

## ***Addendum to Sustainability—Best Practices in Local Communities: Synthesis***

Prepared for  
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Transportation Synthesis Reports (TSRs) are brief summaries of currently available information on topics of interest to WSDOT staff. Online and print sources may include newspaper and periodical articles, NCHRP and other TRB programs, AASHTO, the research and practices of other state DOTs and related academic and industry research. Internet hyperlinks in the TSRs are active at the time of publication, but host server changes can make them obsolete.

### **Request for Synthesis**

Brian Smith, Director, WSDOT Strategic Planning Office, requested information on Best Practices in sustainability plans. This Synthesis focuses on examples of Sustainability Planning Guides and Plans—most from city and community plans throughout the country recognized for excellence in carrying out sustainability activities. This Synthesis is an update to [Sustainability and Transportation, Definitions and Relationship: Synthesis \(pdf 100 kb\), March 12, 2009](#).

### **Databases Searched:**

- TRIS Online
- Research in Progress
- Previous Synthesis Reports
- Google
- Wisconsin DOT Transportation Synthesis Reports
- FTA website
- FHWA website
- WSU College of Engineering

### **NYS DOT | products: Smart Growth and Transportation Planning** NYS DOT Website 2010

The Department's *Smart Planning Program* has developed a number of tools to help illustrate and examine the link between transportation and land use planning and to educate communities about Smart Growth.

The following Products are available:

#### **Introductory Module: Smart Growth & Transportation**

This PowerPoint presentation is designed to provide municipal planning and supervisory board members, municipal officials and the public with a general understanding of Smart Growth and its relationship to transportation. It illustrates the principles of Smart Growth, their significance and provides some basic tools.

<https://www.nysdot.gov/images/pdf.gif>

### **Smart Growth Checklist for Municipal Land Use Planning**

This is an easy-to-use tool for municipal planning staff and planning board members to determine how well the planning and decisions in your community follow the principles of Smart Growth.

<https://www.nysdot.gov/images/pdf.gif>

### **Smart Growth Checklist for Proposed Development Projects**

This is an easy-to-use tool for the community member to determine whether a proposed project is likely to contribute to the overall well-being of your community.

<https://www.nysdot.gov/images/pdf.gif>

<https://www.nysdot.gov/portal/page/portal/programs/smart-planning/products>

### **Measuring local sustainable development**

European Commission Website

Over 2000 European local authorities have signed the 1994 Aalborg Charter – committing themselves to implementing sustainable development practices in their communities. Since Aalborg, much has been achieved in local sustainability initiatives, but a lack of networking tools has often left local authorities to work in relative isolation, without benchmarks to compare progress. The new 'Local Evaluation 21' tool uses an on-line, multilingual database that allows local authorities to evaluate sustainable development processes in their own communities and to compare their own performances with other local authorities across Europe.

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/newsanddoc/article\\_1361\\_en.htm#1](http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/newsanddoc/article_1361_en.htm#1)

### **City of Fayetteville, NC, Sustainability Master Plan**

Prepared by Environmental Services Department – October 12, 2009

The City of Fayetteville Sustainability Master Plan is the result of the city's desire to become a leader in sustainability, particularly in North Carolina and the Southeast.

The plan addresses the broad definition of sustainability that incorporates the environment, social equity, and the economy. This approach is often referred to as the triple bottom line. Long term sustainability depends on a careful balancing of economic, social, and environmental goals and objectives. Proposed efforts had to take into account and benefit all three objectives. If a proposed activity did not meet all three objectives, it was not included. Local stakeholders requested that they develop their own definition of sustainability unique to the City of Fayetteville's cultural and regional characteristics.

Once drafted, the Sustainability Master Plan was reviewed internally and distributed to Departmental Managers and City Staff for their review and input. Comments were collected and then a revised version was distributed to the Mayor and City Council. The plan was then distributed to a group of key stakeholders, the Sustainability Task Force. The Task Force's stakeholders represented a wide variety of interests similar to those interviewed.

The Sustainability Task Force reviewed the plan in detail, deleted redundant goals, and edited added and deleted proposed efforts. Next, they prioritized each effort, dividing them into short, middle, and long term measures, and further prioritized the short term efforts. Finally, a glossary and a definition of sustainability were added.

The revised plan and outcomes of the stakeholder meetings were presented to the Mayor and City Council at the September 8, 2009 work session. The Council vote unanimously to continue the development of the plan.

The plan was posted on the City's website for review and comment. The City held four public meetings on September 22 24, 28, and 29 to solicit public comment. The plan was again revised based on the public input from these meetings.

The plan is scheduled to be presented for adoption by the City Council on October 12. Once adopted, it will be submitted the U.S. Department of Energy as part of the city EECBG grant proposal.

[http://www.ci.fayetteville.nc.us/files/37/sustainability\\_master\\_plan/entry3598.aspx](http://www.ci.fayetteville.nc.us/files/37/sustainability_master_plan/entry3598.aspx)

## **Fayetteville, Arkansas, Sustainable Fayetteville**

Fayetteville City Website – 2009

Moving Fayetteville Forward - Sustainably The City of Fayetteville defines "sustainability" as meeting the needs of the present without compromising future generations' abilities to meet their own needs. The City has identified six Areas of Emphasis to define and guide our efforts in 2009 and into the future.

### Community Participation & Advocacy

An active citizenry is essential to becoming a sustainable community. The City of Fayetteville encourages residents to participate in the process of governing through volunteering, speaking on important issues, or assisting in practical ways.

### Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem Services is an approach to natural resource management that focuses on sustaining ecosystems to meet both ecological and human needs in the future. Ecosystem management is adaptive to changing needs and new information. It promotes shared vision of a desired future by integrating social, environmental, and economic perspectives to managing geographically defined natural ecological systems.

Land Use and Planning Land Use and Planning is essential to achieving sustainable development in our growing community. City Plan 2025, Future Land Use Map, the Fayetteville Alternative Transportation and Trails Plan, and Parks and Recreation Master Plan are essential tools for staff and elected officials to develop a livable transportation network, make infill and revitalization the highest priority, discourage suburban sprawl, make traditional town form the standard, assemble an enduring green network and create attainable housing.

### Public Health

Public Health is at the core of City services and the incredible quality of life that exists in our community. The foundation of the City's effort lies in utilities such as solid waste, water, and wastewater. It also extends to the promotion of an active community through Parks, Recreation, and Community Spaces.

### Resource Efficiency and Conservation

Resource Efficiency and Conservation means fostering sustainable consumption and production by leading local efforts to ensure natural resources are produced, processed, and consumed in a more sustainable way. The City of Fayetteville strives to achieve this through management of daily operations, community programs, and economic development.

### Sustainable Economy

A Sustainable Economy marks a thriving climate for business that balances environmental, social, and economic vitality.

