University Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

University of Central Florida
Draft Policy Submission Cover Memo Form

Policy No. and Title: 3-111.5 Energy and Water Efficiency

Initiating Authority: Vice President for Operations

Initiating Authority Approval Date: 8/31/26

Date of Submission for Review: 9/18/26

Submitted by: University Operations

Department: Utilities and Engineering Services

☐ New Policy ☐ Existing Policy (5-year Review) ■ Existing Policy (Out of Cycle Review)

Summary of Revisions: (For a new policy, please provide a summary of the policy. For an existing policy, please provide a summary of the revisions made to the policy.)

This out of cycle review was initiated by the passing of HB 1217 (2026), codified at F.S. 377.816 and effective 7/1/2026, which prohibits governmental entities, including state universities, from adopting, implementing, or using public funds to support net zero policies, including carbon-neutrality commitments and related organizational memberships. As a result, the attached revision removes UCF's ACUPCC "carbon neutrality" signatory language from the policy's Background Information section to bring it into compliance.

Additionally, this revision updates responsible party titles and removes regulatory references tied to concurrency management.

Stakeholders included in the Review Process: (Provide a list of departments involved in the review/revision process.)

Utilities and Engineering Services

Stakeholder feedback must also be requested from the Faculty Senate and the College Policy Liaisons. By checking the boxes below, you are confirming that feedback from these groups was requested, received, and considered in the draft policy.

☒ College Policy Liaisons ☒ Faculty Senate

Regulatory Requirements (if applicable)**:** (Provide information on regulatory requirements pertaining to the policy, including specific statute or regulation number.)

F.S. 163.3180 (Concurrency) is removed as a regulatory reference. This statute governs concurrency management for local governments' comprehensive plans, but F.S. 1013.30 (University campus master plans and campus development agreements) supersedes Part II of Chapter 163, including F.S. 163.3180, for State University System institutions. UCF fulfills its concurrency management obligations through its Campus Master Plan and associated Campus Development Agreement(s) with the City of Orlando and other affected local governments, rather than through the general local-government concurrency framework in F.S. 163.3180.

Presenters: (Provide the name(s), position title(s), and email address(s) for all individuals who will be presenting the policy to the university's Policies and Procedures Committee.)

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Draft - Energy and Water Efficiency

Policy Number	3-111.45
Responsible Authority	Senior Associate ~~Assistant~~ Vice President and Chief Engineer, Utilities and Engineering Services
Initiating Authority	Vice President for Operations ~~Facilities and Business Operations~~
Effective Date	6/11/2024
Date of Origin	5/21/2008

APPLICABILITY/ACCOUNTABILITY

This policy applies to all personnel, departments, and units on University of Central Florida campuses, including, Direct Support Organizations, auxiliaries and private entities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

~~As one of over 250 signatories to the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), the university is committed to environmental stewardship and carbon neutrality.~~ As energy and water ~~demands~~demand and costs continue to rise, efficient use of these resources has become increasingly important to the university's mission. As a result, UCF requires the support of its community, including leadership, administrators, researchers, students, faculty, and staff members.

Water is a precious and limited commodity for the Central Florida region. UCF embraces a culture of smart growth and seeks aggressive water conservation and efficiency strategies to address the water demands of a growing campus population. Appropriate policies, strategic plans, and procedures, along with strict adherence to the commissioning process, shall continue to guide UCF towards becoming a national leader in energy and water conservation research, education, and stewardship.

POLICY STATEMENT

Energy and water conservation practices must be followed by all members of the university community. All proposed initiatives and projects must comply with applicable Florida Statutes

regarding energy and sustainability building requirements, Florida Building Codes, Florida Administrative Codes, UCF's Green Building Construction and Renovation Requirements, and UCF's Design, Construction, and Renovation Standards.

University Operations ~~Facilities & Business Operations (FBO)~~ is the clearinghouse for all water and energy efficiency matters, including replacements, renovations, and new construction on university-owned or leased property. The Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Engineer ~~Assistant Vice President, Utilities and Engineering Services (UES)~~ or designee, is the authority to approve, revise, prohibit, or restrict building programs, project designs, equipment selections, and utility services that do not meet these requirements.

Proposed initiatives and projects must be reviewed and approved by the Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Engineer ~~AVP UES,~~ or designee, prior to commencing.

DEFINITIONS

Commissioning. A quality-focused process for enhancing the delivery of a project, which verifies and documents that all of the commissioned systems and assemblies are planned, designed, installed, tested, operated, and maintained to meet the Owner's project requirements in strict adherence to the latest version of ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 202.

~~**Concurrency.** The availability of public facilities and services in an equitable manner and the guarantee of a specific level of service, ensuring that new development will not deplete those levels of utility service. Florida Statute 163.3180 requires Concurrency Management Systems for monitoring and ensuring adherence to the adopted level-of-service utility standards, including the schedule of capital improvements and the availability of public facility capacity.~~

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). A green building rating system that provides a framework for creating healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving buildings.

POLICY

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1. **New Building Construction and Renovations**
   All new construction and facility renovations must adhere to the UCF Green Building Construction & Renovation Requirements at the time of the development permit, which represents the minimum program requirements.

   From the initial conceptual and schematic design to completion, University Operations ~~FBO~~ will serve as the principal advisor and approval authority for ensuring that energy and water efficiency standards and practices meet all specifications and statutory requirements for the design, construction, and operation of all UCF facilities. University Operations ~~FBO~~ must review all matters relating to:

- mechanical, electrical, and plumbing design, renovation, and commissioning
- building environmental life-cycle cost analyses
- high-performance building requirements
- energy models
- demand-response initiatives
- building additions
- HVAC and building automation operations and maintenance.
- utility ~~concurrency management systems~~master planning and capacity subscriptions
- alterations impacting water or energy use on any UCF campus
- utility and related conservation elements in the University Campus Master Plan
- smart infrastructure
- source water and/or fuel switching
- wetlands determination and watershed
- utility procurement
- utility generation
- utility interconnection

UCF follows the LEED rating system to guide best practices, including assessing life cycle costs and achieving positive results in LEED's social, environmental, and economic impact categories. UCF's goal is to strive for LEED Gold, if financially feasible, but the basis of design is to meet LEED Silver certification for all new construction and strive for LEED Certified on renovation projects.

2. **Building Operation**
   As directed by Florida Statutes, Chapter 255, Public Property and Publicly Owned Buildings, university buildings will be operated in the most energy-efficient manner possible, regardless of funding source(s). Major energy-use systems in existing facilities will be upgraded and/or renovated, where possible, to qualify for LEED Operations & Maintenance (O+M) certification, operate efficiently, and cultivate healthy spaces for occupant productivity. Similar space types or functions will be grouped together to realize the most efficient building utility usage. Scheduling of instruction and research space outside of normal hours of operation will be grouped using the most optimal configuration.

3. **Building Commissioning**
   UCF supports a quality-focused process for enhancing the delivery of a project. Commissioning activities begin at the programing phase for each project and must, at a minimum, include design development and review, construction, and functional testing. Commissioning may be performed in-house by Utilities and Engineering Services (UES) or outsourced to a third-party entity reporting directly to UES.

4. **New Initiatives**
   UCF encourages a culture of innovation and change as it pursues energy efficiency improvements. The university community is encouraged to recommend any energy efficiency concepts that could improve campus operations to University Operations ~~FBO~~.

   UCF will transition towards more ~~sustainable,~~ resilient~~,~~ and reliable energy sources to

reduce the delivered cost of purchased energy and negative impacts on the built environment.

UCF will continue to seek holistic approaches for more efficient use of water. Water resource planning is a key component of water conservation. As a condition of the campus consumptive use permit for potable water withdraw from the upper Floridan Aquifer, UCF shall adhere to conservation programs in accordance with the American Water Works Association's M52 Standard to account for the ongoing development of short- and long-range strategies for the efficient utilization of available sources for water supply, public recognition and participation, and to improve support for water price adjustments given the finite regional supply. UCF will be mindful of its limited water capacity agreement with the St. Johns River Water Management District as it develops and approves Campus Master Plans and Capital Improvement Requests. ~~The Concurrency Management System will ensure that campus facilities and services remain available when new development is proposed.~~

PROCEDURES

Proposed initiatives and projects, whether internal or external, must be sent either: a) as a Work Request to Facilities O~~O~~perations at https://ucfready.assetworks.cloud/ready3/; or b) as a Minor Project Request to Planning, Design, and Construction (PDC) at https://fp.ucf.edu/minor-projects. For questions on whether to submit a Work Request or Minor Project Request please contact the Senior Director, PDC.

RELATED INFORMATION

~~Florida Statute 163.3180 Concurrency~~

Florida Statute 1013.30 University campus master plans and campus development agreements

Florida Statute 255.252 Findings and intent

Florida Statute 255.254 No facility constructed or leased without life cycle costs

Florida Statute 255.255 Life-cycle costs

Florida Statute 255.2575 Energy-efficient and sustainable buildings

Florida Statute 553.994 Applicability

Florida Statute 553.995 Energy-efficiency ratings for buildings

Green Building Construction & Renovation Requirements

Maintenance & Operation Requirements

UCF Design, Construction, and Renovation Standards

CONTACTS

Utilities and Engineering Services
energy@ucf.edu

History: 3-111 5/21/2008; 3-111.1 6/2/2015; 3-111.2 7/17/2020; 3-111.3 7/1/2022