



Sustainability Programs and Initiatives Plan

Mission, Kansas

2010

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Introduction

In recent years the sustainability movement has been gaining momentum in communities both on the level of the consciousness and actions of citizens in their private lives, as well as in the public initiatives of local and national governments worldwide. Though often associated with ecological preservation movements, to understand in the term "sustainability" as nothing more than a conservationist agenda is to miss the full meaning of the term and the real thrust of the movement. The widely quoted United Nations definition defines sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Though correctly noting our concern for and care about the future of our community, this definition fails to capture some vital components of the sustainable movement, as well as being rather vague with regards to what actually constitutes a sustainable initiative.

In order to more fully capture the many facets of the sustainable vision, we often refer to the three P's: People, Planet, and Prosperity. Each of these three P's covers an area that, on its own, pertains to a set of initiatives, the fulfillment of which is necessary to the successful development of any community. *People* requires us to adequately meet the needs of our citizens. *Planet* calls us to be mindful of the limits of our resources and the value of our natural environment. *Prosperity* acknowledges the need for economic stability and development. However, when viewed comprehensively as objectives which not only refer to one another but depend upon one another for their complete realization, we begin to get an idea of what sustainability looks like. Sustainability refers to the combination of these three initiatives, reminding us to consider these three P's not as distinct and seemingly conflicting areas of work, but as three inseparable spheres of the lastingly healthy life of a community.

The City of Mission is already committed to promoting the well-being of its people, the health and beauty of its local environment, and the growth of its economy. This care for its people, its planet, and its prosperity are evidenced in the creation of such programs as the Franchise Fee Rebate Program, our participation in the Tree City USA program, and our commitment to the revitalization of the commercial area. Acknowledging these three central concerns of sustainability and moving toward their fulfillment is, of course, a great start. We are proud of all the hard work that has been done here in Mission on sustainability initiatives to date, through the work of our Sustainability Commission and our Sustainability Task Force, as well as by many independent members of the community.

The work done in each of these areas has no doubt benefited the quality of life of the citizens of Mission. Economist Herman Daly refers to this change in vision as one that "involves replacing the economic norm of quantitative expansion (growth) with that of qualitative improvement (development) as the path of future progresses." Daly refers to this development as "the realization of fuller and greater potential," and aligns this vision with the sustainable movement: "sustainable development is progressive social betterment without growing beyond ecological carrying capacity." That is, sustainability strives to do what is best for the people of our community, which includes what is best for the economic prosperity of the community, while making efficient use of our natural resources.

Sustainability in Mission is committed to our People, our Planet, and our Prosperity. We have set as our goal the realization of the City of Mission's full potential with regard to the fulfillment of a vision that comprehensively seeks social betterment in the spheres of the day-to-day lives of our citizens, the economic stability and development of our community, and the natural beauty of our City. To date we have instituted a number of programs that work toward these ends, and we strive to expand and improve the functioning of these programs, as well as to jump-start others in the same spirit with the ultimate goal of rendering truly sustainable the Mission way of life.

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Sustainability in Mission

Sustainability Task Force

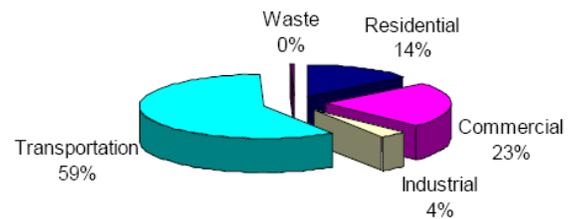
Citizens and elected officials of Mission attended a workshop on Sustainable Governance in 2007, which introduced attendees to principles of sustainability and models of sustainable government, examining climate change and its impact on communities. As a response to this workshop, Mayor Laura McConwell appointed the Sustainability Task Force (STF), comprised of Mission residents and business owners, to formulate an action plan to "serve as a model of sustainability for our local government, citizens, and surrounding communities that encompasses People, Planet, and Prosperity." The Task Force directed that a greenhouse gas emissions inventory be conducted for the City of Mission such that an action plan tailored to Mission could subsequently be formulated with the end of rendering Mission a more sustainable community. Members of the Task Force included: Councilmember Debbie Kring, Councilmember Phil Perry, Casey Cassias, David Parish, Doug Gregg, Michael Slattery, Mike Lee, Rafael Duran, Scott Stannard, Tom Thompson, and Kelley Harris-Zehr.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

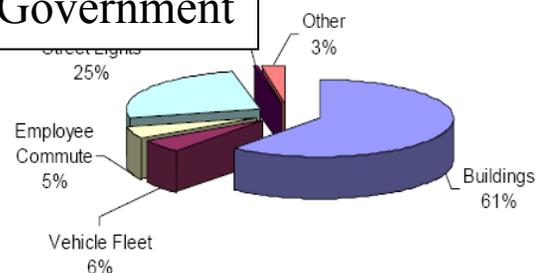
The formulation of the United States Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (MCPA) on February 16, 2005 initiated action towards the achievement of the goals of the Kyoto Protocol. On November 2, 2007 the City of Mission signed the MCPA, committing to the realization of a more lastingly livable community. The realization of this vision involves the reduction of our City's greenhouse gas emissions in order to improve the overall quality of life in our community. Toward this end, the City conducted a Greenhouse Gases Emissions Inventory, ascertaining the source and quantity of all emissions generated within the City of Mission.

Using as a baseline the emissions data from 2005, investigators at Black & Veatch Corporation compiled a report in September 2008 detailing the results of their study of Mission's emissions. Data analysis for the report was performed by the Clean Air and Climate Protection (CACP) software package

Community



Government



developed for the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), of whose Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) campaign Mission is a member. The CACP software converts data for emissions of three greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxides, into a single measurement expressed in the internationally accepted unit of carbon dioxide equivalents, or CO₂e. Total emissions for the community were determined to be 421,884 tons of CO₂e. The CACP software also provides a separate measure of the total emissions associated with the government sector, which amounts to 5,362 tons of CO₂e. Though this number is included within the overall community total, it can be viewed separately as a sector over which the local government has the ability to directly control emissions levels.

This data provides a baseline from which future emissions levels can be forecasted and against which the City may set goals towards achieving the reductions agreed to as a part of the MCPA. Mission's goal is 20% reductions by the year 2020. The Greenhouse Gases Emissions Inventory Report not only helps to set quantified goals tailored to our city's actual emissions levels, but helps us to begin to reach this goal by showing us where our emissions are coming from, guiding us in the setting of our initiatives to target those sources which most heavily contribute to our total carbon emissions.

Climate Action Plan

In response to the Greenhouse Gases Emissions Inventory Report, Mission's Sustainability Task Force formulated a Climate Action Plan in 2009. The plan identifies emissions reduction strategies as well as other programs and initiatives through which Mission is working towards sustainability, the outcomes of which are less easily quantifiable.

Owing to Mission's inability to regulate emissions resulting from highway traffic, this percentage of Mission's emissions has been removed from the baseline total out of which we must reach a 20% reduction. That is, for the purposes of the action plan and the goal of a 20% reduction in emissions we will consider the total carbon emissions of the Mission community to be 243,853 tons of CO₂e. Due to growth over the next decade, emissions forecasts put our emissions levels at 313,623 tons of CO₂e for the year 2020. Subtracting from this number our earlier target emissions calculation, we have determined that we must reduce our carbon emissions by 118,540 tons of CO₂e.

Community Projection Breakdown	
	Metric Tons CO₂e
Baseline Emissions	243,853
20% Baseline Reduction	48,771
Target 2020 Emissions	195,083
Business as Usual	313,623
Target 2020 Emissions	195,083
Total Emissions to Reduce	118,540
Tons Reduced from 2005-2007	9,026
% of Goal Achieved	8%

The STF used ICLEI's Climate and Air Pollution Planning Assistant (CAPPA) software to help determine which emissions reduction strategies would be most efficient for Mission to pursue in terms of amount of reductions achieved, feasibility, and cost. Strategies included in the report include such options as purchasing renewable energy credits, incorporating green standards into building codes, retrofitting light fixtures, and launching various community outreach and education programs to Mission residents and business owners. These strategies are aimed both at structural changes within the operations of Mission as a city, as well as encouraging more individualized actions on the part of home and business owners on their properties and through their lifestyles.

Community Progress to Goal

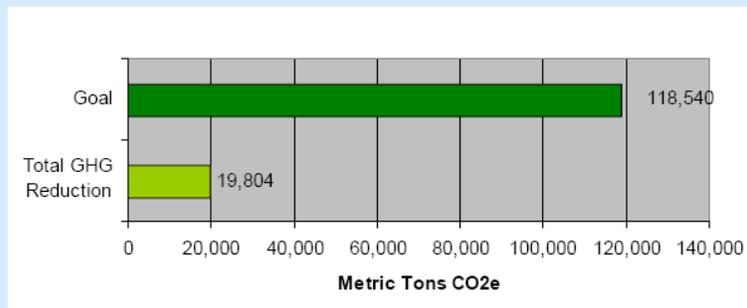
	Metric Tons CO2e
Reduction from 2005-2007	9,026
Implementing 13 Strategies	10,778
Total GHG Reduction	19,804
Goal	118,540
% Progress to Goal	17%

Secondary strategies that Mission is currently unable to pursue include the purchasing of green electricity and transit-oriented development. If and when these options should become available the implementation of these strategies could contribute to Mission's overall reductions goal.

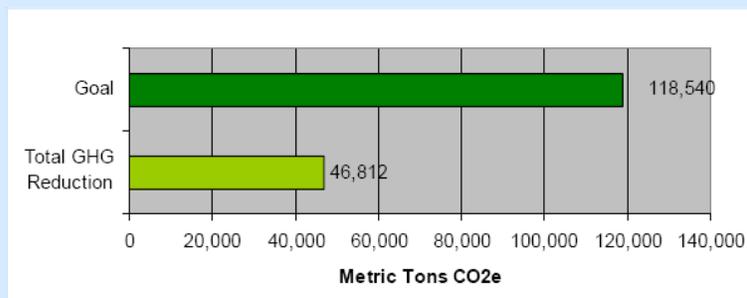
Adjusted Community Progress to Goal

	Metric Tons CO2e
Reduction from 2005-2007	9,026
Implementing 13 Strategies	10,778
Secondary Recommendations	27,008
Total GHG Reduction	46,812
Goal	118,540
% Progress to Goal	39%

