



TEXAS A&M
FOREST SERVICE

Energy and Water Management Plan


FY2018

Approved By



Associate Director for Finance and Administration

11/16/17



Director

11-17-17

Executive Summary

Pursuant to TAC Title 34, Part 1, Chapter 19, §19.14, the following Energy and Water Management Plan has been prepared for the Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS). This plan identifies strategies for reducing energy consumption for both facilities and vehicles and establishes goals for FY2018. The goals proposed in this plan represent a couple of challenges for the agency. The first challenge relates to the agency's facilities, which are scattered throughout Texas and most are located in rural communities. Most of the agency-owned offices are small and old with limited opportunities for implementing cost-effective energy savings measures. Leased offices are generally under the control of the landlord and thus there are limited opportunities for TFS to implement cost-effective energy savings measures. The total energy cost of TFS offices (both owned and leased) is low (as compared to national averages). And, many of these offices are located in communities serviced by electric coops, which are exempted from the State's deregulation statute. These limitations, coupled with limited resources, make it a difficult challenge for the agency to achieve energy savings in its facilities.

The second challenge relates to the agency's vehicle fleet, which includes 516 road vehicles and 322 off-road vehicles. A significant element of the agency's mission is to respond to wildland and forest fires, as well as other emergencies such as hurricanes, floods, etc. The response requirements of the agency will vary from year to year, which has a direct and significant impact on the fuel consumption of the agency's fleet. In addition, the volatility in fuel prices can have a significant impact on the agency's fuel costs. These variables make it very difficult for the agency to predict consumption or savings from year to year.

The above notwithstanding, TFS is committed to the State's energy and water management initiatives and will make a concerted effort to achieve its goals for reduced energy consumption and costs.

Agency Background

The mission of every TFS employee is to sustain and protect the State's forest and tree resources for the benefit of all Texans. Established in 1915, the agency is mandated to lead in, "...all matters pertaining to forestry..." across this vast state (Texas Education Code, Section 88.102). Until recently, the majority of TFS facilities and activities were concentrated in the commercial forestlands of East Texas. However, as Texas changed in population and complexity, the mission of the agency also became more complex. Today, TFS is truly a statewide agency serving Texans in every corner of the state through many locations and facilities.

One key element concerning TFS that should be considered is its unique agency mission and mandates. The agency is best known for its involvement with preventing and suppressing wildland fires. However; it is often requested by the Texas Division of Emergency Management to help lead and coordinate regional and statewide responses to emergencies, including floods, hurricanes, and ice storms. Since September 11th of 2001, the agency has been very involved with Homeland Security activities in Texas. All of these unique activities emphasize the fact that TFS is not a normal "eight-to-five" type state agency. There are numerous occasions throughout any given year when offices are required to be opened for extended periods up to and including 24 hours/day. Obviously, this will have an impact on utility consumption and cost, especially when an event stretches over several weeks or months.

1. Progress Report

- a. TFS pro-actively practices energy conservation methods and standards. All new construction is well insulated in both the walls and ceiling. TFS' energy cost index (ECI) average based on 2017 data was \$0.79 per square foot. This was well below the 2015* national average* of \$1.39 per square foot for commercial buildings and office buildings.
**More current data was not available.*
- b. TFS Completed the following repair and replacement projects during FY2017:
 - Replaced windows and exterior doors in Linden office
 - Replaced HVAC unit in Jacksonville office
 - Remodeled Childress office – including new lighting, HVAC, insulation and roof
- c. TFS replaced 65 vehicles with new, more fuel efficient vehicles during FY2017.

2. Goals

Goal 1: Reduce electricity and natural gas consumption by 1%.

Goal 2: Reduce fuel consumption by 1%.

3. Strategy for Achieving Goals

Strategy 1: Repair or renovate facilities with more energy efficient building materials and equipment.

Strategy 2: Collect and monitor utility consumption and cost information on a quarterly basis.

Strategy 3: Centrally control the addition of any vehicles to the agency's fleet.

Strategy 4: Encourage employee carpooling to events when possible.

Strategy 5: Replace high mileage older vehicles with new more fuel efficient vehicles, as part of the TFS vehicle replacement plan.

4. Implementation Schedule

FY2018 Repair and Renovation Projects:

- Remodel Linden shop with new windows and doors
- Replace HVAC for office/restroom in Linden shop
- Sheetrock window castings and doors at Marshall office
- Replace HVAC unit in Hudson office
- Add insulation to Nacogdoches shop

- Replace windows in San Augustine office
- Replace lighting in Conroe office
- Replace windows in Conroe residence

FY2018 vehicle replacement is expected to be at least 25.

5. Finance Strategy

Funds for the completion of these repairs and renovations have been identified and budgeted.

6. Gasoline Consumption

The nature of emergency response activities of the agency make it difficult to control the fuel requirements of the agency, but other agency activities do provide some opportunities to be more efficient with fuel consumption. Total gasoline consumption for FY2017 was 468,725 gallons.

7. Employee Awareness Plan

As an ongoing part of our energy conservation plan, agency personnel will continue to be provided information/reminders related to energy conservation. In addition, signs will be posted to remind employees to turn off lights, set thermostats at established temperatures, etc.

8. Designated Contact Person

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