



American Planning Association

Making Great Communities Happen

Planning and Climate Change

In 2007, energy and climate change have become issues of great importance to our country, and in turn to our communities. The American Planning Association (APA) and the Environment and Energy Study Institute (EESI) conducted a survey of APA's members on the connection between these issues and planning. We first conducted a similar survey in August 2005; this survey gauges the current relationship between planning, energy, and climate change, and how that relationship has changed over the last two years. APA is using the results of this survey as part of its ongoing research initiative, *Planning and Climate Change: Mitigation and Clean Energy Strategies*.

In the survey, community or jurisdiction refers to the geographic place in which you work as a planner.

The information collected from this survey will be used only for related research work.

Questions or comments regarding this survey may be directed to energy@planning.org.



Attitudes About Energy

First we would like to know about your attitudes concerning the energy/planning connection.

How connected do you think energy issues are to planning?

- Very Connected
- Somewhat Connected
- Not Connected

How connected do you think the following planning issues are to energy efficiency and renewable energy?

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Affordable Housing | <input type="radio"/> Very Connected |
| Economic Development | <input type="radio"/> Somewhat Connected |
| Transportation | <input type="radio"/> Not Connected |
| Smart Growth | |
| Quality of Life | |
| Environmental Protection | |
| Public Health | |
| Sustainability | |

Do you think that there is a role for planners in helping communities with energy conservation?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

How familiar are you with the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program?

- Very Familiar
- Somewhat Familiar
- Not Familiar

Are you familiar with APA's adopted policy guide on energy, available on APA's website?

- Yes
- No

What level of familiarity do you have with the following energy technologies?

- | | |
|---|---|
| Wind | <input type="radio"/> Very Familiar |
| Passive Solar | <input type="radio"/> Somewhat Familiar |
| Solar Thermal (hot water) | <input type="radio"/> Not Familiar |
| Photovoltaics | |
| Geothermal (heat pumps) | |
| Biomass | |
| Landfill Methane Gas Recovery | |
| Cogeneration (or combined heat and power) | |
| Distributed Generation | |
| Fuel Cells | |
| Anaerobic Digestion (methane recovery) | |
| Transportation Biofuels | |
| Hydropower | |

Background

We would like to learn more about your practice in this section.

Please indicate the sector type that you work in: (select one)

- Public
- Private
- Academia
- Nonprofit
- Other _____

Within which area of the public sector do you work?

- Local government
- County government
- Regional government
- State government
- Federal government
- Other _____

Energy Awareness in Your Community

Does your community have a policy statement on energy?

- Yes
- In Development

- No
- Under Consideration
- Do Not Know

Which of the following motivated your community to compose a policy statement on energy? (select all that apply)

- High Utility Bills
- National Security (post-September 11)
- Power Failures and Blackout
- Extreme Weather Days (heat waves, cold, flooding, drought)
- Air Pollution
- Climate Change Concerns
- Citizen Interest
- Pressure from State Government
- Renewable Energy Potential
- Other _____

Which of the following objectives does the policy statement on energy support? (select all that apply)

- Reduce demand through energy efficiency
- Promote renewable energy purchases
- Reduce peak demand
- Improve transmission infrastructure
- Support research and development for technical advancement
- Consider environmental concerns when evaluating energy options
- Formulate comprehensive transportation program
- Develop, recruit and retain clean energy businesses
- Mitigate current and future carbon emissions
- Other _____

Which of the following best describes your city's situation with moving forward on energy policy? (select one)

- Unsure how to begin
- No political interest
- Regulatory barriers
- No financial support
- Complexity of issue
- Lack of authority
- Lack of community consensus
- Other _____
- Do Not Know

Does your jurisdiction have an energy plan that is separate from the comprehensive plan or other land-use plans?

