

Greener Greenville

Goals, Strategies and Tasks



Green Ribbon Advisory Committee (GRAC)

Energy and Buildings

Goals, Strategies and Tasks

1. Explore opportunities to adopt sustainable practices in city buildings and operations

- a) Encourage city building construction to incorporate green building practices
 - i. Review 5-year plan for building construction and identify green building options
 - ii. Plan city buildings to accommodate future solar power installation
 - iii. Formalize process for GRAC input into city building procurement process
- b) Increase energy and resource efficiency in existing city buildings
 - i. Complete energy use inventory of city owned buildings
 - ii. Target community centers for green building technology installation
 - iii. Implement efficiency improvements to city hall
 - iv. Explore water heating system upgrades
 - v. Identify high priority efficiency upgrades to city-owned buildings
 - vi. Investigate smart meter deployment in city buildings to improve usage tracking
- c) Encourage use of sustainable building products in the city-owned built environment
 - i. Pursue energy neutral, efficient or intelligent fixtures and equipment
 - ii. Explore opportunities for solar parking canopies
 - iii. Explore opportunities for distributed network of electric car charging stations

2. Explore opportunities to adopt sustainable practices in the community's built environment

- a) Allow and incentivize development to follow industry accepted green building standards as an alternative to portions of currently adopted building codes
 - i. Explore options for incentives and alternative compliance paths with city staff/commissions
 - ii. Advocate for ordinance and design guideline revisions to allow for sustainable building features
- b) Encourage private use of energy-efficient and water-saving products and practices
 - i. Advocate for weatherization and sustainability programs in existing affordable housing initiatives
 - ii. Explore the possibility of creating a building energy audit service for commercial buildings

- iii. Explore opportunities to deploy smart meters to community to track energy use
 - iv. Improve marketing of existing energy efficiency programs
- c) Explore options to improve community efficiency through Duke energy franchise agreement

3. Investigate opportunities to increase adoption of renewable energy.

- a) Promote non-profit entities that advocate for renewable energy installations
 - i. Lend city marketing capabilities to non-profit community initiatives
- b) Investigate opportunities for the city to purchase or produce clean energy
 - i. Investigate Duke Community Solar initiative to reduce city energy bills
 - ii. Investigate purchase of renewable energy credits to offset city carbon emissions
- c) Pursue private partnerships for renewable energy development on public property.
 - i. Explore lease agreements with solar developers for city rooftops
 - ii. Identify city owned green spaces that could be good candidates for solar power installations.
 - iii. Collaborate with Greenville County & Greenville County School District to identify potential renewable energy projects on publicly-owned property for solar arrays

Mobility

Goals, Strategies and Tasks

- 1. Encourage quality growth and repurposing that supports multi-modal transportation**
 - a) Identify viable higher density development areas
 - ➔ **M-1 Utilize the Connections for Sustainability BRT/TOD Feasibility report to identify areas ripe for Transit-Oriented Development:**
 - b) Support and simplify regulations and policies that encourage redevelopment within infill areas
 - ➔ **M-2 Support increased density, mixed-use developments, and pedestrian- and transit-oriented development**
 - c) Improve quality of life by making work, retail, play and home accessible
 - ➔ **M-7 Develop and implement a program to encourage private sector incentives and support for public and alternative transportation.**
 - ➔ **M-2 Support increased density, mixed-use developments, and pedestrian- and transit-oriented development**

- 2. Expand bicycling and walking as major forms of transportation**
 - a) Implement the *Bicycle Master Plan*
 - ➔ **M-3 Implement a bicycle boulevard route paralleling the Augusta Street corridor**
 - ➔ **M-11 Become a Silver-level Bicycle-Friendly Community**
 - ➔ **M-12 Become a Walk-Friendly Community**
 - b) Create complete streets
 - ➔ **M-13 Improve effectiveness of current complete streets resolution**
 - c) Encourage commuting by transit, bike and foot
 - ➔ **M-14 Establish commuter benefit plan for City employees**
 - ➔ **M-7 Develop and implement a program to encourage private sector incentives and support for public and alternative transportation.**
 - ➔ **M-15 Promote transit use in targeted neighborhoods, identify barriers and educate on options**
 - d) Encourage bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly development
 - ➔ **M-16 Require developments to lay out trails Included in Trails and Greenways plan**
 - ➔ **M-17 Explore possible regulatory approaches to encourage bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly development**
 - e) Implement the *Trails and Greenways Master Plan*
 - ➔ **M-4 Develop implementation criteria for the Trails & Greenways Master Plan.**

