

Franklin TENNESSEE



2009 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



A GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY



Dear Citizens,

The City of Franklin is recognized as a leader among communities across Tennessee and the nation. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has recognized our City as one of “America’s Distinctive Destinations,” the readers of *Southern Living* magazine placed Franklin in the top ten “Best Small Towns” list, and *Business Week* named Franklin the top city in Tennessee and among the top 50 nationally in terms of places to start a small business. The City organization and staff were recognized again this past year by state and national organizations for excellence and achievements in virtually every department.

The next step is to become a leader in sustainability, not only in our City departments but also throughout our entire community, to build a partnership between the City and its residents to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.

In late 2008, the Sustainability Task Force was created when a group of 250 individuals from both the City and the community joined in a series of workshops to begin the work of developing a Sustainability Action Plan. Nine committees were formed: Waste Reduction, Water and Stormwater, Urban Nature, Urban Design, Public Education, Alternative Fuel and Energy, Transportation, Energy, and Environmental Health.

This plan is a guide for all citizens and businesses of Franklin. The City will lead by example and facilitate community awareness and involvement. From here, it is up to you as citizens, families, and employees to do what is right for the community and environment. The quality of life for our children and the future of our city depend on all of us embracing the actions outlined in this plan. By making changes in our daily activities, together we can reduce our dependence on Earth’s limited natural resources.

Thank you to all the volunteers and committee members who have spent countless hours working on this plan. The Sustainability Task Force, Franklin Tomorrow, and a variety of other community groups will keep everyone updated on the successes as we begin implementing actions that make a difference. We hope you will join us!

Sincerely,

Mayor John Schroer

City Administrator Eric Stuckey

Franklin

“Top 10” Sustainability Needs

(Based on needs assessment)

1. Increase the use of energy from renewable sources
2. Increase the level of waste recycling
3. Reduce the environmental impact of vehicle transportation
4. Reduce energy usage throughout the community
5. Reduce levels of greenhouse gas emissions
6. Reduce the environmental impact of the building construction process
7. Increase the use of energy-efficient building systems and equipment
8. Obtain adequate funding for sustainability projects
9. Reduce potable water consumption
10. Increase the use of environmentally friendly building materials, furnishings and finishes

“Top 10” Sustainability Practices

(Based on practices assessment)

1. Recycling Program
2. Renewable Energy Systems Design and Operation
3. Potable Water Conservation
4. Building Materials Recycling and Reuse
5. Renewable Building Material Usage
6. Sustainable Transportation Support
7. Construction Waste Management
8. Pollutant Source Reduction
9. Energy and Environmental Education Program
10. Distributed Power Generation

WASTE REDUCTION

ACTION 1: Partner with Williamson County Solid Waste to locate, build, open and service two additional recycling drop-off sites within the City limits of Franklin.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Based on total waste collected compared to total waste diverted the resulting percentage measures our recycling rate. Our goal is to increase, if not, maintain the percentage from one year to the next.

ACTION 2: Strive for a 10 percent reduction of waste transferred to landfills annually to achieve an overall 50 percent reduction of waste transferred to landfills by 2015, and 75 percent reduction of waste transferred to landfills by 2030.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

The actual tonnage of waste transferred from the City of Franklin to landfills in 2008. Report provided by the City of Franklin Solid Waste Department.

ACTION 3: Develop a program encouraging City of Franklin citizens to utilize recycled wood chips, mulch, compost, etc. while taking appropriate precautions regarding wood destroying organisms and insects. Target launch summer of 2009.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Yards of wood chips, mulch, compost, etc., used by the City and the citizens. Reports provided by the City of Franklin Streets Department.

MUNICIPAL STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES:

- Decrease waste to landfills.
- Implement “user friendly” recycling and composting programs.

WATER & STORMWATER

ACTION 1: Reduce potable water usage within the Franklin City Limits by 25 percent May through October and by 10 percent during the remaining months by 2014.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Gallons per day of water used per capita. Reports provided by the various Water Districts: City of Franklin, HBTS, Milcrofton, and Mallory Valley.

ACTION 2: Reduce effluent discharge into the Harpeth River by 15 percent within 5 years.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

The daily discharge rate of effluent into the Harpeth River. Reports provided by City of Franklin Water Reclamation Facility.

