

## Public Meeting Notes

1. Introduction and Welcome -Scott
2. What is Sustainability – Scott
  - a. Two Meanings:
    - i. Meet the present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. -World Commission on Environment and Development (1987)
    - ii. Combination of Social/Environment/Economic
  - b. Find applications for business, residents, city, and institutions
3. Reviewed Benefits of Sustainability-Scott
  - a. An increased value, marketability, and economic growth possibilities;
  - b. Reduction in both public and private energy consumption and utility costs;
  - c. Increase in worker productivity and student performance;
  - d. Mitigation of environmentally associated health risks;
  - e. A commitment and opportunity to become a model sustainable community; and
  - f. Public and private models for sustainable building and development practices
4. Reviewed Mission Statement-Scott
5. Reviewed project objectives
  - a. The final outcome of the planning process is to present clear and implementable strategies:
    - i. Water
    - ii. Energy
    - iii. Land
    - iv. Waste/Recycling
  - b. Enhance local economic development, marketing, and quality-of-life efforts through the promotion of sustainability.
6. Water -Keith Alexander
  - a. Goals
    - i. Protect the water quality of the Sangamon River Basin including the Lake Decatur Watershed.
    - ii. Improve stormwater quality and reduce runoff by implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs).
    - iii. Ensure that Decatur has an adequate water supply to allow for both population growth and economic development.
    - iv. Promote environmentally responsible and efficient conveyance & treatment of wastewater to meet long-term needs.
    - v. Produce a market for bioenergy in a way that protects water resources.
  - b. Stormwater Strategies
    - i. Define use of BMPs in stormwater ordinances throughout County.
    - ii. Utilize BMPs as a strategy to address current issues through capital improvement plans.

- iii. Educate public regarding use of naturalized stormwater management (rain gardens, native plants, rain barrels, disconnecting drain spouts) and importance of stormwater quality.
      - iv. Examine public and private areas for naturalized stormwater management (parkways, boulevards, streams, etc).
    - c. Water Supply Strategies
      - i. Expand water supply
        - 1. Lake Tokorozawa
        - 2. ADM
        - 3. Shallow aquifer
      - ii. Improve quality
        - 1. Erosion and sedimentation measures on agricultural lands, construction sites, and streams.
        - 2. Improvement of shorelines by property owners.
      - iii. Promote water conservation
        - 1. Smart controllers and rain sensors for irrigation systems.
        - 2. Expand rain barrel use.
        - 3. Explore use of non-potable water irrigation of golf courses and athletic fields.
      - iv. Improve drought preparedness plan.
    - d. Waste Water Strategies
      - i. Implement asset management plan.
      - ii. Actively seek partnerships for reclamation of municipal treated water.
      - iii. Pursue a delivery system for reclaimed water.
      - iv. Public education program for fats, oils and greases.
      - v. Public education for sump pump disconnection.
      - vi. Continue to reuse 100% of biosolids.
7. Energy-John Mickler
- a. Goals
    - i. Be conscious of building energy usage and utilize all technologies and techniques to increase efficiency.
    - ii. Reduce total fuel consumption and miles traveled.
    - iii. Decatur will investigate and utilize renewable energy opportunities, when available and cost effective, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on foreign oil.
    - iv. Build a market for the sustainable production of bioenergy.
  - b. Energy Efficiency Strategies
    - i. Education
      - 1. Energy efficiency campaign/education that explains how it benefits me, targeting residential and small business sectors; developing a role for K-12.
      - 2. Institute/encourage behavioral change as “a way of life/doing business” individually and collectively.
      - 3. Establish method for regular data collection and analysis.
    - ii. Identity financing and/or incentives
      - 1. Retrofit program for residential and commercial sector.
      - 2. Energy assessments or energy audit program for all sectors.
      - 3. Obtain energy audits for all public buildings.

- 4. Promote/incentivize green building programs.
  - iii. Technology/City Leadership
    - 1. Energy efficiency guidelines for procurement policies.
    - 2. Energy efficiency guidelines for standard staff operating procedures.
    - 3. Education for building and grounds maintenance.
    - 4. Engage and remain informed on smart grid technologies.
  - c. Transportation Strategies
    - i. Promote increased transit usage.
    - ii. Seek solutions for providing transportation to outlying residential areas.
    - iii. Improve walkability and bicycling.
    - iv. Promote mixed use development.
    - v. Improve fleet efficiency.
    - vi. Encourage carpooling.
  - d. Renewable Energy Strategies
    - i. Review current city ordinance and policy to ensure it supports renewable energy, not hinder it.
    - ii. Identify opportunities at individual and large scale levels.
    - iii. Research Ameren Industries renewable energy portfolio requirements.
    - iv. Review and leverage potential program funding from utilities and government.
    - v. Develop information clearinghouse for renewable energy at household/small business level.
- 8. Land-Greg Crowe
  - a. New development and rehabilitation in the Decatur area will incorporate all appropriate Sustainable Neighborhood Design and Practices.
    - i. Encourage and educate the use of techniques that preserve land, promote common open space, and utilize natural stormwater management techniques.
    - ii. Utilize existing programs and incentivize protection of existing structures, with an emphasis on historic properties.
  - b. Promote sustainable agriculture practices, and be a national leader in urban/neighborhood and community supported agriculture.
    - i. Through education and outreach support sustainable agriculture practices, including alternative crops.
    - ii. Convert vacant and underutilized urban core properties into community gardens and agriculture uses.
  - c. Decatur development practices will focus on urban infill and revitalization:
    - i. Proactively incentive property maintenance assistance and utilization of code enforcement.
    - ii. Create market for homes in Urban Core.
    - iii. Encourage the business community to create a public/private partnership for a "homestead" type program.
- 9. Waste/Recycling
  - a. Goals
    - i. Reduce waste at the source and at the consumer level.
    - ii. Embrace beneficial reuse.
    - iii. Reach our region's full potential for recycling.
    - iv. Encourage use of recycled products.
    - v. Community Education.
  - b. Strategies

- i. Reduce waste at the source and at the consumer level.
  - 1. Public Education.
  - 2. Encourage reduction of environmentally unfriendly products (Plastic bags, Styrofoam).
  - 3. 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).
  - 4. Develop recycling guidelines for standard staff operating procedures.
- ii. Embrace beneficial reuse.
  - 1. Research potential for industrial/commercial recycling networks across Decatur and the region. (ex: Freecycle)
  - 2. Creative reuse of by products ( based on health and safety research).
- iii. Encourage use of recycled products.
  - 1. Develop a municipal procurement policy that encourages sustainable procurement.
  - 2. Economic Development through sustainable business development ( Recycled products etc.).
  - 3. Encourage to buy local products such as compost and mulch generated in our county.
  - 4. Encourage more LEED projects.
- iv. Reach our region’s full potential for recycling
  - 1. Establish a comprehensive data center for waste and recycling for Decatur Area.
  - 2. Incorporate food waste into yard waste residential curbside collection.
  - 3. Consider volume based garbage collection rates.
  - 4. Innovative Recycle (shingles, construction debris, silt, Paint).
  - 5. Coordinate with local and regional efforts for waste reduction and recycling.
  - 6. Incentives for recycling participation.
- v. Community Education
  - 1. Develop and implement a community recycling education program.
  - 2. Incentive based education program.
  - 3. Networking with local and regional organizations in education.

10. Breakout-Comments

a. Energy

- i. Goal #1 Be conscious of building energy use...use technology and techniques to increase efficiency
  - 1. Program/project/campaign to insulate water heaters
  - 2. Reiterate importance of CFLs and LED lighting. (Note: there was a discussion on how much of a difference this makes for street lights, traffic lights and larger commercial buildings/office buildings in particular.)
  - 3. Understanding energy usage per square foot, the gentleman mentioned it would be nice to know how much energy a house typically consumes before you move in to it. (Note: I mentioned that there are already discussions about this very topic happening. An “energy score” is something like a MPG rating that is widely understood and marketed when selling/buying cars. Similarly an energy score would attach a

rating to a house/apartment/building so that the buyer could easily gauge the building's efficiency.) ((Side note, please do not re-print: very refreshing to see that people are thinking about these things that are simultaneously being talked about at the very top-level...these discussions are happening in Washington.))

4. Talked about the importance of education, and utilizing the 18 registered neighborhood/community groups, as well as churches and schools. These are trusted sources of information that many people might pay more attention to, than a message that solely comes from the city.
- ii. Goal #2 Reduce total fuel consumption and miles traveled.
    1. Convenience. This is the real issue that keeps people off of transit. Why would I take the bus that takes me 45 minutes to get somewhere I can drive in 10 or 15? Until we figure this out, it's not going to happen. (Someone from the working group offered up this comment and the rest agreed.)
    2. Rideshare program
    3. The bridge! The cyclist in the group (she rides everyday to work and all over) said that she knows many who say they won't ride because the bridge is terrifying and not safe for cyclists or pedestrians.)
    4. Regional carpooling. Many people in Decatur go to either Springfield or Champaign/Urbana for work. She talked about how when she worked in Urbana, she would see the same people on the road every single day. She also used her neighbors as an example. On either side of her, they both travel in their cars-alone-to Springfield every day. The group agreed that a regional carpool would be great, with meetup points at the convention center, Hickory Point Mall and Walmart.
- b. Waste
    - i. Reduce Waste at the Source and at the consumer level
      1. Encourage neighborhood level composting (this reduces transportation energy, people will be more cognizant of what they are putting in there and have ownership)
      2. Petition to industries (like General Mills) to reduce packaging.
    - ii. Embrace beneficial reuse
      1. Create a college reuse facility ( Millikin should accept furniture and other goods that the college students can use. If residents want to get rid of items, they can do it for free and Millikin stores in there warehouse and give it to their students for a small fee)
      2. Create a garage sales network
      3. Habitat for humanity store should be promoted
      4. Thrift stores should be promote
    - iii. Reach our regions full potential
      1. Establish more regional networks for recycling
      2. Promote business recycling
      3. Have a garbage sorting facility instead of single stream. This will allow for 90% of the garbage to be recycled. Consider separating organics out before implementing this.

4. The expansion of the landfill should incorporate methane capturing that is currently being wasted.
  5. Create a program with grocery stores where people pay for the plastic bags (this will force people to bring reusable bags).
- iv. Encourage use of recycled product
    1. Buy as local as possible
    2. Have a recycled products booth at fairs and celebrations (like Decatur celebration)
  - v. Community Education
    1. Quarterly waste and recycling news letter
      - a. Should incorporate all the programs that are done by all the players in the area (City, county, School District, CEC, Private industries like Midwest fiber and CPR..)
      - b. Show people the complete cycle (tell them where the product that they put in the recycle bin is going and how it is coming back to the community)
      - c. Should have a section for kids
    2. Should have a 30 minute show on WAND every month. The speakers should be different each time – City, County, Private industry, concerned citizens who can bring different perspectives.
    3. Column in Herald and Review every month. Recycling not only needs education but needs reeducation.
- c. Land
    - i. Sustainable Agriculture: Food is important
      1. Decatur has a three day supply of food
      2. Promote through farm bureau
    - ii. Remove barriers to urban farming
      1. Review weed ordinance
      2. Nuisance ordinance
    - iii. Focus on Farmers Market
      1. Goal is to have year round indoor farmers market
      2. Advertising
    - iv. Start a sharing “Trade” trade
      1. Ex: plumbers trade skills with drywaller
    - v. Review Land Trust option
      1. Maryland
    - vi. Local food market
      1. Public schools purchasing local food production
      2. Public gardens
      3. City acts as connector
    - vii. Create community gardens as safe-haven
  - d. Water
    - i. Reaffirmed goals discussed in charrette
    - ii. Additional ideas:
      1. Bioenergy/perennial energy grasses to improve water quality through reduced pesticide use on agricultural lands and reduced water consumption. Can reduce runoff & erosion on lands near tributaries if designed properly with BMPs

- a. Develop markets for bioenergy, e.g. ADM pilot project at co-generation plant
  - b. Allow/encourage biomass, geothermal in residential design
  - c. Work with manufacturer in Taylorville which makes corn-burning stoves that could be redesigned to use energy pellets
  - d. Can utilize mobile pellet mill right on the ag land
2. Collaborate with waste team
  - a. Education on pharmaceuticals
  - b. Education on herbicides and pesticides – only non-regulated use is at residential level
  - c. Prevent leaf blowing into street that ends up in sewers
  - d. Educate on proper disposal of oils and fats
  - e. Promote county program on hazardous waste and electronics, need more regular, local programs
3. Techniques
  - a. Use of pervious pavers to reduce runoff
  - b. When do green roofs make sense?
4. Investigate more sustainable techniques of water treatment
5. Wastewater beneficial use
  - a. Already reuse 100% of nutrients
  - b. Sanitary District working with Park District to apply on golf course
  - c. Explore application on energy grasses
6. Wind energy
  - a. Already coming to Warrensburg
7. Explore creating wetlands upstream of Lake Decatur
8. Ongoing maintenance needs of older septic tank systems – work with County Health Department