



Sustainability Task Force

A Committee of the Chico City Council
Vice Mayor Schwab, Chair

Meeting of April 30, 2007 – 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Council Chamber Building, 421 Main Street, Conference Room No. 1

AGENDA

1. Task Force Updates – *Sustainability Efforts of Identified Cities*
2. Task Force Discussion – *Future Steps of the Task Force*
3. **Business from the Floor** - Members of the public may address the Committee at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda, with comments being limited to three minutes. The Committee cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.
4. **Adjournment** - The meeting will adjourn no later than 5:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Sustainability Task Force is scheduled for May 14, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room No. 1.

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Members:

Dr. Scott G. McCall
Anthony Watts
Lon Glazner
Jim Stevens

Ken Grossman
Jason Bougie
Julian Zewer
Scott Wolf

Jim Pushnik
Adam Hansen
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Tami Ritter

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Austin Sustainable Communities Initiative

Mission:

The City of Austin's Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) exists to help the greater Austin region achieve economic prosperity, social justice, and ecological health - the highest possible quality of life in the best possible environment. SCI programs and policies will respond effectively to the real limits of ecological systems while fostering the unprecedented opportunities of a democratic society in which all people are able to develop to their fullest potential. To these ends, the SCI should become a valuable resource for City staff and for area residents by advocating, creating tools, and providing expertise concerning sustainability - from the global to the local perspective.

Three Legs of Sustainable Development

The term "sustainability" was offered in 1987 by the United Nation's World Commission on Environment and Development in its report *Our Common Future*. According to that document, "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Ultimately, the goal of sustainability is to enhance people's well-being while living within the eco-system's carrying capacity; so while the concept insists that we acknowledge many natural limits that we are currently denying, it also identifies many opportunities that we have overlooked.

Discussions about sustainability are meant to focus our attention on a very basic question: Can this community survive? Are our systems and practices viable for the long-term? Of course we will make changes over time, but we should ask whether some of today's practices are eliminating choices that we will wish we had tomorrow.

While these questions may seem very distant or abstract to some, they are issues we all must face. We must consider whether the world has enough resources to support our consumption of resources and our creation of pollution. We must consider the long-term viability of our economic base. And we have to ask whether our social conditions are improving or worsening. Thus, sustainability is not some distant,

abstract goal - it is today's reality.

A central principle of sustainability is the recognition of the interdependence of environmental, economic, and social equity concerns - these are the "three Es". They are often referred to as three legs of a stool - lacking just one means the stool will not stand; emphasizing one over the other puts us on uneven ground. We can begin choosing options that do not sacrifice one of the Es for another. We can make better choices as individuals and in our businesses, governments, and other institutions.

We want to develop sustainably because we want to be able to pass along to our children a community that they will thank us for. We do not want to deplete finite natural resources or weaken the economic and social structures that they will need to build their lives on. Rather, we should be responsible stewards of these resources that everyone depends upon. Thus, in the end, sustainability is not an option, but a necessity.

What is a Sustainable Community?

A sustainable community is one whose prospects for long-term health are good. Its residents do not deplete the resources that they depend on faster than those resources are replenished. Specific characteristics include:

- respect for basic rights and recognition of basic responsibilities
- living within ecological carrying capacity
- equal opportunities for individual development
- a diverse economic base
- a vibrant democracy - with an informed, involved citizenry
- protection of natural diversity
- improving the minimum standard of living
- maximizing the use of people's abilities while minimizing the use of natural resources.

Steps You Can Take To Promote Sustainability

Individuals play a vital role in guiding a community - and the world - towards sustainability. The day to day choices each of us makes affect civic life, energy use, people's health, biodiversity, local prosperity, the global climate, etc. We may not always clearly see the impacts of our choices - as citizens, family members, workers, and consumers - on all of these different issues, but they are there.

There is no shortage of information, especially on the Internet, that can help individuals to learn how they can reduce the negative impacts and increase the positive impacts of their lifestyles.

The links below are organized into categories appropriate to individuals and households in Austin.

Building and Construction

Building or remodeling a house? Or maybe just painting a room? Whatever the size of your project, you can choose materials that are healthier for you to live with and are easier on the environment.

- Re-use and recycle by shopping at the Austin RE-store - a building materials recycling center. See www.re-store.com
- See the website of Austin Energy's Green Building Program for lots of helpful information. Go to Austin Energy Green Building Site

Food

You need it everyday. It's production and distribution has a huge impact on communities and the environment - and your health! So avoid pesticides, save the soil, support local farms, grow your own, and enjoy fresher, more nutritious, better tasting food - with help from the following websites:

- Austin Organic Gardeners - www.main.org/aog
- Local Growers and Farmers' Markets - www.main.org/aog/local
- National Organic Consumers Association - www.purefood.org
- Sustainable Agriculture Program at Texas A&M - sustainable.tamu.edu
- Sustainable Food Center/Austin Community Gardens - www.sustainablefoodcenter.org/

Get Engaged! With your neighborhood and your region

Genuine democracy must be the first characteristic of a sustainable community. Strong social networks, justice for all, peaceful neighborhoods, and responsible political systems require everyone's input and diligence.

- Volunteer! The United Way/Capital Area volunteer center can guide you to just the organization you're looking for. Go to <http://www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org/volunteer/index.cfm>
- Austin Free-Net Neighborhood Network links citizens electronically. See www.afn-neighbor.net

- To learn about elected officials of the City of Austin, go to www.ci.austin.tx.us/council
- To learn about elected officials of Travis County, go to http://www.co.travis.tx.us/commissioners_court/default.asp
- Practice your rights as a citizen. The League of Women Voters, Austin Area is a great resource. Go to www.leaguewv.austin.tx.us
- The City of Austin Neighborhood Planning Program is helping residents write plans to guide the development of their neighborhoods. Find out more at www.ci.austin.tx.us/neighborhood

Home Energy Use

Did you know that if your refrigerator is 10 years old or more, a new, energy-efficient model can be as much as 50% more efficient than your old one? Did you know that Texas has more opportunities for renewable energy generation (solar, wind, biomass) than any other state in the nation? Learn lots more at the websites listed below.

- Choose renewable energy! Sign up for GreenChoice from Austin Energy. Go to www.austinenergy.com/Energy%20Efficiency/Programs/Green%20Choice/index.htm
- See the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Home Energy Saver website at www.homeenergysaver.lbl.gov
- Energy efficiency information for consumers from the Alliance to Save Energy www.ase.org/consumer/index
- Austin Energy has information on energy saving programs and rebates in the area. Go to www.austinenergy.com
- Find energy-efficient appliances at the EPA's Energy Star website. Go to www.energystar.gov
- Here's an easy one, reduce your computer's energy use by turning off your screensaver and turning on power management. See www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/youandyourscreensaver

Indoor Air Quality

There are many sources of indoor air pollution in most buildings. These include combustion

sources such as oil, gas, kerosene, coal, wood, and tobacco products; building materials and furnishings as diverse as deteriorated, asbestos-containing insulation, wet or damp carpet, and cabinetry or furniture made of certain pressed wood products; products for household cleaning and maintenance, personal care, or hobbies; central heating and cooling systems and humidification devices; and outdoor sources such as radon, pesticides, and outdoor air pollution.

- The EPA provides information on indoor air quality in your home at www.epa.gov/iaq/homes/index.html
- The Federal Consumer Information Center also publishes information on indoor air hazards at www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/housing/indoorair-hazards/main

Landscaping

In the yard and garden you can make smart choices that will save money, protect environmental resources, and beautify your community.

- Use less water. See the City of Austin Water Conservation Division's website at www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon
- Landscape with native plants. See the City of Austin Grow Green Program at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/> and the "Native Plant Clearinghouse", an on-line service of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Research Center at <http://www.wildflower.org/>
- Use trees to shade your home. See this Green Living factsheet on Windows and Shading at www.ci.austin.tx.us/greenbuilder/glfs_windows.htm

Local Economy

Why is it important to support local businesses? Our local merchants are a big part of what makes Austin, Austin. And the money they collect is more likely to be re-circulated locally than money spent at other businesses.

- To learn more, read "The Benefits of Doing Business Locally" from the Boulder (Colorado) Independent Business Alliance at www.boulder-iba.org/why/index
- The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce promotes economic development in Austin. See www.austinchamber.org

Smart Shopping

Economists often speak of people "voting with their dollars". Make sure you're voting for companies and products that reflect your values.

- The Green Pages™ is a directory of thousands of socially and environmentally responsible businesses, products and services. See www.coopamerica.org/
- Responsible Shopper is an Internet tool designed to help you learn more about the companies whose products you may use. See www.responsibleshopper.org
- The Center for a New American Dream has its "Guide to Environmentally Preferable Purchasing" on-line at www.newdream.org/

Sustainable Lifestyle

A variety of resources to help you do the right thing:

- Green Living - from the Union of Concerned Scientists www.ucsusa.org
- Buy safe products greenhome.com

Transportation

Your transportation choices have profound impacts on your life, on the environment, on public costs, and on the livability of our neighborhoods. Here are some facts: It has been estimated that, in the U.S., our \$26 billion annual investment in transit realizes \$60 billion in total benefits to our communities; on average, it costs a family more than \$5,000 per year to own and operate one motor vehicle; and motor vehicles produce the most pollution when their engines are cold - that means those short trips are the worst of all for the environment. Here's where to look for help making positive changes:

- The Union of Concerned Scientists can help you buy a greener vehicle, see www.ucsusa.org/clean_vehicles/
- When it comes to converting energy to motion, the bicycle is the most energy-efficient form of transportation ever devised, and Austin is rated as one of the best cities in America for cycling. Get pedaling with help the Austin Bicycling Coalition. Go to www.austincycling.org/. The City of Austin also has a Bicycle/Pedestrian Program. Go to www.ci.austin.tx.us/bicycle
- Get on the Bus! For information on routes and fares from Capital Metro, go to www.capmetro.com

- Learn more! We recommend the website of the Surface Transportation Policy Project. Go to www.transact.org

Waste Reduction

The average American produces twice as much garbage as the average European, and food waste is the single largest category of household waste. We can do better.

- Recycle! See the City of Austin Recycling website at www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/recycling or Ecology Action at www.ecology-action.org
- Compost! Get local composting information at www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/compost

For more information, contact Fred Blood.

The image shows a screenshot of a website. At the top, there is a dark banner with the text 'SUSTAINABLE MEASURES' in white, bold, uppercase letters. To the right of this banner, the text 'Indicator training material' is written in a smaller, italicized font. Below the banner, there is a grid of several empty rectangular boxes. The main content area has a white background with a dark border. The title 'Indicator training material' is centered at the top of this area. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text in bold, italicized font: 'If you want to skip the explanation below, you can go directly to the training course. But if you do, come back and read the explanation afterward; there's some good information here! (Especially the instructions for downloading and using the training course...)' Below this paragraph, there is another paragraph of text: 'Sustainable Measures has developed a one-day training course on sustainable community indicators. The course can be used by:' followed by a bulleted list of three items: 'individuals as a self-directed introductory course,' 'organizations that work with communities on sustainability issues, and' 'community groups that are thinking about starting an indicator project.' At the bottom of the page, there is a final paragraph: 'To help you use this course, we have assembled answers to the following questions:'

- **How can I download** this training course?
- **What is the purpose** of this course?
- **What are the instructions** for using this course?
- **Who should present** this course?
- **Who should attend** this course?
- **What are the logistics** for presenting this course?
- **How am I allowed to use** this training course?
- **Who is responsible** for making this course available?
- **Can I get someone to present this course** to my group or community?

If you need any information that we have not included, please **tell us**.

How to download this training course



Related Topics:

Go directly to the training course.

How can I download this training course?

What is the purpose of this course?

What are the instructions for using this course?

Who should present this course?

Who should attend this course?

What are the logistics for presenting this course?

How am I allowed to use this training course?

Who is responsible for making this course available?

Can I get someone to present this course to my group or community?

Indicators
Database
Questions
Training
Resources
Sustainability

An introduction to sustainability...

Sustainable development, sustainable community, sustainable industry, sustainable agriculture. You may have heard these words used in many different ways, but what does "sustainability" really mean and how can you tell if your community is sustainable? Sustainability is related to the quality of life in a community -- whether the economic, social and environmental systems that make up the community are providing a healthy, productive, meaningful life for all community residents, present and future.

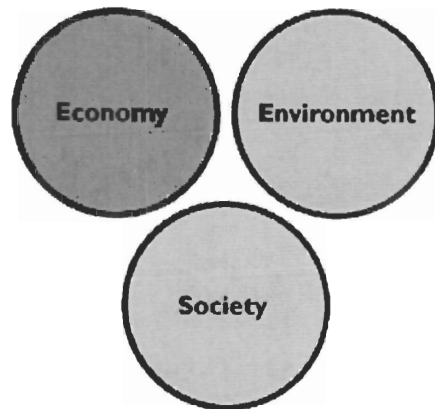
How has the quality of life in your community changed over the last 20 or 40 years?

- How has your community changed economically?
 - Are there fewer or more good-paying jobs -- are people working more and earning less or are most people living well?
 - Is there more or less poverty and homelessness?
 - Is it easier or harder for people to find homes that they can afford?

- How has your community changed socially?
 - Is there less or more crime?
 - Are people less or more willing to volunteer?
 - Are fewer or more people running for public office or working on community boards?

- How has your community changed environmentally?
 - Has air quality in the urban areas gotten better or worse?
 - Are there more or fewer warnings about eating fish caught in local streams?
 - Has the water quality gotten better or worse?

These are traditional measures of communities. We use numbers to show progress: "Unemployment rose 0.4 percent in January," or "The economy grew 2% last year." However, the traditional numbers only show changes in one part of the community without showing the many links between the community's economy, society and environment. It is as if a community were made of three separate parts -- an economic part, a social part and an environmental part that do not overlap like the picture below:

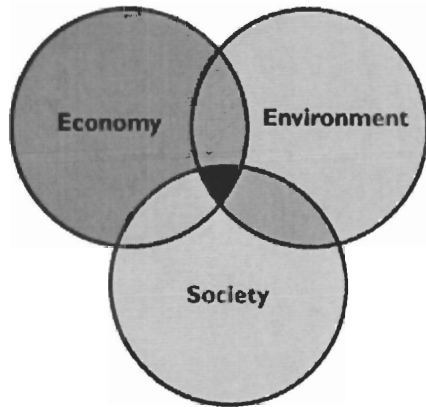


A view of community as three separate, unrelated parts: an economic part, a social part and an environmental part.

However, when society, economy and environment are viewed as separate, unrelated parts of a community, the community's problems are also viewed as isolated issues. Economic development councils try to create more jobs. Social needs are addressed by health care services and housing authorities. Environmental agencies try to prevent and correct pollution problems. This piecemeal approach can have a number of bad side-effects:

- Solutions to one problem can make another problem worse. Creating affordable housing is a good thing, but when that housing is built in areas far from workplaces, the result is increased traffic and the pollution that comes with it.
- Piecemeal solutions tend to create opposing groups. How often have you heard the argument 'If the environmentalists win, the economy will suffer,' and its opposing view 'If business has its way, the environment will be destroyed.'
- Piecemeal solutions tend to focus on short-term benefits without monitoring long-term results. The pesticide DDT seemed like a good solution to insect pests at the time, but the long-term results were devastating.

Rather than a piecemeal approach, what we need is a view of the community that takes into account the links between the economy, the environment and the society. The figure below is frequently used to show the connections:



A view of community that shows the links among its three parts: the economic part, the social part and the environmental part.

Actions to improve conditions in a sustainable community take these connections into account. The very questions asked about issues in a 'sustainable' community include references to these links. For example, the question 'Do the jobs available match the skills of the available work force?' looks at the link between economy and education. Understanding the three parts and their links is key to understanding sustainability, because sustainability is about more than just quality of life. It is about understanding the connections between and achieving balance among the social, economic, and environmental pieces of a community.

As the following page shows, however, we can make an even better picture of a sustainable community than the three partially connected circles shown above.

Written material we recommend

As with all the other resources we have listed here, it is not possible to include everything. So, rather than being complete, we are trying to give you a starting point. Please **let us know** if there are other documents that we should include.

Writings on Indicators

Bellagio Principles: Guidelines for the Practical Assessment of Progress Towards Sustainable Development. (available at <http://iisd1.iisd.ca/measure/bellagio1.htm>) Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada: International Institute for Sustainable Development, 1997.

- Balaton Group. *Indicators and Information Systems for Sustainable Development-Draft*. Plainfield, NH: Balaton Group, 1996.
- Cobb, Clifford, Ted Halstead, and Jonathan Rowe. *The Genuine Progress Indicator*. San Francisco, CA: Redefining Progress, 1995.
- Farrell, Alex and Maureen Hart. "What Does Sustainability Really Mean? The Search for Useful Indicators." *Environment* 40, no. 9 (November 1998): 4-9:26-31.
- Green Mountain Institute for Environmental Democracy. *The Resource Guide to Indicators: Second Edition*. (available at <http://www.gmied.org>) Montpelier, VT: GMIED, 1998.
- Hammond, Allen and others. *Environmental Indicators: A Systematic Approach to Measuring and Reporting on Environmental Policy Performance in the Context of Sustainable Development*. Washington, D.C: World Resources Institute, 1995.
- Hardi, Peter and Lazlo Pinter. *Measuring Sustainable Development Performance: Canadian Initiatives: First Survey, November 1994*. Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada: International Institute for Sustainable Development, 1994.
- Hardi, Peter and Terrence Zdan (eds). *Assessing Sustainable Development: Principles in Practice*. Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada: IISD, 1997.
- Hodge, Dr. Tony and Robert Prescott-Allen. *Report on British Columbia's Progress Toward Sustainability*. British Columbia, Canada: Commission on Resources & Environment, 1997.
- Hodge, Dr. Tony and others. *Pathways to Sustainability: Assessing Our Progress*. Canada: National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy, 1995.
- Kuik, O. and H. Verbruggen. *In Search of Indicators of Sustainable Development. Environment and Management*. Boston, MA: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1991.
- Maclaren, Virginia W. *Developing Indicators of Urban Sustainability: A Focus on the Canadian Experience*. Toronto, Canada: ICURR Press, 1996.
- Moldan, Bedrich and Suzanne Billharz. *Sustainability Indicators*. England: John Wiley & Sons, 1997.

President's Council on Sustainable Development. *Sustainable Communities Task Force Report*. Washington, D.C.: President's Council on Sustainable Development, 1997.

SDI Group. *Sustainable Development in the United States: An Experimental Set of Indicators: Interim Draft Report*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Interagency Working Group on Sustainable Development Indicators, 1998.

Scruggs, Patricia and Associates. *Proceeding of the Colorado Forum on National and Community Indicators*. San Francisco, CA: Redefining Progress, 1996.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *From Theory to Practice: Indicators of Sustainable Development*. (available at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdeve/indi6.htm>): UN, 1998.

Writings on Community Projects and Processes

Alberta Environmental Protection. *Steps to Realizing Sustainable Development*. 1993.

Alberta Round Table on Environment and Economy Secretariat. *Creating Alberta's Sustainable Development Indicators*. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada: Environment Council of Alberta, 1994.

AtKisson, Alan. "The Innovation Diffusion Game: A Tool for Encouraging Participation in Positive Cultural Change-in Your Office, Your Organization, or in the World at Large." *In Context*, no. 28 (Spring 1991): 58-62.

Bauen, Rebecca, Bryan Baker, and Kirk Johnson. *Sustainable Community Checklist: First Edition*. Seattle, WA: The Northwest Policy Center; University of Washington, 1996.

Center for a New American Dream. *Yearning for Balance: An Action Kit*. Tacoma Park, MD: Center for a New American Dream, 1997.

Hempel, Lamont. *Roots and Wings: Building Sustainable Communities*. Claremont, CA: League of Women Voters Population Coalition, 1996.

Hempel, Lamont. *Sustainable Communities From Vision to Action*. Claremont, CA: Claremont Graduate University, 1998.

Hempel, Marilyn, ed. *Sustainable Communities: Guide for Grassroots Activists*. Vol. 4, no. 5. Claremont, CA: Population Press.

Hren, B. and Nick Bartolomeo. *Monitoring Sustainability in Your Community*. Gaithersburg, MD: Izaak Walton League, 1995.

Roseland, Mark. *Toward Sustainable Communities*. Gabriola Island, BC and Stony Creek, CT: New Society Publishers, April 1998.

Tyler Norris Associates, Redefining Progress, and Sustainable Seattle. *The Community Indicators Handbook*. San Francisco, CA: Redefining Progress, 1997.

Writings on Sustainability in General

Abramovitz, Janet N. "Putting a Value on Nature's "Free" Services." *World Watch* 11, no. 1 (January 1998-February 1998): 10-19.

Berry, Wendell. "Community in 17 Sensible Steps." *UTNE Reader* (March 1995-April 1995): 71.

Brown, Lester R., Christopher Flavin, and Sandra Postel. "Vision of a Sustainable World." *The World Watch Reader on Global Environmental Issues*, Editor Lester R. Brown, 299-315. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1991.

Brown, Lester R., Gary Gardner, and Brian Halweil. *Beyond Malthus: Sixteen Dimensions of the Population Problem*. Washington, D.C.: WorldWatch Institute, 1998.

Brown, Lester R., Michael Renner, and Christopher Flavin. *Vital Signs 1999*. London, New York: W. W. Norton & Company (WorldWatch Institute), 1999. (or any of the Vital Signs series)

Carley, Michael and Ian Christie. *Managing Sustainable Development*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1993.

Cohen, J. *How Many People Can the Earth Support?* New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1995.

Corson, Walter H. ed. *The Global Ecology Handbook*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1990.

Daly, Herman E. and John B. Cobb Jr. *For the Common Good*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1989.

IUCN, UNEP, and WWP. *Caring for the Earth A Strategy for Sustainable Living*. Gland, Switzerland: The World Conservation Union (IUCN)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), 1991.

Meadows, Donella H, Dennis L. Meadows, and Jorgen Randers. *Beyond the Limits*. Post Mills, VT: Chelsea Green, 1992.

Minnesota Planning. *Sustainable Development: The Very Idea*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Planning Environmental Quality Board, 1998.

Pearce, David, Anil Markandya, and Edward B. Barbier. *Blueprint for a Green Economy*. London: Earthscan, 1989.

Robert, Karl-Henrik and others. "A Compass for Sustainable Development." *The Natural Step News* (available at <http://www.naturalstep.org>, no. 1 (Winter).

Wackernagel, Mathis and William Rees. *Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth*. Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers, 1996.

Ward, Barbara and Rene Dubo. *Only One Earth-The Care and Maintenance of a Small Planet*. London: Deutch, 1972.

World Commission on Environment and Development. *Our Common Future*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987.

Writings on Land Use (including farming, forestry)

Bragado, Nancy, Judy Corbett, and Sharon Sprowls. *Building Livable Communities: A Policymaker's Guide to Infill Development*. Sacramento, CA: Center for Livable Communities, 1995. (CLC has many other titles on the subject)

Brown, Lester R. *The Agricultural Link: How Environmental Deterioration Could Disrupt Economic Progress*. WorldWatch Paper 136, 1997.

Brown, Lester R. *Who Will Feed China? Wake-Up Call for a Small Planet*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1995.

Canadian Council of Forest Ministers. *Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in Canada: Technical Report*. 1997.

Gardner, Gary. *Shrinking Fields: Cropland Loss in a World of Eight Billion*. Washington, D.C.: Worldwatch Institute, WorldWatch Paper 131, 1996.

Levins, Dick. *Monitoring Sustainable Agriculture with Conventional Financial Data*. White Bear Lake, Minn: Land Stewardship Project. 1996.

Sorensen, A. Ann and J. Dixon Esseks. *Living on the Edge: The Costs and Risks of Scatter Development*. Dekalb, IL: American Farmland Trust and the Northern Illinois University Center for Agriculture in the Environment, 1998.

Sorensen, A. Ann, Richard P. Greene, and Karen Russ. *Farming on the Edge*. Dekalb, IL: American Farmland Trust and the Northern Illinois University Center for Agriculture in the Environment, 1997.

Writings on Economy and Business

Benner, Chris. *Growing Together or Drifting Apart? A Status Report*. San Jose, CA: Working Partnerships USA & The Economic Policy Institute, 1998.

Brown, Lester R., Christopher Flavin, and Sandra Postel. *Saving the Planet: How to Shape an Environmentally Sustainable Global Economy*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1991.

Cobb, Clifford, Ted Halstead, and Jonathan Rowe. "If the GDP Is Up, Why Is America Down?" *The Atlantic Monthly* 276 (October 1995): 59-78.

Costanza, Robert. *Ecological Economics*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1991.

Dominguez, Joe and Vicki Robin. *Your Money or Your Life: Transforming Your Relationship With Money and Achieving Financial Independence*. New York: Penguin Books, 1991.

Hawkins, Paul. *The Ecology of Commerce*. New York: Harper Business, 1993.

Kane, Hal. "Income Gap Widens." *World Watch* 8, no. 6 (March 1996-April 1996): 8-9.

Meter, Ken. *Frogtown Neighborhood Income Statement and Balance Sheet: How Capital Flows Through One Low-Income Neighborhood*. Minneapolis, MN: Crossroads Resource Center, 1994.

Schor, Juliet. *The Overspent American: Upscaling, Downshifting, and the New Consumerism*. Basic Books, 1998.

Schor, Juliet. *The Overworked American: The Unexpected Decline of Leisure*. New York: Basic Books, 1992.

Writings on Transportation and Energy

Burrington, Stephen H. *Road Kill: How Solo Driving Runs Down the Economy*. Boston, MA: Conservation Law Foundation, 1994.

Engwicht, David. *Reclaiming Our Cities and Towns: Better Living With Less Traffic*. Philadelphia, PA: New Society Publishers, 1993.

Green Mountain Institute for Environmental Democracy. "Indicators for Tracking Energy Use." *SYNERGY* 3, no. 3 (Summer 1998): 6.

Writings on Material Use (including water)

Abramovitz, Janet N. *Imperiled Waters, Impoverished Future: The Decline of Freshwater Ecosystems*. WorldWatch Paper 128, 1996.

Adriaanse, Albert and others. *Resource Flows: The Material Basis of Industrial Economies*. Washington, D.C.: World Resources Institute, 1997.

Durning, Alan Thein. *How Much Is Enough? The Consumer Society and the Future of the World*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1992.

Gardner, Gary. "The Aquifers That Won't Replenish." *World Watch* 8, no. 3 (May 1995-June 1995): 30-36.

Data

Hall, Bob and Mary Lee Kerr. *1991-1992 Green Index: A State-by-State Guide to the Nation's Environmental Health*. Washington, D.C. Island Press, 1991.

United Nations Development Program. *Human Development Report*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992.

US EPA. *A Guide to Selected National Environmental Statistics in the U.S. Government*. Washington, D.C.: US Environmental Protection Agency, 1993.

US EPA. *Indicators of the Environmental Impacts of Transportation*. Washington, D.C.: US EPA, 1996.

World Resources Institute. *World Resources: The Urban Environment*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. (or any of yearly releases of this world data compendium)

Personal Favorites

Winner, Langdon. *The Whale and the Reactor: A Search for Limits in an Age of High Technology*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1986.

Berry, Wendell. *Home Economics*. San Francisco, CA: North Point Press, 1987.

Avoiding Failures In Sustainability

Mayor's Sustainability Task Force – Jason Bougie and Lon Glazner

Overview: Locating specific examples of failures in implementing sustainable practices on a local level is a difficult objective. This is particularly true if using the Internet as a primary research resource. The time frame allotted to this effort was minimal (roughly 3 weeks), and probably should consist of months of work to establish trustworthy information sources and develop a true summary of possible failure mechanisms for specific programs.