<http://www.accessfayetteville.org/government/sustainability/index.cfm>

## **Engagement for Sustainable Communities and Climate Change Online Conference**

Planetizen.com

APA On-Line Conference - March 24 & 25, 2010

Today the impacts of global warming are occurring at a faster rate than scientists anticipated and as a result, it is the most crucial public policy challenge facing communities around the world this decade. Planners in the U.S. and abroad seeking to engage the public in responding to this critical issue are invited to attend the Engagement for Sustainable Communities and Climate

Change Online Conference, scheduled for Wednesday, March 24 and Thursday, March 25. Registration is open to the public at <http://engmt4sust.ning.com/>.

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Sponsored by the American Planning Association's Public Engagement Interest Group and Public Decisions, this conference showcases engagement 'best practices' today in support of sustainability, specifically engagement in support of:

- a. Policymaking in support of sustainability (e.g., green building codes)
- b. Revamping existing plans (such as the re-tooling of comprehensive plans or other land use plans in response to climate change)
- c. The design or implementation of sustainability programs (for example, programs that create and monitor local sustainability indicators)
- d. Community programs that address individual and/or community-wide sustainable behaviors (such as community-wide alternative energy programs).

The Earthscan Keynote Address will be given by Elizabeth Malone, author of the book "Debating Climate Change" (Earthscan, 2009). The program includes webinar presentations from an array of practitioners around the globe on engagement related to sustainability and climate change and tours of locations in the virtual world Second Life used for engagement purposes. Registration also includes participation in virtual networking sessions each day, where participants can informally network with one another about topics of common interest.

All sessions have been submitted for AICP continuing education credits from the American Institute for Certified Planners. Registration is \$25 USD per session or \$99 USD for the entire two-day conference. Full-time students/faculty members can register for \$49 USD. <http://www.planetizen.com/node/43068>

### **Sustainable Business Design: ICLEI Launches Sustainability Planning Toolkit to Accelerate Movement of Sustainable Cities and Counties**

Sustainable business design Blog – February 2010

A new Sustainability Planning Toolkit released by ICLEI-Local Governments for sustainability USA establishes for the first time the best practices to develop a local sustainability plan. This toolkit fills a major need: Across the United States, a rapidly growing number of cities, towns, and countries are eager to create sustainability plans or expand the scope of existing plans, but find the task daunting and disorganized, and lacking standardized methods and metrics.

With ICLEI's toolkit, jurisdictions of all sizes can now follow a proven, straightforward, and flexible process to create long-term sustainability plans that bring together their individual environmental, economic, and social initiatives under one holistic vision.

<http://sustainablebusinessdesign.blogspot.com/2010/02/iclei-launches-sustainability-planning.html>

### **Sustainable Cities Institute**

Home Depot Foundation Website

Since the inception of The Home Depot Foundation, we have worked to support efforts in environmental stewardship initiatives and provide proactive solutions to helping create healthy

“green” communities. The desire to support healthy family and community life has inspired us to look at how we can help cities move more quickly toward sustainability. In addition, the economic and environmental case for green building is driving rapid change and demand for real-time information and access to practical expertise. In response, the Foundation has refined the focus of our efforts with a new program, Sustainable Community Development. The cornerstone of this new program is the Sustainable Cities Institute (SCI).

The Home Depot Foundation’s Awards of Excellence for Sustainable Community Development recognizes public-private partnerships that have successfully developed projects and/or initiatives that promote and exemplify a more sustainable community. Truly sustainable projects take a holistic, integrated approach, whereby sustainability planning, affordable housing and the creation of green spaces and planting of trees are inextricably linked.

Projects that qualify for the Awards of Excellence in Sustainable Community Development program exhibit thoughtful construction of a neighborhood which includes green affordable housing and tree plantings and have gone beyond to address overarching community issues. These projects have contributed to creating a stronger connection among the residents and addressed many of the broad scale issues as listed below:

- treatment of storm water
- economic development
- reducing urban heat island effect
- disaster preparedness
- carbon reduction strategies
- abandoned and foreclosed properties
- pedestrian friendliness
- traffic calming
- transit oriented development
- resident health and quality of life and/or other overarching community issues

**Award Categories:**

The Awards of Excellence go to both the cities and their non-profit partners representing the partnership that completed the local initiative. The Foundation will recognize a National Winner, National Runner-up and up to three Honorable Mentions, including providing grants outlined below to the City’s non-profit partner in each winning project:

National Winner - \$75,000 grant

National Runner-up - \$25,000 grant

Honorable Mention - \$2,500 grant

The grants are to be used at the discretion of the non-profit to further the sustainability goals of the community.

**Award Criteria:**

Applications are evaluated based on how well the projects or initiatives meet the following criteria in three categories:

Overarching Sustainability:

Demonstrates superior strategic thinking about goals and outcomes of the neighborhood project/initiative as it relates to the city’s overall Sustainability Plan

Demonstrates success in public-private partnership in which leadership is shared

Quantifies positive impact on livability and economic viability of the community

Achieves sustained and varied involvement by diverse members of the community

Environmental Sustainability:

Utilizes sustainable design and construction practices in the production/preservation of the built environment with a particular focus on affordable housing and resident health

Quantifies how the project reduces the environmental footprint of the community

Enhances walk-ability, bicycling and mass transit access for the community  
Reduces waste significantly and demonstrates leadership in recycling practices

Green Infrastructure:

- Effectively demonstrates the economic, social, health and recreational value of green spaces and trees
- Restores the overall local ecosystem health through remediation measures (i.e. storm water management, reduction in heat island effect, habitat creation, etc.)
- Demonstrates leadership in the use of emerging green infrastructure know-how and technology. Serves as a source of ongoing outreach, community-building and education.

<http://www.homedepotfoundation.org/sustainablecitiesinstitute/index.html>

**Winners in Home Depot Sustainable Cities**

GoGreenToolshed.com 2009

Many cities across the country are finding successful ways of dealing with the financial, social and environmental issues facing them through thoughtful design, land use and building, resulting in the construction of healthy, safe neighborhoods that families can afford to live in over the long term, said Kelly Caffarelli, president of the Home Depot Foundation. We hope that identifying, recognizing and showcasing these success stories will offer insight, inspiration and a roadmap for other cities to follow as they develop and implement sustainability plans for their communities.

Drawn from projects submitted by cities across the country, the award recipients were selected based on a number of criteria, including comprehensive sustainability, environmental sustainability, and green infrastructure, as well as how well they met the needs of the local community while maintaining affordability for the residents. An advisory committee of experts from a variety of organizations representing a diversity of interests including municipalities, affordable housing, community development, building sciences and the environment participated in the selection process. The committee included representatives of 360GREEN, inc., Global Green USA, Enterprise Community Partners, inc., Forest Stewardship Council-US, Housing assistance Council, Jay Hall and Associates, inc., Mercy Housing Lakefront, Southface, US Green Building Council, the Noisette Company, LLC, City of Atlanta Office of Sustainability, National League of Cities, and the Madison Area Community Land Trust.

Minneapolis, MN and Aeon

The City of Minneapolis has titled its Comprehensive Plan as the Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth, making it clear that sustainability will be considered with all decisions, not as an afterthought. The plan includes green policies and implementation guidelines that are incorporated when managing a particular issue, such as land use, housing, or transportation.