3. Promote cooperative and public transportation

- a) Support the implementation of *Greenlink Transit Vision and Master Plan*
 - ➔ **M-5 Appoint a representative to the Upstate Transit Coalition**
 - ➔ **M-6 Develop an integrated mapping/route-finding program for multi-modal transportation throughout the City of Greenville**
 - ➔ **M-7 Develop and implement a program to encourage private sector incentives and support for public and alternative transportation.**
- b) Support efforts to reduce wait times, improve communication and improve connectivity of public transportation
- c) Maximize synergies during implementation of *Bicycle Master Plan* and *Transit Vision and Master Plans*
 - ➔ **M-19 Implement policy to coordinate development efforts between departments (Development, Engineering, Greenlink, Parks & Rec, Permitting, Public Works, etc.) to ensure that adopted master plans are accommodated where appropriate**
- d) Partner to be part of regional rail service
 - i. Promote express bus routes a precursor to light rail, which is a precursor to regional rail
- e) Encourage carpooling and car sharing
 - ➔ **M-7 Develop and implement a program to encourage private sector incentives and support for public and alternative transportation**

4. Expand use of alternative-fuel and low-emissions vehicles

- a) Support alternative-fuel and low-emission vehicle initiatives and infrastructure
 - ➔ **M-8 Develop a plan for alternate fuel infrastructure**
 - ➔ **M-18 Implement EV Charging Station Plan**
- b) Transition the City fleet to alternative fuel and low-emission vehicles
 - ➔ **M-9 Select replacement vehicles for city-owned fleets based on life cycle costs. Develop an unbiased, comprehensive set of costs and performance for alternate fuel vehicles for life-cycle comparisons against otherwise comparable petroleum-fueled vehicles**
- c) Promote alternative-fuel and low-emission vehicle purchase
 - ➔ **M-10 Host annual weekend events for electric vehicle owners**

Natural Systems

Goals, Strategies and Tasks

- 1. Protect and improve water resources and quality**
 - a) Promote natural processes and sustainable techniques to improve watershed quality
 - ➔ **NS-1 Strengthen and clarify buffer and riparian standard requirements**
 - ➔ **NS-2 Implement low impact development techniques within the city**
 - b) Enhance the city's ability to handle stormwater and extreme weather events
 - c) Encourage city water conservation practices
- 2. Conserve, restore, increase, and sustainably manage greenspace**
 - d) Develop a city Parks Master Plan that sustainably supports natural assets
 - ➔ **NS-3 Support city efforts to develop a Parks Master Plan and asset inventories**
 - e) Promote the development of park resources equitably within city neighborhoods
 - f) Enhance development standards to encourage preservation of greenspace
- 3. Monitor and improve air quality**
 - g) Support a healthy urban forest for air quality benefits
 - ➔ **NS-4 Recommend best practices for forestry staff, planning, and instruction**
 - h) Develop a city-wide emissions inventory
 - ➔ **NS-5 Commission and maintain an emissions inventory for the city**
- 4. Promote urban ecology to protect our city's natural diversity**
 - i) Increase awareness of the city's natural assets
 - ➔ **NS-6 Develop educational initiatives to preserve and increase the city's natural assets**

Recycling and Waste Management

Goals, Strategies and Tasks

1. Institute sustainable waste and recycling practices in the City of Greenville

- a) Examine options for an ordinance that addresses multi-family recycling.
- b) Increase recycling in all City buildings, facilities and parks.
- c) Include sustainable practices in the design and implementation of Greenville's new City Park.
- d) Work with Greenville County Schools and Greenville County to promote recycling programs in all of their buildings and facilities.
- e) Promote environmental education throughout the City to increase recycling and composting and decrease waste generation
- f) Eliminate use of plastic bags and Styrofoam in the City. Revisit and consider options for banning or instituting a user fee for plastic bags and Styrofoam containers.
- g) Expand E-waste collection to 4 times per year instead of 2 times per year, possibly partnering with the County to share the task.

2. Expand composting opportunities in the City of Greenville

- a) Research composting initiatives in other cities of similar size around the US
- b) Work with Public Works to understand the impact composting would have on the overall trash collection for the city
- c) Find a site for the city to pilot food waste composting
- d) Increase awareness/education about home composting
- e) Install trash, recycling and composting bins around the city, similar to what other cities are doing
- f) Make composting bins available from the city at low to no cost to residents. This would be a voluntary program.
- g) Provide a means to compost for residents who do not have the space or ability to compost, such as curbside bins or drop-off locations.
- h) Work with downtown restaurants to gauge interest in composting and set-up a pilot composting program with interested restaurants.

3. Develop other recycling options for the City of Greenville

- a) Examine opportunities to establish a Regional Material Recycling Facility in Greenville, including exploring opportunities for a Public/Private Partnership.
- b) PW to write an RFP for a new MRF

4. Examine opportunities to reduce the cost and increase the efficiency of providing curbside solid waste collection and provide City Council with recommendations

- a) Expand curbside collection programs for residential waste to full automation.
- b) Examine curbside collection options for recyclable materials including a "Single Stream Recycling" program.

- c) Examine curbside collection options for yard waste.
- d) Implement an equitable fee system for solid waste collection and minimize or eliminate the City's solid waste subsidy
- e) Develop a pilot project utilizing a third cart for yard waste collection.

5. Examine opportunities to convert the closed 98-acre Mauldin Rd. Landfill into a community asset.

- a) Examine reuse opportunities and constraints for the site.
- b) All analysis to be completed in collaboration with the City's Economic Development, Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments.