



Sustainability Plan Toolkit Update

Environment and Natural Resources Working Committee – 6/4/14

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Toolkit Outline

I. Introduction

- Sustainability and Local Governments
- What is a Sustainability Plan?
- Reasons to Develop a Sustainability Plan
- How to Use this Toolkit

II. Become Plan-Ready

- Self-Audit
- Determine Key Topics to Be Addressed
- Secure Institutional Support

III. Assess Existing Conditions

- Frame the Plan's Context
- Identify Community Efforts to Date
- Establish Baseline Indicators
- Community Vision for Sustainability
- Summarize Findings

IV. Develop the Plan

- Select Strategies
- Choose Targets
- Implementation Approach
- Monitoring and Reporting Guidelines
- Write the Plan

V. Move Forward

- Community Ownership
- Governmental Ownership
- Institutional Collaboration
- Periodic Plan Update
- Continued Communication
- Common Challenges / Lessons Learned
- Funding and Other Resources

Core Topics

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- Sustainability and Local Governments
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Core Topics

- A. Land Use and Development
- B. Transportation and Mobility
- C. Open Space and Ecosystems
- D. Water
- E. Waste
- F. Energy
- G. Air and Climate
- H. Education

- Creating Toolkit components
 1. Strategy Menus
 2. Core Indicators
- GreenTown conference

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Strategy Menus

| Issue | Strategy | Context | Resources Needed to Implement | | | Leader(s) |
|--|---|---------|---|------------------------------------|---|--|
| | | | Cost | Staff | Complexity | |
| Improve stormwater management to minimize pollution and flooding | Install green infrastructure on municipal sites, such as bioswales, native landscaping, rain barrels, sidewalk planters, and permeable pavers, to reduce runoff and pollution of waterbodies | All | Moderate | Low staff capacity for maintenance | High upfront capital costs with lower, steady ongoing maintenance costs | Public works and engineering departments, IDOT, landscape architects/firms? |
| | Enact a stormwater ordinance to require and/or encourage stormwater best practices on private properties | All | No cost; Moderate if consultant is needed | Moderate upfront staff capacity | Requires Board approval; potential political challenges | Public works, community development, and engineering departments, private property owners, county |
| | Establish stormwater utility fee to help finance necessary infrastructure upgrades and other costs of managing stormwater | All | No cost | Moderate upfront staff capacity | Requires Board approval; potential political challenges | Public works, finance departments |
| | Upgrade water and sewer infrastructure to meet current and anticipated system costs and needs and minimize water loss | All | High | Moderate | Costly; requires significant coordination | Public works, engineering, finance departments |
| Promote water efficiency and reuse | Permit native landscaping via updates to weed ordinance and/or zoning or subdivision ordinance | All | No cost | Low | Requires Board approval | Public works, community development departments |
| | Review CMAP's Model Water Conservation Ordinance and enact related programs and ordinances | All | No cost | Moderate upfront staff capacity | Requires Board approval | Public works, community development departments |
| | Enact water metering | All | Low | Low staff capacity | Requires significant coordination | Public works, finance departments |
| | Permit rainwater harvesting for non-potable reuse within buildings (toilet flushing, cooling towers, etc.) in plumbing code upon state adoption of standards | All | No cost | Moderate upfront staff capacity | Requires Board approval | Public works, community development departments |
| Engage in long-term planning to ensure sustainable supply and quality of water | Engage in sub-regional watershed planning | All | No cost | Moderate staff capacity | Staff capacity required | Public works, engineering, or community development departments, surrounding municipalities in watershed, county |
| | Engage in sub-regional planning efforts regarding water supply and source protection | All | No cost | Moderate staff capacity | Staff capacity required | Public works, engineering, or community development departments, surrounding municipalities, county |
| | Protect sensitive aquifer areas via land use regulations | Exurban | No cost | Moderate staff capacity | Requires Board approval; potential political challenges | Public works, engineering, or community development departments, county, surrounding municipalities in watershed |

Criteria for Core Indicators

- Simple, easy to understand
- Provide information on overall progress toward sustainability goals
- Easy and cost effective to aggregate data on a regular basis
- Relevant for driving policy, strategy, and budget decisions



GreenTown Keypad Polling: Transportation Indicators

Choose Two
Favorite Indicators

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Increase commuting trips via transit, bicycle, walking | 29.6% |
| Decrease number of vehicle miles traveled | 25.0% |
| Increase miles of on- and off-road bicycle lanes/trails | 20.5% |
| Increase public transit ridership | 18.2% |
| Increase miles of sidewalks | 4.6% |
| Another indicator not mentioned | 2.1% |

GreenTown Keypad Polling: Open Space & Ecosystems Indicators

Choose Two
Favorite Indicators

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Increase acres of green infrastructure | 40.9% |
| Increase households within walking distance of parks | 31.8% |
| Increase acres of conservation open space | 15.9% |
| Increase acres of park space per capita | 6.8% |
| Another indicator not mentioned | 4.6% |

GreenTown Keypad Polling: Water Indicators

Choose Two
Favorite Indicators

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Decrease total consumption of potable water | 35.7% |
| Decrease in damage claims due to flooding | 23.8% |
| Decrease water loss due to pipe leakage | 21.4% |
| Increase number of “good” or “very good” water quality classifications on EPA 303(d)/305(b) lists | 16.7% |
| Another indicator not mentioned | 2.4% |

GreenTown Keypad Polling: Waste Indicators

Choose Two
Favorite Indicators

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Increase total diversion of solid waste | 34.9% |
| Decrease total generation of solid waste | 32.6% |
| Increase diversion of food scraps | 20.9% |
| Increase diversion of construction and demolition debris | 9.3% |
| Another indicator not mentioned | 2.3% |

GreenTown Keypad Polling: Energy Indicators

Choose Two
Favorite Indicators

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Decrease total consumption of therms and kWhs | 31.8% |
| Increase number of renewable energy systems | 20.5% |
| Increase new buildings built to an established green building standard (not necessarily certified) | 18.2% |
| Increase renewable energy procured through community-wide electricity aggregation contracts | 18.2% |
| Increase number of energy retrofits completed | 11.4% |
| Another indicator not mentioned | 0.0% |

GreenTown Keypad Polling: General Results

| | “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” |
|---|--------------------------------|
| The Chicago metro area should measure progress toward regional sustainability goals | 100% |
| Local communities should measure their own progress toward core regional sustainability metrics | 92% |
| The Chicago metro area should create an aggregated annual report that shows progress on core regional sustainability metrics | 84% |
| My community would participate in a pilot community-by-community sustainability report that shows “apples to apples” progress | 62% |