

Role of the Sustainability Advisory Board



SAB Mission:

To promote environmental protection, and advocate for policies which support sustainability (including environmental protection, waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation and natural resource conservation) in the City of Lawrence and to enhance the quality of life by enhancing the City's efforts in these areas.



Role of the Sustainability Advisory Board



The primary role of the SAB is to advise the Lawrence City Commission and city staff regarding City efforts towards environmental protection, waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation, and natural resource conservation.

In support of its mission to advise the City in these efforts, the SAB:

- Monitors and reviews current City policies and actions.
- Assists with developing and establishing goals and priorities for the future.
- Advises on practical methods.
- Serves as an information resource.
- Receives reports on related issues from staff of all affected city departments.
- Maintains regular communication with the Lawrence City Commission and city staff regarding advisory board activities and recommendations.

Climate Protection Plan Update & Next Steps



Plan Background

- Purpose
 - Report greenhouse gas emissions baseline data for city operations & the community.
 - Recommend greenhouse gas emission reduction goals & target timeframes.
 - Recommend strategies to meet the goals while preserving economic development, transportation options, and the ability of responsible producers of energy to provide stable and cost effective energy supply.
- Team – community leaders from a broad spectrum
 - Chair: Michael Dever, City Commissioner
 - Carey Maynard-Moody, Sierra Club
 - Dr. Bridget Chapin, Campus Coordinator & Asst. Prof. of Biology, Haskell Indian Nations University
 - David Dunfield – Treanor Architects
 - John Geist – Energy Manager, USD 497
 - Charles Gruber – Hedges Real Estate
 - Steve Hughes – President, Hughes Consulting Engineering, PA
 - Chad Luce – Manager, Customer & Community Relations, Westar
 - Jeff Novorr – Lawrence Memorial Hospital
 - Susan Rodgers – Environmental Administrator, Hallmark Cards
 - Simran Sethi - Professor, Kansas University
- Plan Received by City Commission in March 31, 2009

Climate Protection Plan

Seven Strategies



Plan Purpose:

To Advance the Goals of the Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement = Meet Target Emissions Reduction Goals

7 Strategies to support climate protection and sustainability initiatives:

1. Provide dedicated staffing and adequate funding to support climate protection and sustainability initiatives.
2. Strengthen energy conservation policies and building standards.
3. Incorporate the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions into land use planning.
4. Develop transportation policies and programs to consume less energy and reduce emissions.
5. Establish outreach and education programs on emissions reduction issues.
6. Expand source reduction and waste reduction programs and initiatives.
7. Exercise leadership by prioritizing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in municipal operations.

Climate Protection Plan

Where are we?



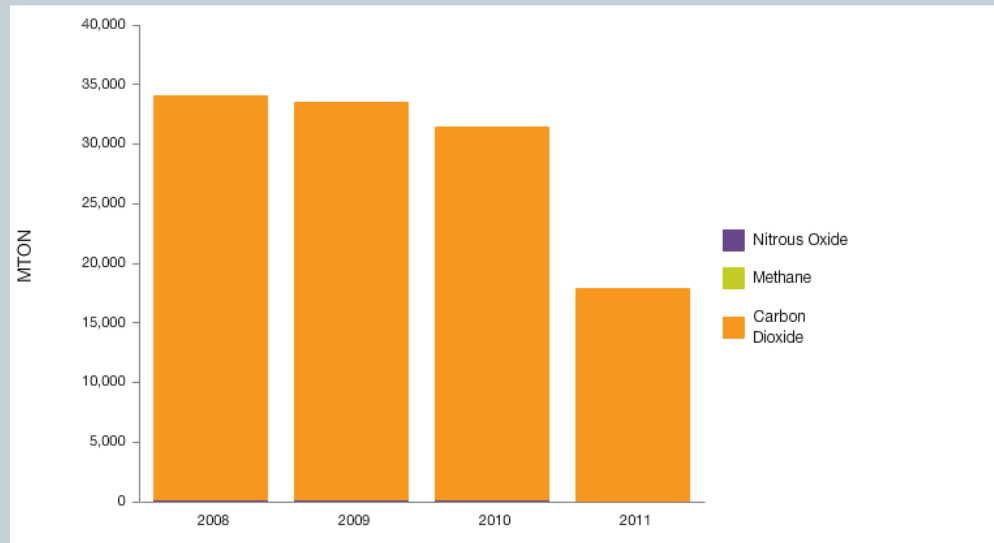
Early Successes

While saving money and improving efficiency – the City has made significant progress in all seven strategies.

2008 GHG emissions: 34,000 tons

2010 GHG emissions: 31,340 tons

Total Calendar Year Emissions - CO2 Equivalent



Saved: 2,660 tons CO₂ =

- Taking 462 cars off the road.
- Electricity use of 294 homes for a year.
- 264,000 gallons of gasoline.
- Carbon sequestered by 60,000 trees.

Strategy 1

Provide dedicated staffing and adequate funding



City/County Sustainability Coordinator:

Significant Accomplishments – May 2010 – Present (@ 17 Months)

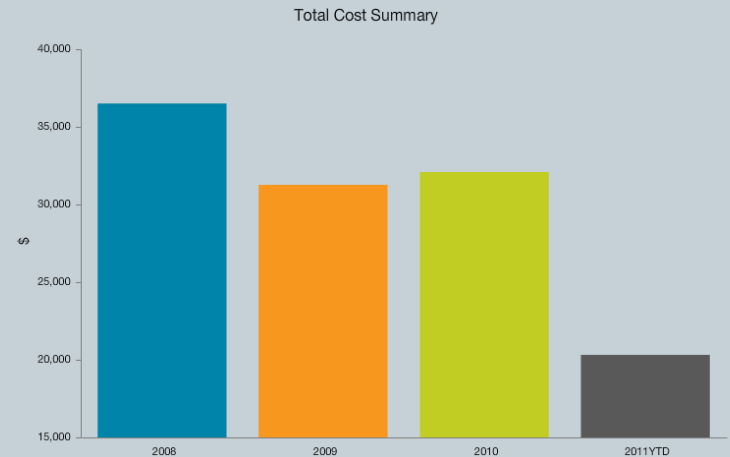
- Energy audits for City buildings (police ITC, solid waste).
- Energy use tracking software – EnergyCAP.
- Energy efficiency community outreach (Take Charge Challenge).
- Fire/Med Energy “Smackdown” – saved \$1,000 in 2 months.
- Community education – Sustainability Trailblazers, website, Flame Articles, Video, Sunflower Horizons with LJ World.
- Staff support Solid Waste Task Force, Douglas County Food Policy Council, SAB and City Energy Management Team.
- Initiated collaboration with Planning, Public Works and Parks & Rec on programs related to electric vehicle planning, trails grants (\$15,000), local food production, and historic preservation.

Strategy 2

Strengthen energy conservation policies and building standards



- **Perform comprehensive energy analysis of all City facilities**
 - Analyses of Solid Waste Building and the Police ITC Building completed.
 - Energy Management Team researching and prioritizing energy efficiency projects.
- **Conduct real-time monitoring of energy use**
 - EnergyCAP Program to monitor and save - implemented and operational.
 - Coordination with Westar Energy Smart Star Program to further efforts.
- **Enhance building codes to increase energy efficiency**
 - Ordinance 8583 – adopted the International Conservation Code, 2009 edition.



Strategy 3

Incorporate the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions into land use planning



- **Incorporate Complete Streets Principles in New and Existing Developments:**
 - Planned for consideration by governing bodies in 2011.
- **Improve Bike and Pedestrian Access (sidewalks/bikepaths)**
 - Over ½ mile of new sidewalk to be built in 2011.
 - Burroughs Creek Trail completed in 2010.
 - 9th Street Bike Lane.
- **Set a target for transportation-related emissions.**
 - An update to T2030, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, will include new targets and is planned for 2011/2012.
- **Complete Bikeway System Map**
 - Thousands of copies distributed throughout the community.

Strategy 4

Develop transportation policies/programs to consume less energy and reduce emissions

- **Create City-Wide Idling Policy**
 - Established for City fleet in 2008.
- **Optimize Routes For City Fleet**
 - GPS Systems Purchased For Public Works and Utilities Vehicles, Over 100 Installed.
- **Coordinate City and University bus systems**
 - 3rd Year of Shared Map Production.
 - 2nd Year at Joint Maintenance Facility.
 - 3 hybrid busses added to fleet 2011.
- **Achieve Platinum Status - Bicycle Friendly Community Program**
 - Currently rated at Bronze level, implementing steps to improve.
- **Update Metropolitan (T2030) Transportation Plan**
 - Scheduled for 2011-2012.



Strategy 5

Establish outreach and education programs on emissions reduction issues



- **Competed in Take Charge Challenge**
 - Total savings for Lawrence residents = \$155,000.
 - 20,800 MMBTU saved: 825 cars off the road, 471,000 gallons of gasoline, energy to power 525 homes.
- **Print and online resources developed and expanded**
 - Waste Reduction and Recycling Division's Facebook page.
 - Advertising in the Journal World.
 - The Flame – city newsletter.
 - Sunflower Horizons – Collaboration with the Lawrence Journal World.
 - Web Pages – both City and County Sustainability Pages added.
- **Collaborated with Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, KU, and LJ World for “Sustainability Trailblazers” Awards for community leaders.**
- **Westar Energy Smart Star Program** – supported Westar consumer education.

Strategy 6

Expand source reduction and waste reduction programs and initiatives



- **City Solid Waste Division– Waste Reduction & Recycling**
 - 7 events since 2008:
 - Total recycled: 195.79 tons
 - Participants: 4,261
- **Solid Waste Task Force**
 - Analyze current Lawrence solid waste services and develop recommendations for the Lawrence City Commission regarding implementation of services or changes to existing services. Completion scheduled March, 2012.



Strategy 7

Exercise leadership by prioritizing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in municipal operations



- Umbrella Strategy – Evident throughout all previous strategies, and a key driver in maintaining the City/County Sustainability Coordinator position.
- Grants (ARRA funds - EECBG grant) utilized for energy conservation projects:
 - ✓ Downtown LED lighting retrofit.
 - ✓ HVAC upgrade at Public Library.
- Ongoing upgrade of traffic signals to LEDs.
- Continued support for regional renewable energy development – Bowersock Hydroelectric Expansion.
- Adoption of Chapter 16 of Horizon 2020.
- New library design aims for LEED targets.
- 3 new hybrid buses added to fleet in August 2011.
- Collaboration with County Food Policy Council.



Where do we go from here?



- The City and County have made great progress.
- SAB recommends these attainable and fundable goals:
 - 1.) **Maintain Momentum – Fund the Sustainability Coordinator Position**
 - Funding needed for 2013 budget.
 - Multijurisdictional (City/County) position promotes coordination of efforts.
 - 2.) **Invest in Energy Efficiency for Long Term Savings**
 - City has reduced use by 6% since 2007 through energy efficiency and related long-term investments.
 - City has even greater potential for long term savings.
 - 3.) **Adopt Complete Streets Policy**
 - All 3 Commissions (City, County & Planning) have received presentations.
 - Health Department has partnered to do education/outreach.
 - Complete Streets policies will contribute to a more sustainable City.

SAB Annual Updates



- The SAB commits to providing the Commission annual updates on the City's progress towards meeting the goals set out by the Climate Protection Taskforce in March, 2009.

Questions?

Contact us at: sab@lawrenceks.org