Boulder County
Carbon Conscious Certification Standards

Developed by The Cannabis Conservancy
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THE CANNABIS CONSERVANCY

Contents

Introduction

The purpose of the Carbon Conscious certification is to recognize those cultivators who have exhibited a commitment towards reducing their carbon footprint. The Carbon Conscious certification is a voluntary program open to all cannabis cultivators enrolled in Boulder County's Energy Impact Offset Fund program. This certification aims to encourage and reward organizations throughout their energy optimization journey.

The overarching goal of this certification is for organizations to create meaningful reductions in energy consumption and carbon emissions over a three-year period. Each year the certification criteria will become more stringent and energy efficient achievements based.

Year 1: The focus is on energy metrics and benchmarking along with energy policies and commitments.

Year 2: The focus will be on continual improvement and implementing an energy management system.

Year 3: The focus will be on participating in an established carbon offsetting program and demonstrating a reduction to a to-be-determined percentage of annual energy consumption.

Certifications will be awarded based on verified compliance with all Carbon Conscious standards. Each applicant will receive a certification handbook that will detail the requirements of each standard

Year 1

Carbon Conscious Standards

Low Carbon Energy Policy

1.0. The organization has a written energy conservation and carbon reduction policy.

1.1. The policy is specific to the organization's infrastructure, cultivation practices, and regional peak energy demand.

1.2. The policy identifies an administrator who is responsible for the organization's energy program.

1.3. The policy contains a commitment to reducing the organization's carbon footprint.

1.4. The policy contains a commitment to strive for continual improvement in energy management and energy efficiency.

1.5. The policy includes a commitment to limit the use of non-renewable energy sources.

1.6. The policy includes a commitment to seek incentives for measures that improve energy efficiency.

1.7. The organization has committed to ensuring energy efficiency considerations are included in the decision-making process for new equipment, or design and lay-out of new grow areas.

1.8. There is a clearly defined plan for the implementation, documentation, and timely maintenance of the policy.

Energy Use

2.0 The organization conducts an annual or bi-annual energy audit.

2.1. The organization has conducted an energy audit of the cultivation facility, using trained employees or an external consultant(s).

2.2. All energy sources at the cultivation facility are identified and recorded.

2.3. The organization has a complete list of all equipment used during cultivation and harvest.

2.4. An energy assessment of the lighting system has been conducted.

2.5. An energy assessment of the environmental control system has been conducted.

2.6. An energy assessment of the building envelop has been conducted.

2.7. Significant sources of energy consumption have been identified.

2.8. Energy efficiency and carbon reduction opportunities have been identified, including low-or not cost opportunities, as well as opportunities that require capital investment.

3.0 The organization has calculated its Baseline Productivity Metrics

3.1. Energy productivity metrics at the facility are documented.

3.2. Energy intensity metrics at the facility are documented.

3.3. Production intensity metrics at the facility are documented.

4.0 The organization has implemented an energy use tracking system.

4.1. The organization uses an energy metering system to monitors energy consumption on a continual basis.

5.0 The organization maintains efficient cultivation systems.

5.1. The organization has a facility maintenance plan.

5.2. Systems and equipment undergo maintenance to ensure operating efficiency.

Energy Improvements

6.0. The organization sets energy optimization goals.

6.1. The organization has set an energy use reduction target, based on energy productivity metrics or other metrics.

6.2. The management team has committed resources to implement recommendations from the energy assessment.

6.3. The organization has a phase-out plan for inefficient equipment.

Year 2

Low Carbon Energy Policy

1.0 . The organization has an updated written energy conservation and carbon reduction policy.

2.0 . The organization has a written energy efficient procurement policy.

Energy Use

3.0. The organization conducts an annual energy audit, using trained employees or an external consultant.

4.0. The organization has calculated Productivity Metrics.

5.0. The organization continues to use an energy use tracking system.

5.1. The organization reviews energy consumption data and energy productivity data on at least a monthly basis, to track progress towards energy goals.

6.0. The organization maintains efficient cultivation systems.

7.0. The organization implements a training program and sets organization goals that focus on behavioral changes to reduce energy consumption.

7.1. Organization provides documents ensuring all employees have learned and are utilizing the energy policy.

7.2. Training program and materials are developed and used.

7.3. Organization re-evaluates and updates their energy conservation goals to meet organization's needs and environmental benchmarks.

8.0. The organization has a written energy efficiency report.

Energy Improvements

9.0. The organization has reviewed and established new energy optimization goals.

10.0. The organization has implemented at least one energy efficiency measure recommended in the Energy Assessment.

Year 3

11.0. The organization participates in an established Carbon Offset program.

12.0. The organization demonstrates an improvement of x% productivity efficiency by either reducing energy consumption or increasing yields.