

Sustainability Ideas:

PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF FARGO SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

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BY

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Postulates

All members of C.L.E.A.N. subscribe to the understanding that Climate Change is anthropogenic, and influences our circumstances of life in ways that brings about instability, and threatens our current and future prosperity.

Members of C.L.E.A.N. accepts that emissions from human activities come at a monetary, environmental, and human cost, that must be included in the price of products, services, and activities, thereby enabling a conservative use of natural resources for the welfare of our communities.

Members of C.L.E.A.N. are engaged, because they envision a future for the City of Fargo where sound sustainability practices are applied to all forms of energy use.

Members of C.L.E.A.N. are acutely aware of the human health costs associated with energy use and are adamant in protecting our children and future generations from avoidable exposures.

C.L.E.A.N. is a pragmatic and non-political organization, wishing to collaborate with City Administrations in the Fargo, Moorhead, West Fargo areas by suggesting achievable sustainability targets for our communities.

Definition

Sustainability* is the ability to continue a defined behavior indefinitely and may be divided into three key areas:

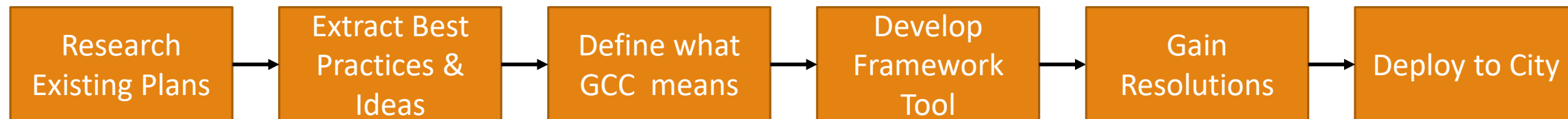
- [Environmental sustainability](#) is the ability to maintain rates of renewable resource harvest, pollution creation, and non-renewable resource depletion that can be continued indefinitely.
- [Economic sustainability](#) is the ability to support a defined level of economic production indefinitely.
- [Social sustainability](#) is the ability of a social system, such as a city, to function at a defined level of social well being indefinitely.

*Thwink.org Definition

<http://thwink.org/sustain/glossary/Sustainability.htm>

Greenest Cities Pact (GCP)

- First Greenest Cities Pact in ND (Fargo, Moorhead, West Fargo)
- To be Developed by a city's Sustainability Commission
- A plan, derived from 30 municipal plans + 10 regional/national organization recommendations
- That must offer **Ideas** for sustainability goals for municipalities
 - Based on Compilation of 1,150 suggested objectives, strategies, tactics, initiatives and programs
- Presented in an Excel-based tool listing the 1,150 ideas
- For communities to leverage, modify and use for sustainability planning
- Being used as sustainability planning tool for communities plus Councils of Governance (COG's)
- Focus areas: diversity, environmental, economic development, housing and community development, shared services and infrastructure.



Framework Areas



Climate

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Maintain clean and healthful air
- Develop resiliency to climate change impacts
- Engage the community in climate change mitigation and adaptation



Economic Development

- Promote innovation and a competitive workforce
- Cultivate local and sustainable development, jobs, and businesses



Energy

- Use energy for buildings and facilities efficiently
- Advance renewable energy
- Reduce energy consumption
- Enact policies that support clean energy
- Engage the community in clean energy practices



Land

- Encourage strategic development that upholds sustainability principles
- Conserve, restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems
- Support networks of accessible well-used and enjoyable parks
- Sustain a robust urban forest canopy
- Sustain beautiful landscapes that provide ecosystem services
- Achieve greater livability through sustainable land use and housing policies
- Cultivate a conservation ethic in the community



Leadership

- Enlist support for GRC2 goals through regional, state and national leadership
- Advocate for policies that align with and advance the GRC2
- Work collaboratively towards a sustainable region



Mobility

- Support safe and effective active transportation
- Maintain a diverse, safe, and efficient transportation network
- Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely
- Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs, and regulations
- Promote public and sustainable transportation choices



Municipal Operations

- Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices
- Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations
- Operate a safe, clean and efficient fleet
- Collect and manage data to advance sustainability



Sustainable Communities

- Promote cultural vibrancy in the community
- Foster a culture of health, safety, and wellness
- Increase access to sustainably grown local food
- Sustain community principles that are welcoming, inclusive and equitable
- Promote a sustainable identity for the community
- Ensure local policies and codes support sustainability
- Cultivate community values based on principles of sustainability



Waste & Recycling


- Support sustainable material management
- Recycle materials across all sectors
- Divert waste from landfills
- Enact policies that cause sustainable material management
- Engage the community in waste reduction and recycling



