

City of Lawrence

**Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)**

June 9, 2010 (5:30 PM) Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Sarah Hill-Nelson, Beth Johnson, Matt Lehrman, Chad Luce, Megan Poindexter, Daniel Poull, Andrea Repinsky, Brian Sifton, Ian Spomer
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Simran Sethi
STAFF PRESENT:	Tammy Bennett, Eileen Horn, Kathy Richardson
GUESTS PRESENT:	
PUBLIC PRESENT:	

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**Call Meeting to Order (Matt Lehrman, Chairperson)**

**Take Roll Call to Determine Quorum of Members**

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion** and second to approve the May 12, 2010 minutes (Poull/Sifton).  
The motion carried 9-0.

Items completed after the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- On May 13<sup>th</sup>, SAB submitted a memo to the City Manager and City Commissioners stating that the board could not recommend Les Blevins' technology. This SAB memo and a staff memo were included in the City Commission consent agenda on May 25<sup>th</sup> (see attached).
- On May 24<sup>th</sup>, SAB submitted a final draft of their comments on the Environmental Chapter of Horizon 2020 to the Comprehensive Plan Committee (see attached).

**Introduction of New Board Member, Ian Spomer**

The Mayor appointed Ian Spomer to serve on SAB.

**Update on Burroughs Creek Trail Fruit/Nut Tree Proposal**

Andrea Repinsky drafted a SAB memo recommending that the City Commission give its support to planting native and domestic fruit trees on public land in the City of Lawrence (see attached).

**Motion** and second to approve and submit the memo Andrea Repinsky drafted on behalf of SAB (Hill-Nelson/Poull).  
The motion carried 9-0.

**Douglas County Local Foods Policy Council (LFPC) Update**

Daniel Poull informed SAB that the next LFPC meeting is on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Douglas County Extension Office located in the County Fairgrounds. The LFPC meetings are open to the public.

## **Update on the Landfill Rate Negotiations**

Tammy Bennett informed SAB that the landfill rate negotiation is a contract negotiation and the meetings are not open to the public. Hamm has not increased the landfill rate that the City pays since 1993. City and County staff met with Hamm Quarry staff today. They proposed an estimated 30% increase for 2011. Charlie Sedlock, Hamm Waste Services Manager, will present information to the City Commission at a future meeting.

In addition, Tammy Bennett provided an update on the recruitment process for the Solid Waste Manager. She stated that the City received a good number of applicants but decided to re-post the job position in order to broaden the applicant pool. The application deadline is July 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **Staff Report: Waste Reduction & Recycling Report Division and Lawrence Energy Conservation Fair Info**

Kathy Richardson noted that the WRR Report which includes the May 15<sup>th</sup> Electronic Recycling Event summary and participant survey results was emailed to SAB (see attached). She thanked Daniel Poull for volunteering at the Electronic Recycling Event. This event was a success.

The City's recycling revenues are approximately \$85,500 higher than last year at this time with approximately the same amount of tonnages collected. The yard trimmings tonnages listed on the report may change since staff is currently in the process of re-evaluating the estimated weight of yard trimmings.

The Lawrence Energy Conservation Fair and Sustainable Homes Tour have been scheduled for Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at the Community Building. Cassandra Ford emailed SAB members an invitation to a lunch planning meeting on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at noon at the City's SWAN Building. Staff encourages SAB members to attend and share their ideas with staff.

Other upcoming events:

- The Compost Sale is scheduled for Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> (8am-3pm), Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> (8am-3pm) and Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> (8am-4pm).
- The Electronic Recycling Event is scheduled for Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> (9am-1pm) at Free State High School.

## **Staff Report: Sustainability Coordinator**

Eileen Horn informed the board that she is working on updating the content for the City's Sustainability webpage and requested SAB's feedback. The purpose of the sustainability webpage is to define what the word sustainability means to the City, to list the City's existing sustainability efforts, and to inform citizens what they can do.

SAB members and Eileen discussed the definition of sustainability.

Sustainability means making decisions that balance the needs of the environment, economy, and society – for both present and future generations.

In the City of Lawrence, that means finding more efficient, smarter ways of serving our community. We are committed to sustainability – in both our policies and operations - to foster a healthy environment that contributes to a growing economy and a livable community.

SAB suggested having an interactive space for citizen to post their definitions of sustainability on the City's website as well as having a static City definition of sustainability. Others suggestions were to post links to valuable resources like the carbon calculator.

Eileen Horn shared with SAB the ICMA survey on local government sustainability practices (see attached). The categories the survey outlines provide a framework for sustainability-related policies and programs.

### **Guest Comments and Miscellaneous**

Sarah Hill-Nelson gave an update on the Bowersock hydroelectric expansion project. Currently Bowersock is working on marketing their power. Sarah will meet with the City Manager tomorrow and will meet with Westar within the next couple weeks. She mentioned that it would be great to be able to sell the Bowersock power to Westar and keep it local, but others may outbid Westar.

Agenda item for a future SAB meeting: Matt Lehrman informed SAB that he met with Chris Scafe from Sunflower Curbside Recycling recently and Chris would like to share his idea with SAB. Chris is thinking about making insulation locally from the newspapers that the City collects.

Agenda item for a future SAB meeting: Review and comment on the Mayor's Peak Oil Task Force (POTF) Draft Report.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Next meeting: July 14, 2010 at 5:30 pm.

