

Greenfields and Green Wheels Committee

Goal:

To reduce automobile trips, vehicles miles traveled, and the city's transportation emissions through coordinated land use and transportation planning.

Objectives:

- Determine current vehicle miles traveled originating in and destined to the city, transit ridership, and per capita transportation emissions as a baseline measurement tool.
- Build upon previous planning efforts with additional analysis to identify a land use and transportation infrastructure investment strategy for the city.
- Recommend zoning adjustments and capital improvement priorities necessary to implement the coordinated land use and transportation vision.

Goal:

To facilitate the redevelopment of underutilized sites throughout the city, transitioning blighted properties into neighborhood amenities and adding to the city's tax rolls.

Objectives:

- Compile a citywide list of underutilized sites and identify their particular barriers to redevelopment including, but not limited to, needing environmental remediation.
- Use the coordinated land use and transportation plan as a filter to identify those sites that yield the greatest potential for redevelopment that will reinforce neighborhood character and provide tax revenue.
- Develop a marketing and divestment strategy that will result in the redevelopment of those targeted sites and their addition to the city's tax roll.
- Identify funding sources for the initial phase environmental testing of the highest priority sites in city ownership or through partnerships with private owners.

Goal:

To provide city residents, workers, and visitors with a wide range of mobility options that connect origins with desired destinations with least carbon intensive mode.

Objectives:

- Create a prioritized list of mass transit capital and operating improvements with a financing strategy for those within the city's and the transit agency's control and an advocacy plan to institute those that are not.
- Identify deficits in the city's pedestrian infrastructure, prioritize improvements, and create an implementation plan.
- Create a bike plan for the city with prioritized improvements and an implementation strategy.

Green Energy / Green Buildings Committee

Goal - Analysis

To utilize sustainable energy practices and production as a driver for economic development, to generate significant savings for municipal facilities, businesses and residents, and to reduce the carbon footprint of the community.

Objectives:

- Create a carbon footprint analysis for the city and benchmark all municipal buildings, schools and public housing projects as a baseline measurement tool
- Create a plan that projects the potential savings from the renovation of existing municipal facilities by improving their energy efficiency to Energy Star standards
- Create a plan that evaluates the saving from developing potential renewable energy projects in the city, both small scale and larger integrated projects
- Evaluate the benefits of establishing an Energy Improvement District

Goal – Sustainable Energy

To improve the energy efficiency of both public and private sector facilities and residences, creating real dollar savings from these efficiencies.

Objectives:

- Determine the potential savings from a broad-based weatherization/energy efficiency programs for residential, small/medium-sized business customers, and for public facilities (municipal buildings, schools and public housing)
- Implement a plan which develops potential renewable energy projects in the city, both small scale and larger integrated projects
- Identify key sources of public & private sector funding, shared savings programs, and loan assistance mechanisms to support the city's energy efficiency goals
- Identify training and retraining opportunities for workers and cost-effective management vehicles or private sector business opportunities to do the work
- Adopt a set of Green Building standards for all new construction and renovation projects

Goal - Purchasing

To lower energy costs for groups of energy users through aggregation programs and other bulk purchasing opportunities

Objectives:

- Identify key user groups for purchasing energy commodities by matching load requirements to create maximum savings opportunities
- Create a template of standard contractual terms for use by potential partners
- Conduct a procurement process to realize savings

Green Space, Recycling and Water Resources

Goal:

To ensure that the city's residents have access to abundant, high quality, interconnected open spaces that foster community cohesion and stewardship.

Objectives:

- Establish a citywide Conservation Commission, conservancy group, or other body able to lead the implementation of the recommendations pertaining to green spaces and water resources within the city.
- Develop a Green Space Master Plan that includes an inventory of protected and unprotected parks and open spaces, urban forestry strategy, management and maintenance budgets and design guidelines.
- Promote the protection of undeveloped open spaces, particularly in underserved areas.
- Encourage the creation of new open spaces through zoning, particularly along waterfronts.
- Identify opportunities for small-scale community green spaces such as community gardens and public plazas.
- Create connections between green spaces through greenways, urban trails and public transportation routes such as the Pequonnock River Greenway.
- Ensure adequate public access to open spaces and waterfront for all potential users.
- Promote community involvement at green spaces through design and programming, including facilities, events and stewardship opportunities.

Goal:

To develop a "smart" waste management strategy that identifies efficiencies within the city's waste stream, improving recycling rates and reducing overall solid waste output, while seizing opportunities for recycled and solid waste industries.

Objectives:

- Propose strategies for improving recycling performance of residents, businesses and city agencies.
- Ensure that demolition and construction projects recycle most or all eligible materials.
- Help to drive the market for recycled material products by encouraging their purchase through public and private sector procurement processes and requirements for new construction.
- Propose strategies to reduce city-wide solid waste output considering both carrot and stick approaches potentially including a citywide contest for neighborhoods to receive funding for local projects in proportion to money saved through local recycling.
- Develop a composting program in conjunction with the parks department, community gardens, and neighborhood groups.
- Ensure that recycling and garbage pick up staff are trained to inform residents and employees throughout the city on proper recycling guidelines at time of pick up if requested.

Water Resources

Goal:

To ensure that residents have access to safe, clean drinking water and healthy coastal resources.

Objectives:

- Assess the city's water supply and wastewater infrastructure with respect to reliability, age, efficiency, security and capacity while taking into account projected population increases.
- Promote water efficiency through educational campaigns; incentivizing use of grey water & drought tolerant plantings; developing city-wide programs to encourage low-flow toilets, shower and faucet heads, amongst other strategies.
- Develop and implement strategies to capture stormwater runoff and reduce nonpoint source pollution using built and natural systems.
- Reduce the number of overflow events at the WPCA plants into Long Island Sound.
- Protect and restore critical coastal and riverfront habitat.

Green Businesses, Jobs & Purchasing Committee

Goal:

To assist Green Businesses grow and prosper in Bridgeport, creating green collar jobs and helping the city diversify its business base and improve its environmental footprint.

Objectives:

- Identify existing barriers to green businesses growth and work to eliminate them
- Create a green business incubator to support the growth of environmentally friendly business enterprises, either through expansion of an existing business incubator or in the creation of a new green-focused one
- Identify existing local, state and federal incentive programs and policies to grow small, green businesses and create new green-collar jobs.
- Research best practices in other U.S. municipalities to determine relevant applications

Goal:

To create 1000 new green collar jobs in Bridgeport by 2011 by recruiting green businesses and training workers for the new green economy.

Objectives:

- Create an inventory of existing green jobs and identify potential sectors for expansion
- Bring educators from the vocational, community college, and college sectors together to create training and retraining opportunities
- Create and / or utilize federal, state and local policies and incentive programs to stimulate green jobs creation.
- Research best practices in other U.S. municipalities to determine relevant applications

Goal:

To utilize the purchasing power of the public & private sectors to buy green products, including but not limited to recycled materials, green cleaning products, green energy, and other eco-friendly products and materials

Objectives:

- Identify the universe of materials, products, and services that fit this criteria and determine whether green products are readily available and in a reasonably similar cost range
- Create public, private and non-profit buying groups to reduce costs and increase green purchasing power
- Create green recognition and rewards programs to encourage participation
- Research best practices in other U.S. municipalities to determine relevant applications

Green Marketing & Education Committee

Goal:

Develop an integrated plan to educate youth/students on sustainability that will assist them in better understanding on how energy efficiencies and conservation contributes to a healthier environment and generates cost savings.

Objectives:

- In conjunction with the Green Businesses, Jobs & Purchasing Committee, develop a green jobs career ladder for students – a Conversation Corps of energy auditors – and work with the Green Jobs committee to have students do audits of their school.
- Develop a database of educational resources to use in schools: U. I. Programs. DEP programs, EPA programs, etc.
- Develop promotional items for students with a B-Green2020 theme to use as prizes (Back Pack, Shopping Bag, Aluminum water jug etc.).
- Focus student attention in schools on B-Green2020 at specific time periods (EARTH DAY programs etc.) and continue through out the school year.
- Partner with community base organizations to develop interactive opportunities that will engage the youth in energy-saving activities using hands-on, real-world projects.
- Work with school officials to identify opportunities to incorporate sustainability into the Bridgeport School curriculum.

Goal:

Increase the awareness and introduce best practices to Bridgeport residential households on living in a more sustainable manner.

Objectives:

- Call to action at church and community groups
- Develop resource materials that will provide the residential communities with information regarding programs that will assist in energy and cost savings to improve sustainability in our communities.
- Develop promotional materials regarding B-Green2020 to be sent home by students
- Develop new PR materials about B-Green2020

Goal:

Brand the B-Green initiative as a vital component of the city's revitalization plan

Objectives:

- Create a B-Green2020 logo
- Have students design bill boards that use the logo and pass the message within the community
- Gather research to identify key insights to support the B-Green2020 initiative and benchmark findings in comparison to similar initiatives outside of the Bridgeport community
- Create targeted communications to key decision makers and stakeholders highlighting the economic and social value of sustainability
- Develop an overall marketing plan to generate awareness and support for the B-Green 2020 initiative