

Working Group Progress, June 24th, 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 twice to develop recommendations, which include:
 - 1.) Potential Recommendation: branding the City sustainability effort (logo, motto, etc).
 - 2.) Potential Recommendation: interactive poll on website
 - 3.) Potential Recommendation: utilizing Facebook / Twitter / other internet applications
 - 4.) Potential Recommendation: Public forum / meeting on Sustainability to obtain feedback
- Next Meeting: To Be Scheduled with Group in July.

Energy

- Group Leader & Staff: Steve Smith, 637-6055, 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 PACE Legislation for Tennessee and exploring financial mechanisms to encourage energy efficiency measures in Knoxville.
- Progress: Have met twice to develop recommendations, which include:
 - 1.) Potential Recommendation: Energy education to City Employees: how habits affect bills.
 - 2.) Potential Recommendation: Code Incentives for those who are utilizing green development.
 - 3.) Potential Recommendation: LED streetlight retrofit; working with KUB to develop LED rates.
 - 4.) Potential Recommendation: Commercial revolving loan pilot project with private financing.
 - 5.) Potential Recommendation: Parking garage lighting retrofits.
- Next Meeting: Thursday, June 24, 3:00 PM, 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:
 - 1.) Potential Recommendation: Allowing types of edible plants in right of way (logistics / liability).
 - 2.) Potential Recommendation: Allowing community gardens on vacant City lots (logistics / liability).
 - 3.) Potential Recommendation: Buyer Education / Training on new Green Purchasing Policy.
 - 4.) Potential Recommendation: Appendix for Green Purchasing Policy: Green Buyers Guide.
 - 5.) Potential Recommendation: Development of a Green Purchasing Guide for Buyers.
 - 6.) Potential Recommendation: New Purchasing Staff to aid with Energy contracts, green purchase.
 - 7.) Potential Recommendation: City Event Recycling: Game / Booms Day and other special events.
 - 8.) Potential Recommendation: Toolkit for small event recycling, coordinated with County recycling.
 - 9.) Potential Recommendation: City recycling in Parks (pilot at Caswell).
 - 10.) Potential Recommendation: Recycling in City & County Buildings.
 - 11.) Potential Recommendation: Permanent Recycling Containers in the Downtown Central Business District.
- Next Meeting: To Be Scheduled with Group(s).

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.) Potential Recommendation: Pavement width by street classification & paving materials.
 - 2.) Potential Recommendation: Drainage design, location, filtration, retention for water quality, etc.
 - 3.) Potential Recommendation: Sidewalk, ped/bike-way incorporation into new and re-design.
 - 4.) Potential Recommendation: Landscaping with native species in ROW.
 - 5.) Potential Recommendation: Utilities coordination (location, zone, future repair guidelines).
- Next Meeting: To be scheduled with the Group for the week of July 5th.

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: Have met 6 times, developing recommendations:
 - 1.) Potential Recommendation: Transition for updated building energy codes (complete)
 - 2.) Potential Recommendation: established general strategy for assessing zoning codes (complete)
 - 3.) Potential Recommendation: best-practice municipal/private sector green building/development policies (research begun).
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 6th, 12:00 - 1:30 PM, Room 549, City County Building. *Note: The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 12:00 – 1:30PM in the City County Building, Room 549 or 581. Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch.*

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: Have met 3 times and have identified a list of potential recommendations due by July 12; they will be shared at the July Group meeting for review, revisions and prioritization:
 - 1.) Potential Recommendation: Bicycles as part of the City's motor pool, or a check-out bicycle program for employees (Brian Berry, TPO).
 - 2.) Potential Recommendation: Bus pass for City employees who want one (Brian Berry, TPO).
 - 3.) Potential Recommendation: At least 0.5 City staff person dedicated to promoting alternative transportation, both to City employees and community-wide (Brian Berry, TPO).
 - 4.) Potential Recommendation: Change development regulations to promote transit, biking and walking (Brian Berry, TPO).
 - 5.) Potential Recommendation: Enforcement of No Idling Policy (Pat Mulligan, QE2).
 - 6.) Potential Recommendation: Car Sharing in downtown and UT areas (Kelley Segars, TPO).
 - 7.) Potential Recommendation: Green Fleet Policy (Jonathan Overly / Gordie Bennett / Cindy McGinnis).
 - 8.) Potential Recommendation: Smart Trips to be included as a benefit in the Live Well Program (City wellness incentive program); (Kelley Segars and Susanna Bass).
- Next Meeting: To be scheduled with Group after July 12.