

Sustainable Community Self-Assessment Tool Resources for Sustainable Communities

Governance

Public Participation

Local Action for Sustainable Economic Renewal (LASER) Resources:

LASER is a workbook and interactive web site that presents an innovative approach to economic development, introducing a new way of thinking about how real wealth is created on the local level. The goal of LASER is to create wealth — wealth that provides people with long-term economic security, and that maintains the ability of current and future generations to live healthy and fulfilled lives. http://www.global-laser.org/workbook/LASER_guide.pdf

Planning Tools for a Public Outreach Campaign

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/public_outreach_planning.pdf

Stakeholder Recruitment Tools

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/stakeholder_recruitment.pdf

Team-Building Tools

<http://www.global-laser.org/resources/team-building.pdf>

Long-Term Planning

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Best Practice for Creating a Shared Vision

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/shared_vision.pdf

Youth Visioning in Calgary, Canada

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/Calgary_Youth_Visioning.pdf

On-Line Community Development Database

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/online_tools.pdf

Center for Livable Communities

1414 K Street, Suite 250, Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel: 916-448-1198; 800-290-8202

<http://www.lgc.org/center/index.html>

The Center, a national initiative of the Local Government Commission, helps local governments and community leaders be proactive in their land use and transportation planning and adopt programs and policies that lead to more livable and resource efficient land use patterns.

National Civic League

1445 Market Street, Suite 300

Denver, CO 80202

Tel: 800-223-6004

<http://www.ncl.org>

The Community Visioning and Strategic Handbook (1996)

This 53-page handbook explains the community visioning process, both the rationale behind it and how to do it.

Capital Planning

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Developing a Capital Improvements Program

A manual prepared by the Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services to assist Massachusetts municipalities in carrying out their responsibilities in planning, financing and implementing capital improvements. This manual has two parts. **Part I** describes the ten steps needed to establish a capital improvements program (or CIP). **Part II** contains the forms and other information necessary to implement a CIP. Feel free to photocopy these forms or adapt them to your needs.

<http://www.dls.state.ma.us/publ/misc/cip.pdf>

ADA Compliance

Legal Information Institute: Disability Law Overview

Provides an overview of disability law including links to related federal and state statutes, state judicial decisions, conventions and treaties, and key internet sources.

http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/index.php/Disability_law

Americans with Disabilities Act Homepage

The home page for the ADA, provided by the U.S. Justice Department, includes a wide variety of information and technical assistance on ADA compliance, including publications, links, federal resources, design standards, educational videos, and law enforcement issues.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm>

Diversity and Integration

Community Cultural Planning Handbook

Community cultural planning is a structured, community-wide fact-finding and consensus building process to identify cultural resources, community needs, and opportunities; and to plan actions and secure resources to respond. This web site provides a short sample of a handbook for communities that can be ordered from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

http://www.umass.edu/aes/publications/sample_pages.htm

Respecting and Responding to Employee Religious Objections to Diversity Training. *Municipal Lawyer (May/June 2006)*

This article describes the legal basis for addressing certain employees' religious objections to diversity training in the workplace.

<http://www.wrf.com/docs/publications/12660.pdf>

Municipal Diversity and Anti-Racism Programs in Canada

A presentation describing efforts at the municipal level in Canada to respond to the need to promote equity in employment, access, and other services.

http://www.diversityvancouver.ca/pdf/municipal_diversity_programs_presentation.pdf

And Don't Call Me a Racist!

This is a collection of quotes on the past, present, and future of the color line in America. You can order it at no charge from the web site.

<http://swiss.csail.mit.edu/~ella/yellowbook/index.htm>

Conflict Management

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Facilitation Skills and Guidelines

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/facilitation_skills.pdf

Conflict Management Guidelines

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/conflict_resolution_rules.pdf

Handbook of Conflict Management

edited by William J. Pammer, Jr. Jerri Killian, *Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio, U.S.A.*

<http://www.questia.com/PM.qst?a=o&d=109113139>

Innovation and Municipal Service Delivery

The Challenge of Change: Innovation for Municipal Government

A presentation on how to introduce innovation to communities that explains the theory of innovation diffusion and identifies critical information that people need before they are willing to try something new.

<http://www.global-community.org/gc/newsfiles/1/SALGA%20Innovation%20Diffusion.ppt>

Understanding Innovation in Municipal Government: City Council Member Perspectives, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, February, 2003

Douglas Ihrke, Rick Proctor, Jerry Gabris (subscription or purchase required)

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1467-9906.t01-1-00006?cookieSet=1&journalCode=juaf>

Unlocking Innovation: Making Municipal Service Delivery Happen

The handbook 'Making Service Delivery Happen - Innovation at work' is produced by the CPSI. The insightful, must read handbook draws on the experience of the Impumelelo Innovation Awards winners. The book targeted at managers and potential innovators is structured around 9 fundamental and crucial innovation lessons. The handbook highlights the latest research in innovation management drawn from the literature on both private and public service innovation.

http://www.cpsi.co.za/contentfiles/tblFile/7_filFilePath_Innova%20-%20Issue%207.doc

Full Cost Accounting for Municipal Solid Waste: A Handbook

EPA developed this *Handbook* to help you implement full cost accounting (FCA) in your community. The *Handbook* will help you better understand the costs of the municipal solid waste (MSW) services you provide, answer key questions you might have about FCA, and guide you through the implementation process. You'll learn how to assemble necessary data, calculate full cost information from the available data, and report the results of your FCA analysis to government officials and residents. Case studies, presented in boxes throughout the *Handbook*, provide snapshots of how other communities across the country have implemented FCA and are reaping its rewards.

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/fullcost/docs/fca-into.pdf>

Social Welfare

Neighborhood Safety and Sense of Community

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Empowerment for Marginalized Populations

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/empowering_the_marginalized.pdf

Time Dollars: Building Community Economics

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/time_dollars.pdf

Neighborhood Safety Handbook: Manhattan, Kansas

This is a handbook developed by the City of Manhattan, Kansas to help neighborhood associations grow and work together to promote neighborhood safety.

<http://www.ci.manhattan.ks.us/common/modules/documentcenter2/documentview.asp?DID=46>

National Crime Prevention Council

The National Crime Prevention Council website offers several publications for sale at low cost to help community leaders design neighborhood safety programs.

http://www.ncpc.org/publications/Home_and_Neighborhood.php

Building Burlington's Community: A Guide to Building Community and Stories of Success

This is a guidebook written by the Community and Economic Development office in the City of Burlington, Vermont about the innovative ways they have worked with people and neighborhoods to make Burlington one of the most livable cities in the United States. Each page features a story paired with a how-to guide.

http://www.cedoburlington.org/neighborhoods/building_burlingtons_neighborhoods/bbntoc.htm

Public Health

World Health Organization: Healthy Cities and Urban Governance

This web site offers a comprehensive compendium of resource materials on how to use city planning and development to promote healthy populations. Some of the publications available are listed below.

