

Sustainability and the City



Starting from Scratch

- ▶ 2006: Then Mayor Bob Coble signed US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.
- ▶ 2006: Council member Anne Sinclair stepped up, encouraged action beyond “just making a pledge.”
- ▶ City Council appointed seven “local experts” to serve as leaders for planning.
- ▶ Diverse group of people recruited to create a climate action plan for City government.

Green Committee Initial Charge

- ▶ To develop an action plan detailing City government reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- ▶ Approximately 50 participants, including:
 - ▶ Seven City Council appointees.
 - ▶ City staff from 10-12 departments.
 - ▶ Environmental non-profit leaders.
 - ▶ Neighborhood association members.
 - ▶ Business leaders and local Chambers of Commerce.
 - ▶ Local university and college faculty and staff.
 - ▶ Representatives from county and state agencies, including DHEC, Natural Resources.
 - ▶ Surrounding local government officials and leaders.
 - ▶ Environmental professionals and engineers.
 - ▶ Anyone could join; no one was turned down.

Climate Action Plan Development

- ▶ City Council expectations.
- ▶ Meetings.
- ▶ Documentation, management.
- ▶ Adoption.

| Priority/Issue/Action | Department/Board/Committee | Action Required | Status |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1. Conduct an energy audit of municipal facilities and implement the recommendations. | General Services (Support Services) | All Dept | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 |
| 2. Develop plan to install digital thermostats in city facilities. Adopt minimums based on the industry standards to reduce consumption. | General Services (Support Services) | Finance Department | Complete |
| 3. Develop a plan to install energy efficient and LED lighting in all city facilities over a defined period of time. | General Services (Support Services) / Finance | All Dept | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 |
| 4. Evaluate a light bulb audit for all city facilities when out of use. | General Services (Support Services) / Finance | All Dept | Complete |
| 5. Require city employees to turn off computer monitors when leaving and turn off the computer over the weekend. | General Services (Support Services) | Information Technology | Complete |
| 6. Install motion sensors outside areas that will turn lights off if not in use. | General Services (Support Services) | Facilities Management | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 |
| 7. Develop plan to install ENERGY STAR appliances in all city facilities as normal procurement and basis. | General Services (Support Services) | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 |
| 8. Develop a plan to install green or reflective roofing on city facilities. | General Services (Support Services) | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 |
| 9. Develop a plan to improve water saving energy efficiency. | General Services (Support Services) | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 |
| 10. Require all water heater units with storage or demand tanks if they are more energy efficient. | General Services (Support Services) | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 |
| 11. Encourage Commission of the Blind to install energy efficient window treatments in all city facilities that currently utilize window treatments. | General Services (Support Services) | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 |
| 12. Require that all new construction and renovations of municipal buildings follow LEED Certified guidelines. | General Services (Support Services) | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 | Open: Approved to Proceed with Energy Audit. Report Due: August 31, 2017 |

CPAC Becomes Official

- ▶ Ad-hoc “Green Committee” became Advisory Climate Protection Action Committee. (CPAC)
- ▶ CPAC branded.
- ▶ Committee makeup.
- ▶ Phase Two:
 - ▶ Monitored internal action plan.
 - ▶ Developed annual Green is Good for Business conference (2008 through 2014).
 - ▶ Created and promoted community-wide outreach and education programs.

Sustainability Facilitator Position Created Mid-2008

Specific duties:

- ▶ *Provide oversight and guidance of sustainability efforts consistent with the Climate Protection initiative.*
 - ▶ Advise Public Works Director, senior management on City activities with an environmental implication.
 - ▶ Ensure senior management aware of environmental trends, standards, technologies.
 - ▶ Serve as a central source of environmental information, assistance to City departments.
 - ▶ Work with federal and state agencies to help establish and clarify environmental policies and standards.
 - ▶ Provide support to City advisory boards, commissions and subcommittees.
 - ▶ Chair sustainability committees and subcommittees.
 - ▶ Coordinate public information, outreach on Climate initiatives, including presentations, website, e-newsletters.

Where I Fit In

- ▶ Sustainability Office, staff of one.
- ▶ First ever, started December, 2008.
- ▶ Housed in Public Works Department.
- ▶ Background.
- ▶ Historian.



Post-Action Plan Activities 2009-2015

- ▶ Sustainability more broadly accepted way of doing business.
- ▶ CPAC generally a work in progress and tried several new things:
 - ▶ City facility energy audit.
 - ▶ Upgrade internal fluorescent lighting to LEDs.
 - ▶ Focus on low-hanging fruit.
 - ▶ Created CPAC subcommittees.
 - ▶ Transitioned away from council member chairman.
 - ▶ Expanded outreach through Green Congregations, other programs.
 - ▶ Pursued and received STAR Community Rating.

CPAC 2019-Present (Rebellious Teen Years)

- ▶ 2019 Sea Change.
- ▶ Vocal, driven new chair, members.
- ▶ Most significant revision yet approved yesterday.
- ▶ New by-laws merge advisory and appointee into voting and non-voting.
- ▶ Sustainability Facilitator role changing from driver to staff support, monitor.
- ▶ Will assist with community outreach, but do more day to day work from internal government standpoint.

Advisory Councils

PROS

- ▶ Expertise to the table.
- ▶ Can get political.
- ▶ Push the staff/City out of comfort zone.
- ▶ Provide new ideas, insight.
- ▶ Expand engagement.

CONS

- ▶ Municipality government unfamiliarity.
- ▶ Can get political.
- ▶ Lack of communication between elected officials, staff and members.
- ▶ Delicate balance between staff and appointees.
- ▶ Attrition via frustration.
- ▶ Member experience lost in terms.
- ▶ Occasional loose cannon.

Sustainability Office Survival Tips

- ▶ Don't re-invent the wheel.
- ▶ Flexibility.
- ▶ Communications.
- ▶ Support system.
- ▶ Expectations.
- ▶ Tough skin.



For Additional Info



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