The city has also established 25 sustainability indicators to track its progress, each with specific targets and incentives for achieving those targets. Key elements of the sustainability plan include: reducing the carbon footprint by 12% by 2012; cleaning up 100 brownfield sites from 2004 to 2014; ending homelessness by 2016; and increasing the percentage of people who enter the city via alternative transportation (bus, light rail, bicycle, walking, carpooling) from 55% in 2003 to 67% in 2013.

Minneapolis Ripley Gardens, developed by Aeon, was recognized as a best-in-class example of the successful completion of a sustainable community. Using the historic Ripley Memorial Hospital and planning to add three additional buildings, the project team created plans for a residential development focused on historic preservation, energy efficiency, and sustainability. The site is accessible to transit, jobs in the downtown area and bike trails and contains one acre of greenspace that includes a playground and a community garden. The project boasts green and efficient building and maintenance practices and meets the MN Green Communities standards.

### North Charleston, SC and the Sustainability Institute

In the early 2000s, North Charleston faced many challenges, including the closing of a major naval base. The city struggled as residents moved to the surrounding suburbs leaving vacant homes, a low home ownership rate, and impoverished neighborhoods. In 2008, the city revised its Comprehensive Plan and included sustainability as a goal. The plan's key priorities included: reducing blight and the amount of abandoned properties; reducing stormwater runoff and non-point source pollution; promoting ecological awareness; providing a safe environment for pedestrians and bicyclists; increasing the amount of active and passive park space; and providing education and training for residents to create workforce skills to support new business and industry.

Oak Terrace Preserve is a role model for the successful completion of a sustainable community. Originally built as temporary housing for World War II shipyard workers, Oak Terrace Preserve was a vibrant community. By 2000, the homes were in major disrepair and the area was not healthy to live in. The city purchased the land, with a vision to transform it into a sustainable, attractive community. Today, it exemplifies best practices in housing, natural resources and land use and development. It includes bioswales, rain gardens, pervious paving in alleys and flexi-pave sidewalks. The community layout encourages community interactions and all 55 homes on the property achieved EarthCraft certification.

Full case studies and videos on each winner are available at the Home Depot Foundation's web site. <http://www.homedepotfoundation.org/sustainablecitiesinstitute/index.html> and the Go To Green Toolshed website

<http://www.gogreentoolshed.com/the-home-depot-foundation-announces-winners-of-awards-of-excellence-for>

### **The Sustainable Communities Awards Program**

National Association of Counties Organization Website - 2007

The Sustainable Communities Awards Program recognizes outstanding urban, suburban, and rural counties whose innovative collaborations are leading the effort to create sustainable communities through economic enhancement, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility. The first Awards Program took place in 1999 and with the exception of 2003 has occurred every two years since then. Applications are currently being accepted for 2007.

2007 Winners:

Boulder County, CO. *Boulder County "Super IGA"*

Charleston County, SC. *Charleston County Area, SC Project Impact Partnership*

Franklin, Granville, Vance and Warren Counties, NC. *Kerr-Tarr Regional Economic Development Corporation*

Gwinnett County, GA. *The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center*

Harford, Cecil and Baltimore Counties, MD. *Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor*

Lake County, IL. *Rt. 173/I-94 Intergovernmental Agreement*

Louisville-Jefferson County, KY. *The Partnership for a Green City*

Morrow County, OH. *Wheels to Work*

Prince George's County, MD. *Low Impact Development/Green Highway Programs*

Woodbury County, IA. *Comprehensive Local Foods Systems Project*

[http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=New\\_Technical\\_Assistance&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=18552](http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=New_Technical_Assistance&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=18552)

### **Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Local Action Plan to Reduce Emissions**

City of Winston-Salem – August 2008

### Executive Summary

In May of 2007, Winston-Salem City Council adopted a resolution supporting the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement with the following specific commitments:

- The City of Winston-Salem is committed to the long-range goal of stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, and will do its part to achieve that goal.
- An interdepartmental task force will be established to conduct an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions during fiscal year 2008 and develop an action plan for proposed implementation of the Climate Protection Plan.
- The City will join the membership of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives ('ICLEI', now called ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability) to facilitate the efficient and effective planning of the greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

The City joined ICLEI and began implementing the five milestone process outlined by ICLEI to reduce green house gas emissions. The ICLEI Five Milestone process is:

Milestone 1: Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast.

Milestone 2: Adopt an emissions reduction target.

Milestone 3: Develop a Local Action Plan.

Milestone 4: Implement Policies and Measures.

Milestone 5: Monitor and verify results.

The year 2000 was chosen as a baseline year for measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels for this study, with FY06 chosen as the interim year for comparison purposes. Although this process applies to the City of Winston-Salem, the most reliable data is available by county; therefore, the community information is based on data for Forsyth County and, where applicable, is referred to in the report as "Winston-Salem Community" information. Greenhouse gas emissions were estimated as "carbon dioxide equivalents" (CO<sub>2</sub>e) using the current ICLEI protocol. This protocol is in the process of being amended and a new protocol (i.e. multipliers) for calculating CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions may cause significant changes in future CO<sub>2</sub>e values. However, the community's historical energy use data will not change so historical CO<sub>2</sub>e values could be easily recalculated as required by future protocols.

[http://www.cityofws.org/Assets/CityOfWS/Documents/Green/GreenhouseGasInventoryRecommended\\_www.pdf](http://www.cityofws.org/Assets/CityOfWS/Documents/Green/GreenhouseGasInventoryRecommended_www.pdf)

### **Sustainability Strategies**

Juniper Ridge Master Plan

City of Bend Oregon – July, 2008

The City of Bend is committed to developing Juniper Ridge in a sustainable way. To ensure that this is achieved, the program selection and design process have been underpinned with sustainable thinking and captured in a flexible framework that brings all aspects of the project together and identifies strategies for delivering a truly sustainable project.

Sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundland Commission, 1987).

For urban development, this typically requires:

- Attention to the quality of life and opportunities presented in urban environments
- Conservation and minimization of the depletion of non-renewable resources
- A merging of economic decisions with those related to the environment
- A strong consideration of the needs of future generations (based on Agenda 21 and UN Sustainable Cities Program)

To translate these ideals into real development, all aspects of a project need to be considered from an early stage. This holistic approach is often referred to as the "triple bottom line" of

sustainability, considering the environment, the community benefits, and the economic vitality of a project from conception through build out and continuing through its whole life.

To focus minds, a framework is constructed that considers how sustainability can be incorporated into a complete range of development issues. These include the use of land and site planning, the movement of people and goods, the use of energy, water and materials, the impacts on local and regional economies, the creation of community and other social impacts. These are organized into focus areas along with any project specific issues. Overall goals are established for each focus area and strategies are then developed with appropriate targets aimed ultimately at achieving or exceeding the goals.

