



**Community Environmental Council
Macon County, Illinois**

**Green Illinois Communities Demonstration Grant
Final Report June 30, 2004**

The Community Environmental Council (CEC) Vision 2022 environmental visioning project was conducted over a period of 2 years. The CEC held an organizing meeting in August 2002 after receipt of the Illinois EPA grant. The project concluded June 2004.

This report includes six sections with appendices. Section I describes how the project was designed and implemented. Section II describes the public outreach activities. Section III provides comments on the success of the overall project and specific activities. Section IV summarizes the strengths, challenges, forces and trends impacting Macon County's environmental future. Section V presents the Vision 2022 environmental vision. Section VI is a financial summary. Appendices A- G consist of relevant project documents.

Section I. Project Procedure and Timeline

The first five months were devoted to organizing a project steering committee, contracting with a facilitator/public outreach coordinator and developing the visioning process and timeline. The Steering Committee named the project "Vision 2022" to indicate the 20-year outlook for the vision. The committee used the environmental visioning process in the U. S. EPA's Green Communities Toolkit in keeping with the Green Illinois Communities Grant requirements. The EPA process is organized into four phases: Where are we now? Where are we going? Where do we want to be? How are we going to get there? The process relies on a broad-based stakeholders group with geographic and social diversity to develop the environmental vision. The schedule was designed to answer these four questions and to move from a general vision to a more specific one, complementing the structure of the Macon County environmental vision plan with its goals, objectives and action steps.

Community Environmental Council members recruited Steering Committee members to represent a wide range of interests in the county. [Appendix A.]

The Vision 2022 Steering Committee directed the project's design, implementation and expenditures, meeting almost every month between September 2002 and June 2004. The group followed a project schedule that was revised periodically as changes were made in procedures.

Developing an environmental vision for Macon County

organizations rather than relying on public meetings. A second survey was distributed in October and November 2003. [Appendix G]

The fifth Forum meeting was held on November 17, 2003. The participants finalized a vision statement revised during discussion. They broke into small groups to review draft action steps under each set of goals and objectives and generate additional ones which were reported back to the entire group. [Appendix H]

Section II. Public Outreach and Community Involvement

A variety of channels was used to encourage county residents to "Have Your Say" in developing an environmental vision: inviting them to attend project meetings, listen to presentations and complete the surveys mentioned above. This section describes the public outreach activities accompanying each of the project phases.

Phase I and II – March & April 2003

The Vision 2022 Project kicked off in conjunction with the March 15, 2003 Sangamon River Cleanup Day at the Macon County Conservation District's Rock Springs Center. The project was announced with a news release to print and broadcast media covering Macon County. The news release was followed up with phone calls to reporters and assignment editors. A display about the Vision 2022 project was staffed at the cleanup day. Although the Decatur television station covered the event, the visioning project was not mentioned in the story.

All publicity in this initial stage included an invitation for county residents of all ages to join the Vision 2022 stakeholders group that would develop the environmental vision. Articles were prepared for *Resource Review* (a joint University Extension-Soil & Water Conservation District newsletter) and the Macon County Farm Bureau newsletter. A Steering Committee member also put information on the Caterpillar company website. All publicity materials referred people to the CEC website (www.decaturnet.org/CECMacon) for more information about the project.

Steering Committee members played an important role in recruiting forum participants through personal contacts. In addition, they provided lists of local government officials and CEC members so that a Vision 2022 fact sheet and letter of invitation to join the Forum could be mailed. The information was tailored to the organizations/individuals being solicited. For example, the information for 4-H and Boy & Girl Scout leaders listed various ways youth could participate in the Vision 2022 process.

Local governments' staffs, CEC community organization sector members and other civic organization contacts were phoned to introduce the project, solicit forum participation and collect information for the first and second phase sections of the vision, as well as for future public outreach activities.

A Vision 2022 fact sheet and forum signup sheet were available at community events in spring 2003: the Sangamon River Cleanup Day and the Festival of Spring at Rock Springs Center, a Master Gardeners meeting, University Extension and Macon County Solid Waste Management Dept. booths at the Decatur Home & Garden Show, Seniorama, and the CEC Earth Day meeting. A news release was issued prior to the April 22 Forum.

August, distributed to public school contacts through the Regional Superintendent's office and mailed to private schools.

Unfortunately, the CEC website could not be updated after mid-August 2003 due to circumstances unrelated to the project.

Phase III and IV (Where do we want to be? How are we going to get there? – September-June 2004

News releases were issued in advance of each of the two September Forum meetings. A third release announced the availability of the second survey and the November 4 public session in Mount Zion. A display advertisement for this meeting was published in all the county newspapers.

Public opinion survey #2: The second survey [Appendix G] was designed based on the outcomes of the September Forum meetings. Recipients were asked to rank 11 major goals of an environmental vision and then rank the importance of several objectives under each goal to the overall vision. Approximately 7,850 copies were distributed via inserts in four weekly newspapers and *Farm Week*; mailings to local government officials, middle and high school buildings, business and other civic organizations; and at organization and project meetings. One hundred twenty four surveys were submitted by mid-December.

