



HISTORIC
FRANKLIN
TENNESSEE

ITEM #6
WRKS 05/11/2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen
FROM: Eric Stuckey, City Administrator
Vernon Gerth, ACA of Community and Economic Development
DATE: May 11, 2010
SUBJECT: Sustainability/Grants Coordinator Six Month Progress Report

The original intent for this report was to describe sustainability and grant related initiatives that have taken place since Andrew Orr, Sustainability/Grants Coordinator began employment with the City of Franklin on October 23, 2009. Given the interdisciplinary nature of both sustainability and grants, however, successes listed here apply not only to the said position, but to the sustainability initiative as a whole and grants recently awarded to the City due to the hard work of many other City employees and citizens. It should also be noted that, as a result, several actions identified in this report were initiated before the creation of a Sustainability/Grants Coordinator position.

Sustainability Efforts

- Liaison to the Sustainability Commission:
 - Organize meetings, create agenda packets
 - Follow up on initiatives, provide requested information
 - Develop mechanisms to track and measure initiatives
 - Research topics and various opportunities
- Liaison to the Sustainability Task Force (7 Committees)
 - Setting up meetings and assisting with initiatives
- Live Green Partnership—Worked closely with Eric Stuckey, Milissa Reierson, and the Leadership Franklin group to put the program together, garner support for it by reaching out to businesses, answering emails, phone calls, and putting information online. Approximately 150 businesses have signed up and many have initiated sustainability efforts. Several businesses reached out to the City for guidance on how to move forward.
- Updating Live Green section of website
- Appointed to Nashville Area Advisory Board--tasked with developing and implementing an electric vehicle infrastructure specifically in Middle Tennessee. Meetings occur weekly and the Board is responsible for a smooth deployment of a charging infrastructure in the Nashville Area. Franklin will likely receive several charging stations funded by a joint partnership between DOE and a consortium of partners.
- Fostering a strong relationship with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and using their online resources



- Local Government Operations/Greenhouse Gas Inventory—Measuring the City’s natural gas consumption, electricity usage, fuel consumption, and commuter habits of employees to identify potential cost savings and efficiencies.
- Recent Membership of Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership and pledged to take steps to reduce waste, water, and energy.

Initiatives Completed from Sustainable Community Action Plan and Municipal Services Action Plan:

- Direct Bus Service to downtown Nashville established in December of 2009
 - Average daily ridership on the Franklin-Brentwood Express in February was 76 people which is up from 46 daily passengers in December
- Adoption of the Greenways and Open Space Master Plan in January of 2010
- Residential Curbside Recycling approved in February of 2010
- Establishment of Live Green Business Partnership in March of 2010 (150 Business Partners)
- Continually updating website

Initiatives in Progress from Sustainable Community Action Plan and Municipal Services Action Plan:

- DOE funded Efficient Lighting upgrades at Jim Warren Park
- Inventory of Municipal Operations
- EV Project
- Developing a policy requiring all new municipal building and renovation projects to meet LEED Silver
- Adoption of 2009 IECC buildings codes (estimated 15% energy reduction)
- Considering sustainability factors in purchasing decisions
- Becoming an Energy Star Partner
- Composting food waste at City Hall

Upcoming Initiatives:

- Community wide air quality/greenhouse gas inventory
- Incentives for green building practices
- Annual update to Sustainable Community Action Plan
- Zoning Ordinance audit
- Continually identifying new opportunities and staying current with the industry

Grants/ARRA Funding Awarded to the City of Franklin:

- \$7,670,378 in ARRA projects are being administered throughout the City:

- TDEC – Water Department Administering
 - Raw Water reservoir improvements
 - Expansion of Recycled Water Distribution Lines and Collection System
- TDOT – Engineering Department Administering
 - Intelligent Transportation System Projects (TOC)
- HUD – Community and Economic Development
 - Purchase property for Affordable Housing
- Department of Justice Assistance Program - Reporting in Coordination with Police and Finance
 - Development and Training
- Department of Energy – Reporting in Coordination with Parks and Finance
 - Energy efficient lighting upgrades at Jim Warren Park. Lighting upgrades will be underway soon at Jim Warren Park
 - Partial funding for Sustainability/Grants Coordinator Position.

Grants Pending:

- Engineering Department submitted a \$131,857 Transportation Enhancement Grant in November to fund bike bollards in Downtown Franklin and bike racks for our City parks
- Assisted the Parks Department in preparation of an \$80,000 Recreational Trails Grant to install a pervious crush and run trail network at Harlinsdale Park
- Assisted the MIT Department in submitting a request for information to help Google identify a test market to install a high speed, fiber optic internet connection
- Assisted Fire Department with grant efforts to fund RADD 57 devices
- Submitted a \$300,000 grant to the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance to provide highly technical audits, install monitoring programs, and partially fund improvements to four large energy consuming buildings in Franklin (Not selected)

A list of projects that grants could potentially fund has been compiled and a few hours each week are spent identifying and evaluating grant opportunities. If a grant program seems to be compatible, I contact the right person and discuss it in further detail.

Coordinating and Outreach:

- Working with MTEMC to determine power usage at every City of Franklin property
- Discussing potential collaboration with the Farmers Market—Farmapalooza
- Discussing possible opportunities with other local businesses
- Attended two area Chamber of Commerce meetings to introduce the Live Green Partnership and one Downtown Franklin Association meeting



- Helped the United Way identify economic development opportunities
- Currently enrolled in the Keep Williamson Beautiful Environmental Leader class
- Event Involvement:
 - Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) Spring Meeting on June 8th; I will also be presenting
 - Arbor/Earth Day on April 17th,
 - Live Green Kickoff Event on March 17th.

Events Attended:

- Attended a Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee in Lebanon, TN in November of 2009
- Attended Complete Streets Workshop in Franklin in January of 2010
- Attended *Save Energy Now* LEADER event hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy and Nissan North America at their plant in Smyrna in April of 2010.
- TDOT Designing Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Workshop June 2010

Testimonials:

Lisa Clayton, Parks Director:

The Parks Department has many different kinds of projects in which encompasses athletics, programming, preservation, urban forestry, restoration projects, etc... Several Parks staff have worked with Andrew Orr over the past few months and the experience has been very positive. He currently is aware the department is always looking for alternative funding for various projects on our radar.

Andrew Orr's interaction with the Sustainability Task Force Committees is professional and enthusiastic. From a social media standpoint, he responds in a timely manner and contributes to the team. I believe he has made a substantial contribution to the continued overall operation and growth for the sustainability movement of our city. Hopefully as time allows, he can begin to achieve and create a benchmarking program for city departments in this same manner as he has with the commission.

Ken Scalf, Sustainability Commission Chair:

Andrew Orr has excelled thus far in his position as the City of Franklin Sustainability and Grants Coordinator. His can do attitude and passion for all things sustainable is inspiring and has become the hub for the sustainability initiative in the City of Franklin and the community. Andrew embraces a collaborative approach to his work while having a grasp on the unique aspects of local government that creates an effective method of accomplishing the important work before us. Additionally, he has been successful in organizing volunteers to stay focused on implementation of the Action Plan for tangible results that are refined and adjusted to allow realistic implementation.