[http://www.ci.bend.or.us/depts/urban\\_renewal\\_economic\\_development/juniper\\_ridge/master\\_plan/docs/06072\\_Master\\_Plan\\_7\\_0.pdf](http://www.ci.bend.or.us/depts/urban_renewal_economic_development/juniper_ridge/master_plan/docs/06072_Master_Plan_7_0.pdf)

## **The Baltimore Sustainability Plan**

City of Baltimore - April 2009

### Executive Summary

Sustainability, meeting the current environmental, social, and economic needs of our community without compromising the ability of future generations to meet these needs, represents a desire to pass on a world that is as good as, if not better than, we found it for our children and our children's children.

Recent economic, political, and cultural realities have prompted many cities, companies, and individuals to assess and reconsider their plans for long-term sustainability. The seriousness of climate change threats have never been more evident, demand for natural resources continues to escalate, and hopes for reigniting economic growth rest on investments in the emerging green economy. Recently ranked among the top ten most sustainable cities in the nation, Baltimore offers immense opportunity for sustainable living and development by virtue of its population density, significant public infrastructure, and large, diverse stock of existing buildings. By improving Baltimore's ability to offer healthy air and water, varied transportation options, job opportunities with good growth potential, and clean, safe recreational spaces, sustainable planning can help Baltimore attract and retain more residents, businesses, and investment. The Baltimore Sustainability Plan is designed as a resource to aid these efforts.

In early 2008, Mayor Sheila Dixon swore in the 21- member Commission on Sustainability representing community organizations, local non-profits, labor, private industry, local institutions, and City government. The Commission held its first official meeting in May of 2008 where it committed to public involvement by establishing three guiding principles – engagement, inclusiveness, and translation. The Commission created working groups, community conversations, a youth strategy, and a sustainability forum to reach people from all sections and backgrounds of the Baltimore community. The Sustainability Plan's public engagement process, which ultimately engaged over 1,000 citizens over an eight month period, gathered and analyzed ideas, studied best practices, and developed aspirations for a more sustainable city.

The resulting Plan lays out a broad, inclusive, and community-responsive sustainability agenda to complement Baltimore's existing Comprehensive Master Plan. The development of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan represents a crucial step in moving this agenda forward, but it will take the creativity, commitment, and participation of the entire Baltimore community to realize its potential. The Sustainability Plan lays out 29 priority goals within seven theme chapters: Cleanliness, Pollution Prevention, Resource Conservation, Greening, Transportation, Education & Awareness, and Green Economy. Each of the 29 goals is accompanied by a set of recommended strategies. Some of the goals set very specific targets and ambitious time frames within strategies, while metrics for other goals are still under development.

The Cleanliness chapter includes goals addressing litter, maintenance, and vacant lots, recognizing that the upkeep of a city acts as an indicator of its overall health. Goals in the Pollution Prevention chapter directly address public health with a focus on greenhouse gas

emissions, air quality, water quality, hazardous materials, and health of indoor environments. The Resource Conservation chapter addresses the efficient use of energy, water, and materials. The Greening chapter underscores the importance of the City's living infrastructure with goals targeting trees, sustainable food systems, recreational space, and ecological health. Transportation goals offer ways to reduce dependence on automobiles through improving public transportation, making Baltimore more bicycle and pedestrian friendly, facilitating shared vehicle usage, improving transportation equity, and increasing funding for sustainable transportation. Goals in the Education & Awareness chapter address green schools, youth involvement, community environmental awareness, and informational resources. The final chapter, Green Economy, articulates goals around creating and training for green jobs, supporting green and local business and increasing Baltimore's "green" profile nationally.

Every citizen, community organization, business, and institution can play a role in making the vision of a thriving, sustainable Baltimore a reality. The Baltimore Office of Sustainability will monitor the progress made on the Plan goals and produce annual reports for the community. This progress report will allow us to check in, renew our commitment, and celebrate our successes together as a community.

<http://www.baltimorecity.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=DtRcjL%2f1BcE%3d&tabid=128>

### **Sustainable Action Plan for county Operations** Pima County Sustainability Program - August 2008

This plan represents a systematic approach to integrating the goals of sustainability into virtually all facets of the way Pima County government operates—from the cars we drive, to the energy and water we consume, to the construction of our buildings, to the products we purchase, to the way in which we view and handle our "used" materials.

For the last several months, we have asked employees throughout our organization to examine our existing sustainability "success stories," and then identify ways in which the County can build upon, and enhance, our sustainable practices. The Board of Supervisors provided the inspiration and direction for this planning effort with their unanimous adoption of Resolution No. 2007-84 on May 1, 2007. The resolution establishes a far-reaching set of sustainability initiatives, many of which set specific goals for the way Pima County departments operate – like shifting at least half of our fleet vehicles to more environmentally-friendly fuels by 2010; powering our facilities with at least 15% renewable energy by 2025; and building all new County-funded facilities to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver standards.

The outcome is this "Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations," which recommends specific actions for enhancing County performance in the following seven areas: Water Conservation and Management, Green Building, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Alternative Fuel Vehicles, Green Purchasing, Waste Reduction, and Land Conservation and Management. Each chapter of the plan is devoted to a separate topic area, and includes the following key components: Sustainability Goals, Guiding Principles, Five-Year Action Plan, Success Indicators, and Current Sustainability Successes.

The Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations is intended to be an adaptive plan that will be responsive to new ideas, technologies, partnerships, and shifts in available resources, with the goal of every new adaptation taking us down an even BETTER and MORE SUSTAINABLE path. Major updates will be conducted every five years, with smaller adjustments occurring as needed, based on the results of an ongoing monitoring and evaluation program.

<http://www.pima.gov/sustainable/aug08actionplan-1.pdf>

### **100 year sustainability vision**

Prepared by the Design Centre for Sustainability for North Vancouver - May 2009

Authors: Patrick Condon, Sara Muir Owen, Nicole Miller with Richard White and Suzanne Smith and assistance from Jackie Teed - Graphic layout by Inna Olchovski and Sara Fryer

Over 100 years ago, the North Vancouver Land and Improvement Company outlined their expectations to develop the City of North Vancouver as a highly livable, urban municipality. In a 1908 brochure the Company announced: “efforts have been made to plan the original town site so as to secure permanently the greatest physical good to the community at large.” As a result of these early planning efforts, the then budding Lower Lonsdale town centre—planned around a “quadrangle of boulevards” with traditional streetcars—became known as “The Ambitious City.”

True to The Ambitious City’s origins, the City’s first Official Community Plan (1980) placed an emphasis on quality of life considerations above others and sought to create a diverse, healthy, and livable community. Metro Vancouver recognized the renewed strength and vitality of Lower Lonsdale by designating it as a Regional Town Centre in the 1996 Livable Region Strategic Plan. In 2002, the City updated its OCP around the theme of sustainability, creating a far more comprehensive plan than a traditional land use document that included an innovative OCP Targets, Indicators, and Monitoring System (TIMS) to track its implementation. In 2005, the City received the annual Energy Aware Award, recognizing the City’s outstanding efforts to reduce greenhouse gases through its comprehensive Greenhouse Gas Action Plan. In 2007, the Province of BC awarded the City the inaugural Green City Award for progress made towards a complete, compact community as outlined in its OCP.

