

Working Group Progress, May 18th, 2010

Summary of Work for Energy & Sustainability Task Force

Community Involvement

- Group Leader & Staff: John Harris, 546-3500 & Emily Woodle, 215-2854
- Focus: To foster marketing, incentive and leveraging recommendations for community involvement to City of Knoxville Energy and Sustainability Taskforce.
- Goals: To recommend to the Task Force an implementation strategy on three next steps from the Energy Inventory report:
 - 1.) Marketing Task Force and City successes and engaging the community;
 - 2.) Developing incentives and program participation drivers; and
 - 3.) Leveraging sustainability with community engagement, grants, and partnerships.
- Progress: Developed a hand-out for distribution and developed and administered a survey at the Knoxville Earth Day event. The survey collected information on Earth Fare attendees' perception of what the City is doing regarding energy efficiency and sustainability.
- Next Meeting: To Be Scheduled with Group.

Energy

- Group Leader & Staff: Steve Smith, 637-6055, Sam Gromberg, 637-6055, & Susanna Bass
- Focus: To explore energy saving opportunities and to provide recommendations to City of Knoxville Energy and Sustainability Taskforce.
- Goals: To recommend to the Task Force an implementation strategy for the following:
 - 1.) Developing efficiency incentives in small business / commercial and residential sector
 - 2.) Developing employee education for efficiency in civic buildings / structures; and
 - 3.) Pushing PACE Legislation for Tennessee and exploring financial mechanisms to encourage energy efficiency measures in Knoxville.
- Progress: Formed group post Feb. 25 Task Force meeting, working toward solidified goals.
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 3:00 PM, Room 584 of the City County Building

Goods & Services

- Group Leader & Staff: Drew Thurman, 215-5821 & John Homa, 215-2872
- Focus: To explore green purchasing, sustainable landscaping, and event and park recycling options and to provide sustainable best practices recommendations to City of Knoxville Energy and Sustainability Taskforce.
- Goals: To recommend to the Task Force an implementation strategy on three next steps from the Energy Inventory report:
 - 1.) Aiding the Purchasing Dept. in honing and institutionalizing a green purchasing policy;
 - 2.) Developing waste diversion goals and exploring rollout of recycling in the City County Building & other City buildings, as well as at Parks and other recreation sites; and
 - 3.) Researching edible and native landscaping / community gardens in vacant lots, right of way, and parks.
- Progress: Broke into 3 sub-committees (each met separately), developed a detailed matrix for deliverables.
- Next Meeting: To Be Scheduled with Group.

Infrastructure

- Group Leader & Staff: Wayne Blasius, 525-0088 & Susanna Bass, 215-4430
- Focus: To work closely with applicable City departments to evaluate impacts of current City government practices, research, and recommend affordable and practical ways to incorporate sustainability into elements of street design, public parking facilities, and public park lands.
- Goals: Within ROW/Streetscape Design, design and operation of Parking Facilities, and water consumption/irrigation for Parks, the working group will:
 - 1.) Evaluate environmental and economic impacts of current practices;
 - 2.) Identify and prioritize most effective areas for improvements; and

- 3.) Analyze and propose strategic and viable methods for incorporating sustainable design and/or operation standards into engineering practices.
- Progress: Honed detailed goals from brainstorm points, identified future coordination needs.
- Next Meeting: To Be Scheduled with Group

Sustainable Growth

- Group Leader & Staff: Mark Donaldson, 215-2500 & Erin Burns, 215-2065
- Focus: Making building codes, community planning, and residential and commercial development/design more energy efficient and environmentally friendly.
- Goals: In order of priority, the group will be focusing on helping the City:
 - 1.) Transition to updated building energy codes;
 - 2.) Modify existing zoning codes to better encourage sustainable practices;
 - 3.) Identify and recommended green building policy for municipal buildings;
 - 4.) Evaluate incentives for energy-efficient development in the private sector; and
 - 5.) Maintain and expanding support for Community Development's responsible and energy-efficient rehabilitation and construction goals
- Progress: Honed detailed goals from brainstorm points, expanded group to include the Home Builders Association.
- Next Meeting: Tuesday May 18th at 12:00 PM in Room 549 of the City County Building. *Note: The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 12:00 – 1:30PM in the City County Building, Room 549 or 581. Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch.*

Transportation

- Group Leader & Staff: Kelley Segars, 215-3815 & Alisa Ashouri, 215-2916
- Focus: To recommend affordable and practical ways to encourage commuting and reduction of fuel consumption in Knoxville.
- Goals: To recommend to the Task Force an implementation strategy based on next steps from the Energy Inventory report:
 - 1.) Encouraging commuting through incentives in the City and Community;
 - 2.) Further developing and enforcing the no idling policy; and
 - 3.) Quantifying savings and quality of life benefits from reduced vehicular travel.
- Progress: Identified future data and research needs, and Cities with plans to borrow from.
- Next Meeting: To Be Scheduled with Group