

Energy Use Policy:

The City of Belle Plaine will encourage energy and natural resource conservation while practicing sound financial management.

The Community Development Department will enter building information into the Minnesota B-3 Benchmarking database and routinely enter monthly energy and water usage. The CDD, in consultation with state programs, utilities, and other sources, will identify and provide information to the Finance Director and/or City Administrator pertaining to potential savings opportunities.

Energy efficiency will be a consideration in purchasing equipment, new construction, and remodeling of City facilities.

Printer paper, office paper, and paper products should minimally meet the minimum recycled content standards established by the US EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines. Non-recycled paper content will be certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

Appliances and products purchased by the City should be Energy Star certified. For example, lighting, heating, exhaust fans, water heaters, computers, and appliances such as refrigerators and microwave ovens should be Energy Star certified. Purchasing of electronic products meeting EPA Energy Star standards is highly encouraged.

Operational standards:

- Lighting will be turned off in unoccupied areas except as necessary for safety.
- Windows should be kept closed during the heating season and when air conditioning systems are in operation.
- All electronic should be shut off at night.

Waste Reduction and Recycling Policy:

The City will comply with state laws pertaining to waste management and continue make resource conservation part of City plans and decisions.

The City will support efforts to reduce wastes and consider recycled material content when making purchasing decisions.

The City will promote full utilization of materials prior to disposal and minimize use of non-biodegradable products whenever possible.

Each City facility should have containers for recyclables available.