



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of City Coordinator

Date: October 6, 2009

To: Honorable Scott Benson, Chair, Health, Energy and Environment Committee

Subject: Sustainability Indicators and Target Revisions

Recommendation: Adopt Revisions to Sustainability Indicators and Targets

Department Information

Prepared by: Gayle Prest, Sustainability Manager 612-673-2931

Approved by: Steven Bosacker, City Coordinator 612-673-2032

Presenters in Committee: Gayle Prest

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven Bosacker".

Supporting Information

Every two years the City's sustainability indicators and targets are re-evaluated. Attachment 1 are the recommended changes.

Earlier this year, staff leads for each of the sustainability indicators were asked to develop recommendations for changes as needed. Over the last four months, the recommendations for Greenprint changes were discussed with the Citizen's Environmental Advisory Committee. The Tree Advisory Committee and the Bike Advisory Committee also made recommendations. The internal Environmental Coordinating Team reviewed the changes at their August meeting.

The reasons for making changes to the indicators and targets vary – some targets were reached or are within close reach such as with the Combined Sewer Overflows, and Bikeways indicators; other indicators have seen more meaningful measurement tools evolve such as with the Air Quality, Healthy Lakes (development of the LAURI index for lakes, for example), and Climate Change indicators; and with other indicators we have developed a more mature understanding of understanding of the issues such as with the Renewable Energy indicator. For a more detailed understanding of the Air Quality target revisions please see Attachment 2.

The Sustainability Initiative's original goal of creating a healthier, more sustainable city by using data to set targets and measure progress remains a high priority. The transparency this model creates increases government accountability and credibility with residents and other key stakeholders. It allows the City to focus its resources in long-term, sustainable directions. Furthermore, other cities are integrating our performance approach. High levels of department and individual staff leadership and initiative have helped to make all of this possible.

Brief History:

- 2005: Community process to recommend direction and indicators
- 2006: City Council adopts 24 sustainability indicators, first sustainability report completed
- 2007: ECT recommends changes to indicators / targets and City Council adopts
- 2008: City Council adopts Green Jobs Indicator
- 2009: City Council adopts Local Food Indicator

Major Revisions:

New Indicator	Replaced Indicator	Comment
Waste Reduction and Recycling		Initiated by Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee
Part I Crimes	Homicide	Homicide is now a sub division within the Part 1 Crime Indicator
Community Engagement	Block Clubs	Broader approach
Arts in the Economy	Students in the Arts	Arts education is now mandated by State
Healthy Lakes	Water Quality	Consistent with Results Minneapolis
Stormwater	Combined Sewer Overflows Permeable Surfaces	Broader approach

The end result is that there remains 26 indicators.

Challenges:

- Further integrating efforts with *Results Minneapolis* and *City Goals*
- Setting quantifiable, meaningful targets for some of the indicators
- Focusing on limited number of indicators in order to prioritize
- It is anticipated in 2011 we will be setting new 10-year targets.

Attachment 1: Sustainability Indicators and Target Revisions

Attachment 2: Sustainability Target Update – Air Quality memo