Water

- Use and distribute water efficiently
- Protect and improve water quality
- Manage water system assets sustainably
- Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater
- Practice stewardship of water resources
- Enact policies to protect water resources
- Engage the community in water stewardship

Example use of GCP: Energy

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P		
1		Category	 GOAL		OBJECTIVE > STRATEGY → + ADVANCED STRATEGY	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Contact Initials	Notes	ADD YOUR OWN	Link to Resource		
2																		
3																		
5	ENER	Energy Efficiency	Use energy for building and facilities efficiently	E2	Support energy audits and retro-commissioning studies of residential, commercial and institutional facilities												Y	
8				E5	Implement energy efficiency measures that have a short-term payback (i.e. lighting, occupancy sensors)													Y
10				E7	Collaborate with utilities and other agencies to upgrade streetlight equipment and integrate smart technologies													
11				E8	Achieve ENERGY STAR certification for municipal buildings													Y

<https://www.comed.com/WaysToSave/ForYourBusiness/Pages/default.aspx>

Example use of GCC: Energy

37 Candidate Actions

Category	GOAL	+ ADVANCED STRATEGY	Status	Notes	Link to Resource
Energy Efficiency	E1	Conduct energy audits of municipal facilities	Already achieved		
	E2	Support energy audits and retro-commissioning studies of residential, commercial and institutional facilities	In Progress		
	E3	Conduct retro-commissioning studies to optimize public facility performance	Planned for next 6 months		
	E4	Implement operational changes recommended in the retro-commissioning study	Planned for next 12-18 months		
	E5	Implement energy efficiency measures that have a short-term payback (i.e. lighting, occupancy sensors)	Interested in pursuing		
	E6	Implement energy efficiency measures that have a longer-term payback	Not relevant		
	E7	Collaborate with utilities and other agencies to upgrade streetlight equipment and integrate smart technologies	Contact Initials		
	E8	Achieve ENERGY STAR certification for municipal buildings	Notes		
Renewable Energy	E9	Utilize performance contracts to finance large energy efficiency projects	Link to Resource		
	E10	Demonstrate extreme energy efficiency with a model Pawtucket building			
	E11	Budget and plan for long-term energy efficiency equipment upgrades			
	E12	Install and operate renewable energy systems at municipal facilities			
	E12a	Use power purchase agreements, leasing and other strategies to finance renewable energy systems			
	E13	Support the adoption of renewable energy technologies in the community			
	E13a	Adopt codes and permitting practices that support renewable energy systems in the community			
	E13b	Facilitate access to renewable energy systems through collaborative financing for residents and business			
	E14	Procure renewable energy for public facilities			
	E14a	Procure a US EPA Green Power Community			
Energy Management	E15	Support procurement of renewable energy through community choice aggregation			
	E16	Develop renewable energy capacity targeting underutilized public properties (i.e. brownfields)			
	E17	Collaborate to provide access to community solar			
	E18	Power down equipment when possible			
	E22	Participate in energy management challenges and programs			
	E25	Facilitate the adoption of renewable energy technologies (i.e. solar, geothermal) by adapting building and zoning codes			
	E29	Negotiate franchise agreement with utilities to exercise lump sum payment option to finance clean energy			
	E30	Partner with electric and gas utilities to promote energy efficiency programs to the community			
	E32	Publicly recognize institutional and private buildings that achieve a specific energy efficiency targets			
	E33	Collaborate to educate the community about clean energy options			
Education & Outreach	E28	Enact an ordinance requiring periodic benchmarking for large energy users			
	E29	Negotiate franchise agreement with utilities to exercise lump sum payment option to finance clean energy			
	E30	Partner with electric and gas utilities to promote energy efficiency programs to the community			
Policy	E31	Promote the use of ENERGY STAR certified appliances and equipment			
	E32	Publicly recognize institutional and private buildings that achieve a specific energy efficiency targets			
	E33	Collaborate to educate the community about clean energy options			

Select Subset Areas to Consider (15)

Category	GOAL	+ ADVANCED STRATEGY	Status	Notes	Link to Resource
Energy Efficiency	E2	Support energy audits and retro-commissioning studies of residential, commercial and institutional facilities	In Progress		
	E5	Implement energy efficiency measures that have a short-term payback (i.e. lighting, occupancy sensors)	Planned for next 12-18 months		
	E7	Collaborate with utilities and other agencies to upgrade streetlight equipment and integrate smart technologies	Interested in pursuing		
	E8	Achieve ENERGY STAR certification for municipal buildings	Contact Initials		
	E12	Install and operate renewable energy systems at municipal facilities	Notes		
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Develop Initial Plan