- Yes
- In Development
- No
- Under Consideration
- Do Not Know

Which of the following are motivations for your community to prepare an energy plan? (select all that apply)

- High Utility Bills
- National Security (post-September 11th)
- Power Failures and Blackouts
- Extreme Weather Days (heat waves, cold, flooding, drought)
- Air Pollution
- Climate Change Concerns
- Citizen Interest
- Pressure from State Government
- Renewable Energy Potential
- Other _____
- Do Not Know

Which of the following issues does the energy plan address? (select all that apply)

- Policy advocacy
- Community mobilization
- Renewable energy goals
- Training and education
- Conservation measures
- Public/private partnerships
- Assessment/monitoring goals
- Technology innovation/demonstration projects
- Waste-to-energy
- Other _____
- Do Not Know

Which of the following best describes your city's situation with moving forward on energy planning actions? (select one)

- Unsure how to begin
- No political interest
- Regulatory barriers
- No financial support
- Complexity of issue

- Lack of authority
- Lack of community consensus
- Other _____
- Do Not Know

Which office or department in your jurisdiction has primary responsibility for developing energy plans and/or energy policy statements? (select one)

- Planning
- Transportation
- Public Works
- Environment
- Executive office
- Local utility
- Special commission or task force
- Other _____
- Do Not Know

Does your community have a climate change policy statement?

- Yes
- In Development
- No
- Under Consideration
- Do Not Know

Which of the following objectives does the climate change policy statement support? (select all that apply)

- Guide Future Development
- Protect Natural Resources
- Manage Emissions
- Encourage Diversity of Energy Sources
- Encourage Innovation
- Make a Contribution toward Global Sustainability
- Promote Preparedness/Risk Reduction
- Increase Stakeholder Engagement
- Other _____
- Do Not Know

Which of the following motivated your community to compose a policy statement on climate change? (select all that apply)

- Concerns about Problem Globally
- Citizen Interest

- Risks of Local Impacts
- Extreme Weather Days (heat waves, cold, flooding, drought)
- Pressure from Local Elected Officials
- Other _____
- Do Not Know

Which of the following best describes your city's situation with moving forward on climate policy statement formulation? (select one)

- Unsure how to begin
- No political interest
- Regulatory barriers
- No financial support
- Complexity of issue
- Lack of authority
- Lack of community consensus
- Other _____
- Do Not Know

Does your community have a separate climate action plan?

- Yes
- In Development
- No
- Under Consideration
- Do Not Know

Which of the following motivated your community to prepare a climate action plan? (select all that apply)

- Pressure from Local Elected Officials
- Extreme Weather (heat waves, cold, flooding, drought)
- Air Pollution
- Citizen Interest
- Interest in Renewable Energy Potential
- Potential Economic Impacts
- Power Failures and Blackouts
- Other
- Do Not Know

Which of the following issues does the climate action plan address? (select all that apply)

- Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled
- Green Buildings

- Green Roofs
- Energy Efficient Lighting
- Renewable Energy
- Alternative Fuels
- Regional Air Quality
- Urban Greening (tree planting, parks creation)
- Other _____
- Do Not Know

Which of the following best describes your city's situation with moving forward on climate action plans? (select one)

- Unsure how to begin
- No political interest
- Regulatory barriers
- No financial support
- Complexity of issue
- Lack of authority
- Lack of community consensus
- Other _____
- Do Not Know

Is your city involved in any of the following initiatives: (select all that apply)

- U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiative (ICLEI)
- Cities for Climate Protection
 - Clinton Climate Initiative
 - Other _____
 - Do Not Know

Is addressing energy and climate issues a core element of your professional practice?

- Yes
- No

Do you currently teach a class that addresses energy and climate issues and planning?

- Yes
- No

Does your planning program offer a class that addresses energy and climate issues and planning?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Is addressing energy and climate issues a core element of your professional practice?

- Yes
- No

Do you address energy and climate issues in your job?

- Yes
- No

Has your region begun to work on climate or energy issues?

- Energy Only
- Climate Only
- Both Energy and Climate
- Neither

Are you responsible for implementing a comprehensive plan in your job?

- Yes
- No

Comprehensive Plans

Does your current comprehensive plan address energy issues in any of the following items: (select all that apply)

- Energy element
- Housing element
- Transportation element
- Economic development element
- Community facilities element
- Policy statement
- Goals and objectives
- Current land-use map
- Future land-use map
- Implementation strategies
- Other
- None

Will any scheduled comprehensive plan updates have an energy element?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know
- No update scheduled

Are you responsible for enforcing a zoning ordinance in your job?

- Yes
- No

Zoning Regulations and Enforcement

Do your community's zoning regulations address any of the following:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Wind Farms | <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| Solar and Wind Easements | <input type="radio"/> No |
| Relief from Restrictions for Renewable Energy Devices (i.e. height restrictions) | <input type="radio"/> Do Not Know |
| Distributed Generation Energy Systems | |
| Geothermal Production | |
| Biomass Facilities | |
| Green Roofs | |

Does your ordinance include overlay zones for renewable energy?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Do you have siting standards for power generation and distribution facilities?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Do you have fair share siting approaches for different energy technologies?

- Yes

- No
- Do Not Know

Are you responsible for enforcing subdivision regulations in your job?

- Yes
- No

Subdivision Regulation and Enforcement

Do your community's subdivision regulations:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Allow for Cluster Development? | <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| Provide for Density Bonuses? | <input type="radio"/> No |
| Require Consideration of Solar Access or Orientation? | <input type="radio"/> Do Not Know |

Do your community's subdivision regulations provide for the right to refuse or renew any plat or subdivision plan if deed restrictions, covenants, or other agreements have the effect of prohibiting reasonably sited and designed renewable resource devices?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Are you responsible for site plan review and approval in your job?

- Yes
- No

Site Plan Review and Approval

Do your site plan review regulations have provisions to account for the following in site design? (select all that apply)

- Winter Sun Exposure
- Summer Shade Coverage
- Lot Location Based Upon Prevailing Winds
- Street Orientation Based Upon Prevailing Winds
- Natural Lighting
- Natural Drainage Systems
- Landscape Planting for Energy Conservation

- Building Orientation for Solar Panels
- Other _____
- None

**Do your street design guidelines allow for any of the following?
(select all that apply)**

- Narrow street widths
- Design for solar orientation of streets
- Street connectivity
- On-street bikeways
- Grid or Modified Grid Network
- Sidewalks
- Other _____
- None

Does your community consider a project's walkability in site plan review?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Does your community have lighting design guidelines or regulations that address the following? (select all that apply)

- Promote energy efficiency
- Safety
- Reducing light pollution
- Preventing light trespass onto adjacent properties
- Reducing glare
- Other _____
- None

Does your community have an energy demand standard that it applies when approving site plans?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Transportation

Does your community have public transit?

- Yes
- No

What kind of transit is available?

- Bus
- Bus Rapid Transit
- Heavy Rail (elevated or in subway)
- Commuter Rail (also called regional rail)
- Light Rail (including streetcars)
- Other _____

Does the jurisdiction you work for use any of the following vehicles in its own fleet? (select all that apply)

- Hybrid Gas Electric
- All Electric
- Compressed Natural Gas
- Biodiesel Fuel
- Flex Fuel Vehicles (use ethanol blends)
- None
- Do Not Know

Does your current transportation plan actively promote the following alternative transportation systems?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bicycle Commuting | <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| Pedestrian Pathways | <input type="radio"/> No |
| Transit | <input type="radio"/> Do Not Know |

Are you responsible for planning for housing in your job?

- Yes
- No

Housing

Does your community have energy efficiency guidelines for new housing developments?

- Yes
- No

- Do Not Know

Does your community have a program to provide energy efficient affordable housing?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Are you responsible for economic development in your job?

- Yes
- No

Economic Development

Does the economic development element of your jurisdiction's comprehensive plan encourage energy technology business development as part of the goals and objectives?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Does your community use energy efficiency as part of an economic development strategy? (i.e. provide incentives for businesses that use energy efficient technology)?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Are you responsible for environmental or open space planning in your job?

- Yes
- No

Environment and Open Space

Does your community have policies, plans, or regulations for any of the following? (select all that apply)

- Tree Preservation
- Tree Planting
- Forest Management

- Other _____
- Do Not Know

Does your community have a park and open space plan?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Does your community have a park development goal (i.e. providing parks within a convenient access of residents)?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Are you responsible for promoting or reviewing green building in your job?

