

**City of Franklin's
Municipal Services Action Plan
Alternative Fuel & Energy Task Force**



INTRODUCTION

A green and sustainable city is a community of residents, neighbors, workers, and visitors who strive together to balance ecological, economic, and social needs to ensure a clean, healthy and safe environment for all members of society and for generations to come. To ensure a viable future, the City of Franklin must take a leadership role and address the impacts placed on the environment by urbanization and a growing populace. These impacts include air and water pollution, climate change, and habitat loss. The City of Franklin elects to be an environmental advocate and a leader in environmental compliance and protection. The City shall cultivate superior environmental standards that will provide for sustainable municipal development.

Over the past four months, the city's Alternative Fuel & Energy Task Force has been addressing a wide variety of issues and recognizes that growth and opportunity cannot be conducted at the expense of environmental protection and enhancement, and that growth and environmental stewardship are intimately related. Therefore, the Task Force believes that the implementation of an environmental ethic need not interfere with economic development, and that practicing such environmental ethic can ultimately be expected to enhance economic affairs and provide for responsible, farsighted development within City services. We also believe that the protection of the urban and natural environments is a social responsibility and that an ecologically impoverished and polluted environment adversely impacts human health.

For this reason, City-wide Departments are striving to become a model for sustainability excellence and a prevailing force in environmental protection. Successful implementation of this strategic plan during the next six years will ensure Franklin remains competitively poised for future growth while preserving the health of its environment for generations to come.

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MOTIVATION & BENEFITS FROM AN ACTION PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The City is involved in numerous sustainability practices; however, coordination and standard metrics of performance are lacking. There may be overlapping practices in place, but no coordinated effort towards measurement, management or optimization. Thus, the motivation for this Action Plan is to elevate the City's sustainability performance through a strategic and systematic path. Therefore the framework for the goals contained within this Action Plan is assigned to each of the following sustainable thematic areas:

1. Energy
2. Office Recycling/Waste Reduction
3. Education
4. Transportation/Planning
5. Water
6. Air Quality
7. Open Space & Natural Habitats
8. Economic Development

In addition to goals and listed above, the Task Force identified the following added value the City can expect from a well-developed Action Plan:

1. Support and assist the Sustainability City Committee set forth by the Board Mayor & Alderman with a structured framework for implementation.
2. Establishes a framework that can be used in different areas with enough flexibility to make staff members enthusiastic and engaged as team players
3. Help demonstrate to citizens that the City is spending money wisely and is obtaining value.
4. Help build a City-wide awareness toolbox of existing practices and resources that individual departments may already have in place so others can learn from their efforts.

ENERGY

Action I: *Increase the use of renewable energy to meet 10% of the city's peak electrical load within seven years.*

1. All new construction of City buildings will pursue LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) requirements; certification submissions will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
2. Evaluate all components using the most energy efficient systems on major renovations
3. One or more City employees will be LEED certified by 2011.
4. Report utility usage for all City buildings to promote resource efficiency.
5. Publish an annual report on all gas, electric & water for all newly constructed City buildings and compare against original LEED design criteria within 18-months of occupancy.
6. Continue to replace city wide lighting with energy saving lights (Traffic, Streets & Parks)
7. Conduct a feasibility study for installing devices on municipal buildings that reduce the power required to operate equipment and for shifting the equipment usage to off-peak.

OFFICE RECYCLING/WASTE REDUCTION

Action II: Decrease waste to landfills.

1. Request during City construction of new facilities or renovations to divert waste away from landfills.
2. Institute reduction practices within each department
3. Establish a permanent electronic waste collection center in the City where departments can bring their electronic and universal waste to be recycled.

Action III: Implement “user friendly” recycling and composting programs.

1. Hire consulting firm to evaluate recycling program City wide, including all city departments.
2. Construct a City “green house” for city-wide landscaping.
3. Incorporate a user-friendly recycling and composting programs including curbside recycling, selling or pay-as-you-throw and composting sales (revenue venue).

EDUCATION

Action IV: *Institute activities with the greatest economic, environmental, community impacts and demonstrate successes.*

1. Incorporate ongoing sustainable actions by each department within an area of the department's website.
2. Incorporate a City of Franklin "sustainability – green" website for updates from various City departments or community driven efforts...developments.
3. Institute a daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly programming for the City's Channel 10. Broadcasts should showcase all departments demonstrating how and what they are doing to become a top 25 sustainable city.
4. Conduct workshops quarterly for the general public. The sustainability should be incorporated into existing community events: Arbor Day, Greenway & Open Space Health Plan, Main Street Festival, Christmas Tree Recycling Program, Stormwater seminars, Employee Health Fair, etc.
5. Conduct seminars with all department's to institute reduction practices (webcast).
6. Conduct a City recycled cooking oil survey to the local restaurant owners and homeowners by 2010 for an alternative fuel source.