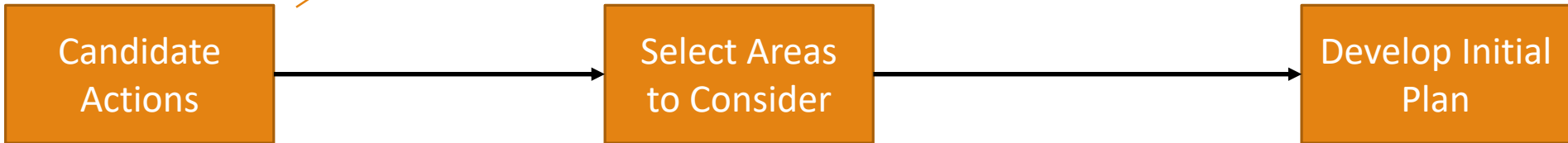
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Example use of GCP: Waste & Recycling

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GCC Sample Resolution

- ❑ Suggested text for community to make public commitment to sustainable practices
- ❑ No funds required
- ❑ Department Managers manages certain environmental grants and participants are provided access and alerting to existing and new programs

Endorsing the City of Fargo's Greenest City Compact

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Commission of Fargo provides a forum for the chief elected officials of the City, to develop consensus and act on common public policy issues and multi-jurisdictional challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Commission and the City of Fargo's community has a history of environmental stewardship, from energy efficiency, water conservation, urban forestry; and

WHEREAS, it is important for local governments throughout the United States to take leadership roles to advance sustainability, both in their own communities and in concert with regional, national, and global initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Commission created the Greenest City Compact to address environmental sustainability issues of global importance at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the Greenest City Compact, also called the GCC, is built on important environmental initiatives already underway in our community, in partnership with many non-profit, state, regional and national organizations; and

WHEREAS, the GCC synthesizes sustainability goals already adopted by leading community groups in the city; and these consensus goals align with common regional, state, national and global objectives; and

WHEREAS, the GCC offers a companion Framework to guide our community groups of all sizes and strengths to assess their current efforts; develop a sustainability plan suited to local priorities; and will offer resources to help them succeed; and

WHEREAS, the consensus goals of the GCC will guide coordinated efforts toward enhanced quality of life for residents; protection and stewardship of the environment and sustainable economic vitality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **City of Fargo** endorses the GCC proposed by the Sustainability Commission Workgroup and agrees to work to achieve them.

Who might be involved?

- City Management, City Leadership and department personnel
- Schools, Park District, Library
- Residents
- Businesses/ Chamber of Commerce
- Community Health Commission
- Not-for-profits (hospitals, religious groups, health groups...)
- Subject-matter experts
- Utilities (electric, gas, water, sewer)
- Public interest groups (American Lung, Heart, Cancer Associations...)
- Grass roots volunteers (e.g. C.L.E.A.N., Citizens Climate Lobby, Sierra Club)
- Interested residents and businesses

Municipality Role

- Develop Sustainability Plan
 - Start with simple Mission Statement
 - Consider GC Resolution
 - Review policies & ordinances and adjust for sustainable practices
 - Establish sustainable purchasing policies
 - Establish sustainable practices by department
 - Deploy sustainable solutions
 - Define measures of success & track programs accordingly to establish accountability
 - Document what you are doing (GC)
- Provide leadership within the community to demonstrate sustainability objectives – set the example
- Work with local organizations (businesses, schools, volunteers, etc.) to capture ideas, define programs and initiate actions

Sustainability Commission's Role

- Advise City and Citizens on best sustainability practices (strategies and tactics)
- Support City Sustainability Plan
- Compile and provide ideas, educational programs and literature to the public
- Convene green events for the public and local businesses

Sustainability Mission (Examples)

Sustainability for the City of Fargo, ND is an ongoing movement that complements community values that foster a cooperative spirit and reward efficient use of all resources locally, regionally and globally; accomplished by incorporating the social, economic and environmental objectives of our citizens into our policies, actions and culture.

City of Fargo' sustainability movement is guided by the following principles:

- Create and maintain a self-sustaining community.*
- Ensure that future generations can enjoy at least the same natural resources that we did.*
- Preserve, minimize consumption and restore resources.*
- Reduce pollution*
- To accept that we are one species among many.*
- To evaluate current and apply new practices and policies to lessen our environmental footprint.*

OR

- a simple statement like: "Sustain the human individual" (Park Forest, IL)*

Questions?

Next Steps

Determine the City interest in establishing a Sustainability Commission and when to be functional.

Engage a consulting firm like GW2G to facilitate the Frame plan layout in the first and subsequent gatherings

Identify all the suggested Framework Areas and which need to be addressed.

Select priority levels

Start the work.

Let us know of your interest.

Paul Jensen & Ed Gruchalla

C.L.E.A.N.

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