

## CHAPTER 6: SUSTAINABILITY

### I. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- A. Quality of life for Park Ridge residents is improved through the embracement and pursuit of sustainable measures.
- B. Flooding—a major source of concern for the City—can be mitigated by a variety of sustainable measures.
- C. Park Ridge is but a small part of a regional metropolitan area, and some sustainability issues are best addressed through regional organizations. Nevertheless, no step or measure, no matter how seemingly small or insignificant, fails to contribute to the environmental health of the City and region.
- D. Measures embraced for sustainability can also enhance economic development, housing options, personal mobility, and financial stability. While the pursuit of sustainability is not inherently inimical to these other areas of concern, sustainable measures must be balanced with other community goals and financial and staffing realities. [Comment: The addition of this paragraph is in response to P&Z request for a guiding principle stating balance between sustainability and prosperity.]

**II. THE VISION.** The citizens of Park Ridge will be well-informed and engaged with sustainability and environmental issues and efforts. The City will lead by example and provide the framework that allows residents, business and other agencies to pursue environmentally sound practices and operations.

### III. CURRENT AND COMPLETED EFFORTS

- A. **Public participation.**
  - 1. In Poll 1 of the public participation process, twelve percent of respondents considered “sustainability/green infrastructure” as the community’s biggest challenge or opportunity for improvement. This ranked third behind parking (13%) and economic development/business vitality (26%).
  - 2. Poll 2 asked: With regards to public property (such as City-owned land, parks, libraries, and schools), what kinds of sustainable

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measures are most important to pursue? Rain gardens, bioswales, and native plants aimed at mitigating flooding was viewed as the most important (19%). "Improve recycling" was the second most common response (16%).

3. A second, related question asked: With regards to private property (such as individual residences or small businesses), what kinds of sustainable measures are most important to pursue? "Recycling" was the most common response (23%), followed by "Rain gardens/bioswales/native plants (to improve stormwater and flood mitigation)"
4. Another question from Poll 2 asked: What programs should be considered by the City? Here, the third most common response (14%), was "Eco Education (how-to programs on recycling, composting, sustainable initiatives)."
5. NOTE: WILL NEED TO ADD INPUT FROM OCT 15 WORKSHOP.

**B. Greenest Region Compact II.** The [Greenest Region Compact \(GRC\)](#) promotes sustainability in Chicago communities across the region with an emphasis on building strong and vibrant communities. The GRC dates from 2007; it was re-launched as GRC II in 2016 with an updated set of goals and objectives. On September 18, 2017, the City of Park Ridge approved a resolution endorsing the GRC II. To date, 127 communities have adopted the GRC to improve quality of life for more than 6 million residents making it the [largest regional sustainability collaborative](#) for municipalities in the country.

**C. Sol-Smart designation.**

1. SolSmart is led by The Solar Foundation and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office. The initiative recognizes cities, counties, and regional organizations for making it faster, easier, and more affordable to go solar. The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus serves as SolSmart advisor to the Chicago-area communities.
2. In 2018-2019 the City participated in the second cohort of communities seeking Sol-Smart designation. The effort was managed by the Department of Community Preservation &

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Development. The City made changes to its codes and permitting processes to reduce the time and money it takes to install a solar energy system. A solar web page was also created to help inform and guide those interesting in installing solar panels ([http://www.parkridge.us/community\\_preservation\\_and\\_development/solar\\_energy\\_in\\_park\\_ridge.aspx](http://www.parkridge.us/community_preservation_and_development/solar_energy_in_park_ridge.aspx)).

3. The City earned the Bronze level of designation, which was awarded in a ceremony at Argonne National Laboratories in May 2019.

**D. Creation of Sustainability Task Force.** In early 2019 Mayor Marty Maloney created an ad hoc committee, the Sustainability Task Force (STF). The creation of this ad hoc committee followed the sunseting of another one, the Bike Task Force, in December 2018. The STF held its first meeting in February 2019 and began work on community outreach and a sustainability plan.

