

**Memorandum
City of Lawrence
City Manager's Office**

To: David L. Corliss, City Manager
From: Eileen Horn, Sustainability Coordinator
CC: Cynthia Wagner, Tammy Bennett, Kathy Richardson
Date: March 17, 2014

**Re: Sustainability Advisory Board 2015 Budget Request for Sustainable
Neighborhoods Grant Program**

The Sustainability Advisory Board requests a budget of \$20,000 be established in 2015 for the purpose of administering a Sustainable Neighborhoods Grant Program. This mini-grant program would be similar in scope to the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission Community Arts Grants that have proven to be very effective at spurring community interest and investment in the arts.

Purpose of the Grant Program:

The goal of the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) Sustainable Neighborhoods Grant Program is to improve livability and enhance quality of life in Lawrence by inspiring neighborhood-scale sustainability projects that foster innovation and collaboration within the community.

As designed thus far, the Sustainable Neighborhoods Grant Program would fund projects that:

- Are requesting less than \$5,000 (allowing us to fund multiple projects each year).
- Provide a 25% project funding match (can be cash or in-kind).
- Have a clear public benefit and are projects accessible to the public.
- Address the sustainability programs and goals outlined in the Climate Protection Plan, Peak Oil Task Force Report, Horizon 2020, or other plans with sustainability elements adopted by the City Commission.
- Address a need identified by residents of the community.
- Encourage interest in sustainability topics.
- Incorporate innovative approaches to solving challenging sustainability issues.
- Generate new collaborations or expand established collaborations.

Sustainability means making decisions that balance the needs of the environment, economy, and society — for both present and future generations. Therefore, we are looking for projects that improve environmental quality, promote social equity, and inspire a resilient economy. Examples include: bike racks, community gardens, sustainability education programs, job-training, sidewalk repair, access to healthy food, rehabilitation projects, ecological conservation, monarch waystation, neighborhood clean-ups, demonstration projects, etc.

The Sustainable Neighborhoods Grant Program would accept applications in early 2015, and award funds by May 2015. The Grant Program would be administered by the Sustainability Coordinator and the Sustainability Advisory Board.