TRANSPORTATION/PLANNING

Action V: *Developing a community transportation system that provides alternatives to automobile travel. Providing 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.*

1. Increase the number of City employees using alternative modes of commuting to and from the work place.
2. Add a variety of alternative fuel vehicles within the city's fleet. This will be beneficial environmentally and human health impacts as well as state regulations that require the city to use alternative fuels vehicles or to attain a certain level of fuel efficiency or emissions reduction.
3. Incorporate funding within the capital improvement projects for alternative transportation avenues set forth by the Bike/Pedestrian Plan and the Greenway/Open Space Master Plan to be completed by June 2009.
4. Creating multi-modal transportation that minimizes and, where possible eliminates pollution and motor vehicle congestion while ensuring safe mobility and access without compromising our ability to protect public health and safety; i.e. performance utility vehicles routes. Avoid upward trend in emergency response times for fire & police.

WATER

Action VI: *Develop policies for implementation of aggressive conservation efforts.*

1. ***Irrigation*** – Focus City programs on outdoor water efficiencies, such as weather based irrigation controllers, drought tolerant landscaping and high water usage areas.
2. ***Replacement Program*** – replacement of inefficient plumbing fixtures, toilets, urinals, etc. in a timely manner. Encourage water conservation by implementing waterless urinals, low flow toilets and other water conserving fixture in parks whenever possible.
3. ***Effluent Water*** – implement use of effluent water for irrigation of all city owned property (landscaping/athletic fields). Develop a plan to construct lines yearly with using the CIP process.
4. ***Green Building Water Efficiency*** – Apply Green Building Practices to all city projects to achieve a water use reduction.

AIR QUALITY

Action VII: 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.

1. Implement green procurement practices within each department to ensure that City employees are not exposed to hazardous chemicals or materials, and that environmental preferable products are favored in purchasing.
2. Evaluate the dangers of certain chemical usage such as aerosols, floor polish, standard volatile organic compound (VOC) emitting paint, chemical paint strippers, VOC graffiti remover, toxic chemical disinfectants and toxic pesticides.
3. Within various departments, create an integrated pest control management plan for all City facilities and parks which will rely on commonsense practices and natural compounds to combat the negative effects of pests.

OPEN SPACE & NATURAL HABITATS

Action VIII: Ensure that there is an accessible public park or recreational open space to all residents of Franklin.

1. Implement design and milestones from the finished product of the Greenway and Opens Space Master Plan that will coordinate hand-in-hand with the Zoning Ordinance.
2. City of Franklin will be a city that actively creates new green spaces by promoting creative partnerships within the community to provide access to and development of non-traditional parks, cultural and recreational opportunities.

Action IX: Conduct a Tree Inventory and implement best practices for trees citywide.

1. Conduct an inventory survey of existing canopy on all City property and establish a goal to plant and maintain canopy coverage when available along sidewalk planting sites and parks.

Action X: Protect the ecological integrity of the city's primary drinking water resources (i.e. Harpeth River, tributaries, wetlands and associated ecosystems).

1. Recognize the local ecosystem that other living things warrant respect and responsible stewardship.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Action XI: Ensure that the City of Franklin focuses on balancing economic goals with environmental limits and social equity concerns.

1. Create green job opportunities within the City.
2. Network for new energy sources.
3. Develop green tourism programs.
4. Continue to be competitive within recruitment of professional organizations/businesses in the area with green components.

Alternative Energy & Fuel Task Force

Mission: The goal of Task Force is to research and develop an approach for incorporating advanced energy and alternative fuel techniques for the City of Franklin that includes short and long-term implementation strategies to move the City towards coordinated, accessible, and efficient energy and transportation services.

City of Franklin Task Force Members:

- Joe York, Street Director – Co-Chair
- Lisa R. Clayton, Parks Director – Co-Chair
- Glenn Johnson, Fire Department
- Joann Willhite, Police Department
- Owen Venable, Street Department
- David Barker, Fleet Maintenance Division
- Brian Wilcox, Purchasing Division
- Tom Marsh, Codes Director

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