









Sustainability Commission Work Plan

March 2022-February 2023









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2022 WORK PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Initiatives		Timeline			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	ECOLOGICAL LAND STEWARDSHIP				
a)	Continue to support the Earth Corps Club at Jefferson High School with Unity Garden				
b)	Assist staff in adopting criteria and processes for making decisions about the use of resources and selection of natural resource projects for City-owned park land				
c)	Support staff as needed with restoration projects on City-owned property (controlled burns, plantings, etc.)				
	CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION: ENERGY (NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRICITY)				
d)	Staff continue to benchmark the energy and water use of City facilities				
e)	Evaluate opportunities for renewable energy at City facilities				
f)	Launch the Large Building Benchmarking Program				
g)	Launch the Time of Sale Energy Disclosure Program				
h)	Promote residential energy programs such as Home Energy Squad, Energy Assistance Program, and the Weatherization Assistance Program				
i)	Host three residential energy resource workshops				
j)	Increase capacity to capitalize on climate change mitigation strategies by providing more direct community engagement and support (e.g. Home Energy Squad follow-through; Energy Assistance Program applications; Air Sealing & Insulation Program)				
	CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION: TRANSPORTATION				
k)	Set quantitative transportation goals				
	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE				
l)	Review racial equity impact assessments for sustainability initiatives				
m)	Complete outreach and community engagement with an emphasis on translating materials				
n)	Environmental impacts mapping				
o)	Community-based social marketing training				
	SOLID WASTE				
p)	Launch Bulky Item Management Program				
q)	Launch Curbside Organics Recycling Program				
r)	Continued education on organics recycling and promotion of organics recycling drop off locations				
	MULTIPLE AREAS OF SUSTAINABILITY				
s)	Sustainable building and site design ordinance research & development				

	SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
t)	Serve as a resource for other commissions, boards, committees, and task forces				
u)	Engage with community and serve as a liaison for issues, ideas, and proposals, and provide appropriate feedback				
v)	Review sustainability proposals and make recommendations				
w)	Cultivate relationships with residents, community groups, businesses, institutions of higher learning, faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, etc.				
x)	Develop 2023 Sustainability Commission work plan				
y)	Onboard three new commissioners in March 2022				
z)	Recruit three new sustainability commissioners in Q4 of 2022				
aa)	Host Summer Sustainability Celebration				
bb)	Hold February team building event (celebration of retiring commissioners and welcoming of new members)				

Division H: Sustainability Commission

§ 2.86.01 Purpose

The purpose of the Sustainability Commission shall be to advise the City Council on policies and practices that relate to the sustainable use and management of environmental resources that include air, water, energy, land, and ecological resources, and waste. The Sustainability Commission will help to ensure that such resources will be sustained and continue to provide for a high quality of life for present and future generations of Bloomington.

§ 2.86.02 Duties and Responsibilities

The Commission shall:

- a) Collaborate with City staff to review, evaluate, develop, and advise the City Council on policies and practices regarding the sustainable use and management of environmental resources that include air, water, energy, land and ecological resources, and waste;
- b) Act as change agent, coordinator and educator for policies, procedures and proposals that relate to environmental sustainability;
- c) Engage with the Bloomington community and serve as a community liaison for issues, ideas, and proposals and provide appropriate feedback;
- d) Cultivate relationships with residents, community groups, businesses, institutions of higher learning, faith based organizations, outside government bodies, and non-governmental institutions;
- e) Serve as a resource for other Bloomington commissions, boards, committees, and task forces on any issues related to sustainability;
- f) Adopt criteria and processes for making decisions about the use of resources and selection of sustainability projects;
- g) Review sustainability proposals and make recommendations; and
- h) Submit written annual work plans and progress reports to the City Council.

§ 2.86.03 Membership

The Sustainability Commission shall consist of 11 members, including at least two young adults. The majority of the members shall be technical experts in one or more of the areas of sustainability and one seat shall be reserved for a City Council member.

(Ord. [2017-15](#), passed 5-22-2017; Ord. [2018-19](#), passed 7-9-2018; Ord. [2019-31](#), passed 8-5-2019)

ROSTER

(March 2022 through Feb 2023)

Name	Bio	Appoint.	Term Exp.	District
Stephanie Auen	Stephanie Auen has a degree in Electrical Engineering from North Dakota State University. She began her career working in solar energy at a Bloomington-based solar manufacturer. She later transitioned into the construction world where she now works exclusively on the planning and design of large-scale solar projects across the country. Through the Sustainability Commission, Stephanie aims to use her passion for environmentally-friendly living to help Bloomington be a leader in sustainable practices.	T1: 3/1/21	T1: 2/28/23	2
David Drummond	Dave Drummond has a Ph.D. (Environmental Health) from the U of M School of Public Health. He performed the first campus-wide sustainability study for the UW-Madison including a facilities-based carbon footprint. He also served as their Director of Environment, Health and Safety. He is learning and participating in its activities and hopes to share his expertise where it will be helpful.	T1: 2/24/20	T1: 2/28/23	2
Tim Sandry	Tim Sandry has spent most of his career as project manager, executive in the Information Technology space — primarily working with others to get things done on time and on budget to meet the “clients.” Tim utilizes those skills in his role as a Commissioner. In this case the client is the earth and its inhabitants (including us).	T1: 1/23/17 T2: 2/24/20	T1: 2/24/20 T2: 2/28/23	2
Sara Thronson	Sara Thronson has an academic background in soils, biology, and environmental studies. She has spent most of her professional career as an environmental consultant and project manager in the energy infrastructure industry specializing in biological field surveys and developing avoidance/mitigation plans for many rare species (especially bats!). Sara joined the Sustainability Commission to share her experience and enthusiasm for the environment. She looks forward to serving Bloomington residents to incorporate plans for management of environmental resources and clean energy.	T1: 2/28/21	T1: 2/28/24	3

Deanna White	After earning a bachelor's degree in Political Science, Deanna White worked on political campaigns for several years before transitioning to the nonprofit world. Deanna spent eight years working for the Sierra Club and two years working with the Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce before moving to the Twin Cities in 2008 to work for Clean Water Action, where she currently serves as State Director. After living in Sioux Falls, Las Vegas, and Washington DC, she has a broad perspective on community solutions to sustainability challenges.	T1: 2/13/18 T2: 3/1/21	T1: 2/28/21 T2: 2/28/24	4
Open Seat		T1: 3/1/22	T1: 2/28/25	
Open Seat		T1: 3/1/22	T1: 2/28/25	
Open Seat		T1: 3/1/22	T1: 2/28/25	
One City Councilmember Seat				
Councilmember Dwayne Lowman	Dwayne Lowman was born and raised in Bloomington near Effa play lot. He and his wife Kellie enjoy camping up north and walking the parks and trails. Dwayne has a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Urban Studies, concentrating in Public Administration and Community Economic Development from Augsburg University. When reflecting on why he joined the Sustainability Commission, he said, "There are many reasons why I am committed to Bloomington's long-term ecological, social, and economic resilience. Chief among those many reasons has to be those voices that are marginalized or drowned out by obstacles seen and unseen. I trust that I will have the humility to pass on a better Bloomington than what I have found."	T1: 1/23/17 T2: 1/9/18 T3: Jan 2019 T4: Mar 2020 T5: Mar 2021 T6: 1/3/2022	T1: 1/9/18 T2: 12/31/18 T3: Feb 2020 T4: Feb 2021 T5: Feb 2022 T6: 1/2/2022	1

Two Young Adult Seats

Maya Hidalgo	Maya Hidalgo is a student at Jefferson High School. She is one of the leaders of JHS Earth Corps, the environmental club at Jefferson, and YEA! MN Network (Youth Environmental Activists of MN). Maya is passionate about taking action on issues that intersect with climate change, and she is excited to create climate justice solutions in her city.	T1: 9/1/20	T1: 8/31/21	Youth
		T2: 9/1/21	T2: 8/31/21	
Faith Drevlow	Faith Drevlow is currently working at ERM as a Biologist/Sustainability Consultant, where she works to protect the environment from potential harm. She is also a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota, where she earned her B.S. in Environmental Geography. Additionally, she is an active member of the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium's Professional Development Committee, where she leads networking events and coordinates with other committees to help further professional development. She was a founding member of the Peabody Conservatory Environmentalist Club, creating a project that aimed to improve recycling at Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Conservatory. Faith is passionate about sustainability and looks forward to making real changes in her community to fight climate change.	T1: 9/1/21	T1: 8/31/22	Youth

*Chair, March 2021-2022

*Vice Chair, March 2021-2022

T1= Term 1, T2= Term 2

Commission Leadership

	2017	2018	2019	March 2020- Feb 2021	March 2021- Feb 2022	March 2022- Feb 2023
Chair	Tim Sandry	Tim Sandry	Tim Sandry	Tim Sandry	Tim Sandry	Unknown
Vice Chair	Steve Flagg	Steve Flagg	Steve Flagg	Joe Strommen	David Drummond	Unknown

Retiring Commissioners

The following sustainability commissioners will complete their second consecutive term on February 28, 2022. We thank them for their years of service.

Name	Bio	Appoint.	Term Exp	District
Rob Bouta	Rob Bouta is an ecologist and environmental consultant with a background in wetlands, environmental assessment, permitting, wildlife, and restoration. He joined the Sustainability Commission to help Bloomington adapt to climate change while sustaining natural open spaces that contribute quality to our lives.	T1: 1/23/17	T1: 3/12/19	1
		T2: 3/12/19	T2: 2/28/22	
Paul Erdmann	Paul Erdmann has a degree in Conservation and experience in water quality, environmental education, invasive species, and ecological restoration. Paul joined the Sustainability Commission to advocate for natural resource conservation and to continue making Bloomington a great place to live for generations to come.	T1: 1/23/17	T1: 3/12/19	3
		T2: 3/12/19	T2: 2/28/22	
Steve Flagg	Steve Flagg is Founder and Chair of Quality Bicycle Products right here in Bloomington. QBP has a gold LEED certified building with solar and provides tours of its buildings on a monthly basis to demonstrate the many environmentally and business initiatives. Steve joined the Sustainability Commission at its inception to promote and focus on sustainability in the business community but also sees the green potential for Bloomington overall.	T1: 1/23/17	T1: 3/12/19	2
		T2: 3/12/19	T2: 2/28/22	

City Staff Support

Staff Liaison

Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Staff-Appointed Commission Secretary