### **E. Building codes**

1. The Illinois Energy Conservation Code requires design and construction professionals to follow the latest published edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1 "Energy Standard for Buildings except Low-Rise Residential Buildings" including amendments adopted by the Capital Development Board. State funded facilities, private funded commercial facilities and residential buildings must comply with IECC per 20 ILCS 3125. The 2018 edition of the IECC went into effect on July 1, 2019.
2. The Department of Community Preservation & Development budgets for appropriate training in the IECC, and plan reviewers and inspectors are routinely attend training on the latest updates and interpretations to the code.

### **F. Forestry**

1. The City employs two full-time foresters ("Forestry Department") who maintain the City's parkway trees, review and approve permits for tree removal on private property, and review development plans for compliance with the City's regulations pertaining to trees.

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2. The Forestry Department follows an Urban Forest Management plan, i.e. a strategic plan for trees in the City. Within the next year the Forestry Department will begin using a "zone analysis" for canopy cover and tree plantings. Currently the City's canopy cover is 41 percent.
3. The Forestry Department's approved list for street trees is heavy on native trees, e.g. various oaks (genus *Quercus*), Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*).
4. The City has earned "Tree City USA" designation for over 20 continuous years. The Forestry Department administers this program.

### **G. City vehicle fleet**

1. Since 2017 the City has employed software in most of its vehicle fleet that tracks: vehicle location, vehicle speed, idling time, and other metrics such as fuel consumption.
2. City has purchased one hybrid vehicle, and is considering the routine replacement of vehicles with hybrids or EV. [Comment: This is updated based on recent discussions at the October Committee of the Whole meeting.]

**H. LED Installation.** All [? Verify] traffic lights in the City use LED lighting. Most of the LEDs were installed as part of an IDOT program.

**I. Illicit discharges.** Per MWRD requirements, Public Works engages in testing of sewer connections with smoke to determine illegal hook-ups to sewer.

### **J. Waste management/recycling**

1. SWANCC.
  - a. The City is a member of The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC). SWANCC is a nonprofit intergovernmental agency that has provided solid waste management services, programs and resource materials to its 23 member communities since 1988. SWANCC's focus is to reduce the volume and toxicity of solid waste through responsible waste reduction solutions and includes

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- collections for special materials. Only residents who live in a SWANCC member community are eligible to participate in the Agency's programs.
- b. SWANCC provides member residents with a variety of waste reduction and recycling services, programs and resource materials. These include collections for special materials that cannot go into the curbside recycling cart or should not go into the garbage due to toxicity or recoverability, such as: computer and electronics, prescription drugs and sharps, compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs, mercury thermometers, holiday lights and batteries.
  - c. SWANCC's website includes links to educational materials and videos on recycling, composting and other waste reduction solutions.
  - d. The City's Department of Public Works administers a pumpkin composting program each November, whereby residents can drop off pumpkins for composting.
2. The City budgets \$2.8 million (out of \$77 million budget) for waste management. (Check if this is a pass-through cost, or partially pass-through.) Current waste diversion rate is 29%. Average waste diversion for SWANCC communities is 24.8%. A waste diversion rate represents how much of waste you divert without burn (incineration) or bury (landfill). The higher the waste diversion rate, the more material that is being recycled.
  3. Curbside recycling. Residences in the City can participate in a curbside recycling program through the City's waste hauler, Groot. Commercial properties are not eligible for this program and must pursue recycling individually.
  4. Recycling events. The City manages or participates in several recycling programs:
    - a. The Environmental Health Officers of the Department of Community Preservation & Development administer a program for drop-off of various items for recycling or proper disposal, i.e. to ensure liquids or solids are not disposed of in a manner that will harm water supply. Items accepted at these monthly events include: CFL bulbs, fluorescent tubes

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(up to four feet in length), , mercury thermometers, liquid and solid medicine, and sharpened needle disposal. [is this in conjunction with SWANCC?]

- b. The City and Chamber of Commerce co-host quarterly recycling events, which are sponsored by SWANCC. For example, on October 19, 2019, the City hosted a recycling event at its Public Works Service Center, where residents from the area could drop off electronics and textiles for recycling. Document destruction was also a part of this event.
- c. Battery recycling was halted in 2018.

### **IV. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **A. Improve water quality**

- 1. Implement a public education program or conduct equivalent outreach activities about the impacts of stormwater discharges on local waterbodies and the steps that can be taken to reduce stormwater runoff and pollution. The City does not necessarily need to generate its own materials in fulfilling this objective. It is generally more cost-effective to use an existing program or materials than to develop local materials. The City should consider use and distribute stormwater educational information provided by their State, EPA, or environmental, public interest, or trade organizations instead of developing its own materials. Nevertheless, the City should strive to make its materials and activities relevant to local situations and issues, and incorporate a variety of strategies to ensure maximum coverage. Some examples of materials that can be used include:
  - a. Brochures or fact sheets. These can be posted on the City website. Paper copies can be made available for distribution at City Hall or special events.
  - b. Stenciling of storm drains with message such as "Do Not Dump" or "Drains Directly to Des Plaines River."
  - c. Tributary signage to increase public awareness of local water resources.

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2. Identify and correct illicit discharges. "Illicit discharges" are defined as a storm drain that has measurable flow during dry weather containing pollutants and/or pathogens. A storm drain with measurable flow but containing no pollutants is simply considered a discharge. Each illicit discharge has a unique frequency, composition and mode of entry in the storm drain system. Illicit discharges are frequently caused when the sewage disposal system interacts with the storm drain system. A variety of monitoring techniques is used to locate and eliminate illegal sewage connections. These techniques trace sewage flows from the stream or outfall, and go back up the pipes or conveyances to reach the problem connection. Illicit discharges of other pollutants are produced from specific source areas and operations known as "generating sites." Knowledge about these generating sites can be helpful to locate and prevent non-sewage illicit discharges. Depending on the regulatory status of specific "generating sites," education, enforcement and other pollution prevention techniques can be used to manage this class of illicit discharges.<sup>1</sup> Common activities that produce illicit, indirect discharges include:
  - a. *Car washing*
  - b. *Driveway cleaning*
  - c. *Dumping*
  - d. *Lawn/landscape watering and pesticide use*
  - e. *Vehicle fueling*
  - f. *Washdown of greasy equipment and grease traps*
  - g. *Sewage.* Sewage has the greatest potential to produce illicit discharges within any urban subwatershed. The most commonly reported sewage-related direct discharges are broken sanitary sewer lines (81%), cross connections, and straight pipe discharges.
  - h. *Spills that enter the storm drain system at an inlet.* A common occurrence is an oil or gas spill from an accident that then travels across the road and into the storm drain system.

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<sup>1</sup> "Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination: A Guidance Manual for Program Development and Technical Assessment," Center for Watershed Protection and Robert Pitt, University of Alabama, October 2004, p.5.

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- i. *Dumping a liquid into a storm drain inlet.* Liquid wastes such as oil grease, paint, solvents, and various automotive fluids are frequently dumped into the storm drain. A common example is cleaning deep fryers in the parking lot of a fast food operation.
- j. *Non-target irrigation from landscaping or lawns that reaches the storm drain system:* Irrigation can produce intermittent discharges from over-watering or misdirected sprinklers that send tap water over impervious areas (Figure 7). In some instances, non-target irrigation can produce unacceptable loads of nutrients, organic matter or pesticides. The most common example is a discharge from commercial landscaping areas adjacent to parking lots connected to the storm drain system.
- k. *Adopt ordinance and implement enforcement activities to prevent illicit discharges. (Adopt phosphorous-based fertilizer ban.)* Clear and effective ordinance language should be adopted to ensure that all potential sources of illicit discharges are prohibited, and that the community has sufficient legal authority to inspect private properties and enforce corrections. Example:
  3. Engage in educational activities, public information activities, and other appropriate activities to facilitate the proper management and disposal of used oil and toxic materials.

### **B. Promote green infrastructure solutions for stormwater management.**

Green infrastructure can improve stormwater quality and mitigate flooding.