<http://www.euro.who.int/healthy-cities>

Community Participation in Local Health and Sustainable Development

A publication describing all the ways communities can work to promote healthier communities.

<http://www.euro.who.int/document/e78652.pdf>

Health Impact Assessment Toolkit for Cities

This web site provides several free on-line tools for communities to use when conducting a health impact assessment.

http://www.euro.who.int/healthy-cities/PHASE/20050806_9

Our Cities, Our Future: Policies and Action Plans for Health and Sustainable Development

<http://www.euro.who.int/document/wa38096OU.pdf>

Healthy Cities and the City Planning Process

<http://www.euro.who.int/document/e67843.pdf>

Community Arts

Community Arts Handbook

This is a helpful, easy-to-read guidebook written by South Dakotans for the Arts on how to start, fund, and develop activities for a community arts organization.

<http://www.sdarts.org/commarts/CommunityArtsHandbookv4.pdf>

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http://www.umass.edu/aes/publications/sample_pages.htm

Community Murals Handbook and Case Studies

http://www.ruralaction.org/arts_toolbox.html

Smart Growth

American Planning Association Policy Guide on Smart Growth

This policy guide is divided into four sections.

- I. A motion to adopt a definition of Smart Growth, including a statement of Smart Growth principles,
- II. A description of the Smart Growth issue, including an historical overview.
- III. Specific policy motions in five categories:
 - A. Planning Structure, Process and Regulation
 - B. Transportation and Land Use
 - C. Regional Management and Fiscal Efficiency
 - D. Social Equity and Community Building
 - E. Environmental Protection and Land Conservation
- IV. A list of outcomes to help readers understand what will be achieved by implementing these policies.

<http://www.planning.org/policyguides/smartgrowth.htm>

Smart Growth Network

In 1996, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency joined with several non-profit and government organizations to form the Smart Growth Network (SGN). The Network was formed in response to increasing community concerns about the need for new ways to grow that boost the economy, protect the environment, and enhance community vitality. The Network's partners include environmental groups, historic preservation organizations, professional organizations, developers, real estate interests; local and state government entities.

<http://www.smartgrowth.org/default.asp>

Smart Growth America

Smart Growth America's coalition is working to support citizen-driven planning that coordinates development, transportation, revitalization of older areas and preservation of open space and the environment.

<http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/>

National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education

The National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education is a non-partisan center for research and leadership training on Smart Growth and related land use issues nationally and internationally.

<http://www.smartgrowth.umd.edu/index.htm>

Natural Resources Defense Council Guide to Smart Growth

City dwellers face a wide range of environmental challenges: dirty air and water, dwindling open space, garbage, soot-spewing buses, traffic, the impacts of industry. NRDC employs equally diverse strategies to make our cities healthier and more livable.

<http://www.nrdc.org/cities/smartGrowth/default.asp>

Natural Lands Trust, Inc.

Communities across Pennsylvania are realizing that they can conserve their special open spaces and natural resources *at the same time* they achieve their development objectives. The tools? Conservation zoning and conservation subdivision design, an approach we're calling *Growing Greener*. If you want your community to take control of its destiny and ensure that new development creates more livable communities in the process, the *Growing Greener* approach might be right for you.

<http://mass.gov/czm/growinggreener.pdf>

Economic Conditions

Supporting Local Businesses and Local Ownership

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Business and Organization Inventory Tool

This is a description of how to conduct an inventory of the businesses and organizations in your community. It includes a case study, additional resources you may want to use, some steps to take, and a sample worksheet.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/business&org_asset_inventory.doc

Market Feasibility Workbook

The Arkansas Small Business Development Center, in cooperation with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, published this guidebook for conducting a market feasibility study for a new business idea.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/market_feasibility_study.pdf

Community Owned Venture Development

Community Development Corporations can drive the creation of local jobs by starting its own businesses. This produces a different outcome in relation to the number and quality of the jobs created. The business can be started and run in accordance with local values and needs, like environmental considerations, or the employment of people with disabilities.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/community_owned_ventures.pdf

Creating and Supporting Entrepreneurs

The world is becoming increasingly globally competitive with individuals and companies being constantly challenged. It has been made clear that creating a successful niche in the marketplace is done through new thought and innovation; it is time to focus local efforts on entrepreneurship development and sustainability.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/entrepreneur_support.pdf

Social Enterprise Investments

These investments serve as a link between disadvantaged communities and the financial markets, thus promoting socially and environmentally responsible development. Social enterprise investments can also create jobs for people with significant barriers to employment, such as homelessness, a history of criminal conviction, substance abuse, or psychiatric disabilities.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/social_enterprise_investing.pdf

Women Entrepreneurs

It has been more difficult for women than for men to overcome the obstacles involved in entrepreneurship. Because of this, it is especially important for a community to focus on programs for women entrepreneurs. Hosting a women entrepreneurship program highlights and encourages the potential of woman success in your community.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/women_entrepreneurs.pdf

Youth Entrepreneurs

A youth entrepreneurship program usually encourages the participants to explore their motivations, goals, opportunities, and skills. The development of this program can make a significant impact on a community whose youth is leaving the area to find good jobs. The program brings hope back to the local youth and keeps many in the area, while even encouraging a few participants to open a new local business.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/youth_entrepreneurs.pdf

Business Incubators & Support

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Business Incubators

A business incubator is an economic development organization which is designed to accelerate the growth and success of entrepreneurial companies through a range of business support resources and services. The most successful incubators have clearly defined goals and strategies set for achieving these goals.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/business_incubators.pdf

Credit and Microfinance

Through Community Development Corporations there are many methods to link financing to those who may not be appealing to traditional lenders. Several examples of credit and microfinance programs used by CDC's included here: Microenterprise Loan Funds, Royalty-Based Financing, Local Exchange Trading Systems (LETS), Community Revolving Loan Fund, Individual Development Account, Equity Matchmaking, Program Related Investment, and Loan Guarantee Programs.

<http://www.global-laser.org/resources/creditµfinance.pdf>

Creative Economy

The Creative Economy

A presentation describing some of the data and approaches to fostering a creative economy in your local community.

