

Vision for Environmental Sustainability

Open House

Comments and Feedback

An Open House for the Vision for Environmental Sustainability was hosted on September 29, 2008. The format of the open house allowed visitors to review the existing programs and practices already in place, related to environmental sustainability. Input was solicited on new programs and initiatives that could be incorporated into the *Vision for Environmental Sustainability* and ultimately an environmental work plan for the future. A summary of the comments and feedback received is summarized below.

I. Accomplishments to Date: Review of Existing Inventory

Sustainable Development & Infrastructure

- More pedestrian and bike routes
- Promote local farming- farm markets, co-ops, gardens
- Encourage victory garden plantings
- Instead of building \$30,000,000 worth of new parking garages, could the city do something different to discourage driving?
- Protect existing trees during construction and renovation- Do early inspections to verify measures are taken to protect- too many mature trees are dying in established neighborhoods
- Energy efficient building and renovation standards
- More local supplies/ suppliers of goods- reduce shipping, create local jobs
- Work with Park District and Conservation Foundation to put together education
- How about encouraging residents to plant fruit and nut producing trees to provide food in the future? Average food in the US is shipped 1500 miles.

Education & Outreach

- Promote businesses that are LEED certified , recycling, etc.- Maybe have a link to the businesses from the website; I have personally sought out businesses that are “Greener”
- Do more community education
- Implement a permit/fee reduction program if renewable or recycled materials are used
- Implement a matching dollar fund to increase participation in renewable energy programs (same concept as carbon credits)
- Coordination between schools and green business

- Zero waste lunches at schools- reusable lunch boxes, reusable food containers, reusable drink containers, only enough food that can be eaten.
- Ban plastic water bottles for water and other drinks and ban plastic grocery bags
- Workshops for community/organizations on wide range of topics: renewable energy; energy conservation/weatherizing; water conservation; green cleaning and IPM “reduce toxics” and protect your family’s health; use of rain barrels; composting, etc.
- Promotion of green businesses- not only energy efficiency but green products (low VOC paints)
- More emphasis and opportunity to learn about good environmental practices starting at the elementary school level in the local school districts
- Steps to help encourage homeowners to purchase solar, wind, etc. Guidance of a technical nature would help.
- Increased encouragement and access to info on residential turbines, solar panels, driveways that let rainwater soak in.

Mobility

- Reduce traffic congestion on Washington Street by eliminating parking!
- More bike paths downtown
- More bike paths downtown and between parks (make it easier/safer to get between schools and parks)
- What can city do to promote public transportation
- Add bike racks at more high-use areas (downtown, shopping, dining)
- Implement citywide transit
- Turn Jefferson into ped-only street during certain times
- Offer bike parking at special events
- Add bike lanes; create spoke wheel system of paths to increase awareness and safety visibility
- Increase rate of bike path development- needs to be more visible, faster
- Encourage biking to downtown Naperville; bike lanes, more racks, integrated paths to downtown
- What about a golf cart transit system for commercial corridors (or hybrid/smart car)
- Work with adjacent communities to connect with bike paths
- Make bicycle paths accessible year round with improved lighting and maintenance
- Preferred parking for hybrids, motorcycles, scooters

Waste Management & Recycling

- Add bike parking throughout city
- Offer recycling at Special Events
- Reduce garbage pickup to every two weeks or require payment
- Offer composting with curbside program
- Get bigger, wheeled recycling bins; encourage recycling more than landfilling
- Curbside electronic and hazardous waste pickup
 - Additional “Yes!” comment
- Use food compost for municipal landscape, garden plots, medians, and golf courses
- Offer curbside or as needed pickup of reusable construction materials
- Community composting- curbside pickup of compostable items
- Continue to fund hazardous waste program
- Make people pay for garbage pickup; make recycling free
- If you don’t already have it, putting info on website (or links) for info on how greener projects- e.g. wind turbines for residential use, solar panels, driveways that let “run-off” soak in instead into the drains, etc.
- Develop pilot food compost program- restaurants, schools, grocery, malls- could cut landfill by 30%-50% from these programs
- OFFER landscape mulch to residents; encourage composting through education and discounted compost bins
- Charge for garbage to encourage recycling; sell big recycling bins (like the garbage cans)
- Recycle Styrofoam
- Offer better recycling options downtown
- Offer citywide/curbside pickup for composting
- Ban plastic bags
- Change payment of garbage from taxes to bill
- Satellite sites for recycling of difficult items: shoes, cell phones, paint, batteries
- Designate some sidewalks for bike use also
- More shredding days for bulk shredding needs of public
- Charge residents for garbage
- Encourage better lawn gardening practices (longer grass, better for earth fertilizers, electric mowers)
- Make it easy for the kids- easy to find the bins and easy to use
- Curbside pickup of recyclable electronics and scrap metal
- Encourage schools to use reusable trays for hot lunches vs. Styrofoam; recyclable cup with milk dispensers vs. waxy paper milk cartons
- Promote/educate on composting
- Commercial retail recycle plan
- City compost station

- Increase the ease of recycling computers, electronics, etc. by offering annual curbside recycling for additional hazardous items
- Full recycling programs implemented at public schools and malls- this is a cost savings through MSW reduction
- Meter water to residential and business consumers- this would encourage conservation and save the city money from waste water management
- Recycling program for businesses and multi family dwellings
- Prohibit bans to composting (Homeowners Associations)
- I'd like to see increased encouragement for recycling (maybe charge for garbage, offer large garbage-can sized recycling bins, recycle more items like Styrofoam, cell phones, plastic bags, etc.)

Resources & Energy

- Still more processes can be made paperless: building permits, payment, and pickup
- Purchase hybrid vehicles for any or all departments (hybrids such as the Toyota Prius or Honda hybrid)
 - Additional "Yes!" comment
- Encourage rain barrel use (incentive program)
- Watering ordinance not enforced enough- enlist and train volunteers or increase monitoring
- Green business group
 - Additional "Agree" comment
- Green business decals
 - Additional "Great Idea!" comment
- Make wind turbine options available for homeowners
- Programs to make businesses and residences more energy efficient- *energy audits*, low i-rate loans for energy efficient appliances, etc.
- Incentives for green businesses
- Phase out plastic bags for retail outlets- charge \$0.25/bag at stores; encourage reusable bags
- Encourage use of reusable shopping bags and water bottles
- Use alternative fuel vehicles
- Install renewable energy in parking structures and municipal buildings: geothermal, solar thermal, solar PV
- Replace all incandescent light bulbs in city owned buildings with CFL's
- Complete the bike trails
- Feedback to consumers on how much energy/electricity they use compared to neighbors with similar households
- Evaluate solar panels on municipal buildings
- Incentives for energy efficiency improvements

- Coupons or rebates fore energy audits
- Incentive to reduce electric consumption
- Put garden plot opportunities all around Naperville, especially in case we need Victory Gardens again
- Eliminate sprinkling 2 days/week
- Allow/promote solar panels on homes (and/or work with associations to provide incentives)
- Allow clothes lines; promote less energy use
- City to purchase wind power for city power use
- All new construction to be LEED certified and required to be 30% lower electrical consumption
 - Addition “Yes!” comment
- Look into usage of windmills in backyards, golf courses, parks, etc.
- Evaluate solar panels on municipal buildings
- Promote water conservation practices: permeable pavement, rain barrels/cisterns, rain gardens, low flow fixtures
- Solar panels where appropriate
 - Additional “Yes!” comment
- Recycling cans at the city’s parks; more bins/cans in the downtown area; ban plastic bags at supermarkets
 - Additional “Yes!” comment
- Disallow covenants banning clotheslines and solar panels
- More emphasis on hybrid vehicles
- Disallow sprinkler run-off
 - Additional “Yes, agree” comment

II. Possible Vision Statements

- Naperville is dedicated to managing our resources such that we consume what we need and conserve for the needs of future generations
- Media exposure for green business
- Use Kyoto agreement as a guideline
- Benefits to all value determination to guide decision making
- Include: conservation of resources, value of sustainability, *impact on environment
- All Naperville residents, businesses, agencies, schools, etc. adopt energy and other resource-conserving practices in their daily activities
- Determine an approximate “city carbon footprint” now- so city can measure future improvement (WWF website for procedure to do this)
- Naperville is committed to the safety, health, economic prosperity of our community. Environmental stewardship is a natural extension of this commitment for the future of our city and the high quality of life that our citizens enjoy.