Community Progress to Goal

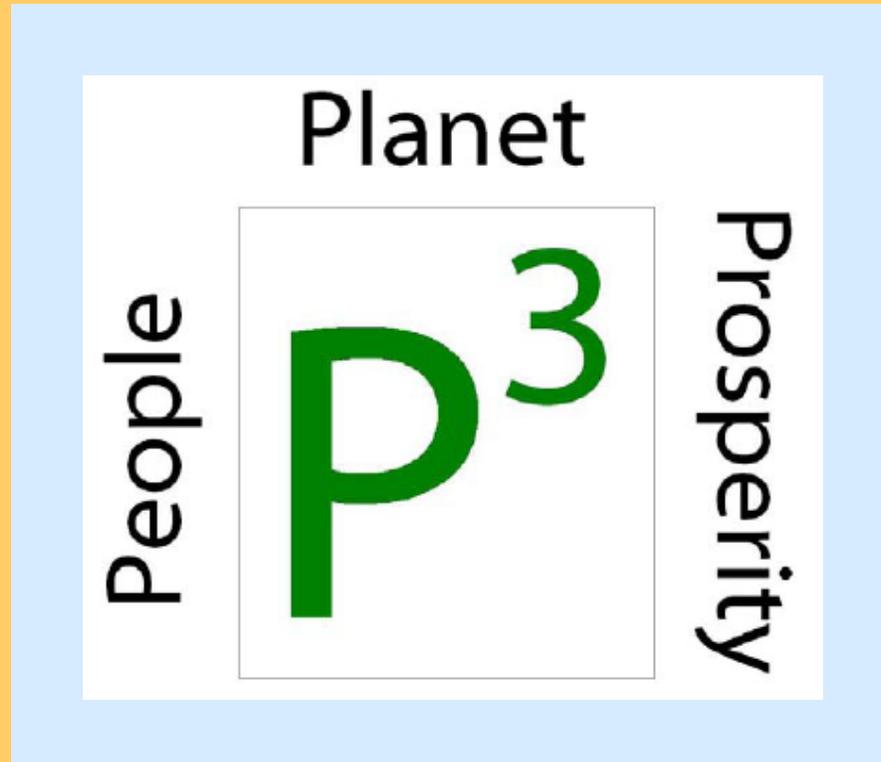


Adjusted Community Progress to Goal



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Past Projects and Programs



As the Climate Action Plan notes, sustainability is not just about climate change. Summarizing the P3 philosophy, the Climate Action Plan also catalogues a number of programs Mission has already undertaken to implement the triple bottom line with its goal of furthering the ends of People, Planet, and Prosperity. These programs may not have an easily quantifiable impact on carbon emissions, but they are certainly beneficial to the Mission community and an essential part of our vision of sustainability. These programs include the community garden program, as well as various neighborhood assistance programs such as Mission Possible and the funding of grants toward the benefit of communal neighborhood projects.

Prior to 2000:
Bulky Item Pick Up

In addition to regular trash pickup, two large items weighing no more than 65 lbs. each may be placed at the curb. This service is provided to assist those in the community unable physically or financially to make this arrangement for themselves.

2000:
Mission Bank Home Improvement Loan

This program is designed to provide loans for the purpose of making exterior home repairs or improvements, that affect the livability of the home, such as plumbing, HVAC, exterior siding, window replacement, roofs, etc.

The City of Mission has partnered with The Mission Bank to buy down a portion of the loan interest rate for Mission residents. Loans may be secured up to a maximum of \$20,000 and may be repaid over a period not to exceed five years.

2005:
Franchise Fee & Property Tax Rebate Program

The Franchise Fee & Property Tax Rebate Program is available to Mission residents that fall within 80% of the median HUD-MSA income guidelines. The City refunds 100% of the city franchise fees paid on electric, basic telephone (landline only) and gas utilities. Cable franchise fees are excluded. The City also refunds 75% of municipal property taxes and 50% of the solid waste utility fee.

2006:
Mission Possible

The Mission Possible program is designed to assist eligible residents with the removal of physical barriers, dilapidated structures, and qualifying minor home repairs. Residents must meet income/age requirements or be on Social Security disability.



2007:
Volunteer Home Painting

In 2007, the City was into its second year of the Mission Possible and Paint Give-Away Programs. It became apparent that there was a segment of the population that wanted to paint their homes, but physically were unable to accomplish the task.

As a subset of the Mission Possible Program, the City began working with local volunteers to provide exterior painting services for qualified residents. A total of two houses were painted using volunteers in 2007. Another two houses were painted in 2008.

Free Limb Pickup (post storm events)

Following a moderate ice event in December 2007, the City offered to residents who qualify for the Mission Possible program free curb-side limb removal. The ice event was not severe enough to qualify for FEMA reimbursements, but we wanted to ensure that residents who were physically unable to remove the limbs were able to access services.

Home Renovation Workshop

This free one-day workshop was offered by the City to encourage re-investment in the existing housing stock in Mission. Co-sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City, Deffenbaugh Disposal, and the City of Prairie Village, it featured 8 demonstrations and numerous vendors.

Housing Choices



The City of Mission has spent a considerable amount of time over the last several years planning for its future and creating a vibrant, mixed-use downtown district. Through the visioning process, participants identified a number of positive traits that are unique to Mission. Conversely, the vision plan identified a number of negative features, one of which is the overwhelming presence of asphalt, surface parking lots that do nothing to help promote the aesthetically pleasing, pedestrian friendly environment that the City is striving to achieve.

The City has decided to set an example, and play an active role in both encouraging and providing tangible examples of parking lot reuse and infill development. For that reason the City entered into preliminary development contracts for the redevelopment of a city-owned parking lot located just west of the Community Center as senior independent apartments and city-owned land south of the Gateway Project as condos. Both of these proposed projects would bring additional housing choices to Mission. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, nearly 1 out of every 5 Mission households were headed by residents of 65 years of age or older.



In addition, the City of Mission Housing Task Force, comprised of residents and industry professionals, has been established to preserve quality housing in Mission. The Task Force will provide input that will lead to the adoption of a Comprehensive Housing Policy after considering topics such as: affordable housing, infill housing, sustainable housing, senior housing, foreclosure prevention, fair housing, and ways to encourage the remodeling of Post World War II housing using concepts from the MARC Idea Book.

Neighborhood Organization Startups

Mission has a large number of single-family neighborhoods that are not included in homes associations with deed restrictions, etc. As an aging first ring suburb, we felt it was critical to provide residents with opportunities to build social capital through the establishment of neighborhood groups.

Our pilot project was launched in 2007 using a blend of strategies we found from communities across the country. Morrison Ridge Neighborhood Organization was established in partnership with neighborhood leaders, residents, elected officials, and city sponsorship in the fall of 2007. They held a large and well attended event celebrating their 100th year as a neighborhood. The group continues to meet and is working on becoming a recognized 501-4c. In the summer of 2008, the Roeland Court neighborhood offered climate change, recycling and other environmental information at their neighborhood event.

Paint Give-Away Program

The Paint Give-Away Program provides free and reduced-cost exterior paint and primer to income eligible Mission homeowners. This year the City of Mission has partnered with Sherwin Williams to provide quality paint to our residents. There is a wide variety of color selections to choose from. To date this program has provided residents with several hundred gallons of paint.

