

Sustainable Communities 500 - Sustainability Checklist

Reference copy, feel free to duplicate and distribute for on-going use as a decision-making tool.

Does the project:

ECONOMY

Employment:

- work to reduce the percent of people living in poverty?
- produce long term jobs (wage and benefits)?
- help community-based businesses grow?
- purchase locally made goods?
- advance health and efficient "green" buildings?
- involve businesses helping to support the community?
- involve businesses contributing to a clean and healthy environment?
- create jobs close to where people live?

Cost of Living

- promote self-sufficient behavior (gardening, decreased energy usage, etc.)?
- save money or reduce costs?
- advance intergovernmental cooperatives as means to improve services and reduce costs?

Mobility

- encourage use of public transportation to connect workers to jobs?
- encourage carpooling?
- improve walking and cycling conditions?
- reduce traffic congestion?
- reduce pollution from vehicles?

Housing

- combat homelessness?
- help to create a wider range of affordable housing?
- increase home ownership?
- improve the quality, energy efficiency, and/or upkeep of current housing stock?
- locate housing/jobs/services within walking distance and public transportation?

NATURE

Ecosystem Health

- create, save, reclaim, or maintain a healthy habitat for native species of plants and animals?
- encourage a positive attitude toward environmental stewardship?

Air Quality

- reduce or absorb air pollutants like particulate matter, greenhouse gases, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, or ozone?

Energy Use

- decrease overall energy consumption, develop a local energy distribution system?
- increase the percentage of energy consumption coming from clean energy such as natural gas and renewable sources such as wind, biomass, hydropower, or solar?

Land Consumption

- re-develop or efficiently use previously developed land or vacant properties?
- preserve the cultural and historic heritage of a community?
- save farmland or other undeveloped land?
- steer development or growth to most appropriate places?
- mitigate impacts of growth and development to neighboring communities?
- advance mixed use development projects?

Water Quality

- improve the quality of streams or watersheds for recreation and other uses?
- implement a water conservation program?
- address more effective stormwater management?

Waster and Recycling

- reduce, reuse, and recycle resources, minimize resources and waster?
- increase the use of recycled products or increase demand for projects designed to use fewer and less harmful materials?

SOCIETY

Crime

- minimize crime?
- increase awareness about crime prevention?
- improve street-scaping, graffiti elimination, trash removal, etc.?

Education

- supplement basic education with activities such as after-school programs, teacher training, etc.?
- improve the infrastructure and services provided at schools?
- help children prepare for school?
- reduce drop-out rates or encourage students to return to school?
- increase access to information like the Internet, library services, etc.?

Sense of Community

- increase interaction among residents and neighborhood groups?
- provide opportunities for volunteerism?
- provide opportunities for diverse groups to have input on and evolve solutions to community challenges?
- address community beautification (art, gardens, green space, etc.)?
- increase access to the arts or outdoor leisure activities?
- demonstrate corporate/business social responsibility?

Voting Participation

- encourage voter registration and participation?
- encourage participation in the electoral process besides voting, such as running for office or volunteering?

WELL-BEING

Health and the Community

- take measures to reduce factors that contribute to ill health (poverty, diet , lifestyle, stress, and pollution)?
- provide activities or facilities for citizens to exercise?
- provide healthy and safe working environments?
- provide locally grown food?
- use outdoor recreation as a means to health and community building?

Social Equity

- provide opportunities for all and narrow the gap in access, services, quality of care, etc.?
- promote diversity?
- assist disadvantaged groups?