### **Attachments:**

- Staff Memo and SAB Memo on Les Blevin's Technology/Proposal
- SAB Comments on the Horizon 2020 Environmental Chapter
- SAB Memo on Planting Native and Domestic Fruit Trees on Public Land
- Waste Reduction and Recycling Division Report
- ICMA Survey on Local Government Sustainability Practices



## Waste Reduction and Recycling Division Report for the Sustainability Advisory Board (6/09/10)

### **RECYCLING PROGRAM REPORT**

#### **OLD CORRUGATED CONTAINERS (OCC)**

Cardboard	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	<b>579.29</b>	<b>\$82,015.45</b>
Prior YTD	500.14	\$17,634.70
Avg. Price/ton thru May 2010:	<b>\$141.58</b>	Avg. price/ton thru May 2009: \$35.26

#### **OLD NEWSPAPERS (ONP)**

Newspaper	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	<b>180.34</b>	<b>\$17,311.60</b>
Prior YTD	243.54	\$5,635.06
Avg. Price/ton thru May 2010:	<b>\$95.99</b>	Avg. Price/ton thru May 2009: \$23.14

#### **OFFICE WASTE PAPER (SOP)**

Sorted Office Paper	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	<b>19.29</b>	<b>\$3,905.40</b>
Prior YTD	21.91	\$1,971.90
Avg. Price/ton thru May 2010:	<b>\$202.46</b>	Avg. Price/ton thru May 2009: \$90.00

#### **MIXED WASTE PAPER (MIX)**

Mixed Paper	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	<b>112.42</b>	<b>\$7,697.78</b>
Prior YTD	116.05	\$141.00
Avg. Price/ton thru May 2010:	<b>\$68.47</b>	Avg. Price/ton thru May 2009: \$1.22

<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>	<b><u>TONS</u></b>	<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>
		<b>891.34</b>	<b>\$110,930.23</b>
Prior YTD		881.63	\$25,382.67

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) AND SMALL QUANTITY GENERATOR (SQG) PROGRAM REPORT

Month	HHW Drop-Offs	Battery Bags in Mail	Appt No Show	Home-bound	Saturday Collection	Abandoned Waste	Orphan Waste	SQG Inventory	SQG Drop-off	Product Reuse Appt
January	112	2	4	0	0	2	0	11	9	4
February	112	2	4	0	0	1	0	3	4	9
March	245	1	10	0	0	2	0	11	10	37
April	262	3	21	1	25	4	0	7	8	68
<b>May</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>63</b>
June										
July										
August										
September										
October										
November										
December										
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>181</b>

## YARD TRIMMINGS COLLECTION AND COMPOST PROGRAM REPORT

Yard waste was collected on only 4 Mondays in May, and was not collected on May 31<sup>st</sup> because of the Memorial Day Holiday.

<u>Yard Trimmings Collection: Year To Date</u>		Residential Tons Collected Curbside	Commercial Tons Received	Other Tons Received (Christmas Trees)	Total Tons This Month	Average Preferred Container Compliance
	<b>2009 TOTAL</b>	<b>11,096.63</b>	<b>2,011.9</b>	<b>30.41</b>	<b>13,138.94</b>	<b>99.5%</b>
<b>2010</b>	January	NA	7.9	26.65 (2,132 trees)	34.55	NA
	February	NA	18	NA	18	NA
	March	528.06	261.1	NA	789.16	99.5%
	April	1,738.52	360.1	NA	2,098.62	99.6%
	May	1,100.26	193.8	NA	1,294.06	99.7%
	June					
	July					
	August					
	September					
	October					
	November					
	December					
	<b>2010 TOTAL</b>	<b>3,366.84</b>	<b>840.9</b>	<b>26.65</b>	<b>4,234.39</b>	<b>99.6%</b>

\*Total tonnage may change. The Solid Waste Division is in the process of evaluating the estimated weight of containers by weighing samples curbside once a month throughout the year.



## **City of Lawrence Electronic Recycling Event** **Saturday, May 15, 2010**

The City of Lawrence Waste Reduction and Recycling Division hosted an Electronic Recycling Event on Saturday, May 15th. The event was held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Free State High School parking lot located at 4700 Overland Drive, Lawrence.

During the four hour event, a total of five hundred eighty three (583) vehicles dropped off 56,326 pounds (28.16 tons) of electronic equipment including computers, printers, copiers, scanners, televisions, hand held devices, and small appliances (i.e. microwaves).

Electronic recycling was provided by Extreme Recycling, a permitted e-waste recycling and reclamation facility in the State of Kansas. Extreme Recycling has a zero landfill tolerance policy and they do not export overseas.

[www.extremerecyclinginc.com](http://www.extremerecyclinginc.com)



## **Event Summary and Survey Results:**

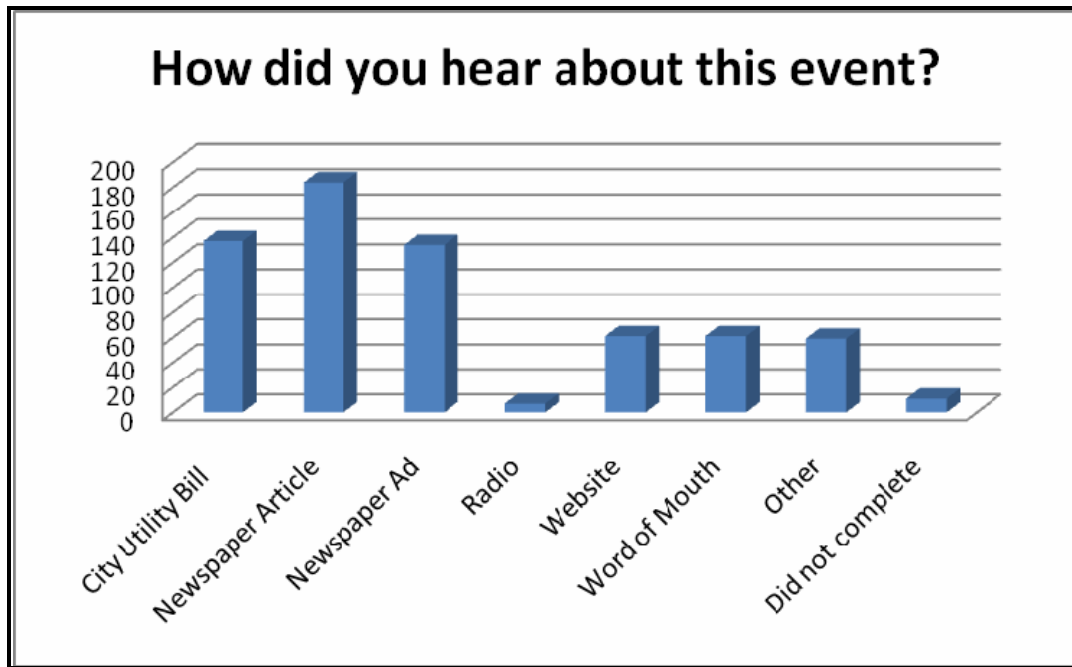
- A total of 56,326 pounds or 28.16 tons of electronic equipment including computers, printers, copiers, scanners, televisions, hand held devices, and small appliances (i.e. microwaves) were collected for recycling.
- Two hundred forty one (241) computer monitors and one hundred eighty four (184) televisions were collected for recycling in addition to other electronics.
- Five hundred eighty three (583) vehicles participated representing five hundred fifty six (556) households and fifty seven (57) businesses.
- Ninety three percent (93%) of participants were Lawrence households and businesses. Other participants were from Baldwin City, Eudora, Lecompton, Linwood, McLouth, Overbrook, Tonganoxie, Ozawkie, Centropolis, Bonner Springs and Lenexa.
- Seventy one percent (71%) of participants brought five or fewer electronic items. Sixteen percent (16%) of participants brought six to ten items. Eleven percent (11%) brought more than ten items. Two percent (2%) did participate in the survey.
- Sixty two percent (62%) surveyed did not participate in a Lawrence Electronic Recycling event before. Thirty eight percent (38%) did participate previously.