Sustainability Content on City Website

In 2007 the City began posting information on climate change, energy efficiency, and steps residents could take to reduce their carbon footprint on its website, www.missionks.org. The website also informs residents of ongoing sustainability programs and resources to help them achieve their personal reduction goals.

2009:

Tree Trimming Program

The Neighborhood Services department coordinates a tree trimming/removal program which provides assistance to citizens who can't afford to do it themselves. This program only trims or removes trees that are in danger of damaging property.



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2000:

Mission Bank Home Improvement Loan Program

This program is designed to provide loans for the purpose of making exterior home repairs or improvements that affect the livability of the home, such as plumbing, HVAC, exterior siding, window replacement, roofs, etc.

2003:

Mission Business Development Committee Grant Program

The goal of the Mission Business Development Committee is to create, maintain, and enhance a business climate that maintains the quality of life in Mission, Kansas. The Mission Business Development Committee (MBDC) was established in August 2003 to assist in the revitalization and redevelopment of the Mission business district. Responsibilities of the committee include development and administration of investment and revitalization programs for this area.

The MBDC is proud of the continued support of the MBDC Grant program. The committee administers the distribution of matching funds up to \$10,000 per business for external improvements to commercial businesses. All commercial property is eligible. Reimbursement will be provided at 50% of actual costs but not to exceed 50% of original approved estimate or bid. Since the Committee was formed in 2003, assistance has been provided to 83 local businesses. MBDC grants in the amount of \$175,943 have leveraged over \$430,000 of total re-investment in Mission businesses.

In 2009 the MBDC became the Mission Convention & Visitors Bureau, or MCVB.

2005:

Business Relocation Policy

As part of a major flood control project for Rock Creek along Johnson Drive in Mission, it became necessary for the City to purchase and demolish certain properties. In order to minimize the impact on the businesses affected by this project, the City developed a business relocation policy. The City assisted approximately 10 local businesses through this process.

2006:

Tax Increment Finance Districts for Mixed Use Redevelopment

In order to stimulate and develop the general and economic welfare of the City of Mission, the City Council determined to establish a redevelopment district for the old Mission Shopping Mall site. The establishment of a Tax Increment Finance District at this location was used to encourage the re-use of the site for a mixed use development proposal known as the Gateway Project. The Gateway is proposed to include approximately 823,000 square feet of retail, office, and residential, hotel, and aquarium uses in the heart of northeast Johnson County. It is hoped the Gateway will serve as a catalyst for additional redevelopment within the Johnson Drive corridor.



2009:
Community Garden Program



Beginning in 2009, the City of Mission has sponsored a community gardening effort, engaging local volunteers to help grow food for low-income and disabled residents within the city, and in the greater Kansas City Metro area. The garden will also be used as an educational tool and recreational area for area youth and community residents, as well as serving as a beautiful city landmark. Excess produce may be sold and reinvested in the garden or in a scholarship fund for youth volunteers.

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2002:
Tree Board Initiatives

The City of Mission's Tree Board must be consulted before any existing landscaping is destroyed or trees are removed. The Tree Board also issues recommendations and approval for replacing new and old landscaping, including for developments like the Rock Creek Trail. Additionally, the Tree Board advocates for native plantings both at the City level and residential/business level, and has an annual offering of trees and native grasses to residents at discount prices.



2005:
Rain Barrel Workshop

Storm water runoff is a concern for Mission. In an effort to reduce runoff flowing into our City's storm water system and creeks and to increase environmental awareness the City began hosting Rain Barrel Workshops in 2005. The City has hosted two workshops per year, each at capacity for interested residents. Rain Barrels are a great way to promote water conservation in the community!

2006:

Buffalo Grass Plantings

In 2006 the City began to incorporate buffalo grass into all medians in the city. Buffalo grass is a native, permanent, low growing, warm season grayish-green grass which requires less water, fertilizer and mowing than other grasses. Buffalo grass turf goes dormant and turns brown with extended drought and cool fall weather. This program was expanded in 2008 to include part of the Public Works property on Lamar and the Rock Creek Trail.

City Greenhouse

The new Public Works facility includes a green house in which the City is able to grow plant materials for landscaping projects in the City at a fraction of the cost of purchasing materials from a commercial greenhouse.

2007:

Bicycle Parking

The City recently purchased a bike rack in response to an increased interest in bicycle commuting following the national bike to work day in 2007. Two to four employees at City Hall bike to work year round. The bike rack was installed by Public Works employees and is located just outside the south entrance to City Hall.



Energy Audit of City Buildings

In the summer of 2007 the City began the process of conducting an energy audit of all City buildings. The goal of the audit is to identify ways to reduce operating costs and increase efficiency -- concepts that are key components to operating successful businesses.

Kansas City Area Mayors Sustainability & Climate Protection Conference

On Friday November 2, 2007 local mayors from around the Kansas City region thought globally and acted locally to combat climate change by gathering at Rockhurst University to sign the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The City of Mission in concert with Rockhurst University and the City of Gladstone, Missouri hosted an event at which sixteen local mayors from both Kansas and Missouri took part in the signing. This set the national record for the most signings of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement for a region in a single day. Combined with other local mayors who had already endorsed the



agreement, this brings the total regional population represented by the agreement to 652,569, according to the 2000 US Census. The signing came at the same time as the U.S. Conference of Mayors first ever Climate Protection Summit in Seattle, Washington.

Among other things, the agreement calls for participating cities to inventory their greenhouse gas emissions and take steps to reduce them to 7% below their 1990 levels by the year 2012. The City of Mission and Prairie Village have both established committees to begin exploring how this can be accomplished.

Mission Green - City Newsletter

In the summer of 2007 the City added a 2 page section to its quarterly newsletter devoted entirely to sustainability issues. The newsletter is distributed to all Mission residents. The “Mission Green” section is a two page spread which highlights local events and offers season tips for incorporating sustainability into resident’s daily lives.

