11 Energy Impacts

The consumption of energy by SCVC for controlling mosquitoes is relatively small, considered in the context of County-wide energy use. Energy will be consumed in transportation of personnel to various job sites for the purposes of education and outreach, mosquito surveillance, source control, and measuring the effects of any pesticide applications. Water management construction efforts tend to require the use of heavy equipment, with associated energy use. Pesticide applications require the use of machinery, and transport of the machinery in an appropriate fashion. Administration of the program will require meeting attendance, and, sometimes, travel.

Despite all of these uses of energy, in the context of major usages of energy, the program is a relatively de minimus energy consumer.

The No Mosquito Control alternative would use less energy, but the savings on a countywide basis would be virtually imperceptible.

The various IPM alternatives all tend to require slightly less energy consumption than a more active program would, but differences are small. It might even be argued that the net effect of some of the alternatives might be to indirectly require more energy use. For example, if less effective mosquito control ensues, and there are greater numbers of feeding mosquitoes (or more days with more aggressive mosquitoes present), then residents may be more inclined to stay inside with air conditioning running, leading to greater energy demands.

Absent firm, quantitative means to analyze these issues, it seems difficult to determine that any alternative to the Long-Term Plan would result in significantly different uses of energy in Suffolk County.

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