Santa Monica Sustainable City Plan

Purpose

The Sustainable City Plan was created to enhance our resources, prevent harm to the natural environment and human health, and benefit the social and economic well-being of the community for the sake of current and future generations.
Sustainable City Plan - Background

- Proposed by City staff and the Task Force on the Environment in 1992
- Adopted by City Council in September 1994
- Progress Reports Completed in 1996, 1999 and 2002
- Comprehensive Program Update and Expansion in 2001-02
- Update Sustainable City Plan
  Adopted by Council February 2003
Sustainable City Plan – Structure

- Guiding Principles – Statement of commitment
- Goals – provide detailed vision for community sustainability
- Indicators – Measure progress toward goals
- Indicator Targets – Help drive implementation. Original targets were for 2000 using 1990 as a baseline. Updated targets are for 2010
Sustainable City Plan – Goal Areas

Goals represent commitments for both municipal operations and the community as a whole

- Resource Conservation
- Environmental and Public Health
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Housing
- Open Space and Land Use
- Community Education and Civic Participation
- Human Dignity
Examples – Goal, Indicator and Target

- Resource Conservation Goal – Decrease consumption of materials, water, energy and fuels. Encourage the use of local, renewable resources

- Indicators – Total citywide water use; percent local vs. imported; potable vs. non-potable

- Targets – Reduce overall water use by 20% by 2010 (2000 baseline); increase percentage of locally obtained water to 70% of total by 2010
Resource Conservation

Goals: Decrease consumption of non-local, non-renewable, non-recyclable energy, water, materials and fuels and promote renewable resource use

Accomplishments

Energy

• First City in U.S. to Choose 100% Renewable Electricity
• Citywide Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Reduced 6% between 1990 and 2000

Water

• Reduced citywide use 6% between 1990 and 2000

Solid Waste

• Increased waste diversion from landfills from 14% in 1990 to 62% in 2002
Environmental and Public Health

Goals: Minimize/eliminate the use of hazardous and toxic materials and the levels of pollutants entering the air, soil and water

Accomplishments

• Reduced amount of untreated dry-weather runoff entering SM Bay by 95% since 1990
• Reduced Citywide sewage flows by 14% since 1990
• 75% of City vehicle fleet operates on alternative fuels
• IPM and Toxics Use Reduction Programs have significantly reduced chemical use and cut costs in City operations
Transportation

Goal: Reduce traffic and pollution associated with transportation

Accomplishments

- Big Blue Bus - Ridership increased by 17% between 1990 and 2000. Ranked #1 Transit System in U.S. three times.
- Increased AVR for businesses from 1.13 to 1.39 from 1993 to 2000
Economic Development

Goal: Nurture a diverse, stable local economy

Actions

- Preferences for purchase of local goods and services
- 4 weekly Farmers’ Markets support organic farming and local farms
- Sustainable Works Business Greening Program
- Sustainable Quality Awards
Open Space and Land Use

Goals: Develop and maintain a diverse open space system and urban environment that supports the community and the natural environment

Accomplishments

• Increased size of community forest by 12% between 1995 and 2002
• Increased public open space by 10% between 1990 and 2002
• Streetscape renovations and park improvements completed throughout the city to enhance livability and safety
• Landscaping and runoff reduction requirements promote native plants and increase in permeability
Housing
Goals: Provide a mix of affordable, livable and green housing types for people of all socio-economic, cultural and household groups

Accomplishments

• The number of Publicly-Assisted Affordable Housing Units in the City Increased by 47% between 1990 and 2000

• Sustainably designed and constructed affordable housing reduces costs for low income residents
Community Education and Civic Participation

Goals: Community members participate actively and effectively in civic affairs and community improvement efforts

New Goal Area

Plans to track and monitor involvement in community and civic events, voter participation and volunteering
Human Dignity

Goals: All community members are able to meet their needs, have adequate access to housing, health care, education, employment, and are empowered to enhance the quality of their lives

Actions
City provides comprehensive services and support to residents:
• Senior services
• Homeless services
• Children, teens, families
• Employment services
• People with disabilities
• Life long learning
SCP Implementation

- Sustainability Advisory Team and Sustainable City Task Force
- SCP Indicators Report
- SCP Outreach Activities
SCP Oversight

- Sustainability Advisory Team
  - Interdepartmental staff team
  - Oversee development of SCP Implementation Plan with a focus on City operations
  - Facilitate implementation of actions at all levels to help achieve SCP goals
SCP Oversight

- Sustainable City Task Force
  - 11 member community panel
  - Advise Council and staff during development and adoption of SCP Implementation Plan
  - Assist with outreach to various community constituencies on SCP goals to promote community action
SCP Indicators Report

- In progress – draft completion in summer 2004
- Designed as a tool to aid decision making at the Council, staff and community level
- Provides information about the overall sustainability of the community
SCP Indicators Report

- Detailed information about each indicator will serve as useful decision-making tool
- Report will be web-based and printed
For More Information

www.smepd.org