Kim Larson, Office Coordinator

2021 WORK PLAN COMPLETION SUMMARY

Initiatives	Status
ADMINISTRATIVE	
a) Update to § 2.86.01, Sustainability Commission's Purpose	<i>In progress</i>
b) Recruitment and Onboarding of New Members	<i>Complete</i>
c) Monthly Commission Meetings	<i>Complete</i>
d) Developing 2022 Work Plan	<i>Complete</i>
MULTIPLE AREAS OF SUSTAINABILITY	
SUPPORT CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY, BOARDS/COMMISSIONS AND STAFF REQUESTS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:	
a) Sustainable Building and Site Design Ordinance Research	<i>In progress</i>
ENGAGE WITH THE BLOOMINGTON COMMUNITY BY:	
b) Hosting a 2021 Earth Day Celebration Event	<i>Complete</i>
ECOLOGICAL LAND STEWARDSHIP	
SUPPORT CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY, BOARDS/COMMISSIONS AND STAFF REQUESTS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:	
a) Review natural resources and sustainability chapter of Parks System Master Plan	<i>Complete</i>
b) Serve as a staff resource for updating city code to reflect sustainable landscaping best practices	<i>Complete</i>
c) Assist staff in adopting criteria and processes for making decisions about the use of resources and selection of natural resource projects	<i>In progress</i>
d) Serve as a resource for staff and consultants on the restoration in Parker's Picnic Grounds	<i>In progress</i>
DETERMINE INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO COLLABORATE ON OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:	
e) Residential outreach and engagement around sustainable landscaping practices	<i>In progress</i>
ENERGY (NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRICITY)	
SUPPORT CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY, BOARDS/COMMISSIONS AND STAFF REQUESTS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:	
a) 1-4 Unit Residential Air Sealing and Insulation Pilot	<i>In progress</i>
b) Promoting residential energy efficiency programs	<i>In progress</i>
c) B3 and Portfolio Manager municipal building benchmarking	<i>In progress</i>
ENGAGE WITH THE BLOOMINGTON COMMUNITY AND ADVISE CITY COUNCIL ON:	
d) Time of Sale Energy Disclosure Ordinance	<i>In progress</i>
e) Large Building Benchmarking Ordinance	<i>In progress</i>
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	
SUPPORT CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY, BOARDS/COMMISSIONS AND STAFF REQUESTS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:	
a) Review racial equity impact assessments for sustainability initiatives	<i>In progress</i>

ATTEND, PREPARE, AND RESPOND TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM:

b) Equity Foundation Trainings

Complete

SOLID WASTE

SUPPORT CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY, BOARDS/COMMISSIONS AND STAFF REQUESTS INCLUDING

BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

a) Planning for Residential Curbside Organics Recycling

In progress

b) Continued Education on Organics Recycling and Promotion of Organics Recycling Drop-Offs

In progress

ENGAGE WITH THE BLOOMINGTON COMMUNITY AND ADVISE CITY COUNCIL ON:

c) Sustainable Alternatives to Curbside Cleanup Program

In progress

TRANSPORTATION

SUPPORT CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY, BOARDS/COMMISSIONS AND STAFF REQUESTS INCLUDING

BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

a) Setting quantitative transportation goals

In progress

WATER

SUPPORT CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY, BOARDS/COMMISSIONS AND STAFF REQUESTS INCLUDING

BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

a) Commercial Irrigation Program

In progress

b) Jefferson High School Unity Garden

In progress

2021 City Sustainability Efforts

See Appendix A for a summary of the City's 2021 sustainability efforts, including efforts that were not included in the Sustainability Commission's work plan.

2022 WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Process

The Sustainability Commission developed this work plan during their monthly meetings from November 2020-January 2021. Staff facilitator Barb Wolff facilitated the process with support from Kim Larson, Commission Secretary; Emma Struss, Staff Liaison; and staff members with sustainability-subject expertise.

Priority Focus Areas

The Sustainability Commission identified the following focus areas as the most important in 2022.

- Ecological Land Stewardship
- Environmental Justice
- Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Energy
- Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Transportation
- Solid Waste

2022 WORK PLAN FOCUS AREAS



Ecological Land Stewardship

Informal Work Group

- Stephanie Auen
- Sara Thronson
- Faith Drevlow
- *Open Seat*
- Tim Sandry

INITIATIVES

Continue to support the Earth Corps Club at Jefferson High School with Unity Garden

Description: Continue to support the Earth Corps Club at Jefferson High School by promoting Unity Garden volunteer opportunities.

Goal: Provide support (advertising and volunteer recruitment) in partnership with Earth Corps for two or more activities at the Unity Garden.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Assist staff in adopting criteria and processes for making decisions about the use of resources and selection of natural resource projects for City-owned park land

Description: In 2019, Commission members and staff identified and cataloged City-owned natural and open spaces using available land use and natural resource data with geographic data queries. The work resulted in a high-level descriptive profile of Bloomington's natural resource lands outside the Minnesota River Valley. In 2021, the Parks and Recreation department began the development of a more specific plan for identifying key natural resource projects to focus staff and financial resources on in the next 5-7 years (Natural Resources Prioritization and Management Strategies for Bloomington Public Land) prior to the creation of a full natural resources management plan. In 2022, the Sustainability Commission will review the strategies and continue to provide input on prioritized sites.

The City staff leads on this initiative are Parks and Recreation Director Ann Kattreh, Assistant Director Renae Clark, Recreation Supervisor Mark Morrison, and Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Dave Hanson.

Goal: Review and provide input on prioritization and management strategies for key natural resources projects in order to guide staff and financial resources for the next 5-7 years.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Support staff as needed with restoration projects on City-owned property (controlled burns, plantings, invasive species removal, etc.)

Description: Support staff as needed with restoration projects on City-owned property, including Parker's Picnic Grounds. Support may include organizing 1-2 community volunteer events to plant trees, pull garlic mustard, or remove buckthorn.

Parker's Picnic Grounds Background: In 2018, the DNR awarded the City a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment for natural resource restoration in Parker's Picnic Grounds. In 2021, sustainability commissioners continued to work with staff to complete Phase 1 of implementation and determined next steps.

The City staff leads on this initiative are Assistant Director Renae Clark, Recreation Supervisor Mark Morrison, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Dave Hanson, and the Park Maintenance team.

Goal: Host 1-2 community volunteer events.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works



Climate Change Mitigation: Energy (Natural Gas & Electricity)

Informal Work Group

- Stephanie Auen
- David Drummond
- Maya Hidalgo
- Tim Sandry
- Sara Thronson

INITIATIVES

Staff continue to benchmark the energy use of City facilities

Description: CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy automatically transfer municipal energy data into B3 and Portfolio Manager for staff to track use.

Goal: Update natural gas meters in Portfolio Manager.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Evaluate opportunities for renewable energy at City facilities

Description: Identify next steps for installing solar on Public Works building.

Goal: Be prepared to complete solar project in Spring of 2023.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Launch the Large Building Benchmarking Program

Description: Continue to implement “Business Strategy F” in Bloomington’s Energy Action Plan. In 2020, City staff and Commission members completed planning workshops through Hennepin County’s Efficient Buildings Collaborative. In 2021, staff and the Commission developed a Large Building Benchmarking ordinance that Council passed in September 2021. In 2022, the City will work with a consultant to launch the program.

Goal: Qualifying public, commercial, and multifamily buildings over 100,000 square feet in Bloomington will benchmark their energy use by June 1, 2022.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Launch Time of Sale Energy Disclosure Program

Description: Continue the work started in 2020 to implement Bloomington’s Energy Action Plan strategy “to incentivize investments in energy efficiency, require an energy audit disclosure with estimated energy costs, as part of real estate transactions.” In 2021, this involved passing a Time of Sale Energy Disclosure ordinance. This ordinance requires Time-of-Sale Housing Evaluations to include the collection of 11-12 additional energy metrics. These metrics will provide property buyers with information on the energy performance of the home, bringing visibility and value to home energy improvements. The energy disclosure report will provide a score and outline cost-effective recommendations for improving the energy performance of a home. In 2022, the City will launch Time of Sale energy disclosure with the assistance of the Center for Energy and Environment.

The City staff lead on this initiative is Sustainability Coordinator Emma Struss working closely with Building and Inspections Supervisor Bernadette Gillespie and Building and Inspections Manager Duke Johnson.

Goal: Launch Time of Sale Energy Disclosure on April 1, 2022.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Promote residential energy programs such as Home Energy Squad, Energy Assistance Program, and the Weatherization Assistance Program

Description: Assist staff and community partners in promoting residential energy efficiency programs as needed. Potential programs include: Energy Assistance Program, Weatherization Assistance Program, Home Energy Squad®, CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy’s Multi-Family Building Efficiency program. The City staff lead on this initiative is Sustainability Coordinator Emma Struss. The Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) staff lead is HRA Program Manager Bryan Hartman.

Goal: See an increase in program participation from 2021.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Host three residential energy resource workshops

Description: The City aims to connect residents, especially those with higher energy burden, to resources that will lower their energy bills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from residential energy use, and improve community health. We know many homes in Bloomington are lacking insulation and could benefit from air sealing. Through community energy conversations in 2021, City staff learned many residents are confused or unaware about energy program offerings. The City also learned about barriers residents face when signing up for the Energy Assistance Program and/or Weatherization Assistance Program. The purpose of these workshops is to address those barriers.

Goal: Success will be measured by the number of workshop attendees, and by tracking energy program participation in 2022 compared to previous years. The goal is to have 15 households attend each workshop, and have a total of 30 households apply or sign up for an energy program.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Increase capacity to capitalize on climate change mitigation strategies by providing more direct community engagement and support (e.g. Home Energy Squad follow-through; Energy Assistance Program applications; Air Sealing & Insulation Program)

Description: Develop a proposal that outlines how the City can increase capacity to capitalize on climate change mitigation strategies.

Goal: Bring proposal to Council in Q1.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator



Climate Change Mitigation: Transportation

Informal Work Group

- Faith Drevlow
- David Drummond
- Maya Hidalgo
- *Open Seat*
- *Open Seat*

INITIATIVES

Setting quantitative transportation goals and identify strategy options

Description: Identify a process that strategically looks at the city's transportation system from health, racial equity, and sustainability lenses. The process will include setting quantitative goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, and strategies the City can use to meet those goals. Sustainability Coordinator Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator will serve on the technical advisory committee for this proposal.

Goal: Scope and present a proposal to Council in Q1.

Staff Contacts: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator and Kirk Roberts, Traffic and Transportation Engineer



Environmental Justice

Informal Work Group

- Faith Drevlow
- Dwayne Lowman
- Deanna White
- *Open Seat*
- *Open Seat*

INITIATIVES

Review racial equity impact assessments for sustainability initiatives

Description: The City of Bloomington is committed to racial equity in the design of our services and programs. The Racial Equity Business Plan (2020) calls for the use of a racial equity impact assessment when developing new programs and policies. The Sustainability Commission will similarly consider other equity factors in the consideration of our programs and policies. The City staff leads on this initiative are Racial Equity Coordinator Faith Jackson and Sustainability Coordinator Emma Struss.

Goal: Complete racial equity impact assessments for new sustainability programs and policies.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Complete outreach and community engagement with an emphasis on translating materials

Description: Translate sustainability outreach materials into Spanish and Somali.

Goal: Translate materials.

Staff Contact: Kim Larson, Office Coordinator

Environmental impacts mapping

Description: Develop GIS maps that overlay demographic data with sustainability data so we can better understand who is most impacted by environmental problems in Bloomington.

Goal: Develop at least two interactive maps using GIS.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Community-based social marketing training

Description: Send 1-2 sustainability commissioners and/or staff to community based social marketing training.

