

Integrating Sustainability into the Corporate Culture of KCMO & the Greater KC Metro Area

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City Leadership on Sustainability

- Mayor James, the City Council, and City Manager Troy Schulte have embraced sustainability as a core principle in municipal operations: a triple-bottom line approach to simultaneously achieve social equity, economic vitality, & environmental quality

Vision Statement

The mayor, council and staff, together with community partners, strive to achieve a common vision to make Kansas City best.

We employ innovative strategies to:

- effectively and efficiently provide customer-focused services;
- improve public safety;
- and develop sustainable, healthy communities where all prosper.

We lead by inspiring, collaborating, measuring progress and celebrating success.

A New Perspective

Sustainability is a different way to “connect the dots” to achieve multiple benefits from our actions:

- water conservation = energy conservation = cost savings
- GHG reductions = lower ozone levels
- public transit improvements = economic development
- urban agriculture = healthy, local food = job creation
- increased tree canopy = mitigation of urban heat island effect = improved property values

Examples of Actions by Mayor & City Council

- Unanimous adoption of the KCMO Climate Protection Plan in 2008
- Adoption of Green Solutions Resolution in 2007 to integrate green infrastructure into the City's long-term plan to mitigate sewer overflows
- Including a question on fact sheets that accompany proposed ordinances & resolutions: "How does this contribute to a sustainable Kansas City?"
- Opt-in to "Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday"

Examples of Actions by Mayor & City Council

- Ordinance/code changes to promote:
 - LEED Gold ratings for City construction projects
 - Energy Star as standard for affordable housing projects by the City
 - Urban agriculture/local food production
 - Energy efficiency enhancements in KCMO building codes
 - Public transit improvements

Examples of Actions by City Staff

- \$25 million in grants from U.S. Dept of Energy for energy efficiency & conservation
- \$211 million in new investment on brownfield sites, leveraging \$2.5 billion in redevelopment
- \$27 million grant from U.S. DOT for express bus service & transportation infrastructure in economically distressed area of the City
- Conversion of City's fleet to alternative fuels
- Extensive energy efficiency improvements to City buildings (76-year old City Hall certified as an Energy Star building in 2012)

Examples of Actions by City Staff

- Low-income home weatherization
- Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan
- Bike KC! & Trails KC! plans
- Municipal Court & City Clerk going paperless
- Creation of KC Green as the City's "brand"
- Completion of 100-acre pilot project utilizing green infrastructure to mitigate storm water runoff/sewer overflows
- Creation of Green Solutions Steering Committee & staff green teams

City as a Bridge to Regional Sustainability (Collaboration)

- Electric & Natural Gas Utilities, KCPL & MGE
- Bridging The Gap
- Metropolitan Energy Center/Clean Cities Coalition
- Greater KC Chamber of Commerce
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield – bike share program
- Working w/local governments to promote more consistent & improved energy codes across the bi-state metro area

City as a Bridge to Regional Sustainability

- Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)
 - Solid Waste Management District
 - Air Quality Forum
 - Regional Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategy
 - Solar Rooftop Challenge grant from DOE
 - “Creating Sustainable Places” grant from HUD
 - Sustainable Success Stories recognition program
- Many other collaborators: Cultivate KC, Greater KC Food Policy Coalition, Green Works in Kansas City, Full Employment Council

Current Areas of Focus by KCMO

- KC Green Neighborhood recognition program
- Installation of 25 kW solar panel installations on rooftops of City buildings (up to 80 installations)
- Creation of a local food hub
- Addressing the Emerald Ash Borer & enhancing the urban tree canopy
- Incorporation of smart growth principles into new development activities
- Redevelopment of former Municipal Farm site for urban agriculture & renewable energy generation

Current Areas of Focus by KCMO

- Revitalization of vacant lots, utilizing new Land Bank authority enacted by MO General Assembly
- Continued efforts to improve energy efficiency of City buildings
- Tracking & reporting of sustainability indicators for municipal operations
- Update of GHG emission inventory for calendar year 2013
- Submittal of a sustainable procurement ordinance to City Council for their consideration

Challenges to Making Sustainability the “Norm”

- Lack of understanding by state policymakers re inter-relationships of economy, equity, & environment
- Failure to make sure that multiple benefits are achieved by all decisions & actions
- Anti-Agenda 21 state legislation (an orchestrated nationwide campaign) & political polarization that demonizes sustainability
- End of federal stimulus funding, including EECBG formula grants to cities from U.S. DOE
- Pushback from economic interests who benefit from the status quo

KCMO Sustainability Resource Documents

www.kcmo.org/kcgreen

Provides links to:

- Sustainability in Kansas City report
- KCMO Climate Protection Plan
- Sustainable Reuse Plan – Municipal Farm
- Trails KC Plan
- Long-term Solid Waste Management Strategic Plan
- Green Solutions Resolution & Administrative Regulation