<http://www.global-ommunity.org/gc/newsfiles/1/SALGA%20The%20Creative%20Economy.ppt>

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Cultural Heritage Tourism

In many communities, several hundred thousand tourists pass through each year, but don't stay for long visits. By establishing a cultural heritage product in the local community, many of these travelers will begin to spend more time visiting the area instead of just

passing through. As a result of the additional tourist revenue, many new jobs can be created and sustained within the community.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/cultural_tourism.pdf

Historic and Cultural Facilities

Each community is unique and has a significant historical and cultural value to offer. Historic properties are the true expression of a community's heritage and many people feel that these should be preserved. By displaying and creating facilities that support the local history and culture, the people of a community can not only educate themselves on the historic and cultural value of their surroundings, but also gain pride and appreciation of their community.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/historic&cultural_facilities.pdf

The Creativity Exchange: Richard Florida's Blog

Author of *The Rise of the Creative Class*, Richard Florida's web site offers a wide variety of resources for cities who are trying to foster the creative economy.

<http://www.creativeclass.org/>

Sustainable Economic Development

Sustainable Economic Development Planning

A presentation describing current trends and opportunities to profit from energy efficiency, biomimicry, organic and local food production, and green construction techniques, among others.

<http://www.global-community.org/gc/newsfiles/1/Sustainable%20Economic%20Development%20Planning.ppt>

The Business Case for Climate Protection, by L. Hunter Lovins

http://www.natcapsolutions.org/ClimateManual/BusinessCaseForClimateProtection_NCS.pdf

Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution

Paul Hawken, L. Hunter Lovins, Amory Lovins

Nature's Filaments, Excerpt from Natural Capitalism

<http://www.natcapinc.com/info/NC/NCchapter9.pdf>

Aqueous Solutions, Excerpt from Natural Capitalism

<http://www.natcapinc.com/info/NC/NCchapter11.pdf>

Making Markets Work, Excerpt from Natural Capitalism

<http://www.natcapinc.com/info/NC/NCchapter13.pdf>

Global Footprint Network

The Ecological Footprint is a resource management tool that measures how much land and water area a population requires to produce the resources it consumes and to absorb its wastes under prevailing technology.

<http://www.footprintnetwork.org/>

Local Safety Net Programs

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Individual Development Accounts

Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) encourage the routine of saving. IDAs have emerged as promising tools that can enable low-income and low-wealth families to save and build personal assets.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/indiv_development_accts.pdf

Child Care Support

While there are obvious humanitarian and moral reasons to care for vulnerable children, providing the best possible Child Care Support will also benefit the local economy when these strong, healthy, smart children grow up to become working members of the community in the future.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/child_care_support.pdf

Health Care Options

Health care has been and will continue to be a significantly important aspect of a community's economy. This outlines some innovative ways communities have managed health care financing.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/health_care_options.pdf

Livable Wage Programs

A livable wage is an amount of hourly pay or salary compensation which can allow a person to live on a level above the poverty line. This means sufficient wages to pay for basic necessities in a given community. When people are paid below a living wage, they are forced to receive public assistance or go without necessities. Higher wages will also mean more discretionary income that people can choose what to do with, thus benefiting the local economy.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/livable_wages.pdf

Mutual Credit Systems

A mutual credit (MC) system is designed to bypass the limitations of a barter. Like money, it provides an intermediary device which allows two parties to trade even though one of them may have nothing the other wants. In a mutual credit system, the people empower themselves to do the same thing that banks have always been able to do, essentially creating their own money in the form of credit.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/mutual_credit.pdf

Self-Employment Training and Support

There is a completely different frame of mind which needs to be acquired for those who transition from being a job-holder to actually creating their own jobs. A carefully designed method for assisting in this type of change can result in a positive impact for local business development in many aspects. This type of programming can benefit general and human resource services anywhere from low-income to higher income community members.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/self-employment_support.pdf

Skill Development

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Basic Skills Development

A basic skills developmental program is generally aimed towards adults who may lack the appropriate outlet to take action themselves. The program's purpose is to enhance the basic skills needed to be successful in the workplace.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/basic_skills_development.pdf

Life Skills Programs

Life skills are the first component of a comprehensive human resource system in a community. Life skills training can especially benefit those citizens who have been unemployed for a long time or who are undereducated. It is the first step in becoming independent and self-reliant and can initiate their personal involvement within the community.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/life_skills.pdf

Literacy Training

Adult education and literacy programming has the ability to result in an increase in community driven and community based activities. The most efficient literacy training programs work with other organizations to address the range of basic social issues that many people battle to overcome (ie- housing, daycare, transportation, etc).

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/literacy_training.pdf

Mentoring

Mentoring is an effective method for gaining knowledge of professional and personal skills. A mentor is a person who has a sufficient amount of experience and knowledge and the desire to offer their expertise to someone with the aspiration to learn more about that specific skill or profession. While the main purpose is for the person with skill and experience to do the mentoring, he/she can also learn and grow by giving their guidance and support.

<http://www.global-laser.org/resources/mentoring.pdf>

Targeted Training

Targeted training is training that is specialized by a detailed consideration of the features and needs of the population in question. No matter what the type of training is being implemented, the service should be a fundamental part of the local human resource strategy, as well as the overall community economic development strategy.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/targeted_training.pdf

Volunteering for Experience

It is important for a community development corporation to have a program established which promotes volunteering for experience. This type of program generally focuses on recruiting younger members of the community to become involved in working with community organizations to gain experience for their futures.

<http://www.global-laser.org/resources/volunteering.pdf>

Affordable Housing

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Sustainable Construction

Sustainable construction aims to meet the needs of today and improve infrastructure, while minimizing the negative environmental impact and without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs and enjoy a high quality of life. There are numerous ways to implement sustainability principles while also increasing the building's attractiveness, practicality, and economic gain.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/sustainable_construction.pdf

Community Land Trusts

A community land trust (CLT) is a nonprofit corporation, created with the purpose of holding a title to land in perpetuity so that a selected community will never lose access to that land for family homes (and, sometimes, for income opportunities by working with and maintaining the land). The

CLT is run by a board elected from the community it would serve. Like many corporations, a CLT will have both a charter that describes its aim and authority and a set of by-laws that set out its governance procedures. The land in question is generally received to the trust as a gift or bought at a below-market value price from a previous owner who shares values with the CLT.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/land_trusts.pdf

Minnesota Green Affordable Housing Guide

The Minnesota Green Affordable Housing Guide is a web-based resource to assist designers, contractors, and housing agencies integrate sustainability, health, durability, and energy efficiency into cold climate housing. It includes design strategies, decision making tools, comparative analyses, best practices, and resources.

<http://www.greenhousing.umn.edu/>

Affordable Housing Design Advisor

The Affordable Housing Design Advisor brings together experience and ideas from successful affordable housing projects all over the country, and the people who developed, designed and built them.

<http://www.designadvisor.org/home.html>

SeaGreen Affordable Housing Guide

SeaGreen Affordable Housing Guide was developed to promote energy conservation, operational savings and sustainable building practices in affordable multifamily housing projects in Seattle.

