

**IMPORTANCE OF ENERGY CONSERVATION**

Energy conservation is important for several reasons:

- Homeowners and businesses benefit from less expenditures on energy.
- As traditional energy sources become more limited, energy conservation will be critical.
- Continued reliance on fossil fuels can have significant adverse consequences on people’s health, and can contribute to global environmental degradation.

**POLICIES FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION**

The following policies promote the conservation of energy:

- The Boroughs can utilize energy efficient building systems, with consideration of insulation, lighting, windows and doors, HVAC systems, solar technology, appliances, energy management and control systems, water conservation and building siting.

The Boroughs can look at types of traffic signal and street lighting (e.g.: LED) utilized, fuel efficiency of vehicles, and types of fuel used (e.g.: electricity, biodiesel, ethanol).

- The Boroughs can encourage use of and provide incentives for green buildings in the Region. Green buildings are structures which are environmentally responsible and resource efficient by using sustainable materials, reducing waste and pollution, efficiently using energy and creating healthy indoor environments. Types of techniques include grey water systems (e.g.: reusing household waste water for irrigation), rainwater capture and green roofs.

Green buildings can be encouraged through code requirements, tax incentives, permit fee reductions, education meetings with developers and their architects and engineers, grants and/or loans, and partnerships with utility companies and other agencies concerned with energy conservation.

- The Boroughs can regulate the removal of forest cover and plant trees in urban settings, to reduce summer temperatures.
- The Boroughs can continue to mandate recycling.
- Infill development, redevelopment and revitalization of sites, and adaptive reuse of existing buildings are encouraged. This pattern of development is more energy efficient and can result in savings in fuel consumption and infrastructure. Vehicle miles traveled and vehicle trips can be reduced and trips shortened if development is concentrated and pedestrian scale can be realized.
- Mixed use development can also result in reduced vehicle miles traveled and fewer vehicle trips.

Traditional Neighborhood Development can be utilized to attain more compact development.

- Alternative modes of transportation can result in reduced vehicle miles and vehicle trips. The Greenway and Trail Conceptual Plan is intended to provide increased opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle travel.

When developments or municipal projects are planned, walkways and bicycle lanes should be incorporated as appropriate.

Opportunities to expand the Rabbit transit System beyond what is now provided should be monitored and investigated.

- Use of alternative energy sources can be encouraged. Such energy sources include wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and hydro.

Borough zoning and subdivision ordinances or other ordinances can address:

- Site design that increases energy efficiency
  - Solar access and solar water heating and photovoltaic electricity production
  - Home businesses
  - Landscaping
  - Lighting
  - Small wind turbines
  - Geothermal heat pumps
- Reduction of traffic congestion can result in reduced travel time and increased fuel savings.
    - Promoting connectivity of developments.
    - Encouraging ride sharing and car pooling.
  - The public should be educated regarding the benefits of green building, energy conservation and sustainable development methods and patterns.
  - Consideration of reduced and more efficient night lighting could save energy, taking safety and security issues into account.