The City has been an active advocate of working towards the region’s Livable Region Strategic Plan goals. The city’s topographic character and relatively small land base results in a more compact urban form than found in other Metro Vancouver municipalities. As a result, the city has higher residential densities and a lower proportion of single-family residential development than other communities in the region. Furthermore, it has one of the lowest rates of car use in Metro Vancouver.

<http://www.cnv.org/c/data/3/541/100%20Year%20Sustainability%20Vision.pdf>

## **Oregon Department of Transportation Sustainability Plan**

ODOT – March 2004

### Introduction

Transportation’s role in the state’s economy cannot be understated. A vital multimodal transportation system, including air, water, and land, is a key component to sustained economic development. Our transportation system of air, water, rail, and highways allows our economic engine to run. The transportation system provides access to work, mobility for freight and connectivity between communities. This is true at the local level as well as at national and international levels. Oregon is a gateway to the world, as well as a gateway to the United States for inbound passengers and goods.

In addition to providing connectivity, the Oregon Department of Transportation is putting people back to work with the Oregon Transportation Investment Act III, a \$2.5 billion funding package for roads and bridges. On average, every \$1 million in transportation construction supports 19 family wage jobs. That means the 10-year construction phase of OTIA III will sustain 4,750 jobs per year. When added to the existing construction volume funded through other sources, Oregon will spend \$4.78 billion in the next 10 years on highway construction, supporting almost 9,000 jobs in the private and public sectors.

ODOT has long sought to address social, economic and community needs. ODOT’s mission is “to provide a safe, efficient transportation system that supports economic opportunity and livable communities for Oregonians.” The department’s Strategic Direction has established three high-level goals: improve safety, move people and goods efficiently, and improve Oregon’s livability and economic prosperity. Through this strategic direction, the following goals and outcomes were developed and have been instituted throughout the department. All are consistent with sustainability considerations.

Specifically, in the vision for Goal 2, the agency includes serving all segments of society while supporting the movements of goods and people by the most cost-effective mode and maintaining the infrastructure in its most cost-effective state. Goal 3's vision is to improve Oregon's livability and prosperity through working with local communities to ensure that the transportation infrastructure contributes to livable communities. This includes economic opportunity, transportation alternatives and projects that minimize negative impacts and, where possible, contribute to the restoration of natural areas.

[http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/docs/ODOT\\_Sustainability\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/docs/ODOT_Sustainability_Plan.pdf)

### **Portland Development Commission 2010 Sustainability Plan**

Portland Development Commission – 2010

One goal of the Portland Development Commission (PDC) is to make Portland the nation's most sustainable city. It is a lofty goal but one that Portland has been working towards for decades and today is more than ever poised to achieve. PDC views the sustainability plan as part of the process that will help achieve that goal.

PDC's 2010 sustainability plan identifies the projects, project completion target phases, related PDC plans, staff leads and the partner organizations that PDC will collaborate with to make progress on the projects and tasks outlined.

For the first time, PDC has added to the plan a basic sustainability ranking section to begin evaluating the extent or degree of sustainability each project represents. For the purposes of this plan, each project is "ranked" by the number of sustainability factors it targets or intends to achieve. There are 21 sustainability elements categorized under three areas: environment, equity, and economy. Examples of these elements include LEED building certification, green affordable housing and long-term jobs creation in clean tech and sustainable industries. This approach involves checking all of the 21 elements that are targeted by the project. PDC intends to continue refining this process over time.

[http://www.pdc.us/pubs/inv\\_detail.asp?id=923&ty=23](http://www.pdc.us/pubs/inv_detail.asp?id=923&ty=23)

### **PlaNYC Progress Report 2009**

The City of New York City – 2009

#### Introduction

On Earth Day 2007, we put forward PlaNYC, a long-term vision for a sustainable New York City. Each of its initiatives was based on our belief that sustainability isn't about being "green" because it's in fashion; rather, it's about making the right long-term decisions that will improve our economy, our environment, and our quality of life – all at the same time. I'm proud that PlaNYC has gained tremendous attention and has been acknowledged around the world as one of the most ambitious – and most pragmatic – sustainability plans anywhere.

But PlaNYC wasn't just a vision, or a report that has collected dust. In just two years, we've made real progress toward our sustainability goals. Since April 2007, we have greened more than 15% of the city's taxi fleet – improving our air quality and reducing our carbon footprint. Our city's children have 91 more places to play through our Schoolyards to Playgrounds initiative. We have planted nearly 200,000 trees across the five boroughs, starting in neighborhoods with high asthma rates like Far Rockaway and the South Bronx. We have increased the energy efficiency of dozens of city buildings and worked with New York's leading universities and theaters to help them do so as well. And we are working to ensure that all of New York's buildings are as energy efficient as they can be. We also continue to work with State and Federal officials to ensure that they do their parts – because, as PlaNYC noted, the City cannot do the job alone.

We have reached several major milestones this year. For instance, our Sustainable Stormwater Management Plan was the most comprehensive analysis of how we can use natural methods to keep our waterways clean – and we have already begun 20 pilot projects to test its

recommendations. To ensure that the work we are doing becomes a permanent feature of municipal government, we worked with the City Council to pass a law officially establishing the Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability. The law also mandates progress reports like this one as well as the set of online sustainability indicators we will release today. We established our new Office of Environmental Remediation to manage brownfield policy. Our first annual greenhouse gas inventory showed a 2.5% reduction in citywide emissions, an encouraging start. <http://www.nyc.gov/html/planyc2030/html/home/home.shtml>

### **The Sustainability Initiative**

City of Minneapolis Website – 2010

To set a road map for making Minneapolis truly sustainable, the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor Rybak started integrating sustainability principles into City decision making. The Sustainability Initiative was formulated to spur action, track results and better coordinate activities throughout the City. Here is an overview of some key City Council actions:

**2003:** In 2003, the Minneapolis City Council adopted [Resolution 2003R-133](#) (PDF) which initiated the development of the Minneapolis Sustainability Program and the use of sustainability principles to guide City decision making. The resolution created a process in which Minneapolis could truly become a sustainable city and define methods with which to measure itself.

**2004:** Two public roundtable meetings were held which involved approximately 100 residents and professionals expressing a 50-year vision for the City's future, drafted a series of sustainability initiatives.

**2005:** In 2005, the Minneapolis City Council passed Resolutions [2005R-251](#) (PDF) and [2005R-252](#) (PDF) that amended the City's Comprehensive Plan to include sustainability, adopted key indicators, required every department to incorporate the indicators into their business planning process and directed an annual reporting mechanism outlining progress.

[Key players](#) in developing and implementing the indicators were the [Minneapolis Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee](#) and the [City's Environmental Coordinating Team](#).

**2006:** In 2006, the City Council adopted [six city-wide goals](#) in which sustainability is woven throughout. The goal "Enriched Environment" specifically outlines fully implementing the City Sustainability Initiative.

The Minneapolis City Council formed a new Committee – [the Health Energy and Environment Committee](#) in order to provide a stronger sustainability focus.

The City Council also directed staff to add a new Air Quality focus for a total of 24 Sustainability Indicators; adopted ten-year numerical targets for most of the Indicators; and added annual reporting information on geographic and racial breakdowns for some of the Indicators. The sustainability targets set quantifiable performance goals and measure real progress through historical trend analysis. See Sustainability Indicators.

Also in 2006, the first [Minneapolis Sustainability Annual Report](#) was released introducing the indicators, providing baseline information and highlighting 2005 activities for each of the [indicators](#). This report will be updated annually.

**2007:** Integrating the Sustainability Program into each of the City departments' business plans is critical to the success of the program. In Minneapolis, each City department is required to have a [City Council approved business plan](#). Starting in 2006 and completing in 2007, each of the 18 city departments reviewed the Sustainability Indicators, assessed their challenges and opportunities to influence the Indicators and outlined their implementation plan.

**2008:** The City Council directed adding a new Sustainability Indicator focused on Green Jobs as a follow up to the "Making it Green Minneapolis Saint Paul Report" [Making It Green Report 2008](#). "Making it Green" is an initiative of Mayor R.T. Rybak in Minneapolis and Mayor Christopher B.

Coleman in Saint Paul with the Blue-Green Alliance, a national partnership of the Sierra Club and the United Steel Workers, based in the belief that investments in solving critical environmental challenges, such as global warming, represent strategic economic opportunities for the future. The City produced its third annual [Living Well Sustainability Report](#) and [GreenPrint Report](#). <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/background.asp>

### **Chicago Climate Action Plan**

Chicago Climate Action Website – 2010

#### **What is the Chicago Climate Action Plan?**

From the start, the charge and scope of the Chicago Climate Task Force was broad and ambitious. Dozens of experts and a nationally recognized research advisor committee took part in discussions. Leading scientists were consulted to describe various scenarios for Chicago's climate future and how these would impact life in the city.

#### **The results of the research are both serious and encouraging.**

They clearly demonstrate that our current trajectory poses risks to our economy and health.

**Every Chicago resident and business has a role to play in implementing the Chicago Climate Action Plan**, which will not only ensure a more livable climate for the world, but also for the city. The economy and quality of life could improve. Jobs could be created. New technologies will emerge.

#### **The Chicago Climate Action Plan Outlines Five Strategies:**

- [Energy Efficient Buildings](#)
- [Clean & Renewable Energy Sources](#)
- [Improved Transportation Options](#)
- [Reduced Waste & Industrial Pollution](#)
- [Adaptation](#)

The Chicago Climate Action Plan details steps for organizations of all kinds and suggests actions for every individual. As new technologies and options emerge, actions may change. **The goal, however, remains the same: to reduce our emissions and prepare for change.**

<http://www.chicagoclimateaction.org/>

### **GreenPrint -- Our Design for a Sustainable Future**

Miami-Dade County Website – 2010

Miami-Dade County is America's most vulnerable community to climate change. While the County has made great strides in moving toward a resilient and sustainable future, now it's time to focus on how to effectively achieve our aggressive energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

GreenPrint -- Our Design for a Sustainable Future is being developed by Miami-Dade County to serve as an overarching sustainability plan to reaffirm, establish and synchronize our government and community goals, initiatives and measures.

The planning process is comprised of [ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability's five key milestones](#), which will help us evaluate and integrate the environmental, social, and economic benefits in the policy decisions we make, the programs and initiatives we implement, and the services we deliver.

GreenPrint will integrate with existing County efforts and additional community plans. It will leverage present sustainability goals and initiatives and develop new ones where needed. A central component of GreenPrint is the measures and targets associated with each initiative.

For years the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners and County departments have been implementing policies and initiatives to address climate change and other important sustainability

issues. Now is the time to elevate and intensify our efforts, better coordinate our plans and resources and raise awareness in our community for a sustainable future.

GreenPrint will be the framework to evaluate and integrate environmental, social, and economic benefits in the policy decisions we make, programs and initiatives we implement and services Miami-Dade County delivers.

We welcome you to submit [feedback](#) about GreenPrint and suggestions on how Miami-Dade County can build a more sustainable community.

<http://www.miamidade.gov/greenprint/>

### **Sustainability Plan**

San Francisco Sustainability City Website - 2010

Sustainability is a word you have to spell to people over the phone. How can there be a community plan based on a word that is not in common use? While the word itself has not yet come into the vernacular, the idea it represents encompasses an urgent need, recognized by a growing number of people around the globe, to provide for a positive common future. This sustainability plan has come into being because many people in San Francisco are convinced that there is both a self-interested and an ethical obligation to live in a way that considers the rights to livelihood of future generations and of the other living beings on this planet.

<http://www.sustainable-city.org/Plan/Intro/intro.htm>

### **Sustainable Santa Fe Plan**

Building a More Sustainable Future by Looking to the Past - October 29, 2008

Sustainability can be defined as taking care of the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations. It also can be defined as the intersection between three principals; environmental stewardship, economic health; and social justice.

This plan acknowledges all three of these principles by incorporating values beyond just the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Plans that have been prepared for other communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions typically begin with an analysis of the sources of such emissions within the community. An analysis of the municipal operations has been completed; however, that information is not yet available for the larger Santa Fe community.

This plan was, therefore, prepared based on assumptions about the greenhouse gas emission characteristics of Santa Fe. Once the existing emissions inventory is complete, the implementation of the plan will be revisited to see if adjustments to the priorities are warranted.

This plan addresses more than just greenhouse gas emissions. It looks to the history and culture of Santa Fe and incorporates other values of this community. By doing this, it takes a plan that would normally have a single focus and uses it as a catalyst to promote "community sustainability" by also considering other social and economic goals. It attempts to distribute the benefits and costs of moving towards sustainability in an equitable way.

In addition to looking at how the City of Santa Fe can reduce its contribution to GHG emissions, this plan addresses how the City can prepare to be more resilient to respond to the impacts of global warming on the community. This plan anticipates the effects of higher fuel prices and possible reductions in the availability of potable water that are expected in the coming years.

This plan draws from other studies that have been conducted by the City as well as the initiatives and priorities included in the City Council Strategic Plan. This plan is consistent with the City's Economic Development Strategy<sup>1</sup> which calls for Santa Fe to become the "clean energy capital of the U.S." along with attracting and developing associated small businesses in the City.

This plan is also consistent with the goals of providing good jobs and workforce development and education. Each of these goals speaks to the value of making Santa Fe more economically healthy, with an eye towards providing employment opportunities for the young people growing up here, so they can stay here.