Recycled Content Paper

In the winter of 2007 the City of Mission switched to purchasing 100% post consumer waste, acid free, and chlorine free copier paper. On average the City uses over 800 reams or 400,000 sheets of paper per year.

Shadowcliff Lodge, Grand Lake, Colorado

Beginning in June of 2007 the City of Mission began a program of yearly sustainability retreats to Shadowcliff Lodge in Grand Lake, Colorado. These workshops help local decision makers, residents, and business owners to explore the big pattern implications of climate change, the underlying principles of sustainability, suggest some models of more sustainable governance and encourage local leaders to incorporate sustainable thinking and action into every aspect of their strategic plans. Participants work to create better quality places in which to live, work and raise our families. Sustainability incorporates these values while recognizing our responsibility to address climate change in a meaningful manner as leaders and private citizens. The ability of the Earth to support human life in the way that we have come to enjoy - clean water to drink, clean air to breathe, and soil that grows human-friendly crops, depends upon each of us making major changes now. This will only happen if we as leaders begin to see and act in the world with a new perspective.



Sustainability Task Force

The City of Mission recently hosted a Sustainable Governance Workshop in Grand Lake, Colorado. This event, which was attended by multiple Mission elected officials, and Staff, as well as other representatives of neighboring municipalities, county, state and federal government, was an opportunity to explore implications of climate change, learn about principles of sustainability, and models of more sustainable governance. As a result of this workshop, Mayor McConwell appointed a special task force to develop a Comprehensive Sustainability Action Plan to incorporate sustainable thinking into all strategic plans for the City. The City of Mission also became a signatory to the U.S. Conference of Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement on November 2, 2007. This agreement calls for a 7% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by the year 2012.



Travel Policy – Carbon Offsets

The City Council passed an amendment to their travel policy in August of 2007 to include the consideration of the carbon footprint of such activities. The policy states that at the conclusion of a trip the Finance Director or his or her designee will make a calculation of the carbon emissions that each trip generated. The carbon emissions generate by the trip will then be offset in “real” dollars using the City’s Carbon Offset Calculator. Carbon offset dollars will be

deposited in the City's Carbon Offset Fund. Over \$500 have been allocated to this fund to date. As an indirect result of this policy, staff has begun to compare the carbon impacts of various modes of travel as part of the decision making process for travel arrangements.

West Gateway Form Based Code

In October of 2007 the City Council adopted a new zoning overlay called the West Gateway Form Based Code. This zoning tool covers approximately 130 acres within the western part of the City of Mission. The Form Based Code is the implementation of the vision plan which was developed for the area which called for increased density, expanding housing options, and encouraging local and regional transit. The Form Based Code includes text descriptions, graphics, and photographic examples to clarify acceptable development and built improvements. This type of code describes the physical "form" of a development and how it relates to its surroundings. Overall, a Form Based Code clearly describes what can be done with a property by qualitative means (pictures, other graphics), rather than indicating what is not allowed by quantitative requirements (archaic zoning setbacks, parking requirements, building heights, etc.).

2008:

Biodegradable Cleaning Products

In the spring of 2008 the Community Center switched to a hydrogen peroxide based cleaning products. By using this solution the community center has been able to discontinue using 9 other cleaners.

Biodegradable Table Service

In the spring of 2008 the Community Center began using only biodegradable cups, utensils, and stir sticks for special events and rentals at the facility. The Community Center typically hosts several such events per week.

Clean Commute Program

Clean Commute is a program offered by Bridging the Gap and funded by the Congestion and Mitigation Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), which focuses on how transportation choices affect local air quality. Clean Commute allows employees of all levels to work together to educate and change the driving habits of their co-workers and community members—focusing specifically on biking and walking to work.

Because of the City of Mission's high number of employees who registered for the Commuter Challenge during Bike Work Week, we have been selected as one

of eight local businesses in Wyandotte and Johnson Counties to participate in the next round of the program. Participation includes speakers for lunch and learns, on-site bike clinics, 2 new fully equipped TREK commuter bikes and bike parking racks as needed. Employees will be asked to log their trips on the Clean Commute bikes to track the number of car trips eliminated and emissions saved. The program is administered by several staff coordinators who volunteer their time.



Community Shredding Event

The community shredding event is an annual opportunity for Mission residents to bring sensitive documents to be properly shredded and recycled. Beginning in 2008, Mission residents brought approximately 2 tons of paper to be recycled. The event was held for one day in the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center parking lot.

EarthWalk 2008

The City of Mission has formed a team to participate in EarthWalk 2008. The team is open to both employees and residents of the City. EarthWalk is part of Kansas City region's largest annual celebration



of Earth Day with the purpose of providing environmental education with planet-friendly exhibitors, live entertainment and crafts and activities for children of all ages. By walking and/or raising money for the Kansas City EarthWalk, the City of Mission is directly support environmental education and awareness in Kansas City. The EarthWalk benefits Bridging the Gap, a local environmental not-for-profit organization. Bridging The Gap works to make the Kansas City region sustainable by connecting environment, economy and communities.

High School Robotic Challenge

The City has partnered with local high school science students at Shawnee Mission North, to see if there's a way to hook up our stationary bikes and other equipment at our Community Center to small generators or batteries to produce electrical power for the facility. This energy could be used to operate television sets, fans, etc. The amount of renewable energy produced would be measured so community center patrons can see what they are doing for the environment.



Pay-as-You-Throw Solid Waste Contract

By implementing Johnson County's first pay-as-you-throw solid waste contract, the City of Mission is leading the way in curbing excess waste which is shortening the life of the area's landfill. The contract features unlimited curbside recycling for all single-family homes in Mission free of charge. Recycling is picked up on the regularly scheduled trash pick-up day. Trash is limited to one 65-gallon cart each week; excess must be placed in pre-purchased Deffenbaugh trash bags in order to be picked up. Additionally, the City negotiated for all yard waste picked up from residences to go to a composting facility rather than the landfill, to keep useful biodegradable matter from filling up the landfill's space.

Recycling in City Buildings

The City offers paper, plastic, aluminum and tin recycling at centralized locations at all City buildings. Fourteen can/bottle and seven paper recycling containers have been placed throughout the Community Center for the use of the public. The Community Center is a major center of activity in Mission. Waste is collected weekly by the Public Works Department and weighed to track how much is diverted from the land fill. As an incentive to participate in recycling at work, City employees were offered the opportunity to convert their desk side trash cans into personalized recycling bins and to share communal trash cans instead.



Tree Tagging Program

Conducted in collaboration with Heartland Alliance, the Tree Tagging Program places tags on designated trees in the community which indicate a monetary amount the tree is saving the community over its lifespan. The program brings more visibility to how much carbon emissions reduced, how valuable trees are for reducing energy, and raises awareness about environmental issues.

Vehicle Replacement Program

In consultation with the EPA's Green Vehicle Guide, the City is currently considering adding a new vehicle to its fleet. This vehicle would help to reduce the barriers faced by employees choosing alternative ways of commuting to work like biking, walking and mass transit. Currently the City does not have any vehicles available to employees for work related travel. While City employees make every attempt to carpool, all trips for meetings and conferences are made in personal vehicles. The potential for Mission employees to use alternate modes of travel is very high as 45% of Mission employees live within the zip code that more or less defines the City limits. More than 70% of City employees live within a roughly a five mile radius of the City Hall.

In addition, the police department is currently exploring the feasibility of adding higher fuel efficiency standards in its next fleet vehicle bid and conversion to alternative fuel vehicles.

Revised Projects and Programs



From left to right: Doug Gregg, Leslie Gust, Doug Blessing, Rafael Duran, Steve Helvey, Dave Lally. Not Pictured: Largo Callenbach, Kate Fields.

Sustainability Commission

The Sustainability Commission was launched in 2010 with the task of implementing the initiatives suggested in the Climate Action Plan and evaluating Mission's progress toward the fulfillment of these initiatives. The Sustainability Commission embarked upon a process in which the multiple existing City and other available programs were reviewed and weighed against the strategies discussed in the Climate Action Plan of the City, ensuring coordination of sustainability efforts with the city's current community development and neighborhood services projects. Three subcommittees were created, each responsible for a different sector of the city's sustainable development: business, neighborhoods, and government.

Sustainability Commission Members

Chair: Rafael Duran; **Vice-Chair:** Leslie Gust

Largo Callenbach, Kate Fields, Doug Gregg, Steve Helvey, Dave Lally, Doug Blessing

Sustainability Commission: 2010 Calendar of Work

January 28:

Initial Meeting – Introduction and Work Review

February 25:

Presentation of Notebooks; Work Review & Training Calendar

March 25:

Work Review & Updated Calendar

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory & Climate Action Plan Presentation

April 22:

Presentation of Annual Report for Mission Neighborhood Services & Community Development

Presentation of Climate Protection Planning Process

Presentation of Star Community Index

May 27:

Review of Comprehensive Plan & Redevelopment Plan

Discussion of Climate Action Plan identified Strategies

June 5-9:

Shadowcliff Workshop: **Regional Action & Governance, Leadership Building**

June 24:

Establishment of Sub-Committees to Prepare the Commission's

Program and Initiatives Plan

Subcommittee A: Municipal Code/Comp Plan (2 SCs + 2 PCs)

Subcommittee B: Neighborhood Programs (3 SCs)

Subcommittee C: Business Programs (3 SCs)

July 22:

Sub-committees report back to Group

August 26:

First Draft **Program & Initiatives Plan** presented & discussed

September 23:

Revised Draft **Program & Initiatives Plan** presented & discussed

October 28:

Approve and Forward Final **Program & Initiatives Plan** to Planning Commission and City Council

2010 Commission Activities

The Commission engaged in a number of sustainably-oriented activities in its inaugural year, including:

- Turkey Creek Cleanup Event: Commission members, volunteers, the Mayor, and City staff performed a trash cleanup of Turkey Creek in April.
- Attendance at the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Academy for Sustainable Communities training sessions
- Attendance at a regional sustainability workshop at Shadowcliff Lodge in Grand Lake, CO
- Staffing a booth for the Commission at the annual Arts & Eats festival to provide information and sell sustainable goods.

Division of Work

The Commission started its work by becoming fully acquainted with the tasks performed by the City of Mission and its partners in the “3 P’s” areas of Sustainability. Overall, the duties and programs of the Community Development and Neighborhood Services Department were explained and discussed at length in order to ensure all Commissioners had a full understanding of the current initiatives and programs. This “exploratory” period also included a review of the previous Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory, Climate Action Plan and Comprehensive Plan.

Upon conclusion of this initial period, the Sustainability Commission was divided into three Subcommittees, each one with the task of looking at a specific area of work. One of these Subcommittees also coordinated their efforts with members from the Planning Commission.

Subcommittee A: Review the City’s Municipal Code and Comprehensive Plan.

Members: Two Sustainability Committee members and three Planning Commissioners

Sustainability Commissioners: Doug Blessing, Dave Lally

Planning Commissioners: Jim Brown, Stuart Braden, Carla Mills

Strategies Considered by the Subcommittee:

Incorporation of Green Building Codes into Municipal Codes
Water Conservation Ordinance
Limiting of Idling of Heavy Duty Vehicles
Comprehensive Plan Revision

Subcommittee B: Review current neighborhood assistance programs.

