Sustainability action plan booklet

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Overview

As the City of Henderson seeks to promote a more sustainable future, we are committed to maintaining a high quality of life while pursuing a progressive approach to environmental issues. The OurHenderson campaign emphasizes personal responsibility as the key to our overall success in making sustainability a top priority in our community. Successful implementation of sustainability will ensure that the City is competitively positioned for future growth and preserving quality of life for future generations.

The Sustainability Action Plan is organized around seven broad themes: Energy, Water, Recycling & Waste Reduction, Transportation, Urban Design, Urban Nature, and Environmental Health. Each theme has established goals and objectives identified through the interdepartmental efforts of the Executive Steering Committee and its working group, the “Green Team.” Specific actions and strategies to implement the Sustainability Plan are developed through interdepartmental collaboration led by the five implementation teams and coordinated with the City’s annual performance budgeting process.

In November 2008, the City Council adopted the following Guiding Principles for Sustainability:

**Our Guiding Principles for Sustainability**

**Enhancing our Environment through a Commitment to Responsible Stewardship**
Conservation and protection of natural resources are key elements of sustainability. The city is committed to implementing policies and programs that protect the quality of our air and water, promote the use of renewable energy, reduce our overall consumption of resources, and encourage recycling and waste reduction.

**Leadership by Example**
The City leads by example in the community by operating its facilities and services in a sustainable manner. The City is committed to implementing sustainable policies and practices in municipal operations without compromising the high level of service our citizens have come to expect.

**Awareness and Participation throughout the Community**
The City will foster an ethic of conservation and stewardship throughout the community by working in partnership with individuals, schools, businesses, community-based groups, and others to actively create, sponsor, and promote sustainability awareness and education programs.

**Environmental Quality and the Health of our Economy are Interdependent**
A healthy environment is integral to the long-term economic interests of the community. The City is committed to expanding and diversifying our economy by attracting, retaining, and supporting environmentally-friendly businesses to the City. We will also promote the use of sustainable products and practices by existing businesses and our residents.

**Local Actions have Regional, National and Global Implications**
As part of a larger community of interests, the City is committed to exploring and implementing model environmental programs. Our strategic thinking and innovative approaches to sustainable development will make a significant contribution to local, regional, national and international sustainability efforts.
Theme 1: ENERGY

As energy prices increase, the City recognizes our need to conserve energy and increase the use of renewable energy sources. As a first step, the City is improving energy efficiency of City buildings and City operations and hopes to increase the use of environmentally responsible energy sources in the future.

GOAL 1 RENEWABLE ENERGY
Increase the use of renewable energy in City operations and throughout our community.

Objectives:
1. Increase awareness of the use of renewable energy within our community.
2. Create incentives for the use of renewable energy within our community.
3. Increase the City’s use of renewable energy at city-owned facilities.

GOAL 2 ENERGY EFFICIENCY
Increase energy efficiency in new and existing buildings in City operations and throughout the community.

Objectives:
1. Increase awareness of energy efficiency in homes and other buildings throughout our community.
2. Create incentives for energy efficiency in homes and other buildings throughout our community.
3. Increase energy efficiency within City-owned facilities.

GOAL 3 EMISSION REDUCTIONS
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in City operations and throughout our community.

Objectives:
1. Increase community awareness and involvement in reducing the community’s overall carbon footprint.
2. Reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions within our community.
3. Reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions in City operations.

ProCaps Laboratories/TWC Construction, located in Henderson, installed 680 KW solar panels to shade their parking area. This project contributed to TWC Construction receiving the “2008 Owner of the Year” Green Award from the Las Vegas Business Press.

A range of energy conservation measures implemented throughout City facilities save an average of over $250,000 per year.
Theme 2: WATER

In the desert southwest, water is our most precious resource. Southern Nevada averages only four inches of rainfall each year. Managing our water wisely and conserving what we use will help assure adequate supplies throughout the year. The City is working to conserve water through pro-active measures to increase water conservation, lower water consumption and encourage efficient water use.

GOAL 4    WATER CONSERVATION
Reduce per capita water consumption in City operations and throughout our community.

Objective:
1 Implement the recommendations of the Department of Utility Services Community Advisory Committee.

GOAL 5    WATER QUALITY
Protect the ecological integrity of our community’s drinking water sources and associated ecosystems.

Objective:
1 Implement the goals of the regional Water Quality Plan.

GOAL 6    STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
Support sustainable watershed management policies in City operations and throughout our community.

Objective:
1 Improve stormwater management standards and practices in City operations and throughout our community.

Mission Hills Park Turf Reduction Before & After Photos

The City’s Turf Conversion Program received the “Best Small Public Project” Green Award from the Las Vegas Business Press in 2008. As of July 2008, over 1 million sq. ft. of non-recreational turf was converted to desert landscaping, saving over 64.5 million gallons of water and $220,000 per year.

The award winning Project GREEN (Green Valley Ecology, Environment, and Nature), is a 2.5-mile habitat restoration project for the Pittman Wash.
Theme 3: RECYCLING & WASTE REDUCTION

Purchasing items with recycled content, choosing reusable containers over single-use items, and selecting products that last longer are just some of the ways we can reduce waste. The City is committed to reducing waste, reducing the use of disposable products, and implementing a user-friendly recycling program.

GOAL 7  RECYCLING
Increase recycling in City operations and throughout our community.

Objectives:
1. Engage recycling and waste service providers as partners in the City’s and community’s efforts to increase recycling citywide.
2. Increase opportunities for recycling within our community.
3. Increase opportunities for recycling within City operations.

GOAL 8  RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION
Promote responsible consumption in City operations and throughout our community.

Objectives:
1. Decrease the use of disposable and non-renewable products in City operations and citywide.

GOAL 9  WASTE REDUCTION
Decrease the overall amount of waste being disposed of in the landfill.

Objectives:
1. Decrease total waste being transported and disposed of in our landfill.

The City is increasing recycling rates throughout our community with new and innovative recycling programs.

The City of Henderson’s Parks & Recreation Department provides Christmas Tree Recycling centers. The tree chips produced are used to fertilize city parks. In 2008 over 18,951 trees were chipped resulting in a reduction of over 2,527 cubic yards of landfill waste.
Theme 4: URBAN DESIGN

Through careful design of our urban spaces, we create places that look, feel and function as a cohesive community. The City is committed to promoting the development of environmentally responsible buildings and creating vibrant pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods.

GOAL 10 GREEN BUILDING
Promote the use of green building standards in City facilities and throughout our community.

Objectives:
1. Adopt a green building rating system and measure building performance for all new and renovated City facilities.
2. Provide incentives to encourage the use of green building rating systems in private development.
3. Align City services and staff to support the use of a green building rating system.
4. Increase awareness of green building practices suitable for our desert climate.

GOAL 11 URBAN DESIGN
Promote sustainable site design and development standards throughout our community.

Objectives:
1. Continue to implement the principles and policies of balanced land uses, quality development, integrated desert environment, connected places, and arts and culture, as outlined in the City of Henderson Comprehensive Plan.

GOAL 12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Expand and diversify our economy by developing and retaining “green” businesses and industries in our community.

Objectives:
1. Increase consumer awareness of sustainable products and services.
2. Promote sustainable practices in existing businesses.
3. Support regional and local efforts to develop a skilled workforce focused on green jobs.
4. Incubate, attract, and retain green businesses and industries in our community.
Theme 5: URBAN NATURE

Healthy parks and open space are an important part of our quality of life in Southern Nevada. These amenities contribute greatly to the sense of place in our communities and make them more comfortable places to live. The City of Henderson is nationally recognized for its “green infrastructure” of trails, greenways, natural washes, and open spaces.

GOAL 13  PARKS, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE
Promote community health and well being through diverse and innovative parks, recreation and natural resource opportunities for all residents.

Objectives:
1. Implement the initiatives and goals regarding parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services as outlined in the City of Henderson Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

GOAL 14  URBAN FORESTRY
Enhance quality of life through active management of the City’s urban forest.

Objectives:
1. Develop a comprehensive strategy for protecting and improving the City’s urban forest.
2. Increase awareness of the public benefits of protecting and improving the City’s urban forest.

GOAL 15  HABITAT CONSERVATION
Conserve natural habitat areas through sustainable development practices.

Objectives:
1. Develop a citywide strategy for identifying, prioritizing, and conserving natural habitat areas citywide.
2. Support collaborative efforts to promote and maintain the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

The City has more than 40 parks and more than 40 miles of completed trails to enjoy. The City’s Open Space and Trails Plan was recognized with the “Honor Award” in 2007 for Planning & Urban Design by the American Society of Landscape Architects.

The City’s award-winning Bird Preserve is a national model for how municipal wastewater facilities can design their operations to positively support the environment.
Theme 6: TRANSPORTATION

Pollution resulting from the use of cars is one of the major factors that negatively impacts air quality in our region. Carpooling, using clean technology vehicles, and choosing alternative modes of transportation such as transit, biking, or walking can help reduce congestion and improve air quality. The City is committed to increasing fuel efficiency using alternative fuel vehicles within the City’s fleet, and reducing single driver commutes.

GOAL 16 MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION
Improve mobility by maximizing the multi-modal transportation opportunities throughout our community.

Objectives:
1. Increase public awareness regarding the benefits, availability, and use of multiple modes of transportation.
2. Promote transit-supportive land uses and site design along existing and proposed transit corridors.
3. Enhance pedestrian access, safety and comfort at existing and proposed transit facilities.

GOAL 17 CLEAN VEHICLES
Improve air quality and fuel efficiency by promoting the use of advanced emissions controls, alternative fuels, and fuel-efficient technology in public and private vehicles.

Objectives:
1. Increase public awareness regarding the benefits, availability, and use of clean vehicles.
2. Promote the use of electric, hybrid, and other alternative fuel vehicles throughout our community.
3. Promote fuel efficiency methods and standards in City operations and throughout our community.

GOAL 18 ROADWAY EFFICIENCY
Increase the efficiency of existing and planned roadways and transportation infrastructure.

Objectives:
1. Decrease the percentage of single-occupancy commuter trips.
2. Increase the availability and use of transportation alternatives, including walking and cycling.
3. Mitigate traffic congestion during peak commute times.
**Theme 7: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

We recognize that by caring for the health of our environment, we are safeguarding our own health and the health of future generations. We now have greater choices in the products that we use, the foods that we eat, and the cars we drive, reducing the health risks associated with pollutants that affect us all.

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**GOAL 19  ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

Prevent pollution and protect environmental health within our community.

**Objectives:**
1. Increase public awareness of the benefits, availability, and use of environmentally-friendly consumer products.
2. Increase the use of environmentally-friendly products in City operations.
3. Reduce or eliminate the use of products, chemicals, or compounds that may pose risks to our environment.

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**GOAL 20 COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Promote the economic, environmental, and public health benefits of community gardens and the availability of locally grown and organic foods.

**Objectives:**
1. Promote opportunities for community gardens throughout the City.
2. Increase awareness of the benefits and availability of locally grown and organic foods.
3. Increase awareness of desert gardening and the use of water-efficient irrigation products and techniques.

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**GOAL 21 AIR QUALITY**

Collaborate with other local agencies to improve air quality and reduce air pollutants across the valley.

**Objectives:**
1. Decrease the amount of particulate matter being released into the air throughout our community.
2. Decrease overall pollutants from emissions being released into the air throughout our community.
3. Promote programs and activities such as urban forest management to improve overall air quality.
The Sustainability Action Plan is intended to be a living document. Goals and objectives within the Plan are broadly written and may evolve as new data and research become available.

Five interdepartmental teams have been established to identify specific actions, strategies, and performance measures for each goal and objective identified in the Plan. These five teams include: Energy & Water, Transportation & Air Quality, Urban Design & Urban Nature, Recycling & Waste Reduction, and Economic Development. Each team will meet on a regular basis to discuss projects, coordinate efforts and report progress. Quarterly updates will be made to the Green Team, and the Executive Steering Committee will meet twice a year to review and prioritize efforts. The overall Sustainability Action Plan will be updated on a bi-annual basis in conjunction with the City’s established performance budgeting process.

For more information about the City’s on-going sustainability efforts, please visit our website at:
