

## **Renewable Energy Policy**

In an effort to establish and maintain sustainable energy practices, El Paso County hereby adopts a Renewable Energy Policy which reflects its commitment to pursue renewable resource technology and the wide range of benefits it has to offer. The County will implement concrete standards of energy efficiency throughout the County and calculate quantifiable efficiency indicators in the ongoing management of County resources and facilities. The County hereby sets the following goals, strategies and outcomes:

### **Goals**

- The County of El Paso will retrofit existing structures and design new ones to meet, at minimum, Silver LEED efficiency standards where feasible;
- Encourage, at minimum, Energy Star efficiency standards for County affordable housing;
- Reduce energy consumption to save taxpayer money;
- Establish the County as a leader in the adoption of renewable energy technologies; and
- Progressively implement recognized energy-saving products and techniques as practicable.

### **Strategies**

- The County of El Paso will audit energy consumption practices of county facilities;
- Establish a baseline for County energy consumption;
- Establish quantifiable indicators of energy conservation;
- Provide the County's Purchasing function with a mandate to select more efficient appliances and construction materials as practicable and prioritize long-term operating costs rather than initial investments;
- Utilize demonstration projects and community programs to educate the population at large regarding the benefits of adopting energy efficient practices; and
- Research Passive Solar Retrofits for existing County facilities.

### **Desired Outcomes**

- Reduce El Paso County's energy consumption;
- Meet Platinum LEED efficiency standards in County facilities;
- Provide a positive model of energy efficiency;
- Reflect the County's commitment to renewable energy technologies and overall efficient operations; and
- Establish El Paso County as the leader in renewable energy research, development, innovation and production in the Southwest.