Members: Rafael Duran, Largo Callenbach, Kate Fields

Strategies Considered by Subcommittee:

Yard Waste Composting
Education on Low-carbon Transportation Options
Water Saving Shower Heads
HVAC Maintenance Tune-ups
Low-Maintenance Landscaping

Subcommittee C: Review of current business assistance programs

Members: Leslie Gust, Doug Gregg, Steve Helvey

Strategies Considered by Subcommittee:

Education on Low-carbon Transportation Options
Energy Efficiency Education Targeted at Business
Green Business Programs
Low-Maintenance Landscaping
Efficient Lighting Retrofits
Increase Chiller Efficiency

CODE AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Sustainability Commission assigned two members to participate in the Planning Commission’s annual Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code review subcommittee. Three green house gas reduction strategies identified in the Climate Action Plan were discussed for possible municipal code changes. These included the adoption of green building codes, limits on heavy vehicle idling, and water conservation measures. The subcommittee determined that the adoption of green building codes should take place at the next regularly scheduled building code adoption cycle as this is a lengthy process the City just completed in the fall of 2009. At this time, green building codes will be added to the Comprehensive plan as a goal/objective. Heavy vehicle idling was determined to fall outside the jurisdiction of the Planning Commission and zoning code. The Sustainability commissioners will instead work with the Sustainability Commission as a whole to develop programs to promote the reduction of idling in the community. Water conservation was discussed and current codes were reviewed to ensure the City was not inadvertently requiring wasteful water usage through commercial irrigation standards. It was determined that this was not the case. The Sustainability Commission will promote water conservation via incentive programs rather than a code change. Other codes under consideration are summarized in the attached table.

Topic	Source	Consider Code Change in 2010?	Details
Green Building Codes	Climate Action Plan	No	Include in Comprehensive Plan as Objective for future building code adoption cycle. Current building codes were recently adopted.
Water Conservation	Climate Action Plan	No	Review irrigation and landscape standards to see if revisions necessary. Address water conservation through other programs under consideration by other sub-committees of Sustainability Committee.
Idling of Heavy Vehicles	Climate Action Plan	No	Review of Traffic Code and Enforcement. Address through other voluntary programs.
Solar Energy	Staff	Yes	Staff to research and find updated version for committee review
Wind Energy	Staff	Yes	Staff to research and provide ordinance for committee review. Concerns about height, noise, removal if abandoned.
EV Charging Stations	Staff	Pending	Definitions, Accessory Uses, How to count towards required parking stalls, HC stall.
Bicycle Parking	Staff	Yes	Staff to proceed to draft required ratios and design standards

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Program: Franchise Fee and Property Tax Rebate Program

Description: Created to help alleviate the tax burden of income-eligible Mission residents. For homeowners, the program refunds:

- 50% of the Mission Solid Waste Utility,
- 75% of Mission property taxes (excluding special assessments), and
- 100% of utility franchise fee taxes. * Persons who do not own their own homes are eligible only for a rebate of their utility franchise fee taxes.

The Franchise Fee Rebate Program is open through the 31st of May each year. An applicant must have the application and all required materials submitted by this date in order to receive a reimbursement.

2010 Budget: \$35,000

Proposed Changes: First-come, First-served, until depletion of 2011 funding. Change current income guidelines to Housing and Urban Development "Very-Low Income" limits for 2010.

Proposed 2011 Budget: \$22,500

Program: Mission Possible

Description: Created in 2006 to help eligible residents attain code compliance, improve the safety and appearance of their properties, and to begin the process of rehabilitating the City's aging housing stock. Financial assistance up to \$1,800 in one calendar year (\$3,000 total over a three year period) is provided to eligible residents for qualified home repairs, including labor and supplies.

Residents must meet income guidelines and be 62-years of age or older, or receive Social Security Disability Benefits. Residents must also be current on property taxes and have owned their home for at least one year.

2010 Budget: \$15,000

Proposed Changes: Revising assistance amount to \$2,000 per calendar year, and allowing residents to receive funds every other year. Change current income guidelines to Housing and Urban Development "Very-Low Income" limits for 2010.

Proposed 2011 Budget: \$6,800

Program: Paint Give-Away Program

Description: Created to assist low-income residents and families to maintain code compliance with the exterior condition of their homes. Because peeled and chipping paint is a commonly-cited code violation, the Paint Give-Away Program provides exterior primer and paint to city residents for free or at reduced cost. Indoor paint projects do not qualify for this program.

2010 Budget: \$12,000

Proposed Changes: None.

Proposed 2011 Budget: \$5,000

Program: Tree Trimming Grant Program

Description: Created in 2008 to offer financial assistance to eligible homeowners. Qualified applicants may receive assistance with trimming or removal of damaged, diseased or dead trees on residential property that pose a risk to structures or human safety. Financial assistance up to \$1,000.00 may be provided to qualified owner-occupied properties needing assistance. Applications are processed on a first come-first served basis once all required documents are received. The qualified work will be determined by Neighborhood Services Staff and a certified arborist.

2010 Budget: \$10,000

Proposed Changes: Add requirement that if a tree is removed, a new one must be planted by property owner.

Program Administration: Currently, each application is reviewed as it is filed. Currently, each application is reviewed separately as staff receives them, and then if approved the homeowner must obtain 3 bids from a list of approved vendors. In 2011, all approved properties would be bid as a package and one tree vendor is awarded all the work. This will streamline the process for both staff and residents.

Proposed 2011 Budget: \$10,000

P3 Programs: New Programs Proposed by the Sustainability Commission

Proposed 2011 Budget: \$12,000 shared among all programs below

Program: A Brush with Kindness - New

Description: This would be a partnership between Habitat for Humanity and the City of Mission to make needed repairs to our older homes. The city would be the “corporate” sponsor and provide financial support for all the supplies and Habitat would provide all the volunteer labor. The city would do the first round of application processing and then discuss each application with Habitat. Applications would be due to the city by May 1 so the city and Habitat could evaluate each application fairly and distribute the funds appropriately.

This program would not have specific income cut-offs, each application and family situation would be reviewed individually. Residents would not have to be elderly or disabled to qualify for this program. Homeowners would have to be willing to allow a group of all volunteers perform the work on their home. Target expenditures for this program would not exceed \$8800.

Program: Multi-Family Recycling Program - New

Description:

1. This program would provide a \$250 rebate to apartment complexes that are not currently offering on-site recycling if they place a bin on their property. The recycling bin will need to be on their property for at least 6 months and they will have to provide proof that they have encouraged residents to recycle before the rebate will be approved. The City of Mission currently has more than 20 licensed apartment complexes, and nearly half of them do not offer on-site recycling to their residents. Rebates are offered on a first come, first served basis with a maximum of 6 rebates not to exceed \$1,500 annually.

2. For those complexes that do already offer on-site recycling for their residents, we would supply the complex with Ripple Glass recycling bins. The complex manager can determine what they do

with the Ripple Glass bins but suggestions include: giving a bin to new residents as they move in or providing a bin to long term residents to encourage recycling.

Program: Shower Head Coupons - New

Description: The City of Mission would partner with Mack Hardware to provide low-flow shower heads to Mission residents. Each household would be eligible to receive one shower head; city staff will track recipients. Coupons for the shower heads will be available at City Hall on a first come, first served basis and will be redeemable at Mack Hardware on Johnson Dr. The proposed budget below will provide 100 free shower heads to residents. The popular model selected for this program is made by Delta and is easy to install.

Program: Yard Waste Composting - New

Description

1. City staff members will work with the Johnson County Master Gardeners to host semi-annual composting classes for residents.
2. Habitat for Humanity will soon be opening a new Re-store in northern Johnson County which will sell kitchen composter for \$50. City staff will work with Habitat Re-store to explore opportunities and incentives for Mission residents to purchase the composters.

This program's target expenditures should not exceed \$500.00.

The Commission elected to leave several programs unchanged after their review. These included:

- **Neighborhood Grant program:** Provides grants for neighborhood community-building events
- **Mission Bank Loan program:** Provides subsidized interest rates for home-improvement loans
- **EasyRide:** Provides curb-to-curb transit for seniors during midday hours. NOTE: This service was eliminated due to the expiration of matching Federal grant money.

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Program: Green Business Program - **New**

Description: The Mission Green Business Program is designed to promote sustainable development in Mission, incentivize business owners to be more sustainable, provide increased publicity to business owners, and reduce Mission's GHG footprint.

Procedure:

- Mission businesses make improvements to their buildings/facilities which conserve resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Improvements are worth a certain number of "points" towards accreditation.
- Businesses must request an inspection so that the City can verify completion of the required action step. Businesses must also provide documentation (receipts, pictures, etc.) that proper equipment was purchased and installed or that policies were enacted.
- A three-tiered accreditation structure recognizes Bronze, Silver, and Gold level businesses.
- Upon achieving a certification, businesses will be recognized with a plaque, a window sticker, and free advertising of some kind.

Future Action Steps:

- Create a list of criteria/objectives for businesses to meet based on models in [Montgomery County, MD](#) and [San Francisco, CA](#).
- Set up an inspections procedure
- Create an advertising plan
- Create a webpage to display all accredited businesses, along with a logo, sticker, and plaque to recognize achievers.
- Partner with area media outlets to promote advertising for businesses that are certified "green."
- Evaluate the possibility of dedicating funds from the BIG to certified businesses for additional improvements.

Proposed 2011 Budget: \$5,000, shared with BIG funding.

Program: Business Improvement Grants (BIG)

Description: The Business Improvement Grant program provides matching funds to businesses and property owners in the city for sustainable upgrades and repairs to structures and facilities.

2010 Budget: \$25,000

Proposed Changes:

- Leave 50% match in place
- Allow tenants to apply for grants with property owner permission
- Consider dedicating a portion of grant funds to Green Business Program participants in the future

Proposed 2011 Budget: \$25,000, shared with Green Business Programs

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Given fiscal constraints, Sustainability Commissioners present a set of enhanced programs and services, along with a few selected new programs, with no additional combined City expenditures for sustainability-related initiatives. Recommended program allocations are as follows:

Sustainability Programs Adopted & Revised Budget for 2011	Budget 2010	Adopted Budget 2011	Revised Budget 2011
Mission Possible Program	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 6,800.00
Business Improvement Grants*	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
EasyRide	\$ 14,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Sustainability Expenses**	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Paint Give-Away Program	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Franchise Fee and Property Tax Rebate Program	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 22,500.00
P3 Programs***	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00
How-To Clinics	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Mission Bank Loan Program	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Neighborhood Grant Program	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Tree Trimming Grant Program	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Total (Programs)	\$ 167,000.00	\$ 99,800.00	\$ 99,800.00

* Includes Business Improvement Grant & Green Business Program

** Includes Expenses related to Following Programs: Community Garden (\$2,000), SC Training and Registration, Misc.

*** Brush with Kindness (\$8,800), Multi-Family Recycling Program (\$1,700), Shower Head Coupons (\$1,000), Yard Waste Composting (\$500)

2010 Budgeted Items Reduced by City Council Resolution # 807

2010 Budgeted Items Proposed for further reduction by Sustainability Commission

Initiatives recommended for 2011 Implementation by Sustainability Commission

These allocations maintain the budget cuts from 2010 – 2011 and involve line-item sharing between various programs. For example, all new “P3 Programs” will share revenue with each other, and the Green Business Program will share revenue with the Business Improvement Grant funds.

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CONCLUSION

The new programs outlined in this report strive to achieve a three-fold goal: reduce greenhouse gas emissions, maintain service levels to Mission residents, and keep budget expenditures flat. The Sustainability Commission is confident that the recommendations outlined in this report make headway on all three fronts. Not only will the proposed changes in some programs help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Mission residents and businesses, but they do so while remaining within the City's budget allocations.

The Sustainability Commission has worked cohesively with City Staff and other organizations (such as Habitat for Humanity) to devise new and creative ways of solving some of the problems facing Mission residents and business owners. In doing so, they have continually referred to the "P3" model. By focusing these programs on assisting people and helping the planet, the Commission hopes to foster prosperity in the city through economic development and revitalization. The Commission looks forward to the opportunity to evaluate these programs in the coming months and to devising new ways to improve the sustainability of Mission, KS.

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APPENDICES