

Sustainability Commission

January 19th, 2010

4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

City of Franklin - Community Development Conference Room

4:00 p.m.	Call To Order	Ken Scalf
4:05 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.	*Approval of Meeting Minutes from 11/17/2009	Ken Scalf
4:10 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.	*Waste Reduction—Curbside Recycling Options	Becky Caldwell Dr. Moore
4:40 p.m.—5:20	*Committee Updates including *Live Green Partnership ICLEI	Andrew Orr
5:20 p.m. – 5:25 p.m.	Other Issues for Consideration	Ken Scalf
5:25 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Adjourn Next meeting to be January 19th @ 4pm	Ken Scalf

*Item has an attachment

MISSION STATEMENT: The Sustainability Commission provides **guidance** to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Planning Commission, **direction** to the Sustainability Task Force, and **leadership** for the entire Franklin Community.

The City of Franklin has committed itself to developing an ongoing strategy of sustainability for the community. This initiative will be designed to achieve viable, fulfilling, and rewarding lifestyles for our residents and business partners through responsible and innovative stewardship of the environment.

*Item contains an attachment

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FRANKLIN SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

December 15, 2009

The Franklin Sustainability Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at 4:00pm in the Community Development Conference Room.

Members Present:	Ken Scalf, Chair	Adam Ballash, Vice Chair
	LK Browning	Ken Moore
	Lisa Smith	Libby Marley
	Brian Miller	John Saxton

Members Absent: Chuck Barber

Commission Volunteer: Teresa Ashworth

Staff Present:	Vernon Gerth	Andrew Orr
	Erin Reinders	Norman Odeneal

Visitors: Bob Bandy, Recycling Co. Justin Garrison, Lee Company

The agenda read as follows:

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Scalf: Called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Scalf: Presented the minutes from previous meeting on November 17, 2009 for consideration.

Ms. Browning: Moved for approval.

Mr. Moore: Seconded the motion.

Minutes were unanimously approved by the Commission

ALTERNATIVE FUEL & ENERGY SUMMARY

Mr. Odeneal: Informed Commission of energy committee members and their affiliation to energy and means of getting their actions for alternative energy. Number one action is to replace five percent of the vehicles registered in the City of Franklin with vehicles that use alternative energy sources by 2012. Action 2 calls for replacement of 10% of the electricity citywide with electricity generated by clean and renewable means by 2014. Currently 305 million kilowatt hours are being used in residential and 514 million kilowatt hours in commercial. City of Franklin used 21 million kilowatt hours in 2008. Discussion ensued on the number of hybrid and electric vehicles in Franklin.

Mr. Orr: The State of Tennessee will upgrade their software in 2010 to better keep track of the types of vehicles.

Ms. Marley: Question on the 10% of energy being replaced by renewable sources. As we move forward in sustainability we have people already moving power to the grid.

Mr. Odeneal: Middle Tennessee Electric partners with TVA and right now we have 3 sites where power has sold back. Currently there are no residential programs, only commercial usage.

General discussion regarding incentives for commercial and residential using energy saving means and ways to conserve energy by solar and using older batteries from vehicles to store energy. Currently in city zoning ordinance we are restricting solar meters by screening them and where they can be placed. Discussion of incentives for reviewing plans if customer uses certain energy efficient fixtures, etc, that stay within the ordinances and laws. The City wants to develop friendly policies towards individuals and businesses who seek to use alternative energy.

APPROVAL OF MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Scalf: Approval of mission statement, are there any comments.

Ms. Browning: Agrees with taking out the words economic payback. Let people make their own judgment whether it's an economic payback. Keep Advocate sustainability initiatives that assist in achieving the primary goal.

Mr. Moore: Moved to approve.

Inaudible: Seconded the motion.

The commission unanimously approves the mission statement.

MEASURING THE ACTION PLAN

Mr. Orr: Gave out copies of PowerPoint slides.

Waste Reduction

Mr. Orr discusses where we are in the process of measuring the Community Action Plan. Currently we are diverting 33% of our waste. City Hall will have a Food Compost Program started in the coming weeks. Bins will be installed in each department for food waste and each department will be responsible for taking the waste to the receptacles.

Mr. Orr: Of the 3 drop off sites in the City of Franklin, 924.99 tons of materials were recycled including plastics, mixed paper, cardboard and glass according to Williamson County Recycling.

Mr. Orr: Schools are also recycling in the area. Their efforts totaled 104.1 tons according to Williamson County Recycling.

Water & Stormwater

Mr. Orr: Discussed the water utility data for the City of Franklin. If 2009 is used as a base year, it will be difficult to achieve the 25% reduction outlined in the plan because the City has nearly achieved a 25% reduction since 2001. The City of Franklin has readily accessible and detailed data on water users but it does not cover the entire City proper. This action should be reexamined by the committee.

Urban Nature

Mr. Orr: Staff liaison and committee shall develop a building ordinance for the City on green building. Incentives for commercial and residential development to be more energy efficient and lower impact on the environment should be developed.

Mr. Orr: The Greenway and Open Space Master plan is completed and is awaiting adoption by BOMA.

Urban Design

Mr. Orr: Task Force to examine the building rating system since there is no system in place as of this date.

Public Education

Mr. Orr: Encouraged everyone to sign up for Green Tips.

Mr. Orr: Leadership Franklin and the City have been developing a green business partnership proposal to facilitate a transition to more efficient and sustainable operations for local businesses.

Alternative Fuel and Energy

Mr. Orr: Action 1: Replace five percent of the vehicles registered in the City of Franklin with vehicles that use alternative energy sources by 2012. The city's fleet and energy task force will be developing a strategy to make our city's fleet more efficient.

Mr. Orr: Action 2: Replace 10 percent of electricity produced citywide with electricity generated by clean and renewable means by 2014. Amount of renewable energy still to be determined. The Chair of this committee is out of the country for the next few months.

Transportation

Mr. Orr: Develop a parking program or have designated areas for energy efficient vehicles to park as well as having bike racks for bicycles within the central city location and parks.

Mr. Orr: A service from Williamson County to Nashville started December 1, 2009 that allows commuters to use a bus to get from Spring Hill to Nashville cutting down on vehicle usage.

General discussion on how to enforce parking for hybrid vehicles, bikes and safety for bike riders.

Environmental Health

Mr. Orr: General discussion on cleaning in City Hall and the use of green products, recycle food bins, etc. as we move forward. It's important for the City to take the lead on some initiatives.

TASK FORCE INVOLVEMENT

Mr. Scalf: Sustainability Commission members volunteer to sign up to take one task force group and to re-energize the action plans and accomplishing the goals set. Consider combining task forces such as water and stormwater.

Mr. Gerth: As staff, we are here to help the committees accomplish goals. The committee after every meeting has a task to accomplish. Come up with a schedule of when goals will happen. Start small and build on each month.

Mr. Scalf: Meet with Andrew to come up with an action to enforce with each task force.

Mr. Gerth: *To keep this process organized and in order to move the actions forward with the community's participation*, the assigned commissioner would work with Andrew to find a task for that committee and get back with you within 30 days of the progress of the task.

Mr. Scalf: Commissioner responsible for providing information to this group.

General discussion on combining groups and deciding which commissioners will volunteer for each committee. Each commissioner is assigned to the following committee and will choose his or her level of involvement, but will ultimately be responsible for providing information and updates to the Commission.

- Dr. Moore: Waste Reduction
- LK Browning/Chuck Barber: Alternative Energy & Energy (Combine the committees)
- Lisa Lu Smith: Environmental Health
- Libby Marley: Public Education
- John Saxton: Transportation
- Brian Miller: Water/Stormwater
- Adam Ballash: Urban Design
- Ken Scalf: Urban Nature

Next meeting is January 19, 2010 at 4:00pm

OTHER ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Mr. Scalf: Confirmed that there were no other issues for consideration; Recognition of visitors.

ADJOURN

With no other discussion meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Committee Update 1/19/2010

Waste Reduction (Dr. Moore): Curbside Recycling; Comprehensive composting efforts will be discussed at a later date.

Public Education (Libby Marley): The Committee met on 1/5 and still has a core group of volunteers. We discussed the Live Green Partnership for businesses which with the steady work of Leadership Franklin and the committee will be ready to roll out next month. We are in the process of targeting businesses that already have established sustainability initiatives and we will be showcasing their best practices to get other businesses on board.

Please reference the Live Green for Businesses criteria located in your packets.

Urban Design (Adam Ballash): The Committee met on 1/12 with good turnout. Members are considering the options associated with drafting a LEED building ordinance for municipal buildings and bringing it to the BOMA. The Codes department is also in the process of upgrading from the 2003 IECC to the 2009 IECC, as the action suggests. Within the next 12 months, strides will be taken to create incentives to promote LEED construction for the private sector.

Transportation (John Saxton): The Committee met on 1/14 and established a regular meeting time and will research examples of preferred parking programs and how such a program would mesh in downtown Franklin. A work plan with a timeline will be established at the next meeting. Ridership on the express bus services to Nashville are right at expected levels and bollards with bike rack hooks will be installed in the streetscape improvements.

Environmental Health (Lisa Lu Smith): We have a staff liaison now and are moving forward in solidifying the committee; we are looking into establishing a pilot program for sustainability in a local school while also looking at the types of chemicals and cleaners the City uses.

Urban Nature (Ken Scalf): We have a committee meeting scheduled this week.

Energy (LK Browning & Chuck Barber): We have a committee meeting scheduled this week.

Water (Brian Miller): We have a committee meeting scheduled next week and will work towards establishing some short term goals

Live Green Partners for Businesses

Encouraging and Recognizing an Efficient and Conscientious Business Culture

About the program

The Live Green Partners Program for businesses is a collaborative effort of local businesses, Leadership Franklin, and the City of Franklin to promote sustainable operations in the work place. The Sustainability Community Action Plan recommends the formation of a volunteer program to raise awareness and recognize those businesses that are taking strides in a sustainable direction.

The program is open to all businesses in Franklin on a volunteer basis, regardless of type and size, so long as they implement resource conservation measures and demonstrate a culture of sustainability in their business practices.

All participating businesses will receive a sticker to place in the window or on the door and also a certificate indicating their level of achievement, signed by the Mayor. All participating businesses will be listed on the City of Franklin website and each month, a business will be highlighted on the website. Every participating business will be listed on the Green Business Partnership website.

Live Green Partners Criteria:

Achievement Levels

0-39 Points Partner Level

40-59 Points Bronze

60-79 Points Silver

80-119 Points Gold

120+ Points Platinum

Awareness & Basics

- Double Sided Print (5)
- Commitment to go digital and only print when necessary (5)
- Use non-print media as primary form of advertisement and marketing (5)
- Turning all lights and appliances off when not in use (5)
- Install programmable thermostats, setting them to approximately 68 degrees in winter, 78 degrees in summer and 55 degrees at night OR comparable action (5)
- Instead of paper or plastic, ask if the customer needs a bag at all (5)
- Tell suppliers to use recycled and/or recyclable materials in packaging (5)
- Post Utility bills each month for employees to see (5)
- Sign up for “Green Tips” on <http://www.franklin-gov.com/livegreen/> (5)
- Designation of an employee who oversees environmental efforts (10)
- Encourage employees to suggest new conservation and cost-saving ideas (5)
- Encourage employees to walk, ride a bike, carpool, or take transit to work (10 points for each person who participates at least 20% of the time)
- Offer small discount to customers who walk or ride a bike (10)
- Other Innovative Action (case by case basis)

Waste Reduction

- Recycle the following materials (10 for each)
 - Cardboard
 - Aluminum
 - Plastic
 - Glass
 - Mixed Paper
 - Cooking Oil
 - Toner Cartridges
 - Old batteries
- Compost Food Waste (20)
 - Find a use for the compost i.e. for a community or school garden (10)
- For restaurants, reuse the following when dining in (5 for each):
 - Utensils
 - Plates
 - Bowls
 - Cups
- For Restaurants offering a carryout service, make sure the following items are made of recycled or biodegradable materials (5 each):
 - Utensils
 - Plates
 - Bowls
 - Cups
 - To-Go Carriers

- Eliminate or significantly reduce usage of the following materials
 - Styrofoam (10)
 - Plastic Bags (10)
 - Bleached coffee filters (5)
 - Harmful chemicals (5)
- Buy goods made of recycled materials (10)

Green Cuisine

- The 100 Mile Diet—Selling food, drinks, or goods produced within a 100 mile radius of Franklin (15)
- Organic Items (10)

Water Conservation

- Fixing all leaks or not having any leaks (5)
- Eliminate Bottled Water (10)
- As new plants are needed, use native, drought-resistant plants (10)
- Water only when needed (10)
- Redirect downspouts towards landscaped areas where possible (10)
- Low-flow toilet (15)
- Efficient sink faucets (15)
- Test irrigation system to ensure proper operation and watering schedule (15)
- Usage of a rain barrel or cistern to collect rainwater runoff (20)
- Install a rain garden (30)
- Installation of a green roof (50)
- Remove hardscape and install permeable paving (50)

Energy

- Installation of Energy Efficient Light bulbs (CFLs or equivalent for indoor and LED for outdoor work best (10)
- Professional Energy Audit (20)
- When replacing equipment and appliances, ensure they are Energy Star rated and/or equipped with energy-saving features (20)
- Usage of Alternative Energy
 - “Green Switch” Purchase 10% or more Renewable Energy (40)
 - Solar Panels (80)
 - Geothermal (80)

Initially, businesses that already meet the minimum threshold will be certified and used to help promote the program to other businesses.

Businesses that participate will receive recognition through the city’s website, press releases, an award signed by the Mayor, and other media.