<http://www.seattle.gov/housing/SeaGreen/SeaGreen.pdf>

Best Practices for Effecting the Rehabilitation of Affordable Housing

The rehabilitation of affordable housing faces many institutional and regulatory barriers. Because the existing stock varies so much in condition, age, and construction methods, the rehab process is far less predictable and in many ways more challenging than new construction. Nevertheless, the rehabilitation of the country's aging stock is a major resource for meeting the nation's affordable housing needs. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 9/06.

<http://www.huduser.org/publications/affhsg/bestpractices.html>

Building Innovation for Homeownership

A book that documents over 60 affordable housing projects from around the country that created new homeowners in urban and rural areas.

<http://www.huduser.org/Publications/PDF/bih.pdf>

Why Not in Our Community? Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing

This report updates the status of state and local regulatory barriers and highlights the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) commitment to work with states and communities to do away with the barriers that drive up housing costs and reduce the nation's stock of affordable housing. Some progress is evident, but the problem persists.

<http://www.huduser.org/Publications/pdf/wnioc.pdf>

Communication Systems

Digital Community Best Practices

This paper provides local government stakeholders with a process overview of the implementation stages for a Digital Community metro-area broadband solution, including core-group needs analysis, building a business case and community consensus, funding scenarios, private-sector partnering, and network management.

<http://www.intel.com/business/bss/industry/government/digital-community-best-practices.pdf>

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Internet Opportunities

As the Internet becomes an increasingly significant part of everyday life worldwide, access to technology and the internet are becoming progressively more important. The internet enables people to gather and share information and to communicate in real time over any amount of distance. Sharing and community-building capabilities through the internet allows for individuals of a community to empower themselves.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/internet_opportunities.pdf

Natural and Built Environment

Water Quality

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enforces federal clean water and safe drinking water laws, provides support for municipal wastewater treatment plants, and takes part in pollution prevention efforts aimed at protecting watersheds and sources of drinking water. The Agency carries out both regulatory and voluntary programs to fulfill its mission to protect the nation's waters. This web site gives community leaders extensive information about how to protect their water quality.

<http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/water.html>

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) uses law, science and the support of 1.2 million members and online activists to protect the planet's wildlife and wild places and to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all living things. The Natural Resources Defense Council's purpose is to safeguard the Earth: its people, its plants and animals and the natural systems on which all life depends. Their web site offers information and resources for water quality protection.

<http://www.nrdc.org/water/default.asp>

The National Integrated Water Quality Program provides funding to the National Water Program and its Land Grant partners via the CSREES Integrated Research, Education, and

Extension Competitive Grants Program and the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program.

<http://www.usawaterquality.org/themes/conservation/default.html>

Ground Water Atlas of the United States

U.S. Geological Survey.. (USGS, 1997). Designed to be accessible to non-technical users, the Atlas describes the location, extent, geologic, and hydrologic characteristics of the important aquifers of each region of the country. To obtain this resource contact USGS at Office of Ground Water, 411 National Center, Reston, VA 20192; Tel:1.800.USA.MAPS. Additional information can be obtained at <http://www.capp.er.usgs.gov/publicdocs/gwa>.

City of Gresham Water Quality Manual

http://www.ci.gresham.or.us/departments/des/stormwater/water_quality_manual.asp

Groundwater Foundation

The Groundwater Foundation is dedicated to informing the public about the benefits of and risks to groundwater resources.

P.O. Box 22558, Lincoln, NE 68542-2558, Tel: 402.434.2740; 1.800.858.4844, Fax: 402.434.2742, Email: info@groundwater.org, Website: <http://www.groundwater.org>.

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Field Manual

<http://www.easi.org/publications/fieldmanual.pdf>

Solid Waste

The Decision Maker's Guide to Solid Waste Management for solid waste management practitioners: Local government officials; Facility owners and operators; Consultants; and Regulatory agency specialists. This guide contains technical and economic information to help these practitioners meet the daily challenges of planning, managing, and operating municipal solid waste (MSW) programs and facilities. Its primary goals are to: Encourage reduction of waste at the source, and Foster implementation of integrated solid waste management systems that are cost-effective and protect human health and the environment.

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/dmg2.htm>

Full Cost Accounting for Municipal Solid Waste: A Handbook

EPA developed this *Handbook* to help municipalities implement full cost accounting (FCA). The *Handbook* will help you better understand the costs of the municipal solid waste (MSW) services, answer key questions, and guide you through the implementation process. Topics include how to assemble necessary data, calculate full cost information from the available data, and report the results of your FCA analysis to government officials and residents. Case studies, presented in boxes throughout the *Handbook*, provide snapshots of how other communities across the country have implemented FCA and are reaping its rewards.

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/fullcost/docs/fca-into.pdf>

The World's Shortest Comprehensive Recycling Guide

<http://www.obviously.com/recycle/guides/shortest.html>

Landfills: A Solid Waste Management Plan

The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) has created a curriculum guide for students to identify some of the solid waste they generate and produced by industry for products they may use. They will then design a solid waste management plan that will use knowledge of recycling and natural cycles to minimize the waste and the dangers of landfills.

http://www.pbs.org/americanfieldguide/teachers/landfills/landfills_sum.html

United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Sustainable Consumption

One of the main points of focus for UNEP activities is the need to change the deep-rooted unsustainable patterns of consumption apparent in households and in the public and private sectors. Innovative strategies are necessary, since consumption behaviour is firmly interlinked with price, convenience and status. The roles of “information gatekeepers”, such as retailers and the media, are particularly critical in terms of communicating with consumers and providing information about sustainable lifestyles.

<http://www.uneptie.org/pc/sustain/>

Simple Living America

Take a survey to see how your lifestyle measures up to others who are trying to reduce their unnecessary consumption around the country.

<http://www.simplelivingamerica.org/simplicity/>

Global Footprint Network

The Ecological Footprint is a resource management tool that measures how much land and water area a population requires to produce the resources it consumes and to absorb its wastes under prevailing technology.

<http://www.footprintnetwork.org/>

Renewable Energy and Efficiency, CO2 Reductions

ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Campaign

The Cities for Climate Protection™ (CCP) Campaign enlists cities to adopt policies and implement measures to achieve quantifiable reductions in local greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and enhance urban livability and sustainability. More than 650 local governments participate in the CCP, integrating climate change mitigation into their decision-making processes.

<http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=800>

Cool Cities Guide: Sierra Club

The purpose of this guide is to provide a resource for citizens and local officials who are ready to take real action to reduce energy waste and heat-trapping global warming pollution in their communities.

<http://www.coolcities.us/files/coolcitiesguide.pdf>

Climate Protection Manual For Cities

This new manual shows community leaders how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in his/her unique community. The five-step methodology provides a simple, effective, standardized means

a municipality can use to reduce the emissions from both government operations and the community as a whole.

<http://www.natcapsolutions.org/ClimateManual/REVIEW/>

Municipal Guide to Purchasing Renewable Energy

Published by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, this manual outlines a procurement strategy municipalities can use to purchase renewable energy.

http://www.ireccusa.org/municipal/municipal_guide.pdf

Energy Resource Guide: Actions for Municipalities

Compiled by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, this manual gives municipal leaders ideas and resources to reduce their energy consumption.

http://dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2/energy/municipal_energy_resource_guide.pdf

Community Post Carbon Guidebook

This Guidebook helps you outline the various businesses, services, manufacturers, organizations, media outlets and programs that are working towards relocalization in your community. This informative pamphlet, booklet or online resource will serve as a resource for individuals and organizations that want to know where to put their money, how to get involved and what is still needed in the area to create a self-reliant post-carbon community network.

http://www.relocalize.net/files/Community_Guidebook_Nov06.pdf

Alliance to Save Energy

The Alliance provides accurate and timely information about the benefits and costs of energy efficiency.

1200 18th Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036, Tel: 202. 857.0666, Fax: 202.331.9588, Email: csmith@ase.org , Website: <http://www.ase.org/>.

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

The ACEEE is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency as a means of promoting both economic prosperity and environmental protection.

1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 801, Washington, DC 20036, Tel: 202.429.0063, Fax: 202.429.2248, Email: ace3tubs@ix.netcom.com , Website: <http://aceee.org>.

American Solar Energy Society (ASES)

ASES, a national organization dedicated to advancing the use of solar energy for the benefit of U.S. citizens and the global environment, promotes the widespread near-term and long-term use of solar energy.

2400 Central Avenue, Suite G-1, Boulder, CO 80301, Tel: 303.443.3130, Fax: 303.443.3212, Email: ases@ases.org , Website: <http://www.ases.org>.

Center for Neighborhood Technology

The Center for Neighborhood Technology promotes public policies, new resources and accountable authority which support sustainable, just and vital urban communities.

2125 W. North Avenue, Chicago, IL 60647, Tel: 773.278.4800, Fax: 773.278.3840, Website:
<http://www.ent.org>.

Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology

CREST produces educational multimedia CD-ROMs on renewable energy and sustainable technology and operates Solstice, an Internet service for the sustainable energy field.

1200 18th Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036, Tel: 202.530.2231, Fax: 202.887.0497,
Website: <http://solstice.crest.org>.

Wastewater Treatment

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enforces federal clean water and safe drinking water laws, provides support for municipal wastewater treatment plants, and takes part in pollution prevention efforts aimed at protecting watersheds and sources of drinking water. The Agency carries out both regulatory and voluntary programs to fulfill its mission to protect the nation's waters. This web site gives community leaders extensive information about how to protect their water quality.

<http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/water.html>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has written a technology guide intended to help municipal and utility collection system owners and operators find information about innovative and emerging technologies for the installation of new conveyance systems and the repair of existing systems. The guide also includes data on cost-effective technologies for repair and rehabilitation of existing conveyance systems and preliminary information on emerging technologies for new installations and for the repair of existing conveyance systems.

<http://www.epa.gov/OWM/mtb/epa-conveyance-report.pdf>

Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual

<http://dep.state.ct.us/wtr/stormwater/downloadmanual.asp>

Stormwater Manager's Resource Center (SMRC)

The SMRC is designed specifically for stormwater practitioners, local government officials and others who need technical assistance on stormwater management issues. It is created and maintained by the Center for Watershed Protection.

<http://www.stormwatercenter.net>.

Storm Water Programs - Other Local Governments

This website, developed by the city of Fort Worth Department of Environmental Management, lists websites of stormwater programs of municipalities and counties in the United States.

<http://ci.fort-worth.tx.us/dem/stormcontacts.htm>.

Environmental Awareness

North American Association for Environmental Education

NAAEE is *the* professional association for environmental education. Our members promote professional excellence in nonformal organizations, K-12 classrooms, universities (both instructors and students), government agencies, and corporate settings throughout North America and in over 55 other countries. Since 1971, the Association has created opportunities for its members to improve their skills in creating and delivering programs and services that teach people how to think, not what to think.

<http://www.naace.org/>

The EnviroLink Network is a non-profit organization which has been providing access to thousands of online environmental resources since 1991. This web site includes materials, resources, and news on hundreds of environmental topics.

<http://www.envirolink.org/index.html>

Environmental Defense

EDF is a national nonprofit organization that deals with a broad range of regional, national and international environmental issues.

1875 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 1016, Washington, DC 20009, Tel: 202.387.3500, Fax: 202.234.6049, Website: <http://www.edf.org>.

Environmental Protection Agency. Educational Resources for Students/Youth.

This EPA web site hosts a vast array of teacher resources on water-related environmental education programs. This resource can be found online at:

<http://www.epa.gov/adopt/education.html>.

National Library for the Environment

The on-line National Library for the Environment contains seven free information resources: hundreds of up-to-date issue reports, environmental education programs and resources; environmental laws including local, state, federal and international; an in-depth resource on Population-Environment linkages; a virtual library of Ecology and Biodiversity; information on environmental conferences and meetings; and Environmental Careers and Jobs.

<http://www.cnie.org>.

Rivers and Waterways

Protecting Our Waters

The Milwaukee River Basin Partnership is a voluntary coalition of businesses, non-profit groups, public agencies, educational institutions, organizations, and individuals committed to restoring and sustaining the ecosystem of the Milwaukee River Basin while ensuring its economic viability. They have developed an extensive web site that describes the full range of protection and restoration activities that will enhance a watershed.

<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/plan/index.htm>

Council on Environmental Quality, American Heritage Rivers Initiative

This initiative helps communities restore and protect their rivers in a way that integrates conservation, economic development, and the preservation of historical and cultural values. Old Executive Office Building, Room 360, Washington, DC 20501, Tel: 202.395.7417, Fax: 202.456.6546, Website: <http://www.epa.gov/rivers>.

Center for Watershed Protection (CWP)

CWP works with local, state, and federal governmental agencies, watershed organizations, and the general public to provide objective and scientifically sound information on effective techniques to protect and restore urban watersheds.

8391 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043-4605, Tel: 410.461.8323, Fax: 410.461.8324, Email: center@cwp.org , Website: <http://www.cwp.org>.

Clean Water Action Project

4455 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite A300-16, Washington, DC 20008-2328, Tel: 202.895.0420, Fax: 202.895.0438, Email: cwa@cleanwater.org, Website: <http://www.cleanwateraction.org>

Clean Water Network (CWN)

CWN is an alliance of over 1000 organizations working to protect US water resources. 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005, Tel: 202.289.2395, Fax: 202.289.1060, Email: cleanwaternt@igc.apc.org , Website: <http://www.cwn.org>.

Index of Watershed Indicators

This EPA watershed database allows the user to locate a watershed using clickable maps, check out its status, make maps, submit information, and more. Indicators include designated use attainment, fish advisories, source water condition, population change, wetlands loss, and agricultural runoff.

<http://www.epa.gov/iwi>.

International Rivers Network (IRN)

IRN researches and publishes information concerning threats to rivers, watersheds, and local populations from destructive development projects. Its website contains links to other organizations that deal with similar issues.

1847 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703, Tel: 510.848.1155, Fax: 510.878.1008, Website: <http://www.irn.org>.

Stream Corridor Protection Strategy for Local Governments.

Institute for Environmental Negotiation at the University of Virginia. This is a guide to assist local governments develop protection strategies for streams to protect the health of their communities. Copies are available by calling (434) 924-1970 or you can download a PDF version from http://www.virginia.edu/~envneg/stream%20guide_final.pdf

Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/publications/pdf/FR-093.pdf>

A Landowner's Guide to Sustainable Forestry

Sustainable forestry refers to caring for or managing forests in such a way that they continue to play the desired role and produce desired benefits as long as necessary or possibly indefinitely. Simply stated, sustainable forestry is managing forests to meet the needs of today while providing the needs of future generations.

<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-180.pdf>

SmartWood

This forestry certification program provides independent, objective evaluation of forest management practices, timber sources and companies, and forest products, enabling the public to identify products and practices that do not destroy forests.

Goodwin-Baker Building, 61 Millet Street, Richmond, VT 05477; Tel: 802.434.5491; Fax: 802.434.3116, Website: <http://www.smartwood.org>.

National Community Forestry Center (NCFC)

The NCFC is designed to help rural people ask and answer questions that relate to the well-being of their forests and communities, with the goal of improving their capacity to solve problems.

c/o National Network of Forest Practitioners, 29 Temple Place, Second Floor, Boston, MA 02111, Tel: 617.338.7821, Fax: 617.422.0881, Email: ajit@nnfp.org, Website:

<http://www.nationalcommunityforestrycenter.org>.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

The FSC promotes responsible forest management by evaluating and accrediting certifiers, encouraging the development of national and regional forest management standards, and strengthening national certification capacity through the development of certification initiatives worldwide.

1134 29th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037; Tel: 877.372.5646; Fax: 202.342.6589, Email: fscus@together.net, Website: <http://www.fscus.org>.

Guidelines for Developing and Evaluating Tree Ordinances

This website, developed by Phytosphere Research, provides a variety of tools and resources for citizens and local governments interested in developing, revising, or evaluating local tree ordinances. It also includes annotated examples of effective tree ordinance provisions used throughout the country.

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/tree-ord>.

American Forests

American Forests works to ensure a sustainable future for the nation's forests - both urban and rural - through national and international tree planting, forest policy, urban forestry, and programs such as The National Register of Big Trees.

P.O. Box 2000, Washington, DC 20013, Tel: 202.955.4500, Email: info@amfor.org, Website: <http://www.americanforests.org>.

Wetlands

Local Government Wetland Protection Programs

This guide is designed for local government officials, land trust staff, state and local officials, developers, and others interested in implementing local government wetland protection and restoration programs. It was prepared by the Association of State Wetlands Managers.

http://www.aswm.org/pub/6_localgov_6_26_06.pdf

World-wide Wetland, Hydrology and Coastal Links

This site contains links to national and international water resources.

<http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/~jthomps/worldwet.html>.

Handbook for Wetlands Conservation and Sustainability

Izaak Walton League of America.. (Gaithersburg, MD: Izaak Walton League of America, 1999, Second edition). This guide, written to help educate people about wetland ecology and wetland values to society, is filled with information about unique features of wetland ecosystems. It describes options for starting a wetland stewardship program including monitoring, education and restoration projects, and includes case studies. To obtain this resource contact Save Our Streams - Orders, Izaak Walton League of America, 707 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878; Tel: 800.284.4952; Fax: 301.548.0146; email: sos@iwla.org. Parts of the guide can be found online at <http://www.iwla.org/SOS/wetland.html>.

Slopes, Soils, and Erosion Control

Erosion Control and Land Clearing

This is a web site developed for the Milwaukee River Basin describing best practices for erosion control for municipalities, developers, and citizens. The web site also has an extensive list of resources for other watershed protection techniques.

<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/plan/erosion.htm>

Erosion Control Handbook for Local Roads

This manual will assist counties, townships and local units of government by providing guidelines and methods for effective erosion control practices on low volume roads.

<http://www.lrrb.gen.mn.us/PDF/200308.pdf>

Farmland

American Farmland Trust

American Farmland Trust is leading a campaign to transform U.S. farm policy. Our vision is for well-managed, protected farm and ranch land that provides open space, clean water, healthy

food, wildlife habitat and a renewed connectedness between the farm community and the rest of America.

<http://www.farmland.org/default.asp>

Recreational Land

Public Lands Information Center

Public Lands Interpretive Association initiated the Public Lands Information Center project in response to demand for a single source of information about recreation and land use on all public lands in a state, regardless of managing agency. We realize that when you have a destination or an activity in mind, your concern is to find out where to go, when to go, what to do, and how much it will cost. But up until now, getting those answers often meant an endless goose chase of contacting government agencies and trying to pinpoint the correct agency, department, or office. We offer all you need to know about visitor facilities, surrounding areas, appropriate maps and guides, and the rules and regulations for each area. If you need more information than you get from the site descriptions, check our bookstore, our link pages, or email our staff. If you need to contact the managing agency for additional permits or licenses, we can put you in touch with the right person, and save you time and headaches.

<http://www.publiclands.org>

Trust for Public Land (TPL)

TPL is a national nonprofit land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, natural areas, and open space. Its "Greenprints for Growth" initiative, aimed at communities threatened by urban sprawl, urges communities to target priority lands for preservation. TPL will then provide protection and acquisition strategies.

116 New Montgomery Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105, Tel: 415.495.4014, Fax: 415.495.4103, Email: info@tpl.org , Website: <http://www.tpl.org>.

The Conservation Fund

The Conservation Fund seeks sustainable conservation solutions for the 21st century, emphasizing the integration of economic and environmental goals. Through real estate transactions, demonstration projects, education, and community-based activities, the Fund seeks innovative long-term measures to conserve land and water.

1800 N. Kent Street, Suite 1120, Arlington, VA 22209-2156, Tel: 703.525.6300, Fax: 703.525.4610, Email: mail@conservationfund.org , Website: <http://www.conservationfund.org>.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

The Nature Conservancy operates the largest private system of nature sanctuaries in the world. It preserves habitats and species by buying the lands and waters they need to survive.

1815 N. Lynn Street, Arlington, VA 22209, Tel: 703.841.5300, Fax: 703.841.1283, Email: tncmail@aol.com , Website: <http://www.tnc.org>.

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society is a non-profit membership organization devoted to preserving wilderness and wildlife, protecting America's prime forests, parks, rivers, deserts and shorelands, and fostering an American land ethic.

1615 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, Tel: 202.833.2300; 800.843.9453 , Fax: 202.429.2658, Website: <http://www.wilderness.org>.

Project for Public Spaces

The mission of PPS, a nonprofit technical assistance, research and educational organization, is to create and sustain public places that build communities

153 Waverly Place, New York, NY 10014, Tel: 212. 620.5660, Website: <http://www.pps.org>.

National Audubon Society (NAS)

NAS works to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003, Tel: 212.979.3000, Fax: 212.979.3188, Website: <http://www.audubon.org/>.

National Community Forestry Center (NCFC)

The NCFC is designed to help rural people ask and answer questions that relate to the well-being of their forests and communities, with the goal of improving their capacity to solve problems.

c/o National Network of Forest Practitioners, 29 Temple Place, Second Floor, Boston, MA 02111, Tel: 617.338.7821, Fax: 617.422.0881, Email: ajit@nnfp.org, Website: <http://www.nationalcommunityforestrycenter.org>.

National Wildlife Federation (NWF)

NWF focuses its efforts on five core issue areas (Endangered Habitat, Water Quality, Land Stewardship, Wetlands, and Sustainable Communities) and pursues a range of educational projects and activist, advocacy, and litigation initiatives within these core areas.

400 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-2266, Tel: 202.797.6800, Fax: 202.797.6646, Website: <http://www.nwf.org>.

Urban Parks ONLINE

Urban Parks Institute: This website has models, information and tools about urban parks and how they can build community.

<http://www.urbanparks.pps.org>.

Views

Scenic America

Scenic America's mission is to safeguard America's natural beauty and community character. Their web site offers advice on how to:

- Reduce billboard blight in America
- Promote good community planning and design guidelines
- Keep America's highways and byways scenic

- Promote scenic easements for open space and scenic resource conservation
- Ensure mitigation of the visual impact of telecommunication towers
- Promote context sensitive highway solutions
- Promote tree conservation
- Promote undergrounding of overhead utility wires

<http://www.scenic.org/>

Scenic Resource & Impact Evaluation Techniques and Land Use Strategies

State of Maine.

www.maine.gov/doc/lurc/reference/cluprev/2006-06-29_draft_scenic.doc

Sustainable Construction

Sustainable Construction

This web site has been set up to provide a reference point for anyone who needs more information on how to build or refurbish in a more sustainable way. The site offers free web space to anyone with a current or completed project, product or service and aims to provide guidance and assistance to improve the environmental, social and financial performance of the built environment.

<http://www.sustainableconstruction.co.uk/sheepdog.htm>

Holcim Foundation

The Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction promotes innovative approaches to sustainable construction mainly through Awards competitions and an international Forum. The objective of the Holcim Foundation is to encourage sustainable responses to the technological, environmental, socio-economic and cultural issues affecting building and construction, regionally as well as globally.

<http://www.holcimfoundation.org/>

Field Guide for Sustainable Construction

The *Field Guide for Sustainable Construction* has been developed by the Pentagon to assist and educate field workers, supervisors and managers in making decisions that help the project team meet sustainable project goals. The field guide is designed to fill a significant void in available information for sustainable construction methods. It systematically draws together and organizes information on many aspects of construction that can assure the sustainability of a facility. Simple methods and suggested practices are presented for the major phases of construction in the field guide.

<http://renovation.pentagon.mil/Field%20Guide%20for%20Sustainable%20Con.pdf>

Transportation and Transit

Local Action for Sustainable Economic Renewal (LASER) Resources:

LASER is a workbook and interactive web site that presents an innovative approach to economic development, introducing a new way of thinking about how real wealth is created on the local

level. The goal of LASER is to create wealth — wealth that provides people with long-term economic security, and that maintains the ability of current and future generations to live healthy and fulfilled lives. http://www.global-laser.org/workbook/LASER_guide.pdf

Transportation Services

Transport systems can enhance mobility, reduce congestion, and initiate economic growth. Transportation Systems can consist of buses, shuttles, boats, trains, metros, airplanes, and other more natural transport means, such as pack animals. Establishing a strong transportation service system is very important in every community. It makes travel and transport more efficient in terms of costs and time.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/transport_services.pdf

Public Transit

Public transportation (bus, train, taxi, metro, trolley, tram, shuttle, bikes, etc) is a vital component of sustaining a productive and successful community. Public transit helps people move around within the city for a small fee and reduces traffic flow and street pollution. The community becomes, less congested and polluted, while becoming more accessible, healthy, and economically sustainable.

http://www.global-laser.org/resources/public_transit.pdf

Start or Join a Car-Sharing Cooperative

Start a car co-operative in order to offer car sharing as a viable transportation alternative in your town or area. Instead of each owning a personal vehicle, members of a car coop own a number of cars collectively for use when using alternative mode of transportation, such as cycling and walking, is not possible. Car sharing greatly reduces personal automobile use, cuts the number of cars on the road and shrinks the financial and air quality costs of our society's over reliance on private transportation. At the same time cooperatives provide the reliability and convenience of owning a private vehicle. Car coops can vary in size from a few friends sharing a car to 30,000 members sharing a large fleet of vehicles.

http://www.relocalize.net/files/Carsharing_Cooperative_Nov06.pdf

Organize a Walking School Bus

Organize a Walking School Bus so that elementary school children can get to school in a safe, healthy and fossil-fuel-free manner. Walking School Buses are programs that allow children to walk to school in a supervised group along a predetermined route and pick up additional students at assigned stops. The program can provide an alternative to the conventional and congested vehicle drop off and encourage both supervising parents and children to get out of their car and back into community space. The school bus program ensures that parents feel confident that their children are safe, while it provides the opportunity for kids to socialize, stay fit, and learn the importance of people-powered transportation at an early age.

http://www.relocalize.net/files/Walking_School_Bus_Nov06.pdf

Air Quality

Reducing Urban Air Pollution

A guide originally developed for European cities about how they could take steps in a variety of different areas – transportation, production, etc. to reduce urban air pollution.

<http://www.euro.who.int/document/aiq/nisagbde.pdf>

Clean Air Network

The Clean Air Network is an alliance of over 900 national, state and local environmental, public health and citizen organizations concerned about clean air.

c/o NRDC, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005, Tel: 202.289.6868, Fax: 202.289.1060; Website: <http://www.cleanair.net>.

Climate Institute

The Climate Institute works to protect the balance between climate and life on earth by facilitating the dialogue among scientists, policy makers, business executives, and citizens.

120 Maryland Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002-5615, Tel: 202.547.0104, Fax: 202.547.0111, Email: climateinst@igc.apc.org, Website: <http://www.climate.org>.

Biodiversity

A Guide on Biodiversity and Environmental Assessment

Biodiversity is decreasing at an alarming rate due to the impact of the growing human population and increasing resource consumption rates. Recognition of the world-wide impact of this decline prompted the global community to negotiate, in 1992, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. The Biodiversity Convention, as it is commonly known, is a legally binding international treaty. The Convention obliges signatory countries to assess the adequacy of current efforts to conserve biodiversity and to use biological resources in a sustainable manner. Canada was the Convention's first signatory. In November 1992, federal, provincial and territorial ministers of Parks, Wildlife, Environment and Forestry departments launched a process to follow-up on the Convention which included the development of a Canadian Biodiversity Strategy. The federal Cabinet approved the Strategy in May 1995 and all Canadian jurisdictions are now committed to its implementation to the extent that their resources allow.

<http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/Collection/En106-33-1996F.pdf>

Biodiversity Information Network (BIN)

BIN21 is an international organization designed to link and coordinate the activities of agencies and network information sites concerned with biodiversity.

<http://life.csu.edu.au/bin21>.

Biodiversity Support Program

The Biodiversity Support Program, a consortium of WWF, The Nature Conservancy, and World Resources Institute, promotes conservation of the world's biological diversity by integrating

conservation with social and economic development, research and analysis and information exchange and outreach.
c/o World Wildlife Fund, 1250 24th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037, Tel: 207.293.4800,
Fax: 1.800.858.4844,
<http://www.bsponline.org>.

Center for Biodiversity and Conservation

The Center is dedicated to the study and conservation of biological diversity. Its mission is to enhance the use of rigorous scientific data to mitigate critical threats to global biodiversity. American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192, Tel: 212.769.5742, Fax: 212.769.5292, Email: biodiversity@amnh.org,
<http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/>.

Local Food Production

Revitalize Your Local Food Systems: Food Co-operatives A Guide for Relocalizing our Communitites

Help support local farmers and promote sustainable agricultural practices, by forming a food co-operative to purchase and distribute organic and locally grown produce. Forming co-ops can make organic local food more affordable because as members of a c-cooperative your group will have more purchasing power. Individuals can pool their orders and receive discounts for large quantity orders.

http://www.relocalize.net/files/Food_Cooperatives_Nov06.pdf

Farmer's Market Map

Click on this map to find the nearest Farmer's Market to you.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/map.htm>

Community Supported Agriculture

A priority of many CSA initiatives is to bring healthy food into low-income communities. Through various pricing options -- including spreading out payments over time, work shares, sliding-scale prices, accepting food stamps and selling shares to food-assistance agencies -- low income CSA members often get the greatest produce bang for their buck (or for their food stamps). The Food Security Learning Center web site has a range of resources to help you start this and other local food programs.

http://www.worldhungeryar.org/fslc/faqs/ria_041.asp?section=2&click=1

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR FAIRFIELD CITY

Fairfield's Commitment

The City recognizes the environmental impact we have as an organization. We aim to provide our services and activities in the most efficient and sustainable manner and mitigate any adverse impacts on the environment, furthermore enhancing social and economic values. Sustainability is defined as meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

The City of Fairfield is devoted to doing its part in achieving a Community Plan to bolster the principles of Sustainability. By building working partnerships with communities, the public, private, volunteer and community organizations, the City will strive to develop Fairfield in ways which safeguard the future of our environment, natural resources, our economy and our communities.

Strategies

This Sustainability Plan sets out our commitment to improve our own environmental stewardship in undertaking our duties as a Local Authority. We will seek to ensure that the following principles are met:

1. COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

- Ensure compliance with relevant environmental legislation and related policies. Seek to exceed minimum standards and targets so that Fairfield continues to be at the forefront of environmental excellence.

2. ENERGY AND WATER

- Reduce City's consumption of energy and fossil fuels.
- Promote energy efficient systems and explore innovative energy technologies to reduce dependency on non-renewable resources.
- Use water efficiently and maintain the quality of drinking, groundwater and recreational water.

3. PURCHASING AND PROCUREMENT

- Promote the use of recycled and recyclable products and ensure that goods purchased are made, used and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way.
- Encourage City contractors and suppliers to improve their environmental performance.

4. TRANSPORT & TRAVEL

- Promote opportunities for sustainable transportation. Encourage citizens to walk, cycle, and carpool or use accessible public transportation.
- Explore opportunities for using clean fuel resources in City vehicles.
- Explore opportunities for adding hybrid/alternative fuel vehicles to the City's fleet.

5. BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Protect the quality and diversity of the City's built heritage and enhance local environments through ongoing regeneration.
- Encourage sustainable practices in the design, construction and maintenance of public/private buildings and infrastructure, and encourage others to embrace green building practices and LEED certification where reasonable and practical.

6. OPEN SPACE AND WOODLANDS

- Protect and manage the City's open space and woodlands in a sustainable manner to protect wild life habitat and enhance environmental and recreational quality of life.

7. NATURAL HERITAGE

- Protect and enhance the City's natural resources.
- Provide opportunities for citizens and visitors to enjoy and learn more about Fairfield's heritage, natural resources and the benefits of sound environmental stewardship.
- Explore opportunities to preserve nature thus enhancing the City's Park & Recreation areas.

8. WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Promote sustainable waste management practices.
- Improve resource efficiency through re-use and recycling.

9. MINIMIZING & REMEDIATING POLLUTION

- Minimize the impact of City activities on air and water quality, noise intrusion. Promote efforts which reduce Green House Gases.
- Monitor remediation of contaminated land and reduce land dereliction.

10. COMMUNICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

- Communicate the Sustainability Plan educating residents, Chief Officers, City employees and stakeholders.
- Monitor and review the City's environmental performance in respect of the Sustainability Plan and produce an annual progress report.
- Consult and advise communities on the City's environmental practices and policies.
- Encourage and promote sustainable development by the private sector and other organizations in the City.

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Measurable objectives and goals for the City's Sustainability Plan will be defined through an Action Plan and key municipal sustainability priorities. These will be monitored and reviewed regularly and publicly reported in the interests of open and transparent governance.