

**GROVE CITY, OHIO COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

July 12, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Special Service Committee Meeting

Call to Order: Chair Berry

Roll Call: Clerk of Council

SERVICE: Mr. Berry

Sustainability Plan Presentation

Discussion and Prioritization

Future Goals for the Committee

GROVE CITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



GROVE CITY SUSTAINABILITY

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION CREATING SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. CR-05-19

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A GROVE CITY ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, one of the goals outlined for 2019 by the Council Members and Administration is an Energy/Environmental Sustainability Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City's goal is to continue to be a leader in environmental sustainability and promote green practices for residents and businesses beyond the ongoing efforts of the Keep Grove City Beautiful Committee; and

WHEREAS, City Council passed Resolution CR-41-17 on October 16, 2017 committing to the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Sustainable 2050 Program; and

WHEREAS, Grove City was awarded the Gold Status Sustainability 2050 Tier of Accomplishment on February 14, 2019 and is committed to achieving the Platinum Tier by June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish a Committee to develop a comprehensive sustainability plan that recognizes MORPC's regional sustainability agenda – which includes: reducing per capita energy consumption and promoting alternative fuel resources to increase affordability and resilience of regional energy supplies; protect natural resources and mitigate infrastructure vulnerabilities to maintain a healthy ecosystem and community; attract and retain economic opportunity to prosper as a region and compete globally through sustainable practices and solutions; create sustainable neighborhoods to improve resident's quality of life; increase regional collaboration and educational opportunities to advance innovative sustainability solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Committee will focus on areas not limited to: adaption to Climate Change; Suburban Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; City Buildings and Codes; Baseline and Measurements; Transit and Transportation; Energy/Renewable Energy; Waste Reduction and Recycling; Land Use Planning; Water; Communications; Green Businesses, Public and School Outreach; Natural Resources; Economic Opportunity and Development; and Sustainable Neighborhoods.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROVE CITY, STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

SECTION 1. This Council hereby establishes the Grove City "Environmental Sustainability Committee".

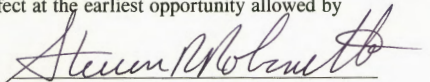
SECTION 2. This Committee shall be comprised of: the City's Environmental Coordinator; five (5) members of the Grove City area community and three (3) Grove City businesses with sustainable practices appointed by the Mayor. The Council Chair for the Service Committee shall be an ex-officio member.

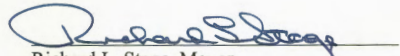
CR-05-19

Page Two

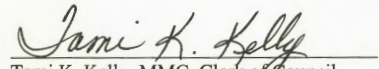
SECTION 3. The Committee shall create goals and objectives, which shall include the creation of an Energy/Environmental Sustainability Plan – including but not limited to areas in: Energy & Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, Economic Opportunity and Development, Sustainable Neighborhoods, Transportation, and Waste Reduction and Recycling; identify action steps and strategies to meet the goals; and shall submit an annual report, sharing yearly accomplishments, goals for the following year and any financial needs.

SECTION 4. This resolution shall take effect at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.

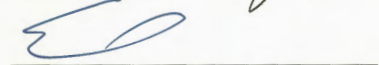

Steven R. Robinette, President of Council


Richard L. Stage, Mayor

Passed: 03-04-19 Attest:
Effective: 03-04-19


Tami K. Kelly, MMC, Clerk of Council

I certify that this resolution is correct as to form.


Stephen J. Smith, Director of Law

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The City of Grove City and the Sustainability Committee want to express their extreme gratitude for the many individuals who helped guide the creation of the goals and action items that are part of the Grove City Sustainability Plan.

CITY OF GROVE CITY

- Richard L. “Ike” Stage, Mayor
- Charles W. Boso Jr., City Administrator
- William F. Vedra Jr. Deputy Administrator
- Grove City Council Members (2019)
 1. