

## Summary of Bridgeport's Early Climate Protection Efforts

Bridgeport's comprehensive sustainability initiative, known as B-Green 2020, builds upon many early and ongoing initiatives, as described below.

- Early initiatives (These were recognized in the first *Energy and Environment Best Practices Guide* of the United States Conference of Mayors, published in June 2007):
  - Municipal energy efficiency and conservation programs
    - Utility bill usage analysis performed with in-house personnel to identify abnormalities among similar buildings or negative trends for specific buildings.
    - Operational time changes with installed energy management systems.
    - Employee awareness to change habits regarding turning off lighting and computers not in use.
    - Installation of lighting controls switches and occupancy sensors.
    - Lighting fixture retrofit upgrades.
    - Replacement of antiquated major HVAC components.
    - Change over to LED traffic lights.
    - Replacement of vehicles with alternate fuel vehicles—natural gas and hybrids.
  - Community programs
    - 2006-Lighting Fair hosted by City of Bridgeport and TechniArt to sell compact fluorescent lights and fixtures, at reduced prices, to employees and the general public. Sales merchandise was subsidized by the state's energy conservation fund managed by two state electrical utility companies (United Illuminating and Connecticut Light and Power). Due to the success of the Fair the City hosted a second Lighting Fair later in that same year.
    - Compressed natural gas fueling station opened for public use at the Santa Fuel fueling station. It is the only station available to the public between New York City and Hartford and was the result of a combined effort between the City of Bridgeport, Iroquois Gas Transmission System, Santa Energy Corporation, the State of Connecticut, Southern Connecticut Gas Company and the Clean Cities Coalition of Southwest Connecticut. Federal and private funding was used.
  - As a result of these programs:
    - From 2003 to 2007 annual electricity usage for street lights declined by 2.9 Million kWh
    - From 2005 to 2007 annual electricity usage for traffic lights declined by 42,000 kWh (no figures for 2003-2005)
    - Street lights and traffic lights combined showed annual GHG reduction from 2005 to 2007 of 220 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e (18 for traffic lights and 202 for street lights)
    - From 2005 to 2007 GHG from electricity use in municipal buildings decreased by nearly 2,400 metric tons
- 2005-Bridgeport became a member of ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign
- Bridgeport is a participating city in support of The Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement created at the 73rd Annual Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors in Chicago on June 10-14, 2005
- 2007-20% green energy purchased for most municipal buildings

- The City of Bridgeport contracted to purchase 4,200 MWh;
  - Bridgeport Board of Education contracted to purchase 4,700 MWh as “green power” from Constellation NewEnergy
- 2008 Mayor Finch participates in Mayors’ Institute on Climate Change in New York City to discuss innovative solutions to local climate mitigation and adaptation with peers from across the tri-state region and professionals from across the nation. This program was funded by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and managed by Regional Plan Association (RPA) with support from ICLEI.
- 2008-baseline inventory of city and community GHG emissions completed through contract with RPA, thus completing Milestone 1 of the CCP Campaign
- 2008-Energy Improvement District enabled through local legislative approval allowing for future development of localized green energy supply
- 2008-Mayor Finch signs Executive Order calling for sustainability planning through a public/private partnership to achieve environmental, economic and social planning goals. As part of this, Bridgeport launches its *B-Green 2020 Initiative* as comprehensive program to decrease carbon emissions, green the City of Bridgeport and promote green jobs and technology along with other business growth
- Ongoing-Educational efforts to boost recycling; program piloting large totes instead of recycling bins introduced to one neighborhood in 2008
- Ongoing-Street tree planting program in public right-of-ways; incorporates conservation education and work program for high school students
- Ongoing-Municipal solid waste disposed of through controlled incineration, which is considered a carbon-neutral means of waste disposal of many types of waste by accepted inventory accounting methods
- Ongoing-Brownfield site assessment and cleanup on city-owned sites
- Ongoing-Hybrid fuel (gasoline/CNG) vehicles brought into use in municipal fleet
- CNG-fueled Bookmobile bus brought into municipal fleet
- 2008-Bridgeport Master Plan, known as *Bridgeport 2020*, completed; incorporates full requirements of the State Plan of Conservation and Development including provisions for smart growth and adherence to environmentally-sustainable land use and transportation practices
- 2008-09 -Draft zoning regulation changes created in accord with *Bridgeport 2020* goals
- 2008 Storm Water Management Regulations created in accord with *Bridgeport 2020* goals
- 2008 GPS installations in portion of municipal city fleet to manage VMT, raise awareness of VMT by municipal drivers, and reduce GHG emissions
- 2009 Bridgeport Housing Authority commits to energy-saving measures expected to reduce emissions by more than 3,000 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e per year in its 2500 units and save almost 96 million gallons of water per year
- 2009 Conservation Corps established as dual green job opportunity for young adults/community environmental canvassing and outreach program