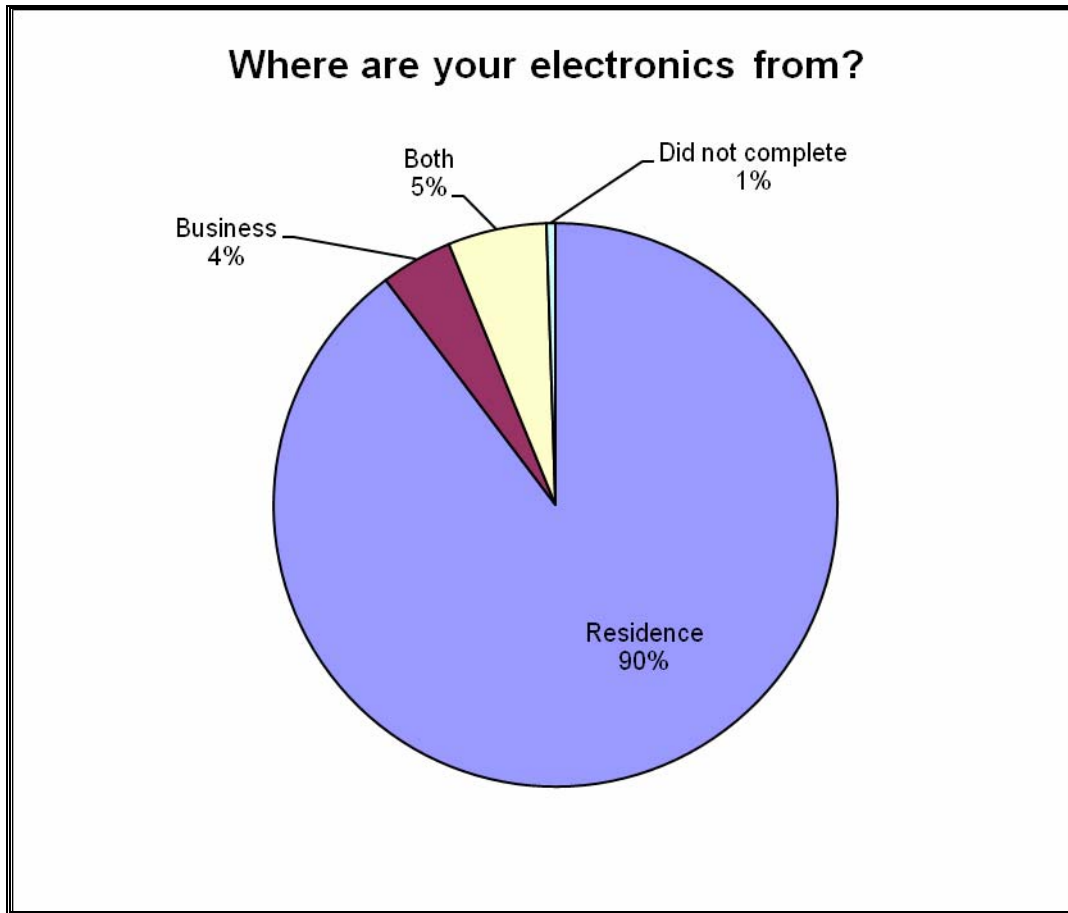




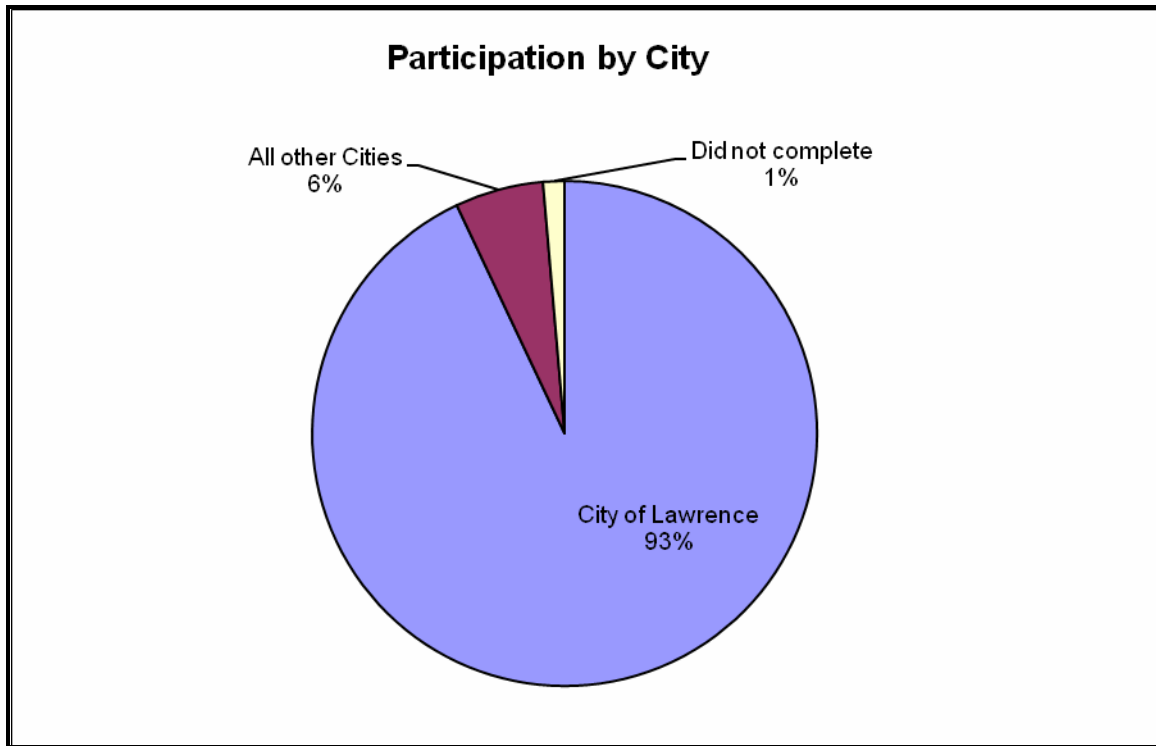


How did you hear about this event?		
City Utility Bill	137	21%
Newspaper Article	184	28%
Newspaper Ad	134	20%
Radio	7	1%
Website	61	9%
Word of Mouth	61	9%
Other: Email	23	4%
Other: Called City	1	0%
Other: City Twitter acct.	2	0%
Other: Event Signs	5	1%
Other: Handout/guide at City Event	20	3%
Other (did not specify)	8	1%
Did not complete	11	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Note: many participants marked more than one answer for this question.*



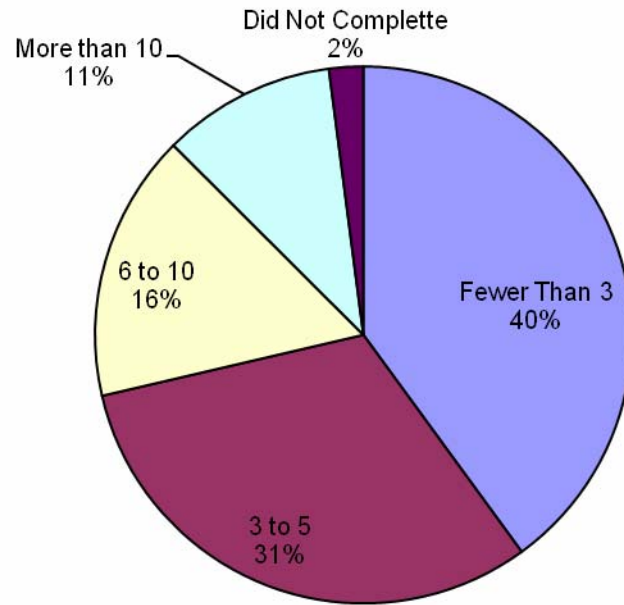
Where are your electronics from?		
Residence	523	90%
Business	24	4%
Both	33	5%
Did not complete	3	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>100%</b>