- Follow the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement
- Renew, recycle, reuse, rethink
- A leader in promoting and practicing conservation and sustainable living.
- The vision statement should include the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement
 - Additional "I agree!" comment
- To make Naperville set an example for Illinois with progressive programs to reduce our carbon footprint and improve air quality.

III. *What are you doing? Tips or practices that you do at work or home that are helping the environment*

- Practices: reusable shopping bags, plastic/metal water bottle (no disposables); turn off tap when brushing teeth; short showers; use public transportation when possible; avoid toxic cleaners; look for non toxic pants, etc.
- Careful use of energy and water; less driving; recycling; using Metra
- We have replaced all light bulbs in our home with CFL's, and we purchased a new Energy Star refrigerator and furnace
- Drive hybrid; energy audit of home; recycle; buy local produce
- Line dry clothes; bike to work and downtown; changed my light bulbs; use power strips and turn them off when electronics not in use; cloth shopping bags; farmers market; avoid watering lawn by letting it grow taller
- We compost our food waste and reuse as garden and landscape soil amendment
- Minimize trash by recycling everything possible; giving away to Goodwill or Wayside Cross reusable items; composting scraps; using reusable cloth bags, reusable water bottles, etc.
- Hybrid vehicle; changed to non-petroleum based household cleaners; recycled paper products; use reusable bags rather than plastic; CFL's; garden and buy local; high temp in summer, low in winter (thermostat); don't use garbage disposal
- Ceased buying water in bottles- Naperville has great tap water; use reusable bottle to take along
- I pick up bottles around my high school and bring them home to recycle because I don't trust my school's recycling program; reusable shopping bags
- Carry my Sigg water bottle with me everywhere; encourage friends to not use plastic water bottles; remind friends to recycle
- Ground cover instead of turf; use cloth bags for groceries and other shopping
- Recycling, all possible
- Use cloth bags, CFL bulbs
- Set the thermostat lower in the winter/higher in the summer, or turn off when possible
- Minimize driving by combing shopping trips, walking, etc.

IV. Other Comments

- Make city sustainability efforts/ progress more prominent!
- I think “Environmental Sustainability” as the city has identified it is too limiting- people, community, and animals should be considered
- Does this encompass a plan that can include home owners?
- I had no idea that you already did so much!
- Great program – thanks!
- Make open house more fun for kids

V. Written Correspondence (Attached)



**Naperville for Clean Energy and Conservation
3835 Caine Court, Naperville IL 60564**

September 30, 2008

City of Naperville
400 South Eagle Street
Naperville, IL 60540

Dear City Staff and Council,

Congratulations on your ongoing and progressive actions to make our environment a priority! It is gratifying to live in a community which works as a community to face adversity and challenges. The entire world is facing the growing effects of global warming and climate change and NCEC has embraced the notion of thinking globally and **acting locally**. We look forward to working in conjunction with our city leaders and staff members to address and begin to resolve our own city's unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions.

Please consider this letter NCEC's formal response to the city's invitation for input regarding the strategic issue of environmental sustainability. Our organization supports all city efforts to make our community as environmentally sustainable as possible especially those efforts which specifically and quantifiably address and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

EMISSIONS INVENTORY

As we have indicated within the last year, an emissions inventory is the first step to address global warming and climate change. The next, and most important steps, will be to set specific emissions reductions targets, create programs as necessary, and educate the community as necessary to reach these targets. NCEC supports the following targets recently set by the city of Chicago in their Climate Action Plan www.chicagoclimataction.org:

- Reduce community GHG emissions to 25% below 1990 levels by 2020
- Reduce community GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050

NCEC is eager to learn about the findings of the CDM emissions study and recommendations. NCEC will provide feedback following the public release of the data and recommendations from CDM.

BUSINESSES AND BUILDING EFFICIENCY

NCEC has recently begun the formation of a "Sustainable Business Committee" which will ideally include city staff members and other community leaders to help create a program specifically for businesses to 1.] Help businesses identify areas for higher energy efficiency and sustainability; 2.] Help businesses find affordable financing for investing in energy efficiency; 3.] Help consumers identify which community businesses are operating with high energy efficiency and green business practices; and 4.] Work with other local agencies and the city as needed to assist in implementing new initiatives. We will model best practices from Cambridge, Massachusetts and Santa Monica, California as well as develop initiatives that are specific to our city.



RENEWABLE ENERGY

NCEC supports the investment in clean renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal and hydro by the city as a whole and by residents and businesses in our community. We believe that as awareness and thus demand increases for these renewable resources that the market will bear a more desirable price for these energy sources and technologies. NCEC will continue to help Community Energy promote the Naperville Renewable Energy Program to our friends and neighbors and as funding permits this will be done at public events such as the Last Fling, the Green Earth Fair and the Cool Ride – Clean Choice event.

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY

NCEC is delighted to learn about the City of Naperville's Weatherization Assistance Program and hope this program is adequately communicated to residents and expanded and adopted as an ongoing program to help the community reach emission reduction targets. In addition, NCEC supports any programs which increase the awareness of and decreases the cost to residents of clean energy as well as energy efficient products such as CFLs, Energy Star appliances, LED (outdoor and holiday lights), power strips (to eliminate phantom loads), electricity meters, electric lawn mowers, and building products (caulk, windows, insulation).

VEHICLE EMISSIONS

NCEC supports any measures to help reduce vehicle emissions and to encourage the ownership of more fuel efficient vehicles. NCEC has been and plans to continue to be supportive of Partners for Clean Choice and the Cool Ride – Clean Choice vehicle sticker program the city has created. The city fleet has opportunities to move towards bio-diesel vehicles (following the DuPage Forest Preserve's example), hybrid vehicles and E85 vehicles. NCEC also supports any programs which encourage car pooling, walking, bike riding, as well as public transit such as school buses, PACE, Metra and the future Star Line and reduce idling. NCEC is aligned with the city and opposes the Canadian National Railway acquisition and supports efforts to bring hydrogen vehicles and fueling stations to Naperville.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING

NCEC would support measures to increase the participation level by businesses and residents in the recycling program. NCEC would support creation of community composting (beyond yard waste). NCEC would also support any programs which result in the reduction in plastic bags use by retailers and consumers, plastic water bottles sent to landfill, used electronics sent to landfill and the elimination of Styrofoam in restaurants and schools.

VOLUNTEERS

Our Board of Directors, Officers and Members are all Naperville residents, but more importantly, volunteers. We realize the programs we desire for our community will need to be funded and maintained which is why we have recently incorporated and will file for 501c3 status. We plan to research and apply for grants from businesses and organizations to fund these critical programs and we hope to maintain programs using our community volunteers. Finally, NCEC wants to partner with the city of Naperville as much as possible to make these programs a reality for our residents and businesses, ideally without need for tax dollars.

In community spirit,

Bill Dawe, Kathy Gere, Rodger Greif, Stephanie Hastings, Chris Martersteck and Sarah Ralph
NCEC Board of Directors

www.ncec.us

To:

Mike Bevis –Chief Procurement Officer

Anastasia Urban –Project Manager Transportation, Engineering and Development Business Group

Allan Poole –Director, Dept. of Public Utilities

Robert Marshall –City Manager Pro-Term

Dan DiSanto –Assistant to the City Manager

Regarding: Naperville Open House on Sustainability, September 29 2008

Lady and Gentlemen,

I want to thank you for your forethought and proactive leadership as it relates to the future of our great city. The word sustainability is often misconstrued as prolonging the inevitable, maintaining the status quo, or just staying alive. However, municipalities like leading corporations are realizing that there is great opportunity with the social, environmental, and climate challenges that lie ahead. Government officials, like industry leaders are adopting new policies, measuring and monitoring their current operations, and strategically investing in game-changing technologies that will keep them ahead of their competitors. I applaud you for taking the time to listen to your constituents, and to seek out public interest in city sustainability initiatives, future programs and to attempt the difficult task of integrating these ideas into current priorities and current budgets. Naperville is already on the map for its strong economy, high home value, safety record, academics, and high quality of life. By focusing on sustainability as a city and as a community, together we will enjoy these benefits far into the future, and secure our privilege of living in the best city in America.

Here are some of my thoughts on a Naperville sustainable program:

- Establish a vision for Naperville 3, 5, 10, 15, and 20 years ahead.
- Audit and measure the city's carbon emissions using UN IPCC metrics
- Set a goal for reducing our carbon and GHG emissions
- Organize a strategy around the goal and break into manageable pieces
- Set the metrics, set the incentives, and empower the people closest to the problem to make the changes. No idea is too crazy.
- Ask for volunteers –individuals, groups, committees to audit, research, and develop best-in-class solutions, use the assets of this smart, networked, and influential community.
- Every proposal needs to clearly identify capital costs for implementation, manpower or additional resources required, return on investment, and environmental or social benefits achieved towards the future goal.
- Create a new Naperville website to educate the public about the goals, initiatives, time-line, resources, and benefits. Send out monthly emails to members of the community who sign-up –to achieve results the city will need the help of its citizens, and their will be times when a lifestyle change is required –for the better.
- Celebrate the achievements and goal attainment.

Initiatives:

- Change all stop lights and street lights to LED lights, CFL's, or other high lumen-low watt light bulbs.
- Establish dedicated bike paths and lanes –making access to downtown area and major retail areas extremely easy to bike to –think Amsterdam , NL or Portland , OR
- Organize a bike-to-work day for Naperville –no motor vehicles allowed in downtown for that day.

- Naperville renewable energy feed-in tariff, free net metering at peak rates for business and residential renewables, additional tax incentives for renewable installations, solar on municipal buildings, even could look at rooftop wind turbines ~ <http://www.aerotecture.com/>, <http://oregonwind.com/>, www.earthtronics.com, www.swiftwindturbine.com, encourage home owner associations to now allow solar and wind installations on rooftops.
- Preferred parking for hybrid or ULEV vehicles in downtown areas, garage lots and train stations
- Allow for electric vehicles to use local streets, see: Zenn, Zap, GEM, Venture Vehicles, Universal Electric Vehicle, Phoenix, Miles EV, etc...some are glorified electric golf carts –but perfectly suited for dropping the kids off at school, running to the grocery or walmart, or running local errands – perhaps not allowed on streets above 35 miles per hour.
- Strict building code regulations mandating energy reduction rates of 30% in all new commercial and retail construction –perhaps 15% for home builders –work with home builders to look at new regulations for green construction codes.
- Naperville municipality to set aggressive carbon emission limits and energy reduction goals for 3, 5, 10, 15, and 20 years ahead –offset carbon emissions today through credits or REC’s –collaboratively work with renewable energy companies. What offsets can be implemented here in Naperville to increase jobs, small businesses, and investment?
- Create strict city ordinance for recycling and waste reduction. –Commercial, high-density residential, retail, shopping center, businesses, and schools to implement formal recycling programs –still free to choose own waste hauler, however organize a set of preferred haulers with recycling audits and validation of mixed recycling collection but efficient separation facilities.
- Furthermore, pilot municipal accelerated compost facility, collect restaurant, hotel, shopping mall, grocery, and school food waste and process at industrial –environmentally enclosed compost facility –see Wright Environmental Inc. for sample of technology. They have 40+ of these systems working today. http://www.wrightenvironmental.com/index_nonflash.html resell compost back to city, landscape companies, golf courses, and farms.
- Phase out plastic bags at all retail stores, mandate city-wide cost on plastic bags of \$0.25 /bag, and have the stores offer reusable bags, or perhaps compost bags instead. –Compost bags could be placed into recycled waste and collected for compost pilot program.
- Work with NGO’s and Co-ops to procure energystar rated products and offer to community at reduced costs –CFL bulbs, Refrigerators, Washers/Dryers, Dishwashers, Low flow faucets & shower heads, bicycles?
- Convert all municipal trucks and diesel vehicles to bio-diesel –simple purchasing change, can work with Stepan company located in Millsdale and a local blender, or bid out among many.
- Draft grant proposals from IL DCEO to perform energy audits on all public property –use SEDAC or ComEd to facilitate audits.
- Draft grant proposals on part of school districts 203 and 204 to facilitate green schools program –in part to offer the installation of milk dispensers (as opposed to non-recyclable wax paper cartons), and use recyclable cups, as well as dishwashers in all schools and replace plastic utensils with metal and Styrofoam hot lunch trays with plastic reusable trays.
- Work with community subdivisions and parks & recreation and Morton Arboretum to seed and/or plant 100,000 trees in the city over the next 3 years.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss any of these initiatives in more detail. Home: 630-922-9204

Sincerely,
David Champion