

# ENERGY

## ENERGY AWARENESS

☛ **Municipal Government shall promote energy awareness and serve as a role model for the community via its public facilities and services.** The City has converted its municipal building heating and cooling source from electricity to natural gas. Energy facility and street lighting shall be put in place or continued and enhanced as technology emerges. Winooski's fleet of vehicles shall be replaced with energy efficient models to the extent possible. Ridesharing by employees of Winooski's government, industrial parks, shopping centers and office complexes shall be promoted by the City and through regional programs, which are supported by local government. Citizen awareness conservation programs, energy audits, and fuel assistance programs shall be promoted through leaflets at public buildings such as City Hall and Memorial Library, and via flyers in utility service bills.

## ENERGY STANDARDS

☛ **Energy efficiency shall be promoted through application of local building codes and the development review process.** Winooski shall continue to apply the standards of the Council of American Building Code Officials Model Energy Code (1995) in its development review and building permit process on those projects which are not subject to Vermont Act 250 review. Table 13 identifies home heating fuels utilized in Winooski.

TABLE 13.  
HOME HEATING FUEL, 2000

<u>Fuel</u>	<u>2000 Number</u>	<u>2000 Percent</u>	<u>1990 Number</u>	<u>1990 Percent</u>
Utility gas	1960	66.6	1592	56.3
Bottled gas	100	3.4	71	2.5
Electricity	542	18.4	636	22.5
Fuel oil, kerosene	297	10.1	499	17.7
Coal	0	0	11	0.4
Wood	25	0.8	17	0.6
Solar energy	0	0	0	0
Other fuel	20	0.7	0	0

Source: US Census

☛ **Winooski shall seek funding to develop and distribute guidelines which encourage the energy-conscious use of landscaping.** It is anticipated that municipal government may couple with Green Mountain Power and Vermont Gas Systems to offer landscaping guidelines to property owners and developers. The guidelines will serve as an educational tool, identifying appropriate vegetation species and planting methods which will enhance passive energy utilization.

## SOLAR ACCESS

☞ **Through local ordinances and the Act 250 process, Winooski shall protect access to solar energy resources. Utilization of passive solar techniques shall be encouraged and access to sunlight shall be protected through continued application of the provisions of the City's solar ordinance.**

Use of solar energy to provide heating, and lighting of buildings requires that solar collectors or components of passive solar designs receive direct sunlight. Winooski is one of the few communities in Vermont with a solar access recordation ordinance. This ordinance will be applied locally and identified at the District Environmental Commission level when new construction is reviewed.

**TABLE 14.**  
MODE USED TO COMMUTE TO WORK, 2000

<u>Mode</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Car, truck or van - drove alone	2421	73.8
Car, truck or van - carpooled	456	13.9
Public Transportation / Taxi	122	3.7
Walked	182	5.5
Other means	33	1.0
Worked at home	68	2.1

Source: US Census

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

☞ **The City shall continue to support the use of public transit such as the Chittenden County Transit Authority (CCTA) and Special Services Transportation Authority (SSTA) as alternatives to the private automobile.** CCTA provides linkage between Winooski's residential and commercial areas and Chittenden County's shopping, community and employment centers. The City shall continue to fund CCTA and promote its use as a means of conserving energy and reducing traffic and air pollution in Winooski and the Greater Burlington region.

## ALTERNATIVE NON-MOTORIZED SYSTEMS

☞ **The City shall provide circulation systems intended for non-motorized use for citizens to conveniently traverse Winooski via bicycle and pedestrian routes.** Walking and biking as transportation modes can significantly reduce energy consumption since every trip diverted to non-motorized transport reduces the consumption of fuel to zero. To facilitate this shift in mode, pedestrian and bicycle circulation systems shall be facilitated and developed.

☞ **With the increased popularity of bicycles, walking and jogging, and evidence that this popularity will continue, it is recommended that multipurpose trails be identified and established throughout the City.** These trails may include the cycleways identified elsewhere in this plan. Such multipurpose trails should be planned to as to connect into the cycleway and public transportation networks.

A pathway system would satisfy the utilitarian and recreational needs of Winooski's residents by connecting recreational areas within the City and furnishing commuter access to adjoining towns and mass transit providers. The multipurpose system should incorporate existing sidewalks, proposed nature trails and proposed cycleways. To further this goal, Winooski plans to participate in regional and state "greenway" and alternate transportation path initiatives between communities.

## **TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT**

☞ **The City shall work with the Chittenden County Metropolitan Transportation Organization and Vermont Agency of Transportation to identify inefficient transportation patterns and employ transportation system management (TSM) techniques to improve energy efficiency.** TSM techniques can reduce energy consumption by improving the flow of vehicles through even traveling speed, and reduced number and duration of stops. Strategies that can reduce fuel consumption and air pollution include: traffic signal synchronization, elimination of unnecessary stop signs, road and intersection improvements, and the use of one-way streets in appropriate situations. TSM is viewed as having great potential for saving energy as automobiles are identified as the predominant mode of transportation for Winooski citizens (Table 14, 15).

TABLE 15.  
VEHICLES AVAILABLE IN HOUSEHOLD, 2000

<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
None	415	14.1
1	1374	46.7
2	1007	34.2
3 or more	148	5

Source: US Census