What is your zip code?			
Zip	City	Number	Percent
66605	Topeka, KS	1	0%
66006	Baldwin City, KS	9	2%
66012	Bonner Springs, KS	1	0%
66025	Eudora, KS	3	1%
66044	Lawrence, KS	123	21%
66045	Lawrence, KS-KU	1	0%
66046	Lawrence, KS	83	14%
66047	Lawrence, KS	106	18%
66049	Lawrence, KS	229	39%
66050	Lecompton, KS	7	1%
66052	Linwood, KS	1	0%
66086	Tonganoxie, KS	4	1%
66054	McLouth, KS	1	0%
66067	Centropolis, KS	1	0%
66524	Overbrook, KS	1	0%
66210	Overland Park, KS	1	0%
66223	Overland Park, KS	1	0%
66227	Lenexa, KS	1	0%
66070	Ozawie, KS	1	0%
Did not complete	Did not complete	8	1%

<b>Total</b>		<b>583</b>	<b>100%</b>
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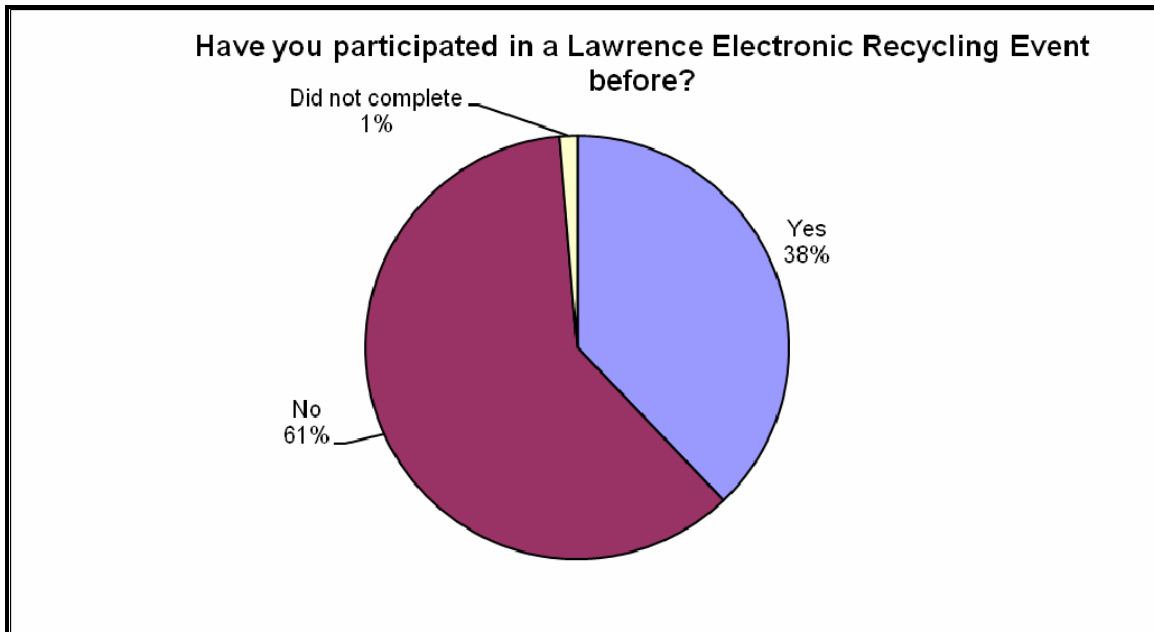
### How many electronics are you bringing?



