption of 15% to 20%.
- Track energy savings after replacement of approximately 40% of agency windows with double-pane windows and installation of window film in several offices. In addition, all windows were re-sealed in FY 2008.
- At the end of the workday, turn off all computers or have all computers go into system standby.
- Wrap the hot water heater with an insulated blanket and reduce the heating temperature to 110 degrees. This measure should reduce energy costs by approximately \$75 per year.
- Track the energy usage after replacement of CRT screens with flat screen monitors for 27 workstations in agency. We anticipate a 30% reduction in monitor power consumption.
- Track water usage after revising landscape watering schedule. We anticipate a 30% reduction in water consumption.
- Agency arranged an energy audit through the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) with Texas Energy Engineering Services. Meetings, initial inspection, and report was completed in FY 2008.
- Agency requested quotes for a long-term plan to complete replacement of agency windows with double-pane windows.

Goal Two

Develop and implement effective utility conservation staff awareness.

In order to achieve savings, and to recognize additional opportunities for energy conservation, each staff person must be made aware and informed of how they can help and understand the advantage of their individual participation.

Goal Three

Develop and implement a utility consumption and cost tracking system.

3. Energy Consumption Comparison

There is one gas, one electric, and one water meter serving the agency. During FY 2006, the agency spent \$19,400, spent \$18,001 in FY 2007, and \$17,700 in FY 2008. The agency again lowered expenditures to \$17,364 in FY 2009, in spite of record setting high temperatures.

4. Schedule and Monitoring of Implementation

Implementation Schedule

The following actions and schedule will be used:

1. Continue to monitor operations that affect energy and resource use and make recommended changes as needed.
2. Continue to determine equipment needs that will improve energy efficiency and resource utilization and recommend an implementation schedule based upon financial resources as needed.

Monitoring Strategy

The monthly costs and use of electricity, gas, and water will be checked quarterly and compared to the base year of FY03 to determine if progress is being made to meet planned efficiencies. It must be noted that while usage rates may drop due to efficiencies and improvements, overall costs may increase due to rising energy costs. Costs and usage rates are tracked both by the agency as well as by LPB Energy Consulting as part of the Statewide Management Services Project through SECO.

5. Financing Strategy

The primary financing for the identification and implementation of energy conservation measures will be through inclusion in the yearly budget. Since the agency is part of the SDSI project, the agency is tasked with operating like a business. All reductions in energy and resource consumption will positively affect the operations and budget of the agency. A secondary strategy is the aggressive solicitation and negotiation of cash rebates from utility providers to be earned from consumption reduction.

6. Utility Awareness Plan (UAP)

The agency will include both direct and indirect awareness in the development of its UAP. We support the efforts of State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) regarding energy efficiency awareness.

The intent of direct awareness activities is to bring about an appropriate culture change whereby informed staff not only act in prescribed ways to conserve energy, but also become encouraged and facilitated to be proactive in their own ongoing discovery of new energy and resource conservation opportunities. Various means to foster and reward this incentive will be explored, including appropriate forms of recognition.

In addition to utility awareness, the agency also has implemented a recycling program. Individual staff members coordinate the recycling of plastics and aluminum, and the agency recycles all used paper products.

7. Description of Agency Facility

The agency occupies one building of approximately 9,246 gross square feet in Austin, which was constructed in May 1979. There is a basement that is not conditioned and is used for storage. A complete description is in Attachment A.

8. History of Agency Utility Use

The agency's utility consumption and cost is tracked by the agency.

History of Agency Utility Use

	Electricity (KWH)	Natural Gas (MBTU)	Water (Gal)
FY 2003 *	138,560	1904.88	1,784,800
FY 2004	133,120	112.67	688,600
FY 2005	142,720	110.41	859,100
FY 2006	143,920	108.97	1,385,000
FY 2007	148,960	233.58	685,700
FY 2008	136,240	156.77	845,800
FY 2009	131,360	149.68	834,900

* Baseline Year

** New Baseline Year

9. Savings Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

The agency will determine various measurement and verification (M&V) applications appropriate to and commensurate with the variety of energy conservation measures (ECMs) that are implemented in order to confirm the resulting consumption reductions and related costs savings.

The agency will balance the cost of obtaining the measurements and performing the calculations with the benefit that is produced. Generally, the M&V should not cost more than 10% or so of the savings. However, in low risk ECMs this percentage may be reduced, and in high risk ECMs this percentage may need to be increased.

The agency will review the specific needs of each ECM installation when making decisions on what M&V to apply. The agency will also specify installation acceptance requirements and functional performance requirements for each installation.

During FY 2008 the Agency began participation in the Council on Competitive Government Statewide Management Services Project in cooperation with the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO). This includes utility tracking and recommendations for improvements by LPB Energy Consulting.

10. Project Implementation Update

Continuous Commissioning

The building will be checked quarterly to ensure that there is no significant damage to it or to the operating systems.

Retrofit Commissioning and Design Review

Any utility systems or equipment that is installed will be checked to ensure they are working according to the design before the project is finalized as complete.

Operational Energy Conservation

Agency procedures include specific requirements related to the operation of heating and air-conditioning equipment, such as temperature set points, relative humidity, and hours of operation. Also, included are the current energy and water related design requirements and guidelines.

Energy Manager

The energy manager is the deputy executive director.

Energy Audit and Report

The Energy Audit and Report was completed by Texas Energy Engineering Services during FY 2008. Minor recommendations were made and it was stated that the agency has the potential for the Energy Star rating through EPA. The Agency will pursue this evaluation.

11. Agency Contacts

Designated Official

The designated official responsible for the implementation of the recommendations included in the Resource Efficiency Plan is the deputy executive director.

Primary Contact Person for Resource Efficiency Plan

Lance Kinney, P.E.

Deputy Executive Director

Texas Board of Professional Engineers

1917 IH-35 South

Austin, Texas 78741

Phone: (512) 440-7723

Fax: (512) 440-0417

Alternate Contact Person for Resource Efficiency Plan

Jeff Mutscher

Director of Finance

Texas Board of Professional Engineers

1917 IH-35 South

Austin, Texas 78741

Phone: (512) 440-7723

Fax: (512) 440-2934

Appendix A: Description of Agency's Facility

The Texas Board of Professional Engineers occupies a one-story (basement under part of the executive suite) building at 1917 I-35 South in Austin, Texas. It has approximately 9,246 square feet of conditioned space and an unconditioned basement that is used for storage and access to the crawl space. The area under the executive suite is open covered parking. Perimeter parking is on the south and east sides of the building.

The building, built in May 1979, is configured such that almost all the administrative area is on the perimeter and is glass around the entire perimeter of the building. Most of the interior is storage or workspace. The grounds are irrigated.

A park area of approximately one acre is on the north side of the building. It includes a walking trail and benches. Part of the area is watered by an irrigation system.

A gas meter supplies the hot water heater, which is in the unconditioned basement and the heating unit of the HVAC units that are on the roof. All other utility systems are electric.

Water, wastewater, and electricity are supplied by the City of Austin. Gas is supplied by Texas Gas Service.