

## **Working Group Progress, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

### **Summary of Work for Energy & Sustainability Task Force**

#### **Community Involvement**

- Group Leader & Staff: Emily Woodle, 215-2854 & Susanna Bass, 215-4430
- Focus: To foster marketing, incentive and leveraging recommendations for community involvement to City of Knoxville Energy and Sustainability Taskforce.
- Goals: To recommend to the Task Force an implementation strategy on three next steps from the Energy Inventory report:
  - 1.) Marketing Task Force and City successes and engaging the community;
  - 2.) Developing incentives and program participation drivers; and
  - 3.) Leveraging sustainability with community engagement, grants, and partnerships.
- Progress: Developed a hand-out for distribution and developed and administered a survey at the Knoxville Earth Day event. Have met 5 times to develop recommendations, which include:
  - 1.) Develop an implementation task force to serve post October 2010 and approval of Task Force recommendations by City Council (plan for timing, workshops, etc. after staff editing of plan);
  - 2.) Develop a Citizen's How To Guide for Sustainability – one stop shop for an interested citizen;
  - 3.) Utilize City Facebook and Twitter pages, post survey and discussion forum; develop a brand for Sustainable Knoxville, and incorporate into City branding efforts; &
  - 4.) Upgrade and distribute survey widely to gain a sense of public perception of sustainability in Knoxville, including in all levels of schools.
- Next Meeting: Thursday, September 9, 10 AM at KCDC, conference room (2nd floor)

#### **Energy**

- Group Leader & Staff: Sam Gomberg, 637-6055 & Susanna Bass, 215-4430
- Focus: To explore energy saving opportunities and to provide recommendations to City of Knoxville Energy and Sustainability Taskforce.
- Goals: To recommend to the Task Force an implementation strategy for the following:
  - 1.) Developing efficiency incentives in small business / commercial and residential sector
  - 2.) Developing employee education for efficiency in civic buildings / structures; and
  - 3.) Pushing appropriate legislation for Tennessee and exploring financial mechanisms to encourage energy efficiency measures in Knoxville.
- Progress: Have met 3 times to develop recommendations, which include:
  - 1.) Energy education for City Employees: how habits affect bills;
  - 2.) Code Incentives for those who are utilizing green development;
  - 3.) Streetlight, parking garage, and night watchmen retrofits: working with KUB to develop LED rates and pilot projects;
  - 4.) Building banking partnerships to promote low interest or revolving loans with private financing; &
  - 5.) Energy Measurement Verification: the best way to track City progress towards reduction goals.
- Next Meeting: Thursday, August 19, 9:00 AM, Room 584 of the City County Building

#### **Goods & Services**

- Group Leader & Staff: Drew Thurman, 215-5821 & John Homa, 215-2872
- Focus: To explore green purchasing, sustainable landscaping, and event and park recycling options and to provide sustainable best practices recommendations to City of Knoxville Energy and Sustainability Taskforce.
- Goals: To recommend to the Task Force an implementation strategy on three next steps from the Energy Inventory report:
  - 1.) Aiding the Purchasing Dept. in honing and institutionalizing a green purchasing policy;
  - 2.) Developing waste diversion goals and exploring rollout of recycling in the City County Building & other City buildings, as well as at Parks and other recreation sites; and
  - 3.) Researching edible and native landscaping / community gardens in vacant lots, right of way, and parks.
- Progress: Already working to implement suggestions in waste and purchasing subgroups. Developed a detailed matrix for deliverables. 3 sub-committees have met 12 times to formulate the following recommendations:
  - 1.) Allowing types of edible plants in right of way (logistics / liability);
  - 2.) Allowing community gardens on vacant City lots (logistics / liability);
  - 3.) Buyer Education / Training on new Green Purchasing Policy;
  - 4.) Appendix for Green Purchasing Policy: Green Buyers Guide;
  - 5.) Development of a Green Purchasing Guide for Buyers;
  - 6.) New Purchasing Staff to aid with Energy contracts, green purchase;
  - 7.) City Event Recycling: Game / Booms Day and other special events;
  - 8.) Toolkit for small event recycling, coordinated with County recycling;
  - 9.) City recycling in Parks (pilot at Caswell);
  - 10.) Recycling in City & County Buildings;

- 11.) Permanent Recycling Containers in the Downtown Central Business District (pilot in place).
- Next Meeting: Almost complete; Purchasing and Plant subcommittees to meet once in September.

### **Infrastructure**

- Group Leader & Staff: Wayne Blasius, 525-0088 & Susanna Bass, 215-4430
- Focus: To work closely with applicable City departments to evaluate impacts of current City government practices, research, and recommend affordable and practical ways to incorporate sustainability into elements of street design, public parking facilities, and public park lands.
- Goals: Within ROW/Streetscape Design, design and operation of Parking Facilities, and water consumption/irrigation for Parks, the working group will:
  - 1.) Evaluate environmental and economic impacts of current practices;
  - 2.) Identify and prioritize most effective areas for improvements; and
  - 3.) Analyze and propose strategic and viable methods for incorporating sustainable design and/or operation standards into engineering practices.
- Progress: Identified future coordination needs, met 3 times to develop recommendations:
  - 1.) Work with MPC to modify subdivision regulations to reduce pavement width, curbing, and parking surface sealing requirements.
  - 2.) Examine grass width / planting standards to allow for more flexibility in ROW stormwater filtration and mowing requirements (ie, landscaping with native species and allowing the uncut look to become accepted by the community)
  - 3.) Add additional traffic modes: bike lanes striped in ROW where possible, examine requesting sidewalks of developers (not homeowners)
  - 4.) Work closely with KUB during the design process to find suitable locations for utilities that minimize pavement and root disturbance and maximize ease of maintenance for utility work crews.
- Next Meeting: Thursday, September 2nd, Room 549 of the City County Building

### **Sustainable Growth**

- Group Leader & Staff: Mark Donaldson, 215-2500 & Erin Burns, 215-2065
- Focus: Making building codes, community planning, and residential and commercial development/design more energy efficient and environmentally friendly.
- Goals: In order of priority, the group will be focusing on helping the City:
  - 1.) Transition to updated building energy codes;
  - 2.) Adoption of MPC suggestions for Sustainable Code Changes;
  - 3.) Consideration of ways to maximize effectiveness of MPC resources in city planning
  - 4.) Identify and recommend potential mended green building policy for municipal buildings;
  - 5.) Evaluate incentives for energy-efficient/sustainable private sector development; and
  - 6.) Maintain and expanding support for Community Development's responsible and energy-efficient rehabilitation and construction goals
- Progress: Met 8 times, developed the following recommendations:
  - 1.) Stormwater impact fees to aid in upcoming unfunded federal stormwater mandates;
  - 2.) Long Term Building Code Policy for phasing in the Energy Code to State pace;
  - 3.) MPC – City interaction strategy to tie City budget process to MPC work plan; and
  - 4.) Sustainable Code Changes –working with MPC to audit and update zoning regulations.
- Group Meetings Complete.

### **Transportation**

- Group Leader & Staff: Pat Mulligan, 607-0541 & Susanna Bass, 215-4430
- Focus: To recommend affordable and practical ways to encourage commuting and reduction of fuel consumption in Knoxville.
- Goals: To recommend to the Task Force an implementation strategy based on next steps from the Energy Inventory report:
  - 1.) Encouraging commuting through incentives in the City and Community;
  - 2.) Further developing and enforcing the no idling policy; and
  - 3.) Quantifying savings and quality of life benefits from reduced vehicular travel.
- Progress: Met 4 times and completed the following recommendations:
  - 1.) Bicycles as part of the City's motor pool, or a check-out bicycle program for employees;
  - 2.) Bus pass for City employees who want one;
  - 3.) At least 0.5 City staff person dedicated to promoting alternative transportation, both to City employees and community-wide;
  - 4.) Change development regulations to promote transit, biking and walking;
  - 5.) Enforcement of No Idling Policy;
  - 6.) Car Sharing in downtown and UT areas;
  - 7.) Work with micro-group to develop a Green Fleet Policy;
  - 8.) Smart Trips to be included as a benefit in the Live Well Program.
- Group Meetings Complete.