Goal: Have 1-2 sustainability commissioners and/or staff complete the training.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator



Solid Waste

Informal Work Group

- Dwayne Lowman
- Sara Thronson
- Deanna White
- *Open Seat*
- *Open Seat*

INITIATIVES

Launch Bulky Item Management Program

Description: City Council directed the Commission to develop alternative methods to dispose of bulky items in a more sustainable way than the current Curbside Cleanup Program. The Commission presented recommended alternatives (community drop-off events and bulky item vouchers) to Council in 2020. Council was supportive of changes and requested Commission and staff continue to develop new program. 2021 resulted in public engagement on program changes and the development of new model. In 2022, the Commission will assist in the roll out of the new changes including promotion of additional opportunities for residents to reuse and recycle additional items.

The City staff leads on this initiative are Public Works Project Coordinator Laura Horner and Deputy Director Ellen Biales.

Goal: Increase reuse and recycling of collected materials by approximately 260 tons;
Reduce the amount of garbage sent to landfills by approximately 448 tons;
Reduce vehicle GHG emissions generated by the program by approximately 18 tons; Provide opportunities for multi-family households to reuse/recycle and dispose of bulky items.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Launch Curbside Organics Recycling Program

Description: Hennepin County is requiring cities to make curbside organics recycling available to residents by 2022. 2021 was used to research collection options and plan for 2022 implementation. In March of 2022, the curbside collection of organics will commence. Commissioners will aid in the promotion and evaluation of the program roll-out.

The City staff leads on this initiative are Public Works Project Coordinator Laura Horner and Deputy Director Ellen Biales.

Goal: Twenty-five percent of households in the City's garbage and recycling program will sign up to receive organics carts for participation in the program.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Continued education on organics recycling and promotion of organics recycling drop off locations

Description: Continue to promote organics recycling to residents and businesses outside of the curbside organics program through community education and engagement. These activities may include:

- Promoting the use of the City's two organics recycling drop-off locations to multi-family households not eligible for the curbside program;
- Promotion of organics collection within City buildings;
- Promotion of organics collection at neighborhood and community events;
- Promotion of organics recycling with businesses—particularly that fall under the requirements of Hennepin County Ordinance 13.

The City staff leads on this initiative are Public Works Project Coordinator Laura Horner and Deputy Director Ellen Biales.

Goal: Continued use and maintenance of the City's two organics drop off locations.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works



Multiple Areas of Sustainability

Informal Work Group

- David Drummond
- Dwayne Lowman
- *Open Seat*
- *Open Seat*

INITIATIVES

Sustainable building and site design ordinance research & development

Description: In Bloomington's Energy Action Plan (2018) under the "After 2020" strategy section is: "Research and present to the Council for deliberation green building codes that would continuously promote higher building standards and performance for future building development." In 2021, Bloomington's Sustainability Coordinator and Planning staff continued to research and discuss green building standards (B3 and SB 2030, LEED, Enterprise Green Communities, GreenStar, etc.) with peer communities who have or were developing sustainable building ordinances.

In 2022, Hennepin County through the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) will provide planning and technical assistance to support the successful development of a sustainable building policy. These services will support the city with technical guidance on the program design, roles, timelines, resources, and stakeholder engagement required to pass and implement a policy or guidance, and to support city staff in those activities as needed. The City staff lead on this initiative is Sustainability Coordinator Emma Struss with support from Planning staff.

Goal: Draft a sustainable building policy for City Council's review.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator



Sustainability Commission Responsibilities & Team Building

INITIATIVES

Sustainability support

Description: Serve as a resource for other commissions, boards, committees, and task forces.

Goal: Respond to requests and reach out as appropriate.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Community engagement

Description: Engage with community and serve as a liaison for issues, ideas, and proposals, and provide appropriate feedback.

Goal: Respond to requests and reach out as appropriate.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Review sustainability proposals and make recommendations

Description: As needed, review sustainability proposals and make recommendations during Sustainability Commission meetings.

Goal: Respond to requests and reach out as appropriate.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Community relationship building

Description: Cultivate relationships with residents, community groups, businesses, institutions of higher learning, faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, etc.

Goal: Make connections and build relationships.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Annual Work Plan

Description: Develop 2023 Sustainability Commission work plan.

Goal: Submit work plan to City Council for approval.

Staff Contact: Emma Struss, Sustainability Coordinator

Sustainability Commission onboarding

Description: In February 2022, City Council will appoint three new sustainability commissioners that will need onboarding support.

Goal: Onboard three new sustainability commissioners.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Sustainability Commission recruitment

Description: Recruit three new sustainability commissioners in the fall of 2022.

Goal: Have applications from every zip code in Bloomington.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Summer sustainability celebration

Description: An informal picnic to celebrate sustainability accomplishments.

Goal: Hold event.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

Team building event

Description: Celebration of retiring commissioners and welcoming of new members.

Goal: Hold event.

Staff Contact: Ellen Biales, Deputy Director of Public Works

BIKE RACK

During the planning process, sustainability commissioners proposed new initiatives. Commissioners voted on their priorities at the December 21, 2021 Sustainability Commission meeting.

The Sustainability Commission recommends the following initiatives to begin as soon as there are resources:

- Develop proposal for waste reduction efforts around disposable items and reducing single use plastics
- Establish a permanent environmental justice committee
- Facilitate opportunities for renewable energy at City facilities
- On a regular basis invite speakers from local organizations to contribute perspectives on sustainability, and connect with environmental justice organizations
- Reimagine Home Energy Squad visits
- Triple climate change actions and their adoption rates, and support necessary increases in budget to accomplish them

APPENDIX A

Summary of 2021 Sustainability Initiatives

City of Bloomington





Water Conservation



- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- Utilities Superintendent Scott Anderson presented to the Sustainability Commission on 9/15



- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

- Outreach regarding summer watering restrictions due to drought

Policies



Programs



- Implemented Commercial Irrigation Program

Letters/Resolutions





Surface Water Quality

- Addressing water quantity & flood risk
- Water quality protection and restoration



- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- Provided data for strategic planning process
- Surface water monitoring program, including deployment of automated monitoring equipment
- Piloted mechanical removal of duckweed from surface water bodies
- Initiated framework for updating Penn Lake Management Plan
- Development of Cattail Management Plan for Bush Lake

Ecological Land Stewards
Enhance natural resources



- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

- Adopt-a-drain promotions
- Briefing articles: Keep storm drains free of ice and snow, prevent spring flooding around your home, Pet waste, Meadow Lawns, Phosphorus free fertilizer, Ecosystem enhancement project update, Carp in Normandale Lake, Keep goldfish out of water bodies, Algae, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Adopt-a-drain
- Let's talk Bloomington page regarding surface water quality
- Let's Talk Bloomington page on Oxboro Lake Project
- Rainwater garden inlet structure maintenance
- Bloomington Today Videos: How Residents can help turtles, Surface water sampling, Meadow Lawns, Goldfish, Carp harvest at Normandale, Bush Lake Cattail Management initiative, No Aquarium dumping/goldfish, Street sweeping

Policies



- Stormwater Pond Aeration Ordinance Update

Programs








- RBWMO Youth Education program for 2021 Bloomington Summer School Session – Watershed Curriculum
- Annual Bush Lake Buffer Maintenance with 9 mile creek WD
- Ecosystem enhancement project
- Construction projects:
 - 2020-902 completed winter 2021, pond maintenance
 - 2021-901 Storm sewer maintenance project
 - 2021-101 PMP storm sewer infrastructure renewal and improvements
 - 2021-902 Oxboro Lake Maintenance project
- Street sweeping 2 full city sweeps annually

Letters/Resolutions



- \$30,000 WBIF grant from BWSR for the RBWMO Youth Education Program
- \$10,000 grant from Nine Mile Creek WD for Ecosystem Enhancement project
- Awarded the Public Good Award from the Bush Lake Chapter Izaak Walton League

<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Data GatheringResearchGoal SettingPlanningTraining</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Community EngagementRelationship Building</div>	<div>Policies<div></div></div>	<div>Programs/Projects<div></div></div>	<div>Letters/Resolutions<div></div></div>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">MN GreenCorps member completed the first stages of a community based social marketing research project on City staff commuting habits<ul style="list-style-type: none">All-staff surveyFocus groupsData from Engineering and Human ResourcesExplored electric vehicle car sharing opportunitiesResearched greenhouse gas emissions data sources to begin the process of setting quantitative climate-related transportation goalsProvided data for strategic planning data handbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completed two community listening sessions on transportation through Harvard SPARK service project			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Letter in support of clean vehicle emissions standards
<div>Ecological Land Stewardship</div> <div>Enhance natural resources</div>				



Solid Waste

Reducing waste volumes delivered to
landfills/Incinerators



- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- Organics training for City staff



- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

- Tabled at farmers markets to promote organics recycling
- Developed organics photo booth for community events
- Engaged with community members to collect feedback on Bulky Item Management Program development
- Engaged with community members to collect feedback on Curbside Organics Program

Policies



Programs



- Developed the Bulky Item Management Program
- Planned for curbside organics recycling implementation in 2022

Letters/Resolutions





Energy (Natural Gas & Electricity)

Working towards 75% reduction in energy-related GHG emissions by 2035



- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- Collected and analyzed residential energy burden data for Bloomington
- Collected and analyzed 1-4 unit residential insulation data to inform energy goal progress and strategy development
- Started process to set greenhouse gas reduction goal for City facilities
- Researched renewable energy options for City facilities
- Benchmarked energy and water use in City facilities



- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

- Worked with community partners to promote residential energy programs
 - Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County
 - Sustainable Resources Center
 - VEAP
 - Department of Commerce
 - Xcel Energy- Partners in Energy
 - CenterPoint Energy
 - MN Department of Health
- Completed a community listening session and resident interviews to inform residential air sealing and insulation pilot

Policies



- Passed Large Building Benchmarking Ordinance
- Passed Time of Sale Energy Disclosure Ordinance

Programs/Projects



- Participation in Energy Design Assistance Program for Fire Station 4
- Participation in Community Codes Support Program
- Prepared for Large Building Benchmarking Program implementation in 2022
- Prepared for Time of Sale Energy Disclosure Program implementation in 2022

Letters/Resolutions



- Provided feedback on Xcel Energy's Integrated Resource Plan



- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- Reviewed natural resources and sustainability sections of Parks System Master Plan



- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

- Provided educational materials on jumping worms at Creekside plant sale
- Held community Buckthorn Bust in October
- Held community Garlic Mustard Pull in April
- Hosted Earth Day Celebration
- Hosted two community tree planting events
- Sustainability Commission held four nature walks with Councilmembers
- Provided support to the Earth Corps Club at Jefferson High School with Unity Garden



Policies

- Developed a Parks System Master Plan
- Natural resource prioritization on City-owned park land
- Updated City Code to better reflect sustainable landscaping best practices
- Started process to develop criteria for making decisions about the use of resources and selection of natural resources projects on City-owned park land



Programs

- Planted ~375 trees in 2021
- Park maintenance staff time spent on natural resources in parks was \$223,510.00



Letters/Resolutions



Multiple Areas of Sustainability



- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- Developed sustainability-related educational materials for onboarding
- Annual sustainability planning/budgeting
- Prioritization of capital improvement projects using sustainability lens
- Provided sustainability data for strategic planning process
- Completed MN GreenStep Cities Step 4 annual reporting
- Achieved MN GreenStep Cities Step 5 for the first year
- Used ACEEE's Clean Energy Scoring Tool to track progress on energy and transportation policies and programs
- Quarterly strategic priority reporting to Council
- Researched options to update single family code standards with sustainability lens
- Researched sustainable building and site design ordinances and policies



- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

- Sustainability Collaboration
 - National
 - State
 - County
 - Local
- Held bi-annual check-ins with department heads
- Developed sustainability content for City website
- Sent sustainability e-subscribe newsletters
- Highlighted sustainability leaders in the community through Earth Action Hero articles in the Bloomington Briefing
- Provided sustainability updates in One Weekly communications

Policies



- Sustainability items in legislative agenda
- Health in all Policies Committee

Programs



- Bloomington Stewards program development

Letters/Resolutions



- The Sustainability Commission recommended that City Council sign a climate emergency resolution



Environmental Justice

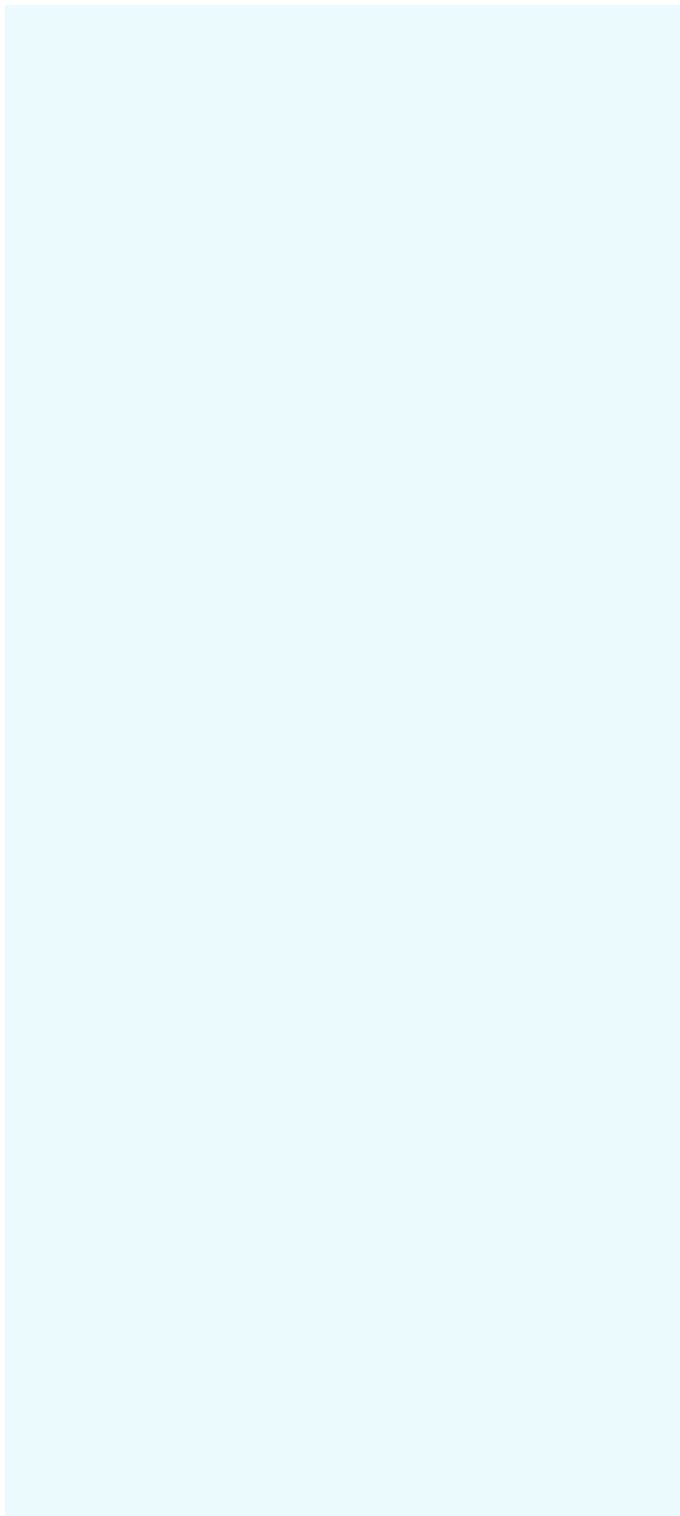


- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- Racial Equity Coordinator and Sustainability Coordinator provided required City-staff training about environmental disparities in Bloomington
- Sustainability Coordinator attended monthly environmental justice learning sessions
- Started to identify areas of environmental concern due to climate change

