



ECO² Commission

INDUSTRIAL AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Larry McElwain – Chairman

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LAWRENCE KS 66046

Robert Rhoton – Vice-Chairman

January 20, 2008

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Joyce Wolf

Lawrence KS 66044-0708

Dear Casey,

The ECO² Commission, a jointly appointed commission of the Douglas County and the City of Lawrence, would like to submit the yearly progress report for 2008. You will find it attached to this letter.

If you have questions please contact me at 843-1120 or email me at larry@warrenmcelwain.com.

Sincerely,

Larry McElwain
ECO² Chairman

Cc – Beth Johnson, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce
Christy Bogner-Robertson, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce

RECEIVED

JAN 22 2009

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS

Established
2003

ECO² = The exponential benefits of economic development + ecological preservation

ECO² Commission
Jointly Appointed by Lawrence/Douglas County Commissions
January-December 2008 Accomplishment Report

The Douglas County and Lawrence City Commissions established the ECO² Commission by joint resolution to advise the city and county regarding:

- Preservation, access, and management of open space.
- Acquisition and development of land, facilities, and other supports to expand job opportunities in Douglas County.

The joint resolution instructed the ECO² Commission to be guided by the following:

- Both open space and industrial/business park development should be pursued concurrently and without favoring one over the other.
- Landowner participation will be voluntary.
- Partnerships with developers, land trusts, and other entities will be emphasized.

Long Term Intended Outcome: Lawrence/Douglas County will be a premier place to live and work with increased business development and open space preservation.

Intermediate Intended Outcomes:

- Lawrence/Douglas County will have identified and developed adequate sites for business parks to serve our business/industrial needs for the next 25 years.
- Environmentally sensitive areas will be identified and preserved to enhance the quality of life for those living in Lawrence/Douglas County.

Short Term Intended Outcomes:

- The Lawrence/Douglas County Commissions will formally adopt the ECO² Plan. *The plan was adopted in 2007.*
- The implementation phase of the ECO² Plan will begin in 2008. *This began with the appointment of the two Implementation Committees and their work on evaluating sites using the objective criteria.*
- The general public will increase their awareness, understanding and support of the ECO² Plan. *There continues an ongoing Public Education and Outreach Committee that makes presentations across the county upon request of the group.*

Funding will be available to support the implementation of the ECO² Plan. *At this time no funding has been made available. However, there is continuing discussion related to this.*

2008 Program Objectives: (as presented in the 2008 funding request to the City of Lawrence)

- A web site will be developed as an educational tool to keep the public informed about the ECO² plan and activity.

Accomplishments:

1. The ECO² information is being hosted on the Douglas County Government web site. We work regularly with Kat Williams from the county to keep the information updated and available to the public. The decision was made to use this method of web presence for two reasons:
 - This is much more economical than having someone create, host and continually update our own site.
 - We had created an expectation over the last two years that the Douglas County Government web site was where a person should go to access the ECO² information and we didn't want to change that created identity.
- The implementation phase of the ECO² plan will be developed during 2008. Work groups will be established to assist with the design. Fifty community residents will be involved in creating this structure. When a demonstration project is identified, this procedure will be used to evaluate and implement the plan.

Accomplishments:

1. An Open Space Implementation Committee consisting of eight community members was appointed. They met over five times to create and issue an RFP for an Open Space Project, evaluate the RFP's that were received, and review the evaluation data on the industrial sites for conflict. They recommended the approval of the Baldwin Woods Open Space Project and the city and county were encouraged to proceed with the negotiations on this project.
2. A Business/Industrial Implementation Committee consisting of eight community members was appointed. They met over eight times as they reviewed ten potential industrial sites applying the evaluation criteria to each and assigning a value. In addition to this, they also reviewed the Open Space RFP for potential conflicts. A member of the planning staff worked very closely with this committee to ensure that there was consistency in our community and our planning regulations.
3. A report was prepared from the work of the above committees and presented to the city and county commissions for their acceptance. It was accepted by both commissions. That information is now available as specific projects make their way through the planning process.

- Twenty five public presentations will be made throughout Douglas County to increase the awareness of the benefit of ECO². Five-hundred individuals will participate in these opportunities.

Accomplishments:

1. Presentation was made to the Lawrence Noon Rotary Club – 100 participants.
2. Presentation was made to the Baldwin City Chamber of Commerce -75 participants.
3. Presentation was made to the Lawrence City Commission- approximately 25 in attendance.
4. Presentation was made to the Douglas County Commission- approximately 20 in attendance.
5. Met with the mayor and county commission chair twice.
6. Met with the county administrator, city manager and chamber president once.
7. Met with the county administrator and city manager once.
8. Met with the city manager and planning director once.
9. Met with the entire planning staff to explain the ECO² plan, its impact on our community, and to request their assistance in the implementation phase.
10. Met with the county commissioners-elect to explain the ECO² process and answer question.

As a result of public input at some of these meetings and the work on the Implementation Committees there was identified need to make minor revisions to the adopted ECO² Plan. We reviewed the plan and have presented those revisions for approval to the city and county commissions. In addition, we will ramp up our community outreach efforts and plan to produce a new brochure in the future. We continue to encourage support from throughout the community to approve a formal funding mechanism for the ECO² plan and its projects.

This past fall, we presented our amendments to the ECO² Plan to the Douglas County Commission. They have not yet adopted those amendments, but we will stay in touch with them until that is done. The Lawrence City Commission plans to allow us to present the amendments at their January 20, 2009 meeting. During the first months of 2009, we will strive to have a joint meeting with the two Commissions to seek the amendments being placed in the Plan.