



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: August 9, 2010

To: Honorable Elizabeth Glidden, Chair - Regulatory, Energy & Environment Committee

Subject: **Revision - Indoor Space Temperature Policy**

Recommendation:
Adopt revised Indoor Space Temperature Policy

Previous Directives:

February 6, 2009 – Council adopts Indoor Space Temperature Policy for City-owned facilities, with a report back to the HE&E Committee.

Prepared by: Greg Goeke, Director of Property Services, 673-2706

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Greg Goeke, Director of Property Services
Alex Jackson, Fire Chief

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Approval	<u>NA</u>	Date
Civil Rights Approval	Approval	<u>NA</u>	Date
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval	<u>X</u>	Date <u>01/20/2009</u>

Financial Impact

No financial impact
Action is within the Business Plan

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: NA
City Goals: Enriched Environment
Comprehensive Plan: NA
Zoning Code: NA

Background/Supporting Information

The City of Minneapolis aspires to operate its facilities in an environmentally responsible manner. The Indoor Space Temperature Policy has been in effect since February 2009 and the policy's overall goal is to provide comfortable and functional work spaces within the City's facilities while continuing to reduce the use of natural resources and reduce the City's impact on the natural environment.

The intended outcomes are:

- a. Reduce the City's utility costs associated with heating and cooling.
- b. Reduce the City's our carbon footprint by using less energy produced by the burning of fossil fuel
- c. Reduce hard and soft costs associated with Indoor Air Quality complaints associated with space temperature.

The policy covers all the facilities owned and operated by the City of Minneapolis. This policy does not apply to the jointly owned City Hall/Courthouse (with Hennepin County) facility that is operated by the Municipal Building Commission.

Requested Modifications to the Policy

Overall operating departments and staff understand, support and abide by the policy and have given their best efforts to achieve the City's intended outcomes. Feedback from staff indicates that we have more difficulty providing reasonable comfort in the summer (i.e. cooling season) months and that we have unique needs in the Fire Stations that warrant changes to the current policy. Transition periods between heating and cooling are also very difficult to control humidity and comfort.

The City has a wide variety of buildings ranging from brand new to some that are over 100 years old. The newer facilities have heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems that are fully automated with computerized controls. These facilities have individual temperature control capacity for each room and are able to tightly control temperature and humidity. Older buildings are often controlled by a single pneumatic control for the entire facility (or a single control for an entire floor or large space). Similar to a house, these facilities have wide ranges in temperature (and humidity) from space to space and sometimes the difference is several degrees.

Summer Setpoint for General Office Spaces

Property Services is recommending the summer temperature setpoint for cooling be dropped from the current 76 degrees (Fahrenheit) to 75 degrees.. By doing so staff hopes to be able to provide a better level of comfort in the majority of the office spaces. This change would also bring the City into alignment with adopted policies for the State of Minnesota, Hennepin County, and the Municipal Building Commission.

Fire Stations

The Minneapolis Fire Department is requesting modifications to the current Indoor Space Temperature Policy. The current space temperature setpoints do not allow for the rapid cooling and warming of internal body temperatures needed to effectively recover from the extreme temperatures that fire fighters are exposed to while performing their services for the public. Additionally, strict compliance with the policy has become a morale issue for the staff. The Fire

Department has worked cooperatively with Property Services to operate within the current policy and have been meeting on a regular basis since inception to provide feedback and input on how to manage energy efficiently and still maintain a healthy environment for the Fire Department staff.

Property Services is recommending that the summer set point for cooling be modified from 78 degrees (Fahrenheit) to 74 degrees. Staff also is recommending that the winter setpoint be raised from 65 degrees to 68 degrees.

Additionally, the Fire Department would like to have the discretion to adjust space temperatures on a temporary basis during extreme weather conditions. The Director of Property Services and the Fire Chief would be tasked with defining appropriate parameters and operating procedures.

Attached is the current Indoor Space Temperature Policy including staff proposed changes as well as a supporting document from the Fire Department.

Attachments: Indoor Space Temperature Policy
Safe and Healthy Environment for Minneapolis Firefighters.

CC: Chris Larson
Gary Modlin