1. Continue model green alley program.
2. Construct a community model rain garden. Partner with another unit of local government, e.g. Park District, or a non-for-profit organization, e.g. church, to install a model rain garden. Location would be accessible to the public, and public could see and learn about how a rain garden functions, its benefits, and installation issues. Some signage would be necessary, as well as continued maintenance.
3. Incentivize permeable paving.

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- a. Permeable paving systems are intended to trap and treat stormwater at the source. Permeable pavement includes a variety of surfaces: pervious concrete, porous asphalt, paving stones and interlocking pavers. All of these surfaces allow stormwater to percolate and infiltrate into the soil below. Usually there are a couple layers of aggregate installed underneath the paving surface, and the aggregate contributes to the percolation and infiltration qualities of the system. Moreover, permeable paving systems can solids, thereby filtering pollutants and preventing them from reaching the storm sewer system.
  - b. The City should consider incentives, in the form of fee reductions, for permeable paving installation and maintenance.
4. Consider exceeding MWRD requirements for green infrastructure. A list of potential green infrastructure options is below:
- a. [Bioretention](#) practices, often called rain gardens, are small vegetated landscape practices designed to filter or infiltrate stormwater runoff. They have a relatively simplistic design that can be incorporated into a wide variety of landscaped areas. Common bioretention opportunities include landscaping islands, cul-de-sacs, parking lot margins, commercial setbacks, open space, rooftop drainage and street-scapes (i.e., between the curb and sidewalk).
  - b. Tree trenches and tree boxes are vegetated engineered landscape practices designed to filter or infiltrate stormwater runoff. They can be incorporated into a wide variety of landscaped areas, including ultra-urban landscapes. Technically, tree boxes and tree trenches are bioretention practices, but their design, construction, maintenance, and benefits merit a separate discussion. Note that this page does not discuss urban forests and use of trees in natural landscape settings. These are discussed on a separate page.
  - c. Permeable paving (see above)
  - d. Vegetated swales
  - e. Harvest and re-use practices. Rain water harvesting is the practice of collecting rain water from impermeable surfaces,

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such as roof tops, and storing for future use. Stormwater and rainwater harvest and use systems can improve or maintain watershed hydrology, reduce pollutant loading to receiving waters, increase water conservation, reduce stress on existing infrastructure, and reduce energy consumption

### C. Encourage the adoption of renewable energy sources

1. Solar. Pursue Sol-Smart Gold designation.
2. Explore potential for wind turbines and thermal energy in Park Ridge; change regulations to allow, as necessary.
3. Improve information on City website.
  - a. Ensure solar energy landing page is included in revamp of City website (anticipated for 2020). Ensure page is user-friendly and has links to appropriate websites.
  - b. Add new webpage featuring tips on energy conservation, e.g. promote the use of ENERGY STAR appliances and equipment.
4. Institute an LED installation program for street lights. Note that City has investigated this, but cost was prohibitive.
5. Promote electric and hybrid vehicles by:
  - a. Encouraging the availability of charging stations. Amend land use regulations to allow for placement in commercial and other parking lots. Develop design standards for EV charging station parking, and ensure loss of “standard” parking space for charging station will not be impediment to installation of charging station (See Mayfield, 2012).
  - b. Target Higgins Road corridor—along Kennedy Expressway and near O’Hare—as prime location for charging stations.
  - c. Allow solar canopies for EV charging stations (need photo).
  - d. Publish and periodically update map showing locations of all charging stations available to the public. **Track increase in number of parking stations over time, with goal of achieving steady increase in overall number for first five years after plan adoption. [Comment: This is added in response to P&Z request to include more metrics in plan.]**
6. Require EV charging stations for multi-family dwellings.
7. Require EV charging stations for new commercial developments.

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8. As part of City's solar webpage, display map with current data concerning locations of solar PV panels. Also publish report card on number of solar PV permits and building permit approval time. Goal is to complete permit review within three days of permit application. [Comment: This is added in response to P&Z request to include more metrics in plan.]

### **D. Increase biodiversity**

1. Continue to seek Tree City USA designation
2. Update the Urban Forest Management Plan used by the Forestry Department
3. Increase City's canopy cover from current 41% to 50%
4. Through development plan review, promote the use of native woody plants, native grasses and flowering plants in landscape plans.
5. Monitor invasive plant lists published by IDNR and Chicago Botanical Garden and adjust City's approved plant lists accordingly; ensure invasive plants are not used in landscape designs.
6. Amend Codes to clarify desirability of native plants.
  - a. Amend 5-11-1 (Specific weeds, as Nuisance). Plants such as dandelion, milkweed and goldenrod should not be on the nuisance list.
  - b. Amend Property Maintenance Code to include section clarifying desirability of native plants in the residential and commercial landscapes
7. Educate public on native landscaping: different aesthetic, benefits, costs, upkeep, desire for groomed look
8. Consider zoning changes that would expressly allow bee keeping and poultry raising.
9. IPM program. Integrated Pest Management focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage by managing the ecosystem
10. Work with other agencies (public or private) to hold native plant sales in the community, e.g. at Farmers Market.

- ### **E. Incorporate green technology and sustainable practices into City Hall operations.**
- In addition to practices already cited, incorporate green technology and practices into City Hall operations as follows:

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1. Pursue procurement of EV or hybrid vehicles and attendant equipment, e.g. charging stations, on City property.
2. Consider sustainability measures for City events, e.g. make Farmers Market, a “no waste event.”
3. Commit to reducing the City’s carbon footprint (alternatively, commit to carbon neutrality) by 202X.
4. Install and operate solar PV panels on municipal properties.
5. Amend City’s procurement policy to include environmentally friendly products as one criteria.
6. Reduce fuel consumption and idling time of City vehicles by 20% from baseline date of [TBD]. [Comment: This is added in response to P&Z request to include more metrics in plan. Note that City already has ability to track idling time and fuel consumption, but these data are not compiled into meaningful report for public/municipal consumption and review.]

### F. Reduce, reuse, and recycle waste products of all types.

1. Endorse the EPA’s Food Recovery Challenge (FRC) <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-challenge-frc>
2. Promote composting in residential environments.
3. Explore options for a City-wide composting site/facility
4. Improve the City’s waste diversion rate from its current 29% to 50%. Accomplish this through education, expansion of recycling, etc.<sup>2</sup>
5. Amendments to City Code that would foster sustainable practices among city businesses, e.g. consider a ban or a fee for single-use plastic bags. Additionally, educate businesses on ways to “go green.”<sup>3</sup>
6. Explore opportunities for placement of more public recycling bins.

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<sup>2</sup> “What is waste diversion and why is it so important?” Clean River Recycling Solutions website at <https://cleanriver.com/blogwhat-waste-diversion-important/>.

<sup>3</sup> Lori Healy, “How to Go Green at Your Restaurant,” The Balance Small Business website, <https://www.thebalancesmb.com/how-to-go-green-at-your-restaurant-2888656>. Updated Sep 2, 2019; accessed Oct 23, 2019.

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7. Encourage private entities that sponsor or manage special events to move toward “no-waste” events.<sup>4</sup>
  - a. Require various waste streams (composting, recycling) at events
  - b. Increase fees for non no-waste events.
8. Track progress in all of above areas and publish on City website’s “sustainability page.” Goal would be to make progress in all areas within one year of adoption of plan. For example, the operation of one no-waste event would be considered progress toward item no. 7 above]. [Comment: This is added in response to P&Z request to include more metrics in plan.]

**G. Publicize for public consumption federal, state and county sustainability efforts and goals.** [Comment: This new goal is added in response to P&Z request to include more metrics in plan.]

1. Publicize sustainability goals established by federal, state and county governments: post on website, include graphics, update with progress notes. [Comment: This is added in response to P&Z request to include more metrics in plan.]
2. Publicize studies, interactive maps, links on sustainability, particularly those that feature or include Park Ridge. For an example, see an interactive carbon footprint map, by zip code, for the United States, at: <https://coolclimate.org/maps>.

Mayfield, David (2012). *Site Design for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations*. Sustainable Transportation Strategies.

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<sup>4</sup> Rob Hard, “An Event Planners Guide to Green Meetings and Events, The Balance Small Business website, <https://www.thebalancesmb.com/how-to-go-green-at-your-restaurant-2888656>, updated June 25, 2019; accessed 23 Oct 2019.

# SUSTAINABILITY - IMPLEMENTATION

## A. IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

### A.1. Public education

Lead: CP&D  
First Steps: Explore web for materials and provide links to these on City website.  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term, simple

### A.2. Identify and correct illicit discharges

Lead: Public Works; CP&D  
First Steps: Produce educational materials for public; continue program  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/routine

### A.3. Engage in educational activities...to facilitate proper disposal of toxic materials.

Lead: Public Works; CP&D  
First Steps: Produce educational materials for public; continue program  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/routine

## B. PROMOTE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

### B.1. Continue model green alley program

Lead: Public Works  
First Steps: Provide educational information on rain gardens and other ways to mitigate flooding; publicize through City media  
Resources/Funding: Budget cost estimated at [per alley/foot?]  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/complex.

### B.2. Construct a community model rain garden

Lead: CP&D; Public Works  
First Steps: Pursue Sol-Smart Gold designation and incorporation of solar/energy webpage on new City website.  
Resources/Funding: Staff time; City funding needed for solar, EV  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/complex.

### B.3. Incentivize permeable paving

Lead: CP&D  
First Steps: Evaluate bldg permit fee structure and determine what amount of fee reduction would entice property owners to install permeable paving and yet cover all or most of City costs.  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/complex

### B.4. Consider exceeding MWRD requirements for green infrastructure

Lead: Public Works  
First Steps: Evaluate efficacy of additional level of green infrastructure and potential cost burdens to applicants.  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/complex

## C. ENCOURAGE ADOPTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

### C.1. Pursue Sol-Smart Gold designation

Lead: CP&D  
First Steps: Review requirements and submit documentation to Solar Foundation through Metropolitan Mayors Caucus.  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/routine

### **C.2. Explore potential for wind turbines and thermal energy in Park Ridge; change codes as necessary**

Lead: CP&D  
First Steps: Review requirements and submit documentation to Solar Foundation through Metropolitan Mayors Caucus.  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/routine

### **C.3. Improve information on City website.**

Lead: CP&D  
First Steps: Participate in revamp effort for City website  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/complex

### **C.4. Institute an LED installation program for street lights**

Lead: Public Works  
First Steps: Review costs, prioritize areas for LED lighting  
Resources/Funding: Staff time; budget  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/routine

### **C.5. Promote electric and hybrid vehicles**

Lead: City Hall (Admin, Finance, CP&D, Public Works)  
First Steps: Review costs, determine appropriate areas and level 1 or 2 charging  
Resources/Funding: Budget costs  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/complex

### **C.6. Require EV charging stations for multi-family dwellings**

Lead: City Hall (Admin, Finance, CP&D, Public Works)  
First Steps: Review costs, determine appropriate areas and level 1 or 2 charging  
Resources/Funding: Budget costs  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/complex

### **C.7. Require EV charging stations for new commercial developments**

Lead: City Hall (Admin, Finance, CP&D, Public Works)  
First Steps: Review costs, determine appropriate areas and level 1 or 2 charging  
Resources/Funding: Budget costs  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/complex

### **C.8. Publish map and other info regarding solar PV panel installation in the City**

Lead: CP&D  
First Steps: Coordinate with GIS consultant  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/routine

## **D. INCREASE BIODIVERSITY**

### **D.1. Continue to seek Tree City USA designation**

Lead: Forestry  
First Steps:

Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/simple

#### **D.2. Update Urban Forestry Management Plan**

Lead: Public Works/Forestry Dept

First Steps:

Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/routine

#### **D.3. Increase City's canopy cover from 41% to 50%**

Lead: Public Works/Forestry Dept

First Steps:

Resources/Funding: Staff time, budget  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/complex

#### **D.4. Promote use of native woody plants in landscape (plans)**

Lead: CP&D, Forestry

First Steps: Develop list of desirable plants as substitutes for non-native plants typically found in landscape plans

Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/routine

#### **D.5. Monitor invasive plant lists published by IDNR and CBG; adjust planting lists accordingly**

Lead: CP&D, Forestry

First Steps:

Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/routine

#### **D.6. Amend Codes to clarify desirability of native plants**

Lead: CP&D

First Steps: Research similar native plant ordinances in Midwest

Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/routine

#### **D.7. Educate public on benefits of native plants**

Lead: CP&D

First Steps:

Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/routine

#### **D.8. Consider zoning changes that would expressly allow beekeeping and poultry raising**

Lead: CP&D

First Steps: Research existing ordinances throughout country

Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/complex

#### **D.9. Follow IPM program**

Lead: CP&D

First Steps:

Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/routine

#### **D.10. Hold native plant sales**

Lead: CP&D

First Steps:

Resources/Funding: Staff time

Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term / routine

## **E. INCORPORATE GREEN TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES INTO CITY HALL**

### **E.1. Pursue procurement of EV and/or hybrid vehicles**

Lead: Finance/Public Works  
First Steps: RFP for procurement  
Resources/Funding: Staff time; budgeting  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/complex

### **E.2. Consider sustainability measures for City events**

Lead: Public Works, CP&D  
First Steps: Evaluate "no waste" Farmers Market  
Resources/Funding: Staff time; budgeting  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/complex

### **E.3. Commit to reducing City's carbon footprint / carbon neutrality by 202X**

Lead: Admin  
First Steps:  
Resources/Funding: Staff time; budgeting  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/complex

### **E.4. Install and operate solar PV panels on municipal properties**

Lead: PW, CP&D  
First Steps:  
Resources/Funding: Staff time; budgeting  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/complex

### **E.5. Amend City's procurement policy to include environmentally friendly products as a criteria**

Lead: Finance  
First Steps:  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short term/complex

### **E.6. Reduce fuel consumption and idling time by 20%**

Lead: Public Works  
First Steps: Consolidate existing data  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short term/routine

## **F. REDUCE AND RECYCLE WASTE OF ALL TYPES**

### **F.1. Endorse the EPA'S Food Recovery Challenge (FRC)**

Lead: CP&D  
First Steps: Liaise with Health Commission  
Resources/Funding: Staff time; budgeting  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short term/routine

### **F.2. Promote composting in residential environments**

Lead: CP&D  
First Steps: Research programs elsewhere for pitfalls and successes  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/complex

### **F.3. Explore options for a City-wide composting site/facility**

Lead: Public Works, CP&D  
First Steps:

Resources/Funding: Staff time; budget  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/complex

#### **F.4. Improve City's waste diversion rate from 29% to 50%**

Lead: Public Works, CP&D  
First Steps:  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/complex

#### **F.5. Amend City Code to foster sustainable practices among businesses**

Lead: CP&D  
First Steps:  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/complex

#### **F.6. Explore opportunities for more public recycling bins**

Lead: Public Works  
First Steps:  
Resources/Funding: Staff time, budget  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short-term/routine

#### **F.7. Encourage sponsoring of "no-waste" events**

Lead: CP&D  
First Steps:  
Resources/Funding: Staff time, budget  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/complex

#### **F.8 Track progress in all of above areas and display on City website**

Lead: CP&D  
First Steps:  
Resources/Funding: Staff time, budget  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/complex

### **G. PUBLICIZE FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY EFFORTS AND GOALS**

#### **G.1 Post sustainability goals and efforts on website**

Lead: CP&D  
First Steps: Collect information on other programs  
Resources/Funding: Staff time; budgeting  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Short term/routine

#### **G.2 Publicize studies and interactive features from other entities**

Lead: CP&D  
First Steps: Research other maps, studies, etc.  
Resources/Funding: Staff time  
Time Horizon/Complexity: Long-term/complex