That being said, as a first step this information can be valuable in our effort to describe pitfalls in the work we expect to be doing. It can be particularly useful in identifying certain criteria for the Sustainability Task Force's objectives.

Research: The research material for this document was located primarily from Internet resources. In addition, where sources provided email addresses individuals were emailed with the following questions.

- 1. What process, either political or organizational, has contributed to implementing sustainable practices in your area?**
- 2. Can you identify specific failures, either by project or goal, and name some of the mechanisms for those failures?**

As of writing this summary none of the 18 individuals emailed have responded (but only 2 days have elapsed). Additional attempts at soliciting information will continue.

Due to the complexity of the question "what caused failures in sustainability efforts" we opted to boil the discussion down to three suggestions for the "task force" to consider that would frame our future conversations in a way that success or failure could be more easily defined.

1. Establish a Mission Statement and Achievable Goals: The documents provided to the "sustainability task force" (STF) include a number of wonderful objectives, policy discussions, and a long list of 'Whereas', but they may not constitute an achievable goal for the STF. Other communities that have signed onto the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement have not found the reduction of Green-House Gas (GHG) emissions to be an easily accomplished endeavor.

"Many cities will likely fail in their attempts unless complementary state and federal policies are put in place. Most do not appear to be slowing their GHG emissions more than their state, or the national averages."[1]

Meeting the GHG emission reduction specified in the Kyoto Protocol may be a valuable endeavor. However, it may be beneficial for the STF to focus on a goal more likely to be achieved in the short term. Some examples include creating a “carbon footprint” inventory for the community or reducing energy use by local government by 5% and using those savings to fund additional sustainability efforts.

2. Address Competing Interests: One of the longest “sustainable” economic endeavors has been the harvesting of hardwoods in the Pacific Northwest. In this industry sustainability may be looked at from dramatically different vantage points.

“In spite of persisting institutional differences, post - war forest policy in both British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest has been dominated by very similar advocacy coalitions formed around this shared paradigm of commodity sustainability, and sharing causal conceptions of the kind of forestry practices that would achieve it.”[2]

While the industries harvesting forests felt sustainability was generally defined as having a lasting and renewable commodity, other interested parties were concerned with degradation of the environmental condition of the forests.

“...however, the old - growth issue helped crystallize a powerful competing advocacy coalition, to the point where the once - dominant coalition is no longer in undisputed control of the forest policy agenda. A new and less anthropocentric conception of sustainability has created new links between the environmental community and many groups who were peripheral to and increasingly at odds with the old dominant coalition”[2]

In this particular example both “coalitions” were addressing the sustainability of forests but with entirely different definitions and priorities. Locally, we can do a better job of depolarizing the sometimes political aspects of “greening” local government. We could help to establish a protocol for evaluating priorities and recognizing the importance of competing interests.

As one example, we have a Municipal Airport that has become a focus for economic expansion. Yet air traffic is a considerable contributor to GHG. Reducing emissions to the level specified by the Kyoto Protocol becomes more difficult while expanding our local airport. The STF should identify this reality and weigh in on the competing interest of regional economic growth and our sustainability efforts.

3. Accurate Testing of Goals: For each goal in our Mission Statement we should define a parameter for success or failure. This should be a measurable and numerical value. If a goal is GHG emission reduction then we must develop a method of first measuring current levels, and then accurately measuring a reduction. We will need to verify that changes in emissions are in fact related to efforts we are undertaking to reduce emissions. This can be scientifically strenuous, and may require control groups for comparison.

If we have a less tangible goal, such as improving education of the public with regards to sustainability, then we should still have measurable goals. In this case it might be that we predefine a goal of 6 news stories and 2 community events related to various topics.

Providing accurate tests for reaching goals provides credibility to our efforts and provides the public with an honest representation of the work the STF does. As an example of how testing leads to public confidence Toyota was given a passing grade by the Ecology Center for implementing measurable goals and objectives in trying to use sustainable plastics in the automobile industry.

"Toyota has made commitments to selecting renewable, recyclable and recycled materials, and materials with reduced environmental health toxicity. Toyota is the only automaker that has set some measurable goals that relate to these commitments, including the goal of using renewable or recycled material in 20% of its resin parts by 2015. Toyota is also the only automaker that has committed to the same end-of-life vehicle management practices in North America as it has committed to in Europe and Japan."[3]

The remaining top 6 automakers received below average ratings specifically because they failed to establish defined and measurable goals.

Summary: Research into mechanisms of failure for specific sustainability programs will have to be an ongoing endeavor. But in the short term it would be beneficial for the Sustainability Task Force to identify our mission and various goals, openly address competing interests associated with those goals, and define success and failure in a way that others can measure our results.