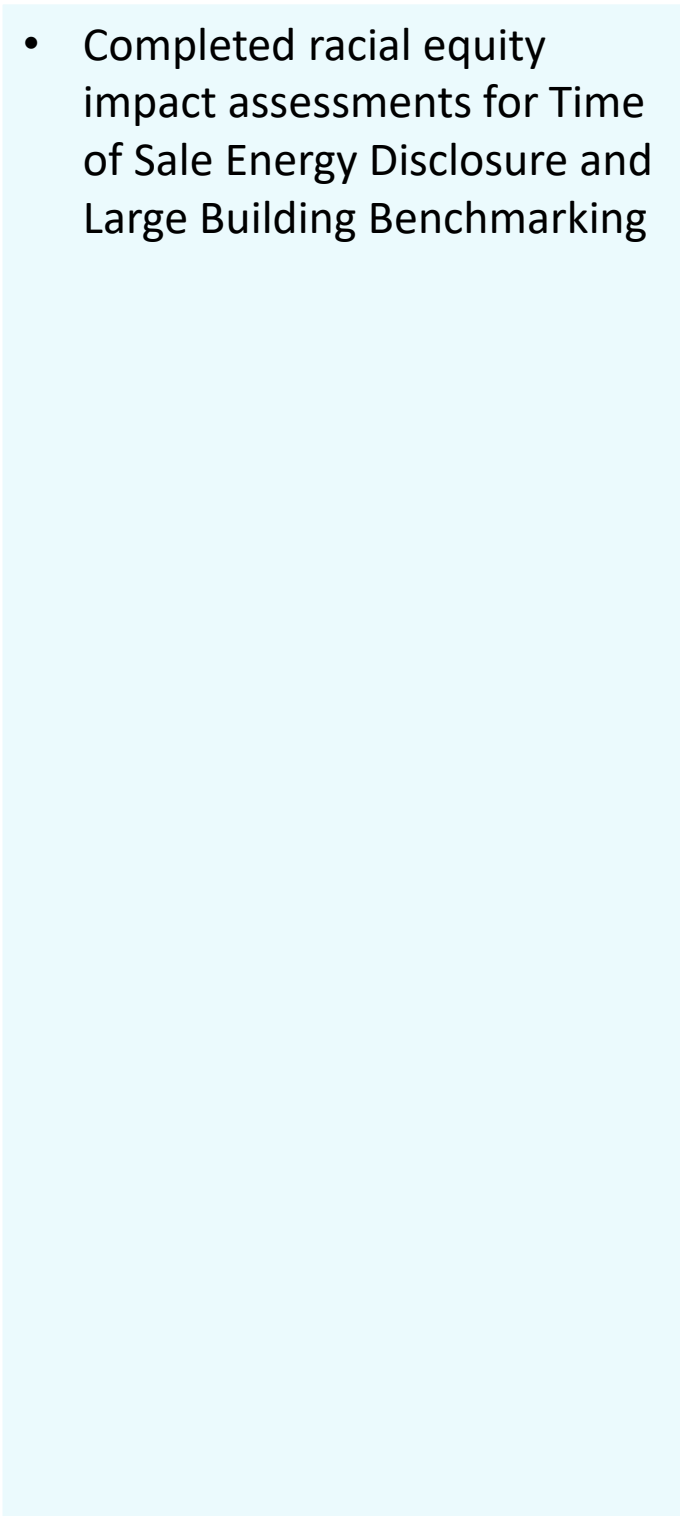


- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

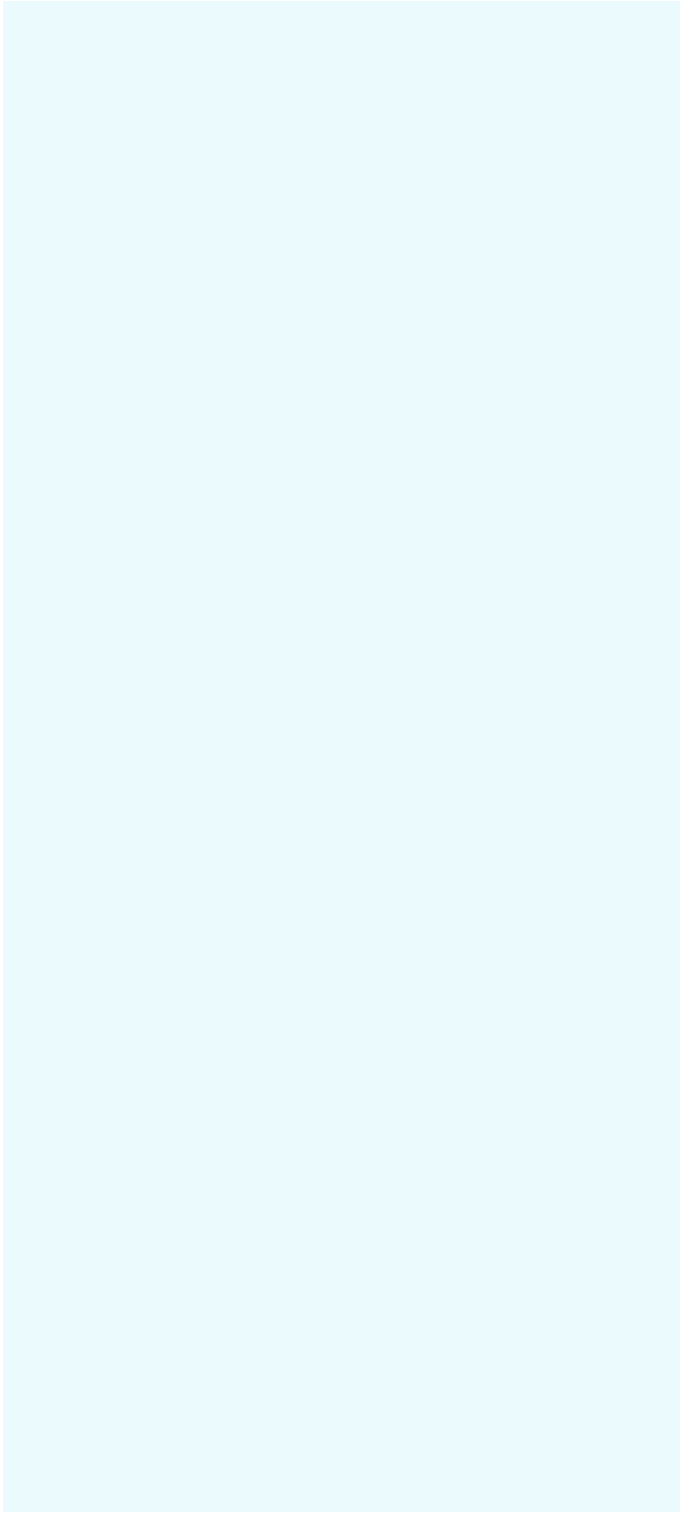


Policies

- Completed racial equity impact assessments for Time of Sale Energy Disclosure and Large Building Benchmarking



Programs



Letters/Resolutions

