

## Goals, Strategies and Action Plan

### Water

#### **Goal #1 Improve stormwater quality and reduce runoff by implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

##### Stormwater Strategies

- Define use of BMPs in stormwater ordinances throughout County.
- Utilize BMPs as a strategy to address current issues through capital improvement plans.
- Educate public regarding use of naturalized stormwater management (rain gardens, native plants, rain barrels, disconnecting drain spouts) and importance of stormwater quality.
- Examine public and private areas for naturalized stormwater management (parkways, boulevards, streams, etc).

#### **Goal #2: Decatur will ensure that it has an adequate water supply to allow for both population growth and economic development.**

##### Water Supply Strategies:

- Expand water supply
  - Public and private strategies
    - Lake Tokorozawa
    - ADM
    - Shallow aquifer
- Improve quality
  - Erosion and sedimentation measures on agricultural lands, construction, and streams
  - Improve monitoring of Lake Decatur and tributaries
  - Improvement of shorelines by property owners
- Water conservation
  - Continue to invest in reducing water main leakage
  - Reduce public consumption:
    - Ultra low-flow appliances
    - Rain sensors on irrigation and smart controllers
    - Expand rain barrel use

- Reduction of irrigated turf area
- Low impact development policies
  - Explore use of non-potable water irrigation of golf courses and athletic fields
- Improve drought preparedness plan

**Goal #3: Increase use of sustainable production of bioenergy**

Bioenergy Strategies:

- Build market for bioenergy – recruit purchasers
- Recruit ag participants for demonstration project
- Determine bioenergy crops/perennial grasses that would be most beneficial to the watershed and water quality

**Goal # 4: Promote environmentally responsible and efficient conveyance & treatment of wastewater to meet long-term needs.**

Wastewater Strategies

- Implement asset management plan
- Actively seek partnerships for reclamation of municipal treated water
- Pursue a delivery system to reuse water
- Public education program fats, oils and greases
- Public education for sump pump disconnection
- Continue to reuse 100% of biosolids

**Energy**

- **Goal 1: Decatur will be conscious of building energy usage and utilize all technologies and techniques to increase efficiency**
  - Strategies-Education
    - Energy efficiency campaign/education that explains how it benefits me, targeting residential and small business sectors; developing a role for K-12.
    - Institute/encourage behavioral change as “a way of life/doing business” individually and collectively
    - Establish method for regular data collection and analysis by city to measure ongoing sustainability efforts.
  - Strategies-Technology
    - (City of Decatur) Develop and share energy efficiency guidelines for procurement policies (e.g. purchase of office equipment).
    - (City of Decatur) Develop and share energy efficiency guidelines for standard staff operating procedures (e.g. turning off computers and monitors).

- (City of Decatur) Develop and share learning opportunities for all building and grounds maintenance supervisory staff, at minimum
    - (City of Decatur) Engage and remain informed on smart grid technologies (Potential partners: Ameren/Illinois Commerce Commission)
  - Strategies-Incentives
    - Consider retrofit program for residential and commercial sectors and identify options for financing them.
    - Consider energy assessments or energy audit program for all sectors and identify options for providing assistance in the implementation of energy efficiency strategies (e.g. revolving loan fund; identify grant monies; etc...). (Note: Working group felt that ALL sectors should get audits or at the least, basic energy assessments; the original strategy specifically mentioned only the industrial sector)
    - Obtain energy audits for all public buildings and implement energy efficiency strategies.
    - Promote and incentivize green building programs (including but not limited to IECC 2009, IGCC code standards) (Note: Working Group swapped out “promote and incentivize” for the word “consider.” They also eliminated energy code strategy and mentioned it in here instead. They fear the “stick” approach and much rather prefer the “carrot” approach of an incentivized voluntary program instead. Its removal seemed to be the consent of the entire group, or at least the majority.)
- **Goal 2: Decatur will reduce total and average household Vehicle Miles Traveled**
  - Strategies
    - Promote increased transit usage
    - Seek solutions for providing transportation to outlying residential areas.
    - Improve walkability by requiring sidewalks (using a connectivity index) along all newly constructed residential and commercial streets. (NOTE: I tried to speed discussion along by suggesting this would be covered by the Land group, but they were adamant in discussing sidewalks.)
    - Improve walkability by working with neighborhood organizations to install sidewalks within residential areas that do not currently have sidewalks.
    - Promote mixed use development versus single use development.
    - Increase bicycling through on-street safety enhancements, secure bicycle racks/parking at public transit locations, secure bicycle racks/parking in commercial hubs, bicycle education, and bike/transit program. (Potential Partner: Decatur Park District)
    - Improve fleet efficiency with fleet purchasing requirement.
    - New Strategy Addition: Encourage carpooling (Note: The working group added this strategy when we were already over time for our session. They said it warrants further discussion.)



- **Goal 3: Decatur will investigate and utilize renewable energy opportunities, when available and cost effective, to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels**
  - Strategies
    - Review current city ordinance and policy to ensure it supports renewable energy, not hinder it.
    - Identify opportunities at individual and large scale levels.
    - Research Ameren Industries renewable energy portfolio requirements
    - Review and leverage potential program funding from utilities and government. (NOTE: changed wording)
    - New Strategy Addition: Develop information clearinghouse for renewable energy at household/small business level.

## Land

- **Goal 1: Decatur development practices will focus on appropriate urban infill and revitalization.**
  - Strategies
    - Incentivize property maintenance assistance and utilization of code enforcement
      - Assist with property assembly
      - Receivership program
      - Seek federal and grant funds
      - Property maintenance education / outreach
        - Neighborhood organizations
        - Habitat for humanity
        - Business community
      - Target communities
        - Neighborhood organizations
    - Create market for homes in urban core
      - Fiscal
      - Permitting/Process
      - Develop reverse mortgage program
      - Develop receivership program
    - Encourage business community to create public/private partnership for “homestead” type program
- **Goal 2: New development and rehabilitation in and around Decatur will incentivize all appropriate Sustainable Neighborhood Design and Practices.**
  - Strategies
    - Promote, require, and incentivize techniques that preserve land, promote common open space, and natural stormwater management
      - Conservation Design
      - Low Impact Design
      - Bioswales,
      - Rain Gardens
      - Rain Barrels
      - bioretention
      - dry swales

- Utilize sewer rate fees to pay for these techniques
  - Native and appropriate landscaping
  - LEED Buildings
  - Green roofs
  - Narrower streets
- Utilize programs and develop new programs that incentive protection of existing structures, with an emphasis on historic properties.
  - Expand historic district
  - Fiscal
  - Lobby State Illinois Tax Credit
  - Education
  - Expand demolition protection.
- **Goal 3: Decatur will utilize the most sustainable agriculture practices, and will be a national leader in urban/neighborhood and community supported agriculture.**
  - Strategies
    - Education and outreach to support sustainable agricultural practices, including alternative crops.
      - Encourage and incentivize alternative crops.
      - Work with farm bureau regarding education and outreach for sustainable agriculture practices.
    - Convert vacant and underutilized urban core properties into community gardens and agriculture uses.
      - Allow residents to plant and harvest vacant lots.
      - Set aside areas of city land (and/or rooftop space) that could be used for urban agriculture demonstration projects.
      - Establish a local organization to manage public community gardens (park district).
      - Encourage commercial food processing facilities, restaurants, and schools to purchase localized food, herbs or other agricultural products.
      - Provide subsidized space and training for low income residents in public community gardens.
      - Encourage local producers/processors to train and hire low-income residents.
      - Investigate possibility of remediation.
      - Education and promotion of good health.
      - Restart and strongly advertise farms market in Central Park.

### **Waste/Recycling**

- **Goals**
  - Reduce waste at the source
  - Embrace beneficial reuse
  - Reach our region's full potential for recycling.
  - Encourage use of recycled products.
- **Strategies**
  - Reduce waste at the source and at the consumer level.

- Educate public (conscious shopping, recycling etc)
  - (Regulate) encourage reduction of environmentally unfriendly products (Plastic bags, Styrofoam)
  - Develop “green meeting/conference” policy that reduces waste (e.g. recycled handouts; double-sided paper; reusable badges, signage and paper products; reusable food service ware).
  - Develop recycling guidelines for standard municipal staff operating procedures.
- Embrace beneficial reuse.
  - Network for garage sales
  - Promote Freecycle as a viable way to reduce materials headed to landfill.
  - Research potential for residential/ industrial/commercial recycling network across Decatur and the region.
  - Creative reuse of by products ( based on health and safety research)
- Reach our region’s full potential for recycling
  - Establish a comprehensive data center for waste and recycling for Decatur Area.
  - Incorporate food waste into yard waste residential curbside collection. Consider prohibiting food and yard waste in garbage collection; therefore, requiring food and yard waste collection of these materials for composting, unless resident have home composting.
  - Consider volume based garbage collection rates; this provides actual incentives for residents/customers to reduce their waste going to landfills.
  - Glass should be collected separate at the curb (to reduce contamination to single stream and increase the recyclability of glass)
  - Innovative Recycle (shingles, construction debris, silt, Paint)
  - Coordinate local and regional efforts for reducing waste and increasing recycling
  - Incentives for recycling participation
- Encourage use of recycled products.
  - Develop a municipal procurement policy that includes guidelines for paper purchasing.
  - Pursue Economic Development through sustainable business development ( Recycled products etc.)
  - Find markets for the compost and mulch and other environmentally friendly products generated in our county
  - Encourage use of recycled product through procurement policies
  - Encourage more LEED projects.
- Community Education
  - Develop and implement a community recycling education program.
  - Incentives
  - Networking with local and regional organizations in education.
- Volunteer Database for sustainability projects
  - Involve schools (community service hours)
  - Require grocery stores to not give out plastic bags
  - Require recycling as part of annual licensing (such as liquor)

- Require cardboard boxes instead of Styrofoam boxes
- Recognize the business that recycle the most
- Verma Composting of food waste by cafeterias and restaurants.
- Mandated recycling for all
- Rain barrels and composting bins
- Three cart system + Bins
- Educate through paper, TV, websites, face book and twitter, neighborhood organizations

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