- Yes
- No

Green Building

Does your community have a green roofs or cool roofs program?

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Green Roofs | <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| Cool Roofs | <input type="radio"/> No |
| | <input type="radio"/> Do Not Know |

Does your community have a policy that public buildings must meet green building standards?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Incentives

Does your community currently offer density bonuses to developers for incorporating energy elements into their projects?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Do financial institutions in your area offer:

- Location-efficient Mortgages Yes
Energy-efficient Mortgages No
 Do Not Know

Does your community have any voluntary incentives to encourage private construction of energy-efficient ("green") buildings?

- Yes
 No
 Do Not Know

Does your community currently take advantage of any state-provided financial incentives to encourage the adoption of alternative energy?

- Yes
 No
 Do Not Know

Which of the following financial incentives from your state is your community currently using? (select all that apply)

- Grants (for equipment purchase)
 Rebates (for equipment installation)
 Loans
 Recruitment incentives for renewable energy equipment manufacturers
 Do Not Know

Are any of the following non-financial programs currently underway in your community?

- Mandated Alternative Fuel Use Yes
Mandated Equipment Use (e.g. "clean" fleets) No
 Do Not Know
Mandated Energy Efficiency in Government Buildings
Special Exceptions or Waivers for Clean Energy Projects
Demonstration Programs

Are homeowners who install renewable energy devices eligible for property tax credits or waivers?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Do you offer incentives for private-sector renewable energy technology business development?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Barriers

Have there been any instances where regulations have prohibited the inclusion of any of the following renewable energy technologies in new or existing construction? (select all that apply)

	Photovoltaic/Solar Panels	Wind Turbines	Other Renewables
Zoning Regulations	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> Yes
Subdivision Regulations	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> No
PUD/PRD Regulations	<input type="radio"/> Do Not Know	<input type="radio"/> Do Not Know	<input type="radio"/> Do Not Know
Private Development Covenants or Restrictions			

Has the public ever attempted to block efforts to include the following renewable energy technologies in new or existing construction?

- Solar Yes
- Wind No
- Geothermal Do Not Know
- Biomass
- Other Renewable Energy

Other Regulations

Does your community have transit-oriented development (TOD) regulations?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Do you have any built TOD projects?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Does your community have a shared parking program to reduce the amount of parking provided?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Does your community have a maximum parking standard?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Do you have a mechanism to encourage infill development?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

Training Opportunities

Would you or your staff be interested in attending a workshop or training program on any of the following topics? (select all that apply)

- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy
- The Connection Between Land-Use Planning and Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Technologies
- Alternative Transportation and Alternative Fuels

- Land-use Practices that Encourage Energy Efficiency
- Other _____

For which planning techniques/tools would you like to learn more about how to address energy issues? (select all that apply)

- Zoning
- Subdivision
- Site Plan Review
- Comprehensive Plans
- Design Guidelines
- Building Codes
- Other _____

Which training tools would you like to have available to learn more about energy and land-use planning? (select all that apply)

- Half-day Workshop
- Full-day Workshop
- Workshop at APA conference
- Audio Conference
- Written Materials (manual, articles, etc.)
- Other _____

If you selected "Written Materials" in the previous question, which do you prefer? (select one)

- Printed handbook
- Website
- CD-ROM
- "E-book" (read on a computer or other electronic device)
- Other _____

Did completing this survey inspire you to address these issues in your community?

- Yes
- No
- Already addressing these issues

Did you respond to the APA/EESI survey in 2005?

- Yes
- No

Thank You

Please provide the following contact information. Providing your full contact information ensures that you do not receive email reminders regarding this survey.

Name _____
Title _____
Organization _____
Street Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

May we contact you to obtain more specific information on your community's energy-related programs, plan, or regulations or any planning projects that have had an energy component?

- Yes
- No

To learn more about the connection between energy, climate, and planning, please go to our project website, www.planning.org/energy.