The first City Council Strategic Plan initiative is to “Support Sustainable Development and a Green City.” The priorities for this initiative that are consistent with this plan include:

- Adopt and enforce land use codes and policies that promote sustainable, energy-efficient, carbon neutral development.
- Provide for alternatives to the automobiles.
- Keep neighborhoods livable and protect rural areas from sprawl.
- Provide economic opportunity throughout the city.
- Restore and maintain watershed conditions that provide for healthy parks and open spaces, better management of storm water from all hard surfaces, water harvesting at every opportunity, and an living river system to include the Santa Fe River, and its tributaries and associated uplands.
- Implement a smart growth strategy for Santa Fe, including a water acquisition plan through 2040.

Other initiatives that this plan is consistent with include:

- Work towards a Unified Santa Fe
- Ensure Future for Youth
- Provide for a Safe Community
- Celebrate and Preserve Santa Fe’s History, Culture and People
- Embrace Technology

<http://www.santafenm.gov/index.aspx?NID=685>

### **City of Rockford Sustainability Plan**

City of Rockford - August 2009

Many cities have established sustainability plans in recent years, as a result of economic, environmental and social trends. The City of Rockford has always been committed to the health, wellbeing, and prosperity of both its public and environment. Rockford’s Sustainability Plan expands upon its Master Plan and existing practices to further the City’s sustainability and development.

The purpose of the Sustainability Plan is to create an open, transparent and participatory dialogue between the City, community members, business members, and other key area partners concerning the City’s commitment and process to implement factors related to the triple bottom line: economic, environmental and social. The success of our city rests in the coordination and cooperation between public, private, and nonprofit organizations, and community members. By implementing sustainable practices, the City will improve the community’s quality of life, and work to retain and attract more residents and businesses.

The City invites all residents to join in the effort to act in an environmentally friendly, yet efficient manner to limit environmental impact and increase economic development to maintain our thriving community for future generations to enjoy.

<http://rockford.mi.us/pages/images/news/Sustainability-Publish.pdf>

### **City of Aurora Sustainability Plan**

A long-range plan for enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations of Aurorans through sustainable practices. - 2009

What is sustainability? Sustainability is the ability to meet our needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. The intent of the City of Aurora Sustainability Plan is to

improve the quality of life for present and future Aurorans by considering the long-term significance of our everyday decisions. At this point in time (2009) Aurora has grown to 46 square miles and over an estimated 182,000 residents.

The health, safety, and general welfare of Aurora's inhabitants and habitats are essential to maintaining our high quality of life. To take a comprehensive approach to sustainability, this plan identifies goals in the following areas: Community Development and Land Use, Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy Efficiency and Green Buildings, Waste and Food Residuals, Water Quality and Conservation, Education and Engagement.

The purpose of this plan is to identify Focus Areas and Goals that the City can use as a framework for making educated decisions based on resource conservation and life cycle costs. A true plan for sustainability cannot be short-term; it should be a leap forward towards a long-term and multigenerational plan of responsible action.

[http://www.aurora-il.org/documents/green/Sustainability\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.aurora-il.org/documents/green/Sustainability_Plan.pdf)

### **BGreen 2020: A Sustainability Plan for Bridgeport, Connecticut**

Regional Plan Association - March 5, 2010

The City of Bridgeport and Bridgeport Regional Business Council today celebrate the release of BGreen 2020, a Sustainability Plan that outlines the policies and actions to be implemented in the next decade to improve the quality of life, social equity, and economic competitiveness of the city while reducing carbon emissions and increasing the community's resilience to the effects of climate change and increasing energy costs. The program management team, led by Regional Plan Association, convened the efforts of more than a hundred stakeholders in a Community Advisory Committee and working groups to develop strategies to address brownfields and land use, pedestrian and transit access, renewable energy production, and environmental protection while supporting the growth of green jobs in the region.

BGreen 2020 is the result of a public-private partnership between the City of Bridgeport and the Bridgeport Regional Business Council, a consortium of local business groups. By building on Bridgeport's existing strengths, BGreen will modernize the city's infrastructure, create wealth, intensify urban amenities, enhance environmental quality, enable revitalization without gentrification, and retain Bridgeport's historic character. Early priorities are the creation of an Energy Improvement District to support energy efficiency and production, adopting a "Transit First" policy, developing a plan for open space use and maintenance, expanding recycling, and protecting the region's waterways through enhanced storm water management. A Green Collar Institute will train workers and act as an incubator for developing green industries.

<http://www.rpa.org/2010/03/bgreen-2020-a-sustainability-plan-for-bridgeport-connecticut.html>

### **Denver Ranks 4th of U.S. Cities with ENERGY STAR Buildings**

greenprintdenver.org – 2010

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released a list of U.S. metropolitan areas with the largest number of energy efficient buildings in 2009– buildings that have earned EPA's ENERGY STAR label.

During the past year, Denver jumped from seventh to fourth place, and now boasts 136 ENERGY STAR commercial buildings. Los Angeles, CA; Washington, DC; and San Francisco, CA, round the top three cities. ENERGY STAR buildings typically use 35 percent less energy and emit 35 percent less greenhouse gases than average buildings.

Buildings accounted for 52% of Denver's greenhouse gas emissions in a 2007 study. Commercial and industrial buildings contributed 35% alone. With 31.5 million square feet of floor space under the ENERGY STAR label, Denver now is better positioned to meet its 2012 greenhouse gas reduction goals of 10% per capita below 1990 levels.

Although most city government buildings such as police and fire stations, recreation centers and libraries are not ratable in the program, Denver currently has two ENERGY STAR office buildings, and two more pending. By Executive Order, new city office buildings are required to be designed to achieve the ENERGY STAR rating.

A program to recognize the Denver area's most energy and water efficient office buildings and hotels will be launched this summer. "Watts to Water," sponsored by Denver, the Downtown Denver Partnership, the Denver Metro BOMA, Xcel Energy, Denver Water and U.S. EPA, is expected to further drive energy and water savings in the region.

<http://www.denvergov.org/CityofDenverHome/NewsandEvents/tabid/435569/newsid97029/2149/Greenprint-Denver-Wins-National-Award/Default.aspx>

### **Colorado Community Sustainability Guide**

Colorado Department of Local Affairs - 2010

Today, more than ever, communities are faced with managing shrinking budgets, maintaining aging infrastructure, and providing more services with fewer resources. It can be difficult for a local government to stay on top of it all. However, it is important – maybe more so in tough economic times – to examine where a community can create efficiencies and plan sustainably for the long run. First a community must assess where they are, then determine where they want to be and what's important, create an action plan or a priority "to do" list, and finally figure out ways to track progress made on achieving those priority goals.

There are many good reasons to take stock of where a community is making progress and where it lags behind on different matters. This type of data gathering is often referred to as a "community assessment." A community assessment can help identify issues, gaps and trends. For example, a community may find it challenging to bring in new businesses. An assessment may show the community does not have enough quality affordable housing that new employers look for when deciding where to locate. The community may decide one goal is to implement policies and regulations to increase affordable housing (e.g., develop a housing needs assessment, create an inclusionary zoning policy, create a housing authority, ask developers to address affordable housing gaps in annexation agreements, etc). Once the actions they take are implemented, they can track progress by following the community's jobs-to-housing ratio, track the number of new affordable housing units, and so on.

*The Department of Local Affairs, with help from several state and local government and nonprofit partners, has prepared this self-assessment tool to help provide a structure for communities to have a dialogue to consider needs with an integrated, comprehensive perspective, and prioritize those needs in order to enlist potential technical and financial assistance from the state and other service providers. This assessment tool is designed simply to help communities identify areas in which they want to focus attention in order to achieve sustainability goals. To maximize the outcome of the community's*

<http://dola.colorado.gov/dlg/osg/resources.htm>

### **Toronto Green Standard**

City of Toronto Website - 2010

The Toronto Green Standard is about designing sites and buildings that are more environmentally friendly. Achieving the Toronto Green Standard will result in measurable improvements to air and water quality; increase energy and water efficiency, and solid waste diversion rates; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and enhance ecology and the natural environment.

The Green Standard is a key strategy of the City's Climate Change Action Plan, an aggressive environmental framework aimed at reducing Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent

by 2050. Achieving the TGS performance measures will help meet this goal, while improving air and water quality, and enhancing the natural environment.  
<http://www.toronto.ca/planning/environment/greendevlopment.htm>

## **Sustainable Community Plan for the Town of Collingwood**

Town of Collingwood, Ontario - October 2008

### ***Overview***

This is the Town of Collingwood's Sustainable Community Plan (SCP). The Plan provides a framework for sustainable decision making that builds upon the solid foundation of work already underway at the Town. The Plan takes into account the ongoing activities, policies and procedures at the Town; these include: the sustainability principles that Council endorsed at the outset of its term, previous community exercises such as Vision 2020, and dozens of initiatives and programs highlighted in the SCP.

### ***Rationale***

Over the next forty years, the Town of Collingwood is expected to experience local forces of change such as unprecedented population growth and changing demographics and global forces of change such as rising commodity prices and climate change. Therefore, the Town's Sustainability Committee began a process, in 2005, to develop a Sustainable Community Plan (SCP), to address some of these challenges and capitalize on potential opportunities (including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and cleaning-up and developing brownfield sites). The SCP was developed in concert with staff, Council, and the community.

### ***Process***

The process has included input from residents, Council, and staff through a series of visioning and action planning workshops including the use of a visual software tool for public engagement called Nottawasaga Quest. The process also involved surrounding municipalities, with a recognition that the actions of Collingwood and its residents are not taken in isolation. Our actions affect surrounding communities and have further reaching global impacts. Therefore, the SCP highlights the importance of partnerships and local action. The process and specific outputs are further defined in Appendices A, B, C and D.

### ***Municipal Alignment***

The SCP is a plan that provides a framework for sustainable decision making. It is directly linked to Council's forthcoming Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will be the Town's implementation document with a series of specific actions for Departments to achieve with specified timelines. Therefore, the SCP provides the philosophy and framework of sustainability for the Strategic Plan and all other Town plans. The SCP also provides some suggestions for action and areas for alignment with the Strategic Plan (Section 2.3).

### ***Sustainability***

Sustainability is the utilization of our municipality and other resources to meet community needs and aspirations, and best optimize the unique nature of the community, without compromising the well being of future generations. Sustainability is a philosophy that involves long term thinking and balanced decision making. For many years, staff and Council have made decisions with outcomes that have contributed to the Town being a more sustainable community. With the establishment of the SCP, this four-pillar philosophy of balanced environmental, economic, social, and cultural considerations now officially permeates every decision made in the community.

### ***Components of the Plan***

At the centre of the SCP is a comprehensive sustainability framework (Sections 2 and 3), including: a commitment to sustainability; the characteristics of a sustainable community now, and in the future; key considerations for sustainable decision-making; and a series of proposed goals, actions and considerations for implementation.  
<http://www.collingwood.ca/files/Final%20SCP.pdf>

### **Montréal's First Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development**

City of Montreal – 2009

The goal of drawing up an initial strategic plan for sustainable development emerged from the Montréal Summit held in June 2002. Many organizations interested in sustainable development in the city committed themselves to working in collaboration with the city by abiding by the Policy statement by the Montréal community regarding sustainable development and promised to carry out certain specific actions.

Montréal's First Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development was adopted by the Montréal Executive Committee on April 20, 2005, and is spread out over a five-year period.

The main characteristic of this Plan lies in the collective commitment of partner organizations, associated with the city administration, to use sustainable development as a foundation on which to build Montréal.

The participation by a growing number of organizations in carrying out actions under Montréal's First Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development is proof of the growing interest and willingness on the part of socio-economic players to be part of a combined effort devoted to achieving sustainable urban development.

[http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/pls/portal/docs/page/dev\\_durable\\_fr/media/documents/2007-](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/pls/portal/docs/page/dev_durable_fr/media/documents/2007-)

### **Best Practices Database in Improving the Living Environment**

Bestpractices.org – 2008

This searchable database contains over 3,800 proven solutions from more than 140 countries to the common social, economic, and environmental problems of an urbanizing world. It demonstrates the practical ways in which public, private, and civil society sectors are working together to improve governance, eradicate poverty, provide access to shelter, land, and basic services, protect the environment, and support economic development.

The database is a powerful tool for:

- Analyzing current trends and emerging issues
- Networking with the people and organizations involved in implementation
- Capacity-building including new knowledge management tools and methods
- Technical Cooperation through the matching of supply with demand for proven expertise and experience
- Policy development based on what works

<http://www.bestpractices.org/>

### **Best Practices in Sustainable Environmental Stewardship**

U.S. Department of Energy Office of Health, Safety and Security – Dec. 2008

The objective of DOE Order 450.1A, *Environmental Protection Program*, and its associated goals is to implement sound stewardship practices that are protective of the air, water, land, and other natural and cultural resources impacted by DOE operations. DOE O 450.1A requires Departmental sites to implement environmental management systems (EMSs) to cost effectively meet or exceed compliance with applicable environmental, public health, and resource protection laws, regulations, and DOE requirements.

A central feature of EMS is incorporation of continuous improvement and lessons learned from past experience. The DOE Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance (HS-22) regularly evaluates sustainable environmental stewardship projects from across the DOE complex and by other Federal agencies. To assist the DOE Field and Program Offices in identifying innovative

and effective environmental stewardship practices or processes, HS-22 has compiled a list of examples of such projects for DOE sites to consider to reduce or minimize waste and to improve cost-effectiveness. This report contains summary descriptions of 24 projects from fiscal year (FY) 2007 that represent recent best practices and success stories from inside and outside DOE with the intention that these projects potentially can be implemented at other facilities.

HS-22 welcomes comments to improve the content of this report. In addition, we would appreciate any success stories or lessons learned arising from the direct application of any of the initiatives summarized in this report within your program or field operations.

[http://www.hss.energy.gov/nuclearsafety/env/reports/best\\_practices\\_Jan09.pdf](http://www.hss.energy.gov/nuclearsafety/env/reports/best_practices_Jan09.pdf)