Doing these things will provide a solid groundwork for future efforts at improving sustainable practices by our local government, public, and business interests. Not doing these things will make the actual impact of our work unknown and unknowable.

[1]from pioneers.pdf distributed to STF on 4/9/2007 via email

[2] http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3683/is_199604/ai_n8756335/pg_2

[3] report_card_overview_sustainable_plastics.pdf

San Diego's Climate Protection Action Plan (July 2005)

Initial Notes

-San Diego (SD) has Office of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (with 4 staff members) within the Environmental Services Department

-Although greenhouse gases (GHG) are measured for both the community as a whole and the city as an organization, it is explicitly stated that the reduction goals are for the community as a whole, specifically, residents, businesses, and municipal operations.

History

Jan. 29, 2002, city council approved San Diego Sustainable Community Program: 1) Participate in Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) with ICLEI, 2) set 15% GHG reduction goal for 2010, using 1990 as a baseline, and 3) use recommendations of a scientific ad hoc advisory committee to improve the GHG Emission Reduction Plan within the city organization and to identify additional community actions. (The report makes clear that the "scientific ad hoc advisory committee" consisted of "a diverse group of citizens, including scientific experts, business leaders, and community members.")

Climate Protection Action Plan

Action Plan required four basic steps: 1) Understand the current situation. 2) Establish a future goal. 3) Develop actions to achieve that goal. 4) Devise indicators to measure progress towards the goal. Steps 1, 2, and 4 were completed through the initial data collection stage, the Action Plan stated. Step 3 was the work of the ad hoc committee.

Step 1: 1990 baseline and future increases established by CCP software, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) projected growth rates, and reports from the EPA and the California Energy Commission. Transportation, energy and waste were identified as categories most contributing to GHG emissions. More specific breakdowns within each category also happened in this stage.

Step 2: Jan. 2002 setting of goal of 15% below 1990 levels by 2010.

Step 3: Ad hoc committee work.

Step 4: SD Sustainable Community Program Indicators (<http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/sustainable/pdf/indicators.pdf>), though the Action Plan notes additional indicators may be needed to measure GHG emission trends.

Results

From 1994-2003, GHG reduced by 3.81 million tons, of which an 841,000-ton reduction was attributed to city operations and a 2.97 million-ton reduction to the community. The operational changes instituted to achieve these reductions save the city \$15 million annually.

SD's reductions set in motion from as early as 1990, though much more substantially from 1994 onward. SD not only showing net reductions by 2003 but already 41% of way to 2010 goal by 2003.

Methods

Report states that these reductions were achieved primarily by increasing energy efficiency, retrofitting transit infrastructure, recycling, and recovering landfill gas. *Ninety-five percent of the GHG reductions community-wide and 91% within city operations occurred in the category of waste.* Capturing landfill gas to generate power, recycling, composting, and reducing sources of waste were the means used to achieve reductions in this category, with landfill gas capture constituting 56% of the city operation total GHG reduction and 13% of the community-wide total.

The reductions that have occurred in transportation have come about due to city conversion of vehicles to Compressed Natural Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas, city use of GIS and RouteSmart mapping for more efficient trash collection routes, and telecommuting. In the community, reductions have been due to increases in carpooling, mass transit availability and ridership, and bicycle infrastructure improvements.

The reductions in the energy sector have come from equipment and lighting upgrades, and use of alternative fuels, such as landfill and sewage digester gases, falling water, and photovoltaic panels.

Summary of Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations in Action Plan

Transportation:

- Develop and adopt a Community Fuel Efficiency Policy
 - City Departments reduce fuel consumption 15% each year (fuel switching permitted, provided there are emission reductions and economic benefits)
 - City incentives for community vehicles meeting SULEV standards (e.g., preferred parking or free meter parking)
- Annually review and revise existing policies
- Implement State incentives and regulations (preferential lanes; clean and fuel-efficient state fleet)

Energy:

- Track and implement progress toward 50-MW Renewable Energy Goal (already passed)--add 50 MW to city operations by 2013
- Continue upgrading energy conservation in city buildings, and support community outreach efforts in this vein
- Annually review and revise existing policies
- Implement state renewable energy portfolio legislation—20% of utility power from renewables by 2018

Waste

- Continue using methane from inactive and closed landfills as fuel source
- Expand waste minimization efforts
 - Develop and adopt a construction and demolition recycling ordinance
 - Develop and adopt a commercial paper recycling ordinance
 - Develop and adopt a multiple family recycling ordinance
- Annually review and revise existing policies

Urban Heat Island

- Develop and adopt an Urban Heat Island Mitigation Policy—they suggest alternatives to dark roofs and dark roads, more trees planted, but also that more study is needed for recommendations on this
- Annually review and revise existing policies

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

- Develop and adopt an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy—triple bottom line approach: social, environmental, and economic considerations
- Annually review and revise existing policies