### How many electronics are you bringing?

Fewer than 3	233	40%
3 to 5	183	31%
6 to 10	94	16%
More than 10	61	11%
Did not complete	12	2%

<b>Total</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>100%</b>
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Have you participated in a Lawrence Electronic Recycling Event before?		
Yes	217	38%
No	358	61%
Did not complete	8	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Local Government Sustainability Policies and Programs, 2010

196638

David Corliss  
City Manager  
City of Lawrence  
PO Box 708  
Lawrence, KS 66044-0708



Dear Chief Administrative Officer:

ICMA is conducting a survey on local government sustainability practices. The survey was developed with the input of ICMA's Center for Sustainable Communities, the Center for Urban Innovation, Arizona State University's Global Institute of Sustainability (ASU GIOS), and others. Survey distribution is conducted through collaboration with ICMA, ASU GIOS and the Sustainable Cities Network, a multi-jurisdictional partnership. This survey is provided in a print format because the local government response rate is both higher and more scientifically representative than for an electronic survey. Please assure the success of this project by completing the questionnaire by **June 5, 2010**. You can complete the survey online at <http://Sustainability2010.questionpro.com>

Sincerely,



Robert J. O'Neill, Jr.  
Executive Director, ICMA

### Policy Action

1. To what extent are the following a priority in your jurisdiction?

Policy issues	Not a priority	Somewhat a priority	Priority	High priority
a. The environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Social justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Green jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Energy conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Housing for all income groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Public transit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Please indicate which of the following actions your locality has taken related to sustainability, energy conservation, resilience, climate change, emissions reductions, or similar concerns in your community. (Check all applicable.)

Action	Local government has taken action
a. Adoption by the governing body of a resolution stating policy goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Adoption by the governing body a plan with specific targets or benchmarks.	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Establishment of a sustainability policy and/or plan by the chief executive.	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Appointment of a citizens committee, commission, or task force.	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Provided a budget specifically for the sustainability effort	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Dedicated staff to the sustainability effort	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. If your local government has dedicated staff to the sustainability effort, how may FTEs are dedicated? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Please indicate which of the following your local government has **established** related to the environment. (Check all applicable.)

Action	Local government has established
a. Baseline greenhouse gas emissions of the local government	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Baseline greenhouse gas emissions of the community	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Greenhouse gas reduction targets for local government operations	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Greenhouse gas reduction targets for businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Greenhouse gas reduction targets for multi-family residences	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action	Local government has established
f. Greenhouse gas reduction targets for single-family residences	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Locally initiated air pollution measures to reduce dust and particulate matter	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Plan for tree preservation and planting	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Recognition Programs

5. Please indicate whether your community been recognized, credentialed, or won an award for any sustainability-related initiatives undertaken by your local government or through a public-private partnership. (Check all applicable.)

Recognition programs	Local government received recognition
a. Tree City USA designation	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. EPA Smart Growth Achievement Award	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Phoenix Award for Brownfields Redevelopment	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Historic Preservation Merit Awards	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other (Please describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Water

6. Does your local government responsible for water services? Yes ☐ No ☐

6A. Which of the following actions has your government taken to improve and protect water?

Action	Local government has taken action
a. Actions to conserve the quantity of water from aquifers	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Use of grey-water and/or reclaimed-water use systems	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Sets limits on impervious surfaces on private property	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Use water price structure to encourage conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other incentives for water conservation behaviors by city, residents, and businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Recycling

7. Which of the following actions has your government taken to promote recycling?

Action	Local government has taken action
a. Internal program that recycles paper and plastic and glass in your local government	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Community-wide recycling collection program for paper and plastic and glass for residential properties	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Community-wide recycling collection program for paper and plastic and glass for commercial properties	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Recycling of household hazardous waste	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Recycling of household electronic equipment (e-waste)	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program with charges based on the amount of waste discarded	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Community-wide collection of organic material for composting	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Require minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content for everyday office paper use	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Energy

8. Which of the following actions has your government taken to decrease its use of energy?

Action	Local government has taken action
a. Established a fuel efficiency target for the government fleet of vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Increased the purchase of fuel efficient vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Purchased hybrid electric vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Purchased vehicles that operate on compressed natural gas (CNG)	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Installed charging stations for electric vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Conducted energy audits of government buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Installed energy management systems to control heating and cooling in buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Established policy to only purchase Energy Star equipment when available	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Upgraded or retrofitted facilities to higher energy efficiency office lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Upgraded or retrofitted traffic signals to improve efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Upgraded or retrofitted streetlights and/or other exterior lighting to improve efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Upgraded or retrofitted facilities to higher energy efficiency heating and air conditioning systems	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Upgraded or retrofitted facilities to higher energy efficiency pumps in the water or sewer systems	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Utilize dark sky compliant outdoor light fixtures	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Installed solar panels on a government facility	<input type="checkbox"/>
p. Installed a geo-thermal system	<input type="checkbox"/>
q. Generated electricity through municipal operations such as refuse disposal, wastewater treatment, or landfill	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Has your local government established any energy reduction programs targeted specifically to assist low-income residents?

☐ a. Yes ☐ b. No

10. Has your local government established any energy reduction programs targeted specifically to assist **small businesses**?

☐ a. Yes ☐ b. No

11. Please indicate which of the following actions your local government has taken to reduce energy consumption in the community.

Action	Direct Grant	Direct Loan	Tax Incentive
a. Energy Audit- <b>Individual residences</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Weatherization- <b>Individual residences</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Heating / air conditioning upgrades- <b>Individual residences</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Purchase of energy efficient appliances- <b>Individual residences</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Installation of solar equipment- <b>Individual residences</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Energy Audit- <b>Businesses</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Weatherization- <b>Businesses</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Heating / air conditioning upgrades- <b>Businesses</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Purchase of energy efficient appliances- <b>Businesses</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Installation of solar equipment- <b>Businesses</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Transportation

12. Please indicate whether your local government offers incentives for the local government employees to take any of the following actions:

Action	Incentive offered
a. Take mass transit to work	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Carpool to work	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Walk to work	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Bike to work	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. If your local government offers employees parking, do you charge market rates for employee parking? ☐ a. Yes ☐ b. No

14. Is telework permitted for staff members in your local government? ☐ a. Yes ☐ b. No

15. Do you have a specific target for the percent of your government work force that will telework? ☐ a. Yes ☐ b. No

15A. If yes, what is it? \_\_\_\_\_ % (Please enter a number.)

16. Does your local government use a compressed work week with offices closed one day? ☐ a. Yes ☐ b. No

17. Within the last 5 years, which of the following transportation improvements has your community implemented?

Transportation improvements	Local government has initiated
a. Expanded dedicated bike lanes on streets	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Added biking and walking trails	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Added bike parking facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Expanded bus routes	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Requiring sidewalks in new development	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Widened sidewalks	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Require charging stations for electric vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Require bike storage facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Require showers and changing facilities for employees	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. Does your community currently have a commuter rail system (subway or streetcar)? ☐ a. Yes ☐ b. No

19. Does your community have a plan to create or expand the use of subway or streetcars? ☐ a. Yes ☐ b. No

20. Has your local government established any transportation programs targeted specifically to assist **low-income residents**?

☐ a. Yes ☐ b. No

## Building and Land Use

21. Please indicate whether your land use and development policies cover any of the following:

Activity	Land use and development policies cover
a. Require all new government construction projects to be LEED or Energy Star certified	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Require all retrofit government projects to be LEED or Energy Star certified	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Permit higher density development near public transit nodes	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Permit higher density development where infrastructure is already in place (utilities and transportation)	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Incentives other than increased density for new commercial development (including multi-family residential) that are LEED Certified or an equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Incentives other than increased density for new single-family residential be LEED certified or the equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Apply LEED Neighborhood Design standards	<input type="checkbox"/>

Activity	Land use and development policies cover
h. Provide density incentives for "sustainable" development (such as energy efficiency, recycling of materials, land preservation, storm water enhancement, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Provide tax incentives for "sustainable" development (such as energy efficiency, recycling of materials, land preservation, storm water enhancement, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Reduce fees for environmentally friendly development	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Fast track plan reviews and or inspections for environmentally friendly development	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Residential zoning codes to permit solar installations, wind power, or other renewable energy production	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Residential zoning codes to permit higher densities through ancillary dwellings units or apartments (such as basement units, garage units, or in-house suites)	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Zoning codes encourage more mixed-use development	<input type="checkbox"/>

22. Please indicate which of the following programs your local government has.

Program	Local government has program
a. An active brownfields, vacant property, or other program for revitalizing abandoned or underutilized residential, commercial or industrial lands and buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. A land conservation program	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. A program for the purchase or transfer of development rights to preserve open space	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. A program for the purchase or transfer of development rights to create more efficient development	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. A program for the purchase or transfer of development rights to preserve historic property	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Social Inclusion

23. Please indicate which of the following programs your local government has.

Action	Local government has taken action
a. Provide financial support/incentives for affordable housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Provide supportive housing to people with disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Provide housing options for the elderly	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Provide housing within your community to homeless persons	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Provide access to information technology for persons without connection to the internet	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Provide funding for pre-school education	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Provide after-school programs for children	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Report on community quality of life indicators, such as education, cultural, diversity, and social well-being	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Other Actions

24. Has your local government taken action – either through restrictions or incentives – in any of the following areas? (Check all applicable.)

Action	Restriction	Incentive
a. To use locally produced material or products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. To reduce the use of plastic bags by grocery or retail stores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. To use locally grown produce	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

25. Has your local government taken action in any of the following areas? (Check all applicable.)

Action	Local government has taken action
a. Restriction on purchase of bottled water by the local government	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Use of public land for community gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Support a local farmer's market	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Education program in the local community dealing with the environment and energy conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Locate recycling containers close to refuse containers in public spaces such as streets and parks	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Green product purchasing policy in local government	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. Please describe in the space below any additional programs or policies your local government has put in place that you think would be helpful to other local governments.

Thank you for completing the survey. Please provide your contact information in case we need to follow up with you.

First Name:

Last name:

Title:

Telephone number:

E-mail address:

Please return your completed survey to: **Evelina Moulder, Director of Survey Research, ICMA, 777 N. Capitol St., NE, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20002**

# Memorandum

## City of Lawrence

### Public Works Department

**TO:** Charles Soules, Director of Public Works  
**FROM:** Tammy Bennett, Assistant Director of Public Works  
**CC:** Kathy Richardson, WR/R Operations Supervisor  
**Date:** May 18, 2010  
**RE:** Advanced Alternative Energy Corporation item for the CC agenda

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Please place the following item on the May 25, 2010 City Commission consent agenda:

*Receive memo from the Sustainability Advisory Board regarding request from Les Blevins to endorse further research on energy projects of the Advanced Alternative Energy Corporation. SAB does not support City involvement with this project. No further action necessary unless otherwise directed.*

#### **Background:**

Les Blevins approached the City Commission and various staff persons requesting support from the City of Lawrence for further research into his invention(s) regarding biomass or waste-to-energy through gasification. The City Commission referred the item to the Sustainability Advisory Board on February 16, 2010.

Mr. Blevins met with the Sustainability Advisory Board in April 2010 regarding his project. Specifically, he requested City endorsement of the potential of his technologies (the Advance Alternative Energy Corporation Sequential Grates fuels technology) as a way to gain additional credibility for his research, and thus encourage others to invest in this research as a viable technology. Mr. Blevins shared numerous e-mails regarding his technologies and other research in the field with the board and various city and state officials.

At the May 2010 meeting, the Sustainability Advisory Board concluded the board could not recommend endorsement by the City of Lawrence for the company, products, or specific research requests.

#### **Recommended Action:**

The Sustainability Advisory Board drafted a letter for submittal to the City Commission. The letter is attached to this memo.

The recommended action is to receive the memo from the Sustainability Advisory Board regarding the request from Les Blevins to endorse further research on energy projects of the Advanced Alternative Energy Corporation. The SAB does not support City involvement with this project. No further action is necessary, unless otherwise directed.



To: Lawrence City Manager, Dave Corliss  
Lawrence City Commissioners

From: Lawrence Sustainability Advisory Board

Date: May 13, 2010

Per the request received from Mayor Mike Amyx and Lawrence City Commissioners, the Sustainability Advisory Board heard a presentation from Les Blevins at the April 14, 2010 SAB meeting. The SAB cannot recommend Les Blevins' technology.

## **Memorandum: Comments on Horizon 2020 Environmental Chapter**

**To: City of Lawrence Planning Commission, Scott McCullough, Amy Brown, and Dan Warner**

**From: City of Lawrence Sustainability Advisory Board**

**Date: May 21, 2010**

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At its core, long range land-use planning is about increasing quality of life, diversity of choice, and economic activity occurring within a community. The relationship between the built and natural environments evolves as a result of these activities. Because of the importance of the relationship between the built and natural environments, the Sustainability Advisory Board of the City of Lawrence strongly supports the inclusion of an Environmental Chapter to Horizon 2020. Consideration for environmental goods and services have likely appeared in every long-range plan written by the City and Douglas County planning departments; however, including a chapter identifying our communities' environmental values and incorporating them in the planning process is wholly appropriate.

On the whole, SAB commends staff for the scope and substance of the chapter. The diverse, yet related categories identified in the draft chapter are the most logical subject divisions. No major categories were omitted. The summaries of issues in each category did a good job justifying to readers why we, as a community, ought to consider these subjects in our long term land-use planning. The goals and attendant strategies provide a good foundation for policy-making.

Recognizing the aspirational role this draft chapter will play in the continued development of Lawrence and Douglas County, SAB would like to submit the following as the most important sentence in the document: "Code regulations shall be developed to achieve the policies discussed in this chapter." Where Horizon 2020 describes current and forecasted socioeconomic conditions, identifies goals, and provides the framework for growth, the Development Code of the City of Lawrence codifies specific action—it is where the rubber meets the road. Identifying and vetting the policies included in an analogous document, refining the agenda of the Planning Commission and Planning Staff with respect to the Environmental Chapter, laying groundwork with interested stakeholders, and institutionalizing the values identified in the planning process will be the most important actions.

### **Synergies with the Sustainability Advisory Board's Agenda**

The SAB has always been a vocal supporter for increased waste reduction and recycling efforts by the City and community. With the introduction of Deffenbaugh's service to the community, the solid waste landscape is changing. Most of the strategies identified in the Environmental Chapter rely on encouraging people's behavior; at \$5 per month for single stream recycling, the SAB suspects the rate of participation in recycling might

increase. For the last year, the SAB has recommended the City evaluate the benefits and drawbacks to implementing a unit-based fee structure for the collection of solid waste. We have suggested that when citizens pay the marginal cost of collection rather than a flat, monthly fee, they might increase their waste reduction and recycling efforts to limit the amount of money they spend on solid waste disposal. Currently, the SAB is looking forward to participating in study sessions with the City Commission and Solid Waste Division staff on the proposal. Regardless of the policies the Planning Commission and Staff consider for waste management, there will certainly be synergies between our efforts.

The SAB made the original recommendation to the City Commission to establish a Climate Protection Task Force. After one year of work, the Task Force followed up with a variety of recommendations in seven categories, many of which are similar to the draft goals and policies in the Environmental Chapter. Recently, the City and County followed through with the first recommendation—to hire a full time staff position to coordinate sustainability efforts. With respect to land use and transportation planning, the SAB had recommended a greater emphasis be placed on increasing urban density, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and transit service. There was an expectation that the work currently being done by Planning Department staff would serve as the initial effort to account for a broader scope of factors in making land use decisions. The SAB would like to see a greater emphasis placed on these topics in the chapter and is continuously available and willing to provide support in furthering the efforts of Planning Staff.

### **Content and Word Choice**

SAB would like to offer the following minor suggestions with respect to content and word choice:

1. Page 16-4 “Development proposals will be reviewed for general conformance with the goals and policies in this chapter to promote sustainable development.”

Without providing metrics for sustainable development and setting targets for the level of conformity to the goals and policies identified in the Environmental Chapter, (here or in the ordinances that will follow) reviewing proposals for conformity seems inconsequential.

2. Page 16-5 In the Air Quality Management section, the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere above pre-industrial levels is identified as a concern. Arguably, changes in the hydrologic cycle could be the most significant effects we experience as a result of climate change given our location between two diverse moisture regimes and between two rivers. Identifying fluctuations not only in rainfall but the schedule of severe flooding might be appropriate in the Summary of Issues Section for Water Resources and Management.

3. Page 16-6 Policies often use the verbs “develop”, “encourage”, and “educate”. For many of the policies outlined in this chapter, these will certainly be the appropriate verbs

to use—especially with respect to issues that might raise questions about extent of authority, the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and private property rights. However, if the Planning Commission and staff are sincerely interested in promulgating ordinances and policies that will bring the City and County closer to the goals identified in the document, it will be advantageous for the Planning Commission and staff to strategically position themselves with the verbs used in the policies. For instance, Policy 1.2 a. reads:

“Develop stream setback regulations for both the City of Lawrence and Douglas County in order to reduce erosion, preserve riparian areas, mitigate flood hazards, and ensure water quality.”

A policy of developing regulations is without question the important first step, but with no language concerning implementation, the policy is unnecessarily diluted at formation. This comment is applicable to many of the policies identified. In contrast, Policy 1.7 b: “Develop strong erosion and sediment control policies on construction sites that include consistent and effective enforcement to improve stormwater quality” on page 16-8 is a great example of including implementation in the policy.

4. Page 16-7 Policy 1.3 b. and Policy 1.4 a.; and Policy 1.3 c. and Policy 1.4 c. are redundant. Protecting wetlands is the means to the end in Policy 1.3, but is the end itself in 1.4.

5. Page 16-15 Policy 2.3 a. “Partner with the Kansas Biological Survey...and map the remaining native prairie remnants within Douglas County.” The SAB believes KBS has already completed this work. If so, maintaining the data set should be set as a policy.

6. Page 16-16 Policy 2.6 “Preserve existing open space and create new open space areas...” The SAB recommends that open space areas and greenways be defined, as there was some discussion among the board about whether they are *maintained and publicly accessible* or simply *undeveloped*. If the definition is space that is undeveloped, “creating new open space” might be interpreted as demolition of existing structures!

7. Page 16-16 Policy 2.6 a. “To maintain a balance between natural and built environments...” staff will be asked to define the balance to be maintained at some point—it might as well come from the SAB. How will we collectively define the balance between the natural and built environments and develop consensus around that definition?

8. Page 16-16 Policy 2.6 b. “Determine in advance of development proposals what areas are suitable for development...” What criteria would this be based on and could it cause 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment issues?

9. Page 16-20 This text is a suggestion for the second paragraph: “*Elevated levels of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases, are air pollutants that can disrupt the thermal equilibrium of the atmosphere. The Climate Protection Plan: Climate Protection Task Force Report to the Lawrence City Commission*

provides recommendations for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Lawrence, as well as *reducing the probability that significant deviations from the climatic norm will occur.*”

10. Page 16-20 1) b. Suggest changing “Excessive” to “Elevated levels of...”

11. Page 16-21 Policy 3.3: “Reduce emissions of non-vehicular air toxics as listed by the EPA...” recommend changing “toxics” to “toxins.”

12. Page 16-24 Policy 4.1 While the primary goal and policy is written in general terms, only one kind of natural resource operation—quarries and sand/gravel operations—is identified in the sub-policies. This might be interpreted as singling out one marketable resource. Are there other resources that might be appropriate to include in this section?

13. Page 16-25 “...reduce, reuse and recycle the *majority* of the waste that is produced in Douglas County.”

Should this be read as a suggestion to set a goal of a 51% diversion rate from the current aggregate disposal stream (landfill, recycling, and composting)? That would be in line with the SAB’s past goal.

14. Page 16-27 Defining sustainability in the traditional way does little to institutionalize its intention; without strictly defining what sustainability is (in addition to what it does), it is unlikely to ever serve as a basis for decision-making. It is easy to identify aspects of our civilization that are not sustainable, but more difficult to identify those that are. This is our task. It is beyond the scope of this document perhaps, but, identifying metrics for success on the loosely defined spectrum of sustainable to non-sustainable, and justifying the importance of those metrics, will be necessary before anything that looks like public buy-in will occur.

15. Page 16-30 Policy 6.7 The SAB recommends working with the Lawrence Fruit Tree Project in producing food on public land for public consumption. Issues that have been identified as roadblocks are: removing the prohibition on picking food on public land, needing a prohibition on climbing trees on public land, and requiring fruit-bearing trees to be far enough off of public paths to minimize maintenance and clean up.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important addition to our community’s long-range planning and look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.



## MEMO

TO: City Commissioners, City of Lawrence

FROM: Sustainability Advisory Board

DATE: June 9, 2010

The Sustainability Advisory Board recommends that the Lawrence City Commission give its support to planting native and domestic fruit trees on public land in the City of Lawrence.

Public fruit trees promote healthy diets and educate the public about self-sufficient food production, more sustainable local food sources that require fewer shipping and distribution resources, and our region's agricultural economic assets and history. Fruit trees would provide free, healthy food to the public that can also be made available to needy families and assistance kitchens.

Specific actions recommended to the City include:

1. Amend City Code 14-303 CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY; HARMING PLANTS to allow the public to harvest fruit from fruit trees, nut trees, and other food-producing plants on public land planted for that purpose.

The current code, which conflicts with the maintenance of public fruit trees, reads as follows:

*"No person shall willfully injure or destroy any plant, tree, vine or flower, the property of another, standing on or attached to the land of another, or shall pick, destroy or carry away therefrom or in any way interfere with any part of the flowers or fruit thereof."*

2. Include fruit trees in selected City plantings, such as the Burroughs Creek Trail landscaping and other future projects.

There are a few challenges to establishing fruit tree planting in the City. The Sustainability Advisory Board is confident that the City can address these challenges and enjoy the many community benefits offered by fruit trees as a public resource.

Challenge: Fruit trees require special maintenance.

Solution: Train City staff in fruit tree pruning, and take advantage of the assistance offered by the Lawrence Fruit Tree Project (<http://lawrencefruittreeproject.wordpress.com/>) to recommend select disease-resistant plant varieties and to prune trees to be easily and safely picked. Native trees and plants, such as paw paw and persimmon trees, are adapted to our climate, and require less watering and care.

Challenge: Fruit trees create waste from dropped fruit

Solution: Though unharvested fruit may be rare, it is best to plant fruit trees away from sidewalks and streets.

Challenge: Fruit tree picking presents opportunity for the public to injure themselves or damage City trees

Solution: Maintain existing prohibitions against climbing public trees and prune trees so that fruit may be easily picked.