Presentations to community organizations: In September a letter and response card were sent to local governments asking them to provide time on their agenda and to accept the project's second survey for board, staff and building visitors to complete. A similar letter and response card was sent to more than 60 civic and youth groups throughout the county. Between October and early December, Steering Committee members made presentations to five organizations in Decatur (including the CEC) and two in Mt. Zion, along with the Oreana Village Board, the Mt. Zion City Council and the Macon County Mayors Association.

One public listening session was held November 4 in Mt. Zion to seek comment on the draft goals and objectives. Only three members of the public attended.

Community Celebration: The Steering Committee hosted a community celebration at Rock Springs Center on June 11, 2004. All those who had participated in the forums or steering committee were invited. Public officials also received invitations. At this celebration the Community Environmental Council and Vision 2022 Steering committee were recognized by the Illinois Environment Protection Agency for their efforts to provide an environmental vision for Macon County. A concise vision document (Section V) was provided and a colorful display board of the goals was presented. Two local newspapers covered this event and a follow-up article was published in July. To thank forum members for their participation, a clipboard and keychain made from recycled computer boards was mailed to all forum members with a copy of the vision document.

Ongoing Outreach: Five display boards were purchased to be used to promote the vision in the community. Brochures were also developed and purchased for CEC to use as the vision is put

major factor in the low level of interest, especially on the part of the media. At the same time, one should not always blame an apathetic public for lack of participation. It is also true that when people are generally satisfied they tend to let the activists do the work for them. A very positive outcome of the visioning project was the confirmation that people value quite highly the Sangamon River, its tributaries and Lake Decatur.

Tried and true outreach techniques were used throughout the project but failed to attract a significant number of participants at events or through the easier method of expressing opinion through the surveys.

Forum attendance ranged from a low of 16 on a beautiful Saturday to 25 at an evening meeting. Forum participants were somewhat knowledgeable about many environmental issues and eager to have their say. This characteristic was very important for developing a quality plan; many people have given hours of thoughtful participation to the project.

The public chose not to attend the late August listening sessions, causing a major change in outreach strategy. We believe that going to community leaders and the general public via targeted mailings of the survey and appearances at their organizations is a better approach. The lack of time to get on the schedule of organizations limited effectiveness in our project, but it has promise for future similar public involvement strategies.

Administrative: In the hiring of a facilitator, we would expand the request for proposal list, institute a screening process of applicants, and start the process with a clear understanding of everyone's responsibilities. Determining the skill level of directing a visioning process would be critical. We felt at one point that the steering committee was no longer in control of the vision and that it was being directed by the facilitator who was outside of the community.

The process focused the council's need to find one person responsible for disseminating information to members, the public and the press. In the grant application, additional funding for a project manager position would be requested. This person would serve as the coordinator during the visioning process and would become especially important in the implementation phase.

We would seek professional assistance on survey design to make the surveys short, easy to complete and statistically sound. We found that the best way to get feedback from the public was to go to service organizations and village meetings to deliver our message. We went out to organizations late in the process. If we had gone earlier, we might have been able to get more community leaders involved.

Connecting with people who had not been involved with CEC before was a positive outcome of the visioning process. We now have to make an effort to get them plugged in to the action steps.

Use of e-mail to edit documents worked well for us. This allowed the committee members to study the documents at their convenience as well as to allow communication of their thoughts on possible changes.

Food at forum meetings enhanced the atmosphere, encouraging an informal exchange of ideas.

Organization communication not enough

Public awareness about pollution, land use, consumption and recycling

Sell land to develop sub-divisions

Air/water quality

Airport/train service

Urban sprawl

Weak economy not providing funds for environmental programs/organizations

Recycling programs are de-centralized

Landfill space is limited and no prospects for new landfill

Economy not tied to development

Government studies the issue to death but has fear of commitment

Trolley – why?

Railroad upkeep of crossings

Too many brownfields and not much interest in accessing \$\$ available to change

Environment is an afterthought for leaders

Education (perceived weaknesses)

Smell

Recycling is not easy

Opportunities

Urge city to fill environmental planner post

Urge/lobby State gov't to subsidize recycling

Landfill

Brownfields

Communications to take advantage of opportunities

List assets

Litter education

Education of public, leadership

Education K-college

Places to hike, bike, fish, hunt, golf, picnic, skate park

Opportunity for wildlife and plants to survive

Not enough environmental education in the schools

Struggle to survive causes people not to concentrate on the environment

Nuclear power plant too close

Mass transit

Lake

Lack of environmental voice in local government

Shortage of options for hazardous material disposal

Little motivation to recycle

People- diversity of purpose, lack of dreams or self-esteem, feeling of "stuck here"

"Old Boy" philosophy

Litter

No mass transit services outside of city

Feeling of must go outside of area for economy

Turf battles between leaders

Preference FOR urban sprawl

Illegal dumping

Midsize companies that are not informed

Leaders have no vision

Pass the cost of *not recycling* on to the consumer

Establish "old" Firestone plant or other site as a Central Illinois recyclables processing center

Potable water

Leadership to pass all decisions thru environmental screen

Leadership vision

Mass transit

Change way people perceive Macon Co.

Cultural studies (why don't recycle)

Groups funded for Helping People (Planned Parenthood, Homework Hangout, Youth Advocate)

Sparkle & Shine/cleanups

Neighborhood groups

Section V.

Vision 2022 – An environmental vision for Macon County

Mission Statement

In 2022 Macon County will be a community whose citizens, government, and businesses accept responsibility and provide leadership for the protection of the environment.

In 2022 Macon County will enjoy a sustainable society with a healthy environment and a strong economy that provides a high quality of life.

Background

In 2002, the Community Environmental Council—Macon County's partnership of business, industry, educators, government and community groups—was awarded an Illinois Green Communities Demonstration Grant. The Illinois EPA grant provided us with the means to develop an environmental vision for Macon County. The group decided to think about a legacy for approximately 20 years from now and named our project Vision 2022.

The visioning process was designed to answer four questions about the county's environment: Where are we now? Where are we going? Where do we want to be? How are we going to get there? A Steering Committee composed of individuals with a variety of experience directed the project and attempted to answer the four questions. A larger group of people with environmental interests, known as the Forum, met five times to discuss the specifics of the four questions above. County residents were invited to have their say by attending Forum meetings and public listening sessions, held in various communities. Steering Committee members also solicited opinions by appearing at municipal government and civic organization meetings. Two widely distributed surveys were a third option for expressing opinions. A full discussion of the project is provided in the CEC's report to the Illinois EPA, available at all libraries in Macon County including Richland Community College, Millikin University and the Macon County Conservation District.

We are pleased to present Vision 2022 to you. The project participants appreciate that Macon County is most fortunate to enjoy an abundance of natural resources. Therefore, the vision speaks of *preserving* as well as *enhancing* our environment.

Vision 2022 is a long-range strategy. We know that complex and difficult issues are not accomplished in a year or so. Nevertheless, *we can shape the future now.*

Vision 2022 is about community-based environmental protection. The strategy was developed with many opportunities for residents to have their say. The CEC appreciates the thoughtful contributions of many individuals from all walks of life who participated in the project. Many of the implementation suggestions collected during the process will be incorporated into action steps taken to realize the vision in the coming years.



Rural residents must rely on water drawn from underground sources, and in the future urban homes and businesses are likely to turn to the same resource. Local and statewide surveys of private water wells in the last decade have detected bacteria, nitrates and certain herbicides. These findings serve as an alert to be vigilant about this vital natural resource. A concerted effort to educate land users about pollution prevention practices such as the need for regular testing, coupled with replacement of crudely constructed wells could ensure this resource remains plentiful. Sound land use decisions taking into account protection of areas where groundwater is recharged are needed. Diligence is required to restore contaminated groundwater when it occurs.

II. The Vision for Land

Goal – Macon County will be a community in which waste reduction and recycling are given priority.

Objective – Ensure reliable and economic recycling.

Improved and cost effective service may be achieved over the long term by approaching it from both the supply and demand sides. Efforts should be made to attract to the county businesses that process recyclables or use recycled content materials to strengthen markets. Closing the recycling loop should be accomplished by promoting the purchase of recycled content products. Extending service to more areas of the county would increase recycling volume and decrease cost.

Objective – Ensure convenient recycling.

Comments received from the public indicate that there are many people dedicated to recycling who believe it would be more successful if every resident had convenient access to the service. Future service improvements should be tailored to the needs and interests of people in different parts of the county, from apartment dweller to farmstead resident. Convenient recycling service for businesses is also important.

Goal – Macon County's governments will have policies that guide land use for the well-being of residents without harming the environment.

Objective – Promote adoption of comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances that meet the goal. A healthy economy and a healthy environment are not in opposition; rather each supports the other. Sound planning is an essential tool to keep rural and urban communities vital and ensure people can enjoy their homes without interference from incompatible uses. Sound planning should also provide adequate natural areas for human enjoyment and the health of plants, animals and water bodies.

Action Timeline

Within 1 Year

- Identify groups that will assist in reaching goals and establish networking
- Provide copies of Vision to all CEC members and organizations
- Disseminate information from brainstorming to CEC sectors for implementation ideas
- Prioritize action steps
- Identify resources (i.e. funding, in-kind contributions, volunteers)
- Educate public on the advantages of improving the environment

1 – 5 Years

- Partnerships form and apply for funding
- Educate the public on the specific action steps being pursued
- Implement action steps
- Develop and begin plan of action on long-term goals
- Yearly updates to the public of progress

5 – 10 Years

- Evaluate effectiveness and update plan accordingly
- Revise goals to include new concerns
- Incorporate new groups into the plan
- Continue identifying funding resources
- Yearly updates to public of progress

10 – 20 Years

- Implement items from plan update
- Yearly updates to the public of progress

20 Years

- Review the last 20 years and look forward to the next 20 years

2524	Monti Communications		\$1,459.60	-\$1,414.64	11/19/2003
	Transfer from savings	\$3,400.00		\$1,985.36	11/19/2003
2525	Monti Communications		\$7,047.95	-\$5,062.59	12/8/2003
	Transfer from savings	\$6,000.00		\$937.41	12/8/2003
2526	Decatur Tribune		\$105.00	\$832.41	12/8/2003
2527	Mt. Zion Publications		\$180.00	\$652.41	12/8/2003
2528	Prairie Illes Gift Shop		\$23.73	\$628.68	12/9/2003
2529	Jeff Tish		\$17.18	\$611.50	12/9/2003
	H&R Credit	\$118.05		\$729.55	12/9/2003
2531	Jessica Carnahan		\$718.71	\$10.84	6/21/2004
2532	Design Printing & Graphics		\$163.00	-\$152.16	6/4/2004
2533	Jeanne Barnes		\$118.97	-\$271.13	6/4/2004
2534	Motherboard Ent.		\$1,090.00	-\$1,361.13	6/21/2004
2535	USPS		\$385.00	-\$1,746.13	6/30/2004
2536	Office Max		\$157.59	-\$1,903.72	6/29/2000
2537	Jessica Carnahan		\$6,782.90	-\$8,686.62	8/30/2004
2538	Herald & Review		\$697.65	-\$9,384.27	8/3/2004
2539	Design Printing & Graphics		\$598.50	-\$9,982.77	8/23/2004
2540	Shaw's Catering		\$616.25	-\$10,599.02	8/23/2004
2541	Herald & Review		\$916.65	-\$11,515.67	8/24/2004
2542	Decatur Tribune		\$168.00	-\$11,683.67	8/24/2004
2543	Garden Path		\$48.00	-\$11,731.67	8/24/2004
2544	Design Printing & Graphics		\$110.00	-\$11,841.67	8/30/2004
	Transfer from savings	\$11,841.67		\$0.00	8/27/2004
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
	Totals	\$35,261.71	\$35,261.71	\$0.00	Ending Balance

Appendix B
Vision 2022 – Macon County
Schedule
 (Revised October 8, 2003)

The process below is based on the Illinois EPA's Green Communities Demonstration Program instructions and application and the U.S. EPA's Green Communities toolkit.

The Project

<u>Task</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Timeline</u>	<u>Public Outreach (Monti)</u>
I. Visioning Process management				
A. Organize the Steering Committee	Initial Steering Committee meeting Select leadership Meeting times, places Record-keeping @ S.C. and Vision 2022 Forum (Stakeholder Group) meetings Financial management	An experienced discussion recorder is important for Forum meetings	Oct.-mid-January	
B. Organize the Forum (Stakeholders Group)	Recruitment – who, how Invite public to apply		November-April	Kickoff event 3/15 @River Cleanup Day Info. on CEC web site Jan.-4th week March-May : News release, articles in org.'s newsletters, phone contacts, letters to local officials

Plan	community hopes to attain. The vision provides the basis from which the community determines priorities and establishes targets for performance....”	Scovill Zoo;	web site, other org. newsletters
D. How do we get there?	Steering Committee prep meeting. 4 th Forum meeting to generate ideas for strategies. Steering Committee prep meeting.	Steering Comm. Wed., Sept. 3 Wed., Sept. 24, 7 pm, Mt. Zion Library Steering Comm. Wed. Oct. 8	September News release, PSAs, CEC web site, other org. newsletters
E. How will we measure progress?	Distribute survey 2 to solicit residents' views on Vision's goals and strategies. Hold 1 public meeting Steering Committee prep. meeting 5 th Forum meeting to reach consensus on strategies and begin action steps.	October-early November Tues., Nov. 4 Steering Comm. Mon., Nov. 17	October Newsletter 3, news release, Late Oct.-Nov. news releases
III. Final Report	Develop Forum consensus on list of action steps with timelines and benchmarks 1.) Facilitator prepares draft report 2.) Steering Committee reviews draft 3.) Forum holds review meeting 4.) Publish report. 5.) Publicize report. 6.) Celebrate report	December 1) Sept. - Dec. 2) Tues. Dec. 30 3) Jan. - 1st full week 4)-6) January 2004	Delphi "non-meeting" technique: circulate multiple drafts for comment by Forum members until agreement is reached



News

#1—May 2003

The people of Macon County have a rare opportunity to join together and think “green”—as in environment. The Community Environmental Council—Macon’s County partnership of business, industry, educators, government and community groups—is leading an exciting new project to build on the existing multitude of efforts to preserve and enhance our environment.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has awarded CEC a Green Communities Demonstration Grant to conduct an environmental visioning project, which we are calling Vision 2022.

The grant brings a promise that Macon County agencies and civic organizations will be eligible for technical assistance and priority consideration for funds to implement their environmental action plans once we have a long term strategy.

The Vision 2022 project is all about *community-based environmental protection*. The strategy will be crafted to reflect the people of Macon County, their values, and the environment in which they live.

It is fair to ask whether this is just one more plan to file away on a shelf. We see the Vision 2022 strategy as a blueprint for future activities of the Community Environmental Council. Because we are a partnership of government, industry, education and community groups, we can guide, advocate for and implement, as appropriate, the action items that will be an outcome of developing the environmental vision.

One may also ask if Vision 2022 is a duplication of effort. We are reviewing previous long-range planning efforts, such as the Metro Decatur Greenways Plan, to see what has been accomplished since those plans were adopted, what is the current status, and what remains to be done.

As you read the pages of the newsletter, please note how you can be involved in shaping an environmental vision for Macon County in 2022. We welcome people of all ages and interests!

Jeannie Barnes
CEC President

Norm Jensen
Vision 2022 Chairman

CEC Board

President: Jeannie Barnes,
Macon County Conserva-
tion District

Vice President: Gary Crull,
Caterpillar Inc.

2nd Vice President: Cinda
Farris, Holy Family School

Treasurer: Ronda Moore,
Bodine Electric

Secretary: Sherri Ludlam,
Macon Co. Solid Waste
Management Dept.

Members at Large

Susan Hanks, MARA
International

Stephen John, Environ-
mental Planning and Eco-
nomics, Inc.

Marge Evans, Concerned
Citizen

Jo Caulkins, University of
Illinois Extension Service

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SNAPSHOTS

AHHHHH—CLEAN AIR

Have you ever noticed a trailer at 2200 N. 22nd Street in Decatur? It's the Illinois EPA's official air quality monitoring station. It houses equipment that samples the air for the pollutants sulfur dioxide (which can damage crops and cause acid rain); ozone (from near the Earth's surface where it's a threat to crops and people's lungs); and very fine particles (dust—also a health hazard).

It's great to lead off with some good news: we have an excellent record of air quality, based on these measurements. In 2001, the levels never exceeded the health-based standards. Looking as far back as 1995, the record is equally as good in those years. Breathe deeply and enjoy! (Illinois EPA has a different set of data for hazardous air pollutants, which we'll report on later.)

HEAVY INTO RECYCLING

In 2002, Macon County residents and businesses were recycling at a 30.8% rate. That means 36,869 tons of cans, bottles, metal objects, batteries and paper were kept out of the landfill and shipped away to be turned into usable products again.

And that calculation doesn't even count 60,044 tons of recycled construction and demolition materials, asphalt, or tonnage from special collections such as electronics and white goods (appliances). All these data are reported to the State, which in its wisdom decides how the Macon County Office of Solid Waste Management should figure the annual rate of recycling.

The leading recycled material was mixed paper—17,181 tons, followed by cardboard—12,239 tons—now that's a lot of empty boxes. Next was 3,211 tons of grass clippings and brush and 2,579 tons of metals. Aluminum totaled only 285 tons, but don't forget we're counting by weight. In fact, aluminum cans are recycled at a very high rate all over the United States.

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

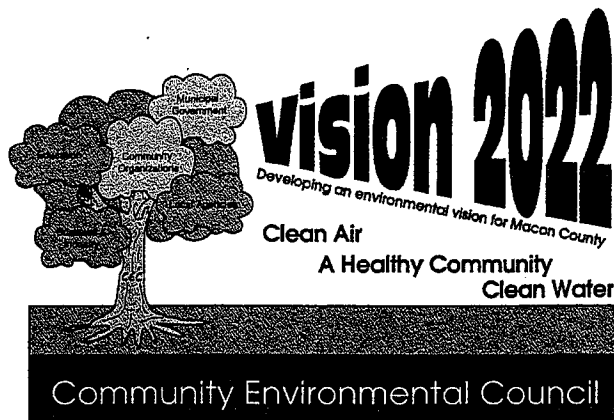
Laying it on thick, one of Macon County's best programs helps you get rid of those paint cans cluttering up your garage. The first waste paint collection of 2003 was held May 17 at 2121 S. Imboden Court in Decatur. The Office of Solid Waste Management reports that residents brought in more than 1300 cans of paint that day. Last year's collections captured 10,000 cans in all.

Contact Kristin Simon at 425-4512 to learn how you can obtain 5-gallon cans of exterior and interior latex blended from the collected paint. It's a bargain at \$1/gallon and \$0 for not-for-profits such as churches and social service agencies.

Future collections are scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon on June 21, July 19, August 16 and Sept. 20. Paint a reminder on your calendar now!



Do what's right for the environment and take your leftover latex and oil-based paints, stains and varnishes (no aerosols or thinners) to the Macon County Waste Paint Collection this summer.



News

#2-August 2003

How's the water quality?
What about water quantity?
How's the air quality?
Are there natural areas needing
protection or restoration?

Have Your Say

Community Environmental Council
Vision 2022 Listening Sessions

Monday, August 25, 7 p.m.
Blue Mound Library Route 48 Annex
Host: Blue Mound Women's Club

Thursday, August 28, 7 p.m.
Rock Springs Center
Nearing Lane, off Rock Springs Road
Host: Macon County Conservation District

Refreshments, Brochures, Displays

You can shape the future now

**Vision 2022
Steering Committee**

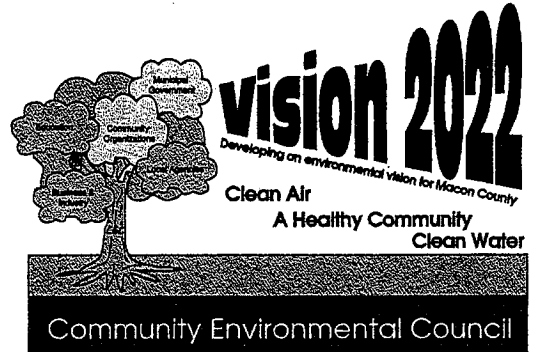
Emily Akins Caterpillar
Jason Anderson Trees Forever
Symantha Aydt Decatur Running Club, SKI Klub
Jeannie Barnes Community Environmental Council
Sarah Bjelland Macon County Farm Bureau
Jo Caulkins U of I Extension
Mary Cobb DOVE Inc.
Gary Crull Caterpillar
Ed Dougherty GM Square Neighborhood, student
Marge Evans Community Environmental Council
Carol Fuller West End Neighborhood Assoc.
Norm Jensen Sangamon Valley Volunteers
Sherri Ludlam Macon County Solid Waste Dept.
Arlene Mannlein Herald & Review
Kathleen Merner Macon Co. Conservation District
Jeff Tish Macon County Conservation District
Charles Tribout Macon County Health Department

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The State of Macon County's
Environment

Have Your Say

A Community Survey for the Vision 2022
Environmental Vision Project



How much of a concern are these Macon County environmental issues to you?

	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not concerned</u>
1. Industrial emissions	_____	_____	_____
2. Vehicle emissions	_____	_____	_____
3. Industrial chemical use	_____	_____	_____
4. Agricultural chemical use	_____	_____	_____
5. Residential/small business chemical use	_____	_____	_____
6. Industrial/agricultural/personal practices that contribute to climate change	_____	_____	_____
7. Illegal waste dumping	_____	_____	_____
8. Recycling	_____	_____	_____
9. Landfill capacity	_____	_____	_____
10. Sanitary District sludge management	_____	_____	_____
11. Livestock waste management	_____	_____	_____
12. Air quality	_____	_____	_____
13. Water supply	_____	_____	_____
14. Water quality	_____	_____	_____
15. Energy use	_____	_____	_____
16. Development of alternative energy sources	_____	_____	_____
17. Urbanization of farm land	_____	_____	_____
18. Conservation of wildlife habitat	_____	_____	_____
19. Other	_____	_____	_____
20. Other	_____	_____	_____

Tell us about yourself male female live in town live in the country

under 21 age 21-34 age 35-55 age 55+

Water Quality

Water...a precious resource? Lake Decatur's water has been degraded due to many past and present human activities: applying fertilizer and pesticides to lawns and cropland, discharging industrial wastes, constructing buildings, driving vehicles. Portions of the lake have cloudy water, eroded banks, excess algae and silt buildup. In 2000 Illinois EPA rated it as fully capable of functioning as a public water supply but only partially able to support aquatic life, fish consumption, swimming and boating uses. *What will it take to make the lake healthy?*

The 2000 IEPA report for stream quality indicates that the 77-mile Upper Sangamon River can fully support aquatic life and fish consumption but is only partially able to support swimming. Smaller streams suffer more impacts: Mosquito Creek in rural western Macon Co. is only partially able to support aquatic life; Stevens Creek and Long Point Slough in the metro Decatur area have been negatively impacted by water runoff from streets and parking lots, fertilizers, pesticides and channelization. *What can be done to improve our streams?*

Largest recycler – You may not think of the Sanitary District of Decatur as a recycler, but it recovers and cleans 30 million gallons of water a day. That's dirty water from our homes, businesses, schools and factories. • The treatment plant generates 20-25% of its own electricity with methane gas captured from its process. It disinfects water with ultraviolet light rather than dangerous, toxic chlorine. The plant has ample capacity to meet future growth.

The cleaned water is discharged to the Sangamon River. In June, Eastern Illinois Univ. scientists reported their biologic study indicates "fair" water quality from the dam to Wyckles Road, with water downstream from the treatment plant better than upstream. • Farmers use the biosolids remaining from water treatment to add nutrients to corn crop land.

Public Health

Toxics in our environment – The state and federal EPA's toxic chemical databases are sources for learning which chemicals that can affect human health are released into the county's environment. Selected industrial and pollution control facilities report annually about manufacture, use, storage or transfer off-site (for treatment, recycling or disposal) of materials containing any of a long list of chemicals. (*Caution*—the data are only part of the information needed to assess human exposure.) • In 2001, Macon County was third in the state in total releases and transfers (8.5 million pounds, 2.1 lb. of which was transferred offsite). Decatur was the #1 city in reported releases to the air (5.6 million lb.), as it was for the 1996-2001 reporting period (37.2 million lb.) *Note: The Community Environmental Council will soon host a USEPA tele-session about the toxic chemical reporting program.*

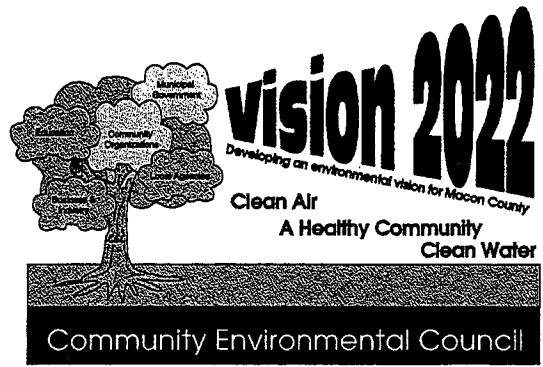
Drink up! – The Sangamon River is the source of the public water supply for Decatur and Mt. Zion, with Lake Decatur serving as a 3,000-acre water reservoir. The city's system has an excellent record of meeting or exceeding drinking water quality standards. Installation of an additional treatment process in 2002 means the nitrate standard will be met consistently. There is a need for more water storage in future years.



Area teens spent a cold morning in March cleaning up the Sangamon River near Rock Springs Center.

The State of Macon County's
Environment
Have Your Say

A Community Survey for the Vision 2022
Environmental Vision Project



What's your opinion?

Please check 1 of 3

Please check 1 of 2

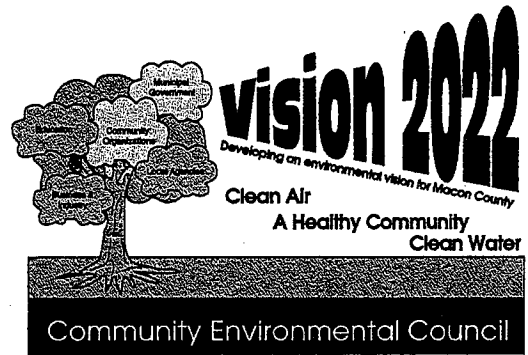
	Please check 1 of 3			Please check 1 of 2	
	<u>Good</u>	<u>Improvement Needed</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Will be better in 10 years</u>	<u>Will be worse in 10 years</u>
Air quality in Decatur	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Air quality in rural Macon County	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lake Decatur water quality	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sangamon River water quality	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other streams water quality	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Amount of public recreation areas in Decatur	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Amount public recreation areas in other towns	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Amount of public recreation areas in rural areas	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Amount of public natural areas in Decatur	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Amount of public natural areas in other towns	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Amount of public natural areas in rural areas	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Amount of public access points to streams and lakes	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Protection & preservation of wooded areas and grasslands	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Protection & preservation of stream corridors and wetlands	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Protection & preservation of prime agricultural land	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Recycling availability in Decatur	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Recycling availability in other towns	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Recycling availability in rural areas	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Appendix F

**The State of Macon County's
Environment**

Have Your Say

A Community Survey for the Vision 2022
Environmental Vision Project

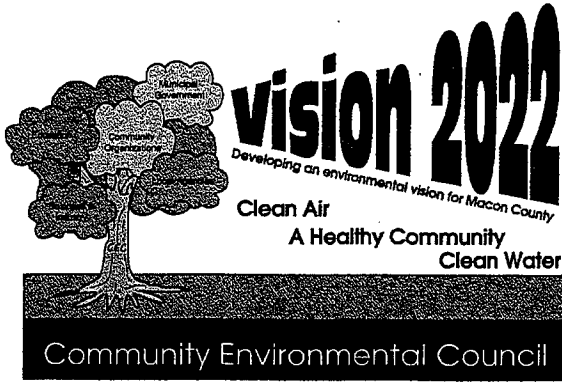


How much of a concern are these Macon County environmental issues to you?

	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not concerned</u>
1. Industrial emissions	_____	_____	_____
2. Vehicle emissions	_____	_____	_____
3. Industrial chemical use	_____	_____	_____
4. Agricultural chemical use	_____	_____	_____
5. Residential/small business chemical use	_____	_____	_____
6. Industrial/agricultural/personal practices that contribute to climate change	_____	_____	_____
7. Illegal waste dumping	_____	_____	_____
8. Recycling	_____	_____	_____
9. Landfill capacity	_____	_____	_____
10. Sanitary District sludge management	_____	_____	_____
11. Livestock waste management	_____	_____	_____
12. Air quality	_____	_____	_____
13. Water supply	_____	_____	_____
14. Water quality	_____	_____	_____
15. Energy use	_____	_____	_____
16. Development of alternative energy sources	_____	_____	_____
17. Urbanization of farm land	_____	_____	_____
18. Conservation of wildlife habitat	_____	_____	_____
19. Other	_____	_____	_____
20. Other	_____	_____	_____

Tell us about yourself male female live in town live in country
 under 21 age 21-34 age 35-55 55+

Thank you! Your views are important to a community-based environmental vision.



Have Your Say

Survey #2

A Community Survey for the CEC Environmental Vision Project

October 2003

The Vision 2022 Forum, the citizens group developing an environmental vision for Macon County, has collected information about the county's environment and listened to public opinion. In September the Vision 2022 Forum adopted a vision statement.

To achieve this vision, the Vision 2022 Forum group proposes the following goals and objectives for public comment. *Now it's your turn to have your say.* Rank the goals one through eleven (one being very important) in the boxes on the left. Check one box to the right of each objective telling us how important it is in the overall environmental vision. Add comments if you wish. Thank you!

A Vision for Macon County's Environment

In 2022 Macon County will be a community whose citizens, government, and businesses accept responsibility for the protection of their environment.

In 2022 Macon County will enjoy a sustainable society with a healthy environment and a strong economy that provide a high quality of life.

<i>Rank Goals 1 - 11</i>	PROPOSED GOALS & OBJECTIVES	<i>Rank the importance of the objectives to the vision</i>
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WATER QUALITY

	GOAL – Macon County's lakes and streams will meet or surpass environmental standards to ensure lakes and streams are safe for human use and are healthy environments for aquatic life.	
	Objective 1 – Encourage the protection of water quality by watershed rather than by political boundaries.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very
	Objective 2 - Manage water bodies for wildlife as well as for public use by restoring and maintaining habitat.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very
	Objective 3 – Minimize water pollution from soil erosion and stormwater runoff.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very
	Objective 4 – Promote the re-creation of wetlands to increase wildlife habitat and protect water quality.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very
	Objective 5 – Develop a major watershed research center in Macon County.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very

Objective 3 – Educate people about wildlife’s need for habitat and wildlife’s role in a healthy ecosystem.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	not very very

AIR QUALITY

GOAL - Air that meets or surpasses environmental standards that are designed to protect human health, the environment and the economy.	
Objective 1 – Improve residents’ knowledge of the county’s air quality.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very
GOAL – Residents live, work and play in safety.	
Objective 1 – Reduce incidence of children’s exposure to lead and mercury.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very
Objective 2 – Reduce use of hazardous products for health and environmental benefits.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very

ENERGY

GOAL – Wise use of energy in transportation, homes and businesses for the well-being of residents and a healthy environment.	
Objective 1 – Promote an increase in energy-wise buildings.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very
Objective 2 – Promote increased use of environmentally friendly vehicles and alternative transportation.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very
Objective 3 – Develop “green” energy supplies, such as wind and solar power.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very

GREEN ECONOMY

GOAL – A business community committed to environmentally friendly operations.	
Objective 1 – Promote environmentally friendly actions by individuals, businesses and organizations.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very
Objective 2 – Build knowledge of environmentally friendly actions.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very
Objective 3 - Adopt economic development policies to attract and foster businesses that provide “green” services or products.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very

YOUR OBJECTIVES & COMMENTS		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very
		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very
		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very
		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> not very very

Appendix H Action Steps

Participants in Vision 2022 had many suggestions on how to meet the goals and objectives of the environmental vision. The ideas came from those who attended the five Forum sessions, who were present at club and local government meetings where the project was discussed and those who completed the two surveys. The suggestions are listed below as possible action steps to meet the goals and objectives of the vision. The CEC will refer to them as it works to make the vision a reality in the years to come.

WATER

Goal – Macon County’s lakes and streams will meet or surpass environmental standards to ensure they are safe for human use and healthy environments for aquatic life.

Objective – Encourage the protection of water quality by watersheds rather than by political boundaries.

Action step 1 Create a watershed collaboration group of key stakeholders such as landowners, community groups, gov’t, experts.

Objective – Minimize water pollution from soil erosion and stormwater runoff.

Action Step 1 – Work with Soil and Water Conservation District to strengthen enforcement of ordinances, educate landowners, etc.

Action Step 2 – Identify additional funding sources, model plans and measure for erosion prevention.

Action Step 3 – Work with community groups (Scouts, etc.) on re-vegetation projects.

Action Step 4 – Educate residents on reducing use or managing oil, herbicides, fertilizer, etc. to prevent polluting water bodies.

Action Step 5 – Provide convenient disposal for waste materials.

Action Step 6 – Maximize use of state and federal cost-sharing funds to control erosion and reduce runoff.

Action Step 7– Stabilize or restore [xxx] feet of stream banks by [date].

Action Step 8 – Educate residents about utilizing conservation easements to protect water bodies.

Action Step 9 – Add to county zoning ordinances stream and wetland protection measures, erosion and stormwater controls based on models endorsed by environmental, planning and agricultural agencies.

Action Step 10 – Study additional incentives for landowners to implement conservation measures and provide recommendations.

Goal – Macon County water resources will be safe and plentiful for drinking water and other beneficial uses.

Objective – Develop a comprehensive plan for wise use of water.

Action Step 1 – Convene a task force of water users, suppliers and experts.

Action Step 2 – Study recycling water supply for industry, recreation and agriculture.

Objective – Protect groundwater supplies from contamination.

AIR

Goal – Work with local, state and federal units of government to ensure that air quality standards continue to be met.

Objective – Build awareness among residents of the excellent air quality all areas of the county enjoy.

Action Step 1 - Improve residents' knowledge of the county's air quality and existing laws.

Action Step 2 - Work with state and federal units of government to ensure that air quality standards are met.

Action Step 3 – Facilitate dialogue among residents and industry about gains made in air quality (odor, chemical emissions), continuing improvements and weaknesses.

Objective – Work with local governments and businesses regarding replacing older vehicles with cleaner burning ones (ones that use alternative fuels or that are hybrids) to protect the air quality in Macon County.

Action Step 1 - Work with city and county government to promote and adopt practices that use cleaner burning vehicles.

ENERGY

Goal – Conservation of energy in transportation, homes and businesses for the well-being of residents and a healthy environment.

Objective – Promote energy wise buildings.

Action Step 1 – Expand conservation assistance to low-income households.

Action Step 2 – Expand conservation assistance to small businesses.

Action Step 3 – Educate residents about energy-saving measures.

Action Step 4 – Adopt energy efficient building codes.

Action Step 5 – Work with city and county governments to upgrade government buildings, street and traffic lights, and equipment.

Objective – Promote green energy supplies.

Action Step 1 – Recruit wind energy and solar power businesses.

Action Step 2 – Research growing crops and using crop residues for power generation.