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Local Government Energy Conservation Measures

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES

Many Tennessee cities are responding quickly and innovatively to the need to conserve available energy resources. For your information, MTAS is listing some practices, beyond the temperature-speed reduction requests of the President, municipalities are adopting. Perhaps you can apply a few of them in your city.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

- Reduce street lighting on less traveled streets by cutting off every other light
- Discuss with all employees need to be careful with energy usage
- Reduce or eliminate Christmas lighting
- Restrict use of city cars to essential trips and ask employees to double up when possible
- Return all city vehicles to city garage at end of day with no employees to take cars home except personnel subject to 24-hour emergency call
- Try closing City Hall on Saturdays
- Establish Bus Action Line to make it easier for residents to get route information
- Draw up citywide plan for car-bus pooling, using computers (Knoxville is doing a pilot program in cooperation with U-T)
- Seek additional outlying parking areas (like church lots) for residents wishing to use buses
- Request auto repair shops to establish special rates for engine tuneups
- Require each department head to assess each vehicle and justify its continued use
- Break down gas consumption by departments and attempt reductions in high-use areas
- Ask all departments to list ways to conserve energy. Compile these suggestions into handbook for all employees
- Appoint gas monitor for each department
- Have drivers eat lunch within reasonable distance of assignments
- Have drivers fill gas tanks when near pumps; avoid special trip
- Require vendors to deliver all orders to place of use
- Cover vehicle windshields during frost periods to prevent running engines just for defrosting
- Use solvents instead of gas to clean paint applicators and brushes

POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

- Have all patrol cars stop and park 10 minutes out of each hour
- Never leave vehicle engine idling. Cut off motor when parked or away from car even if this also cuts off radio
- Remove half of patrol cars from streets during daylight hours, putting two men in each car
- Limit use of vehicles to essential trips with none to be taken home
- Establish regular motor tuneup schedule
- Keep patrol cars within assigned districts except in emergencies
- Have Traffic Division cars park at intersections and observe instead of patrolling
- Shut down all firefighting equipment when not actually operating or working on fire ground
- Use fire staff cars for official purposes only
- Have supply vehicles only make trips necessary to department operations

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

- Make leaf pickups on stated day instead of responding to requests
- Have refuse trucks use shortest route to landfill
- Group trouble calls by areas to eliminate trips
- Instruct drivers in fuel-saving techniques
- Study refuse pickup routes to see if changes will conserve fuel
- Leave largest water pumps off until after peak early morning power demand period

SCHOOLS

- Use smallest vehicle possible to transport materials
- Shut off bus engines while loading at schools unless extreme cold requires heating
- Study summer mowing schedules to see if some areas can be left uncut

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