ACTION 3: Establish priority sewersheds for inflow and infiltration removal by 2014.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Define percent of rainfall dependant inflow and infiltration RDII and develop metric for reduction per sewershed. Reports provided by the City of Franklin Water Management Department.

STORMWATER

ACTION 1: Establish, complete, and continue a monitoring program for each sub-watershed of the Harpeth River Watershed within the Urban Growth Boundary of the City of Franklin by 2011.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Percentage of sub-watersheds of the Harpeth River Watershed within the Urban Growth Boundary of the City of Franklin. Reports provided by the City of Franklin Engineering Department.

ACTION 2: Establish a baseline metric that is sub-watershed specific in order to set targets for natural stream conditions by 2014. Eventually this Action will be federally mandated and shall be kept separate for tracking purposes.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Percentage of sub-watersheds with an established baseline metric. Reports provided by the City of Franklin Engineering Department.

ACTION 3: Establish priority sub-watersheds located within the City of Franklin Urban Growth Boundary, and develop watershed plans based on information gathered by Actions 1 and 2 by 2015.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

The metrics will be determined by the watershed plans, and will be specific for each sub-watershed. One possible metric is daily discharge vs. discharge for the 2-year storm event. Reports provided by the City of Franklin Engineering Department.

MUNICIPAL STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES:

- Develop policies for implementation of aggressive conservation efforts.

URBAN NATURE

ACTION 1: Create a local, incentive-based, points program for the design, development & construction industries to encourage sustainable practices on new projects by December 31, 2010.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Develop a green building ordinance for the City of Franklin, with a projected completion date of December 31, 2010.

ACTION 2: Establish a local Greenway/Open Space Master Plan for the City and the entire Urban Growth Boundary by October 30, 2009, that identifies natural environmental characteristics necessary to preserve, protect, and shape future development patterns and environmentally sustainable practices as a priority.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Projected completion date of October 30, 2009.

MUNICIPAL STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES:

- Ensure that there is an accessible public park or recreational open space available to all residents of Franklin.
- Conduct a Tree Inventory and implement best practices for trees citywide.
- Protect the ecological integrity of the City's primary drinking water resources (i.e. Harpeth River, tributaries, wetlands and associated ecosystems.)

URBAN DESIGN

ACTION 1: Mandate a green building rating system standard that applies to all new buildings.

1. 15 percent reduction of energy consumption in newly constructed buildings by 2010.
2. Construction of only LEED certified buildings for any new Municipal Building Project after January 1, 2010.
3. By 2012, the City of Franklin shall enact additional regulations to further reduce energy consumption in newly constructed buildings by an additional 15 percent.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Building energy consumption in newly constructed buildings as measured and averaged by the U.S. Department of Energy in 2008. Periodic reports provided by City of Franklin.

ACTION 2: Advance, promote, and encourage higher density, mixed use, walkable, bikeable and disabled accessible neighborhoods which coordinate land use and transportation with open space systems for recreation and ecological restoration by adopting and implementing the Franklin Greenway & Open Space Plan by October 2010.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Franklin Land Use Plan compliance as monitored by the City of Franklin Planning Department. Periodic report provided by the Franklin Planning Department.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

ACTION 1: Provide education to the citizens of Franklin regarding sustainability and establish a partnership with the citizens of Franklin to increase awareness and create a more sustainable community.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Periodic reports provided by Franklin Tomorrow and the City of Franklin Sustainability/Grant Coordinator.

- Attendance at Franklin Tomorrow's Live Green lecture series – Commence Spring 2009
- Hits on the "Live Green in Franklin" Web site – Commence Fall 2009
- Number of people who sign up for our Green Tips email blasts – Commence Summer 2009
- Number of attendees, Homeowners Associations and groups that are involved in the sponsored activities/ events – Establish Speakers Bureau Summer 2009

ACTION 2: Establish a Green Partner program for local businesses, contractors, homeowners and organizations. The partnerships will enable these entities to be publicly recognized when they go green, which will encourage environmental stewardship and create awareness in our community. The Sustainability Task Force will recognize/certify all who make an extra effort to operate in an environmentally responsible manner. Target Date – Winter 2009.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

A "Green Team" needs to be established by the Sustainability Task Force and headed by the new Sustainability/Grant Coordinator. Forms and Criteria are being developed by the Public Education Committee. Once these forms and criteria are developed and sign up forms are available on the Web site, the Public Education Committee in conjunction with the "Green Team" and the City's Sustainability/Grant Coordinator will promote this program through Chambers and local business groups. Periodic reports provided by the Public Education Committee.

ALTERNATIVE FUEL & ENERGY

ACTION 1: Replace five percent of the vehicles registered in the City of Franklin with vehicles that use alternative energy sources by 2012.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

The type and quantity of vehicles registered in the City of Franklin's vehicle registration database. The base year for comparison will be the number of vehicles registered at the end of the calendar year 2008. Subsequent quarterly reports will be generated to track the ongoing success. Report provided by the State of Tennessee Department of Motor Vehicles.

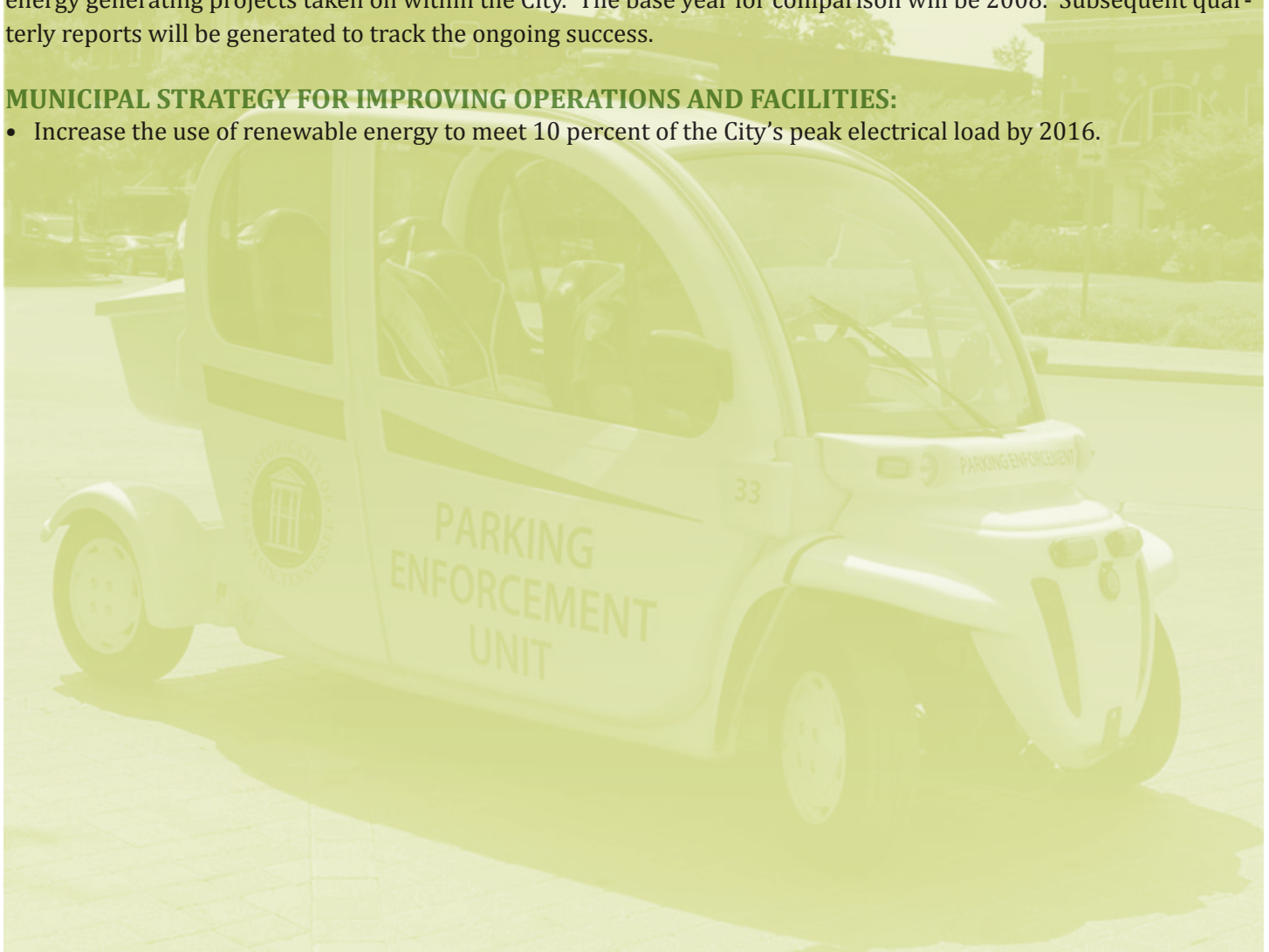
ACTION 2: Replace 10 percent of the electricity Citywide with electricity generated by clean and renewable means by 2014.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Percentage of electricity generated from sustainable sources, based on Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation's reported electricity utilization and as the aggregate electricity generating capacity of all alternative energy generating projects taken on within the City. The base year for comparison will be 2008. Subsequent quarterly reports will be generated to track the ongoing success.

MUNICIPAL STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES:

- Increase the use of renewable energy to meet 10 percent of the City's peak electrical load by 2016.



TRANSPORTATION

ACTION 1: Develop a preferred parking program for green vehicles throughout the sixteen-block core of the City and on all City-owned properties so that 10 percent of available vehicular public parking spaces are identified by June 1, 2011.

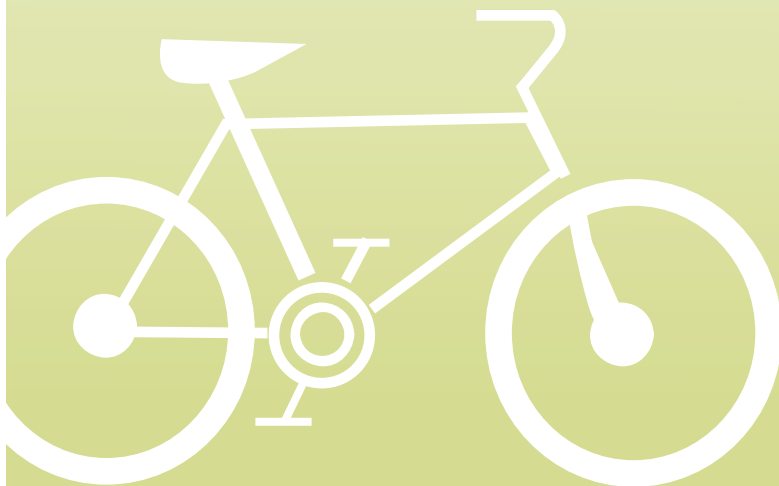
STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

The number and percentage of preferred parking spaces in the sixteen-block core of the City and on City-owned properties. A field-verified survey of the existing public parking in the sixteen-block core of the City and on City-owned properties in the spring of 2009 will establish the baseline. The inventory and a map identifying the locations of parking spaces will be updated continually, and the number and percentage of preferred parking spaces and number of permits issued will be reported annually in the sustainability report. Periodic report provided in coordination with Traffic Engineer, Police Records and Streets Department.

ACTION 2: Make accessible one bicycle parking space for every 10 off-street motor vehicle parking spaces in main destination points throughout the Central Franklin Character Area, as identified in the Franklin Land Use Plan, by June 1, 2009.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

The number and ratio of bicycle parking spaces to off-street motor vehicle parking spaces. An inventory of existing off-street motor vehicle parking in the identified areas in spring of 2009 will establish the baseline. The inventory and a map identifying the locations of bicycle parking spaces will be updated continually and the number and ratio of bicycle parking spaces to off-street motor vehicle parking spaces will be reported annually. The number of transit riders that use the combined alternative modes of transit and bikes will also be monitored and measured. Periodic report provided in coordination with Traffic Engineer, Police Records and Streets Department. Information will also be reported annually in the sustainability report.



ACTION 3: Assist in the implementation of a regional express bus service that meets the needs of commuters between Spring Hill and downtown Nashville by 2013.

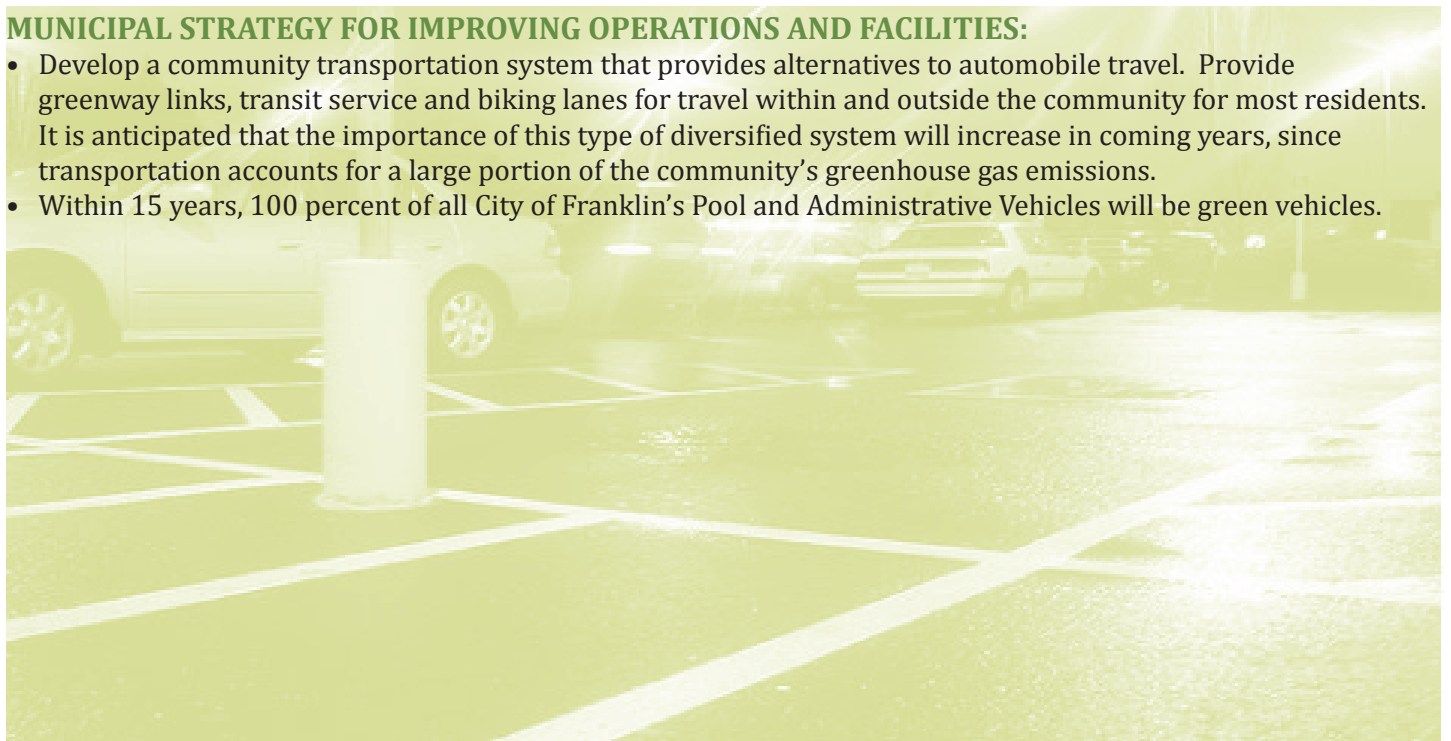
STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Given the regional aspect of this project, this item will require the coordination of several transportation entities to which we will provide support. Incremental benchmarks include:

- Establish express bus service between Franklin and Nashville – 4th quarter of 2009
- Hold alternate modes/transit summit in coordination with area Chambers of Commerce and the TMA Group – 4th quarter of 2009
- Establish an implementation team including; Franklin Transit Authority, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), RTA, TMA, City of Franklin, City of Brentwood, Williamson County, and area Chambers of Commerce – 2nd quarter of 2010
- Complete Southern Corridor Study needs assessment in coordination with the MPO – 4th quarter of 2010
- Identify funding sources – 4th quarter of 2011
- Determine initial pick-up and drop-off locations – 1st quarter of 2012
- Secure agreements with property owners of identified locations – 3rd quarter of 2012
- Secure agreement with service provider– 3rd quarter of 2012
- Complete necessary improvements to initial pick-up and drop-off locations– 3rd quarter of 2013
- Open pick-up and drop-off locations and launch express bus service between Spring Hill and Nashville – 4th quarter of 2013

MUNICIPAL STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES:

- Develop a community transportation system that provides alternatives to automobile travel. Provide greenway links, transit service and biking lanes for travel within and outside the community for most residents. It is anticipated that the importance of this type of diversified system will increase in coming years, since transportation accounts for a large portion of the community's greenhouse gas emissions.
- Within 15 years, 100 percent of all City of Franklin's Pool and Administrative Vehicles will be green vehicles.



ENERGY

ACTION 1: Reduce total Citywide energy usage 20 percent per capita by 2014.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Actual energy usage within the City of Franklin as measured by MTEMC and Atmos Energy. Using 2007 as a baseline year, MTEMC and Atmos Energy will provide raw data on energy usage on a quarterly basis. The City's Sustainability Commission, with support of The Energy Committee, will produce a periodic report.

ACTION 2: Increase City of Franklin entities' participation in energy efficiency audits by 50 percent by 2014.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Total number of energy audits conducted by City of Franklin entities. Using 2007 as a baseline year, TVA and its sub-contractors, MTEMC, Atmos Energy and a maximum of three for-profit organizations will provide data on the number of energy audits conducted by categories such as residential, commercial, educational and municipal. The City's Sustainability Commission, with support of The Energy Committee, will produce a periodic report.

ACTION 3: Reduce total greenhouse gas emissions seven percent by 2014.*

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Greenhouse gas emissions within the City of Franklin. Using 2007 as a baseline year, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions will be measured by ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) www.iclei.org. The City's Sustainability Commission with support of The Energy Committee will produce a periodic report.

** Please note that according to ICLEI, average goals are around seven percent reduction by 2012, i.e. Atlanta recently set the goal of seven percent reduction by 2012. Toronto set a goal to reduce 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. Seattle reported a 60 percent reduction from 1990 levels.*



*photo courtesy of Williamson Herald

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ACTION 1: Improve outdoor air quality by reducing harmful carbon-based (CO²) pollution caused by community energy usage at least five percent by 2012 and another 20 percent by 2015.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Measure kilowatt hours of electricity used during period and kilowatt hours converted to Green Power Switch. Kilowatt hours used will be converted into the amount of CO² generated during period.

Kilowatt hours of energy used and converted to clean renewable sources (Green Power Switch) can be obtained from MTEMC.

ACTION 2: Improve indoor air quality and reduce toxic chemicals by identifying and eliminating at least 25 percent of volatile organic compounds used by the City of Franklin and related schools within the City limits by 2010, with complete elimination by 2013.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Purchase order reports specifying chemicals eliminated and non-volatile organic compounds replacement products.

Facilities management personnel within City Government and City Schools could produce the reports.

MUNICIPAL STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES:

- Every year, identify one product, chemical or compound that is used within the City that represents the greatest risk to human health and reduce or eliminate its use within each department.



SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

CO-CHAIRS

Dr. Ken Moore, Alderman at Large
Vernon Gerth, ACA-Community &
Economic Development

WASTE REDUCTION

Becky Caldwell – Chair/Staff
Bubba Miller
Joey Czarneski
Jeff Recker
Andy Sperry
Josh Womack

TRANSPORTATION

Debbie Henry – Chair
Ken Altman
Erin Reinders – Staff
Alex Noble
Don Green
Kevin Comstock - Staff

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Lynn Deal – Chair
Eric Finch
James Smith
Ben Bolton
Ran Edwards – Staff
Richard Stotler
Charlie Geiger

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Jason Goddard
Larry Mizell – Staff

URBAN NATURE

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Ann Bodnar
Khris Pascarella
Julian Bibb
Lisa Clayton – Staff
PJ Pratt

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Jason Rappoport
Norm Odeneal - Staff
Jeff Jordan
Tom Moreland
Jud Adams
James Smith
Bill Bruce
Lynn Borum

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Brian Fritcher - Staff
Kevin Rabinovitch
Dr. Janet Smith
Charlie Geiger
Andy Sperry
Lucinda Dyer

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Ken Scalf
Michael Orr
Phil Fawcett
Dorie Bolze
Don Green
Mark Hilty– Staff

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Missy Horesh – Recording Secretary
Brad Wilson - Staff
Karen Cochran
John Golden
Tim Hawbaker
Lisa Platt
Fred Neu
Jeff Stough
Subject Matter Expertise: Chuck Barber, Carlton Brown,
Bill Lee, Steve Johnson, Richard Russell, and Brian Weldy

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