


Sustainable Des Moines

Laura Graham
Assistant to the City Manager
Sustainability Coordinator



- 
- 2012 Sustainability Goals & Achievements
 - Other Initiatives
 - Future Plans



Green Infrastructure Training



Goal: Institutionalize a City Green Infrastructure Program by providing training opportunities

- 10 (2 Council Members + 8 staff members) people attended the green infrastructure training in Shepherdstown, WV
- Conservation Fund will hold a training/charrette in Des Moines
 - Late June 2013
 - Opportunity to partner with other cities and train up to 60 people
- Several low or no-cost trainings provided in Iowa including a trainings provided by the Iowa Economic Development Authority and one by the Department of Natural Resources have been attended by staff.
- EPA Greening America's Capitals – 6th Avenue Corridor Streetscape

STAR Communities



Goal: Continue participation in the STAR Communities Beta program with existing staff and resources.

- STAR Beta - implemented in 2010, Des Moines was one of 10 communities
- STAR Pilot launched in November, over 30 communities have registered
- Training for was held last week, STAR will be rolling out online templates between January and July
- Staff has spent 100s of hours reviewing goal and objective content and feasibility of program for Des Moines
- This program will be resource intensive beginning in January as the Self Assessment Tool and Climate & Energy Goal is rolled out online



STAR Communities



Provisional* Rating Levels	Point Range
Participating STAR Community	n/a
Reporting STAR Community	50-199
3-STAR Community Recognized for sustainability leadership	200-399
4-STAR Community Recognized for national excellence	400-599
5-STAR Community Recognized as top tier achiever in national sustainability	600+

STAR Communities



Built Environment	Climate & Energy	Education, Arts & Community	Economy & Jobs	Equity & Empowerment	Health & Safety	Natural Systems
Ambient Noise & Light	Climate Adaptation	Arts & Culture	Business Retention & Development	Civic Engagement	Active Living	Green Infrastructure
Community Water Systems	Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	Community Cohesion	Green Market Development	Civil & Human Rights	Community Health & Health System	Invasive Species
Compact & Complete Communities	Greening the Energy Supply	Educational Opportunity & Attainment	Local Economy	Environmental Justice	Emergency Prevention & Response	Natural Resource Protection
Housing Affordability	Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency	Historic Preservation	Quality Jobs & Living Wages	Equitable Services & Access	Food Access & Nutrition	Outdoor Air Quality
Infill & Redevelopment	Resource Efficient Buildings	Social & Cultural Diversity	Targeted Industry Development	Human Services	Indoor Air Quality	Water in the Environment
Public Spaces	Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure		Workforce Readiness	Poverty Prevention & Alleviation	Natural & Human Hazards	Working Lands
Transportation Choices	Waste Minimization				Safe Communities	



Communications & Marketing



Goal: Make more direct information available to the public by reference in City communications and the web site.

- CitySource Newsletter, “Green Tip”
- Continued promotion of various efficiency projects completed by the City in the CitySource, through press releases, on Facebook and in presentations
- Continued look at branding and promoting Sustainable efforts
- Website



Did you know that when you put your recyclable items in plastic bags, the city can't recycle those materials?

The City of Des Moines' recycling program is an automated system that is unable to process plastic bags or the items inside of them. Help us to make the most of your recyclables by putting them directly into your blue recycle cart or inside of PAPER bags. This helps the city process all of your recyclable materials and keeps them out of the landfill.

Plastic bags may be taken to your local grocery store to be recycled.



Do not put plastic shopping bags in the blue recycle cart.

Sustainability Leads in Departments



Goal: *Establish in each department a sustainable programs lead person responsible for bringing green solutions into each department's work program.*

- Several departments have leads responsible for bringing solutions to their work programs including Community Development, Engineering, Public Works and Park & Recreation.
- Members of staff Sustainability Team:

CD – Phil Delafield, Kyle Larson
CMO – Laura Graham, Larry Hulse
Engineering – Jill Tenney
Finance – Dan Ritter
Housing/CA– Mark Gregory, Kara Nees

IT – Anna Whipple
Library – Linda Roe
OED – Rita Conner
Parks – Richard Brown, Mindy Moore
Public Works – Sara Thies, Russ Paul

Energy Usage in City Buildings

- **Goal: Reduce energy use in City buildings and expand to Fire and Library facilities.**
- 25% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2015 (for 15 buildings)
 - Since 2008 we have reduced our energy consumption by 14%
 - RFP will be drafted to provide an energy audit and plan for existing City facilities
- The City of Des Moines operates 4 LEED rated buildings
 - Glendale West Zone Maintenance Facility
 - MLK Park Shelter
 - Franklin Avenue Library (Platinum)
 - Fire Administration Building (anticipated Gold Certification)
 - The New Fire Station 1 (opening early 2013)



Energy Usage in City Buildings - Other



- Since 2008 the City has saved over **\$1.2 million** due to energy efficiency improvements
- 2012 estimated savings is \$295,000
 - LED Traffic Light Relamping (\$259,000)
 - T-1 Relamping of City Buildings (\$21,000)
 - Hybrid Vehicles in Fleet (\$15,000)
- 11,542 MtCo₂e saved



Energy Usage in City Buildings - Library

- The Library has made significant improvements to all of their buildings.
 - 50% of buildings have motion light sensors
 - Relamped all buildings
 - Franklin Avenue Library Platinum LEED renovation
 - 53% more efficient than similar sized buildings
 - MidAmerican Energy Audits under way to find other efficiency improvements



Energy Usage in City Buildings - Fire

- The Fire department has also started to make improvements to their buildings
 - New Fire Administration Building expected to be LEED Gold
 - New Fire Station 1 is expected to be a minimum of LEED Certified
 - Station 8 at 1249 McKinley uses solar-assist (panels on the roof) for hot water heating.



Sustainability in Economic Development



- **Goal: *Promote Sustainability practices in Economic Development considerations as appropriate to the project sponsor.***
- Recent projects include:
 - Waterfront Lodging,
 - Green and Main,
 - Des Moines Building,
 - Fleming Building,
 - Re-Wall,
 - Southridge Mall Redevelopment,
 - DICO site redevelopment,
 - CityVille,
 - Younkers
- In May, Council reviewed and adopted the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code.

City-wide Sustainability Report



- **Goal: *Establish a City-wide Sustainability Report that demonstrates City initiatives for the past 5 years.***
- ***Completed in Fall, 2011 – this [report](#) documents the number of projects, policies, and principles that have been completed over the last five years.***



Other Sustainability Initiatives of Merit

- The Tomorrow Plan
 - Over 650 hours of staff time
- Parks is increasing native species plantings and low-mow cycles
- Green Infrastructure solutions are moving forward for Easter Lake
 - Polk County Water & Land Legacy Bond funded
- Launch of the non-profit Tree Des Moines



Future Plans



- **STAR Communities benchmarking & progress**
 - Resource intensive, build relationships with local organizations for assistance, evaluate at end of 2013
- **Drake Law Program Partnership**
 - Build on existing relationship, work on policy items related to STAR framework, evaluate adoption of recommendations
- **Greenhouse Gas Baseline Study**
 - RFP to be issued in January, study to be completed in 2013
 - Potential to partner with other organizations

Future Plans



- **Municipal Service Center Design**
 - Will integrate sustainability principles
- **Continued work on Green Infrastructure Projects**
 - Evaluation of site locations for appropriate use of GI design, 6th Avenue Corridor Streetscape, Conservation Fund Charrette
- **Build organizational capacity for sustainability in 2013**
 - Identify key staff people to build talents and skills
 - Further integrate concepts within the organization