

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

EO 22-01

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME -- GREETINGS:

EXECUTIVE ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THE REDUCTION OF ENERGY COSTS BY STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF STATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

WHEREAS: Arkansas is distinguished by the diversity of our energy resources and is a leader in low-cost, lasting, and resilient energy resources; and

WHEREAS: Energy technologies create jobs directly and in related fields; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas state government is a highly visible model for Arkansas's citizens, businesses, industries, and local governments; and

WHEREAS: Investment by the state in advanced technologies and implementation of innovative practices further market demands and provides for the establishment of a highly-trained workforce such that they are more accessible to the citizens and businesses of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: The cost of advanced energy solutions steadily decreases each year; and

WHEREAS: State government is a major consumer of energy throughout the state; and

WHEREAS: The systematic evaluation, adoption, and implementation of simple practices and policies in all executive branch departments may lead to significant cost savings to taxpayers, while eliminating unnecessary energy consumption and by reducing the costs of state government operations; and

WHEREAS: Successful completion of Transformation created new opportunities to assess the costs of State government operations and implement innovative conservation and cost-saving measures; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas is a leader in governmental efficiency and shall continue to lead-by-example in adopting policies, practices, and technologies that reduce operating costs and promote job growth in Arkansas;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby order the following:

- 1) Each department under the jurisdiction of the Governor, in consultation with the Department of Energy and Environment, is encouraged to develop an individual Strategic Energy Program (StEP), with the goal of reducing the portion of their

annual maintenance and operating budget devoted to energy and utility consumption. For those entities subject to the Sustainable Energy-Efficient Buildings Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 22-3-2001 *et seq.*, reporting requirements under the Act shall be consolidated with the StEP program.

- 2) Each department is also encouraged to develop a Resource and Asset Management Program (RAMP) to reduce waste and disposal costs, manage purchasing decisions, adopt equipment, technology, or policies that protect state resources, and implement projects that otherwise benefit Arkansas.
- 3) StEP programs should include a detailed plan for the reduction of annual energy, water, and other utility costs and environmental impact from energy use. Each department should develop and implement policies and practices that encourage no-cost or low-cost energy and utility conservation measures for all State-owned and leased buildings and office spaces.
- 4) The primary goal of a RAMP program is to generate cost-savings through asset management and waste minimization. However, environmental impacts or improvements may also be considered when implementation is budget-neutral or low-cost. Each RAMP, to the extent practicable and consistent with existing law, is encouraged to implement programs, policies, and practices to improve environmental impacts by protecting the air, water, land, and other natural resources. Policies and practices to minimize waste disposal costs should be evaluated and implemented when feasible. RAMP programs may employ criteria for vehicle purchasing and implement vehicle usage policies that, to the extent appropriate for the vehicles' intended purpose, will reduce fuel consumption and protect air quality in Arkansas.
- 5) Each department is encouraged to designate and train appropriate personnel to be responsible for implementing and monitoring StEP and RAMP measures within the department.
- 6) The Department of Energy and Environment shall, in consultation with area experts, issue guidance for use by each department in the development and implementation of their StEP and RAMP programs. Program guidance may include common metrics and criteria, including those to determine the cost-effectiveness of proposed measures over their lifetime, as well as methods and tools to measure and record cost-savings and environmental benefits.
- 7) Each department is encouraged to transmit a copy of its StEP plan and implementation timeline to the Department of Energy and Environment for review.
- 8) Thereafter, each department should annually review its StEP program.
- 9) Each department is encouraged to transmit a copy of its initial RAMP plan to the Department of Energy and Environment.
- 10) Thereafter, each department is encouraged to annually review its RAMP program.
- 11) Legislative, judicial, and other constitutionally independent agencies or entities not under the Governor's jurisdiction may voluntarily participate in and comply with the provisions of this Order.

12) This Executive Order supplants Executive Order 09-07. Nothing in this Order shall be construed or interpreted as limiting in any way any department's ability to adopt and implement additional policies and procedures, consistent with existing law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed the 3rd day of January, in the year of our Lord 2022.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor



Attest:



John Thurston, Secretary of State