

## **GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS:**

### **NEW CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR RENOVATIONS AND EXISTING BUILDINGS**

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to state Chariho Regional School District's commitment to conform to the Green Buildings Act, RI Gen. Laws § 37-24-1, et seq. This policy serves to demonstrate Chariho Regional School District's commitment to sustainability.

#### **POLICY:**

All major facility projects shall be designed and constructed to at least the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified or an equivalent high-performance green building standard unless there is no appropriate LEED standard or other high-performance green building standard for that type of building or renovation project or improvement.

#### **New construction and renovations**

All new construction and major renovations to Chariho Regional schools shall conform to Green Building Standards as outlined in the Northeast Collaborative for High-Performance Schools Protocol\*, version 2.2 or later, to the maximum feasible extent. In addition, the Chariho Regional School District shall purchase energy-efficient products in accordance with the United States Department of Energy's EnergySmart Schools program, the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program, or other similar plans that meet or exceed the Northeast Collaborative for High-Performance Schools Protocol.

#### **Energy efficiency**

The Chariho Regional School District shall operate its buildings in accordance with standards and protocols contained in the United States Department of Energy's EnergySmart Schools program, the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program or other similar plans that meet or exceed the Northeast Collaborative for High-Performance Schools Protocol. These standards can be found in Chariho Regional District's Energy Star Policy.

#### **Environmentally safe**

To the maximum feasible extent, the operation and maintenance of all Chariho Regional School District-owned and leased buildings shall conform to Green Building Standards as outlined in the Northeast Collaborative for High-Performance Schools Protocol, version 2.2 or later. Accordingly, the Chariho Regional School District shall purchase and use cleaning and building materials, coatings, and other maintenance products in an environmentally safe manner.

#### **Ongoing performance**

The Facility Director shall develop and maintain an ongoing plan for bringing all existing facilities into conformance with the above-stated standards.

Chariho Regional School District Policy prohibits the use of CFC or HCFC-based refrigerants in building heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVAC&R) systems as well as the installation of CFC or HCFC-based refrigerants in heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVAC&R) systems in all newly constructed buildings district-wide. For all district-wide renovation projects, the replacement of any equipment that utilizes CFC or HCFC- or HCFC-based refrigerants and is over ten years old will be required. Chariho Regional School District will develop and implement a plan to phase out the use of such refrigerants in all existing equipment within five years of approval of this policy.

*References*

- Green Buildings Act, RI Gen. Laws § 37-24-1, et seq.
- R.I. General Law § 16-7-41.1
- R.I. Code of Regulations – 200-RICR-20-05-4
- \*Northeast Collaborative for High-Performance Schools Protocol version 2.2 - Energy Smart Schools
- Department of Energy: Guide to Operating and Maintaining Energy Smart Schools
- Department of Energy: Design Guidelines in Cool and Humid Climates for High-Performance Schools
- Department of Energy Guide to Financing Energy Smart Schools
- Commissioner's Decision: Pattavina v. Newport School Committee. (Citizens group containing members who are parents of students lacks standing to bring action against school committee regarding design and construction of the new school.)

*Procedures and Forms*

- EnergySmart Schools Quick Wins
- EnergySmart Schools Lighting Template
- EnergySmart Schools Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Template
- EnergySmart Schools Water Heating Template Operating and Maintaining
- EnergySmart Schools Building Envelope Template
- EnergySmart Schools Transformers Template
- EnergySmart Schools Plug Loads Template
- EnergySmart Schools Kitchen Equipment Template
- EnergySmart Schools Swimming Pool Template
- EnergySmart Schools Building Automation Systems Template
- EnergySmart Schools Action Plan Benchmarking Template
- Federal Energy Management Program Office Energy Checklist
- Facility Energy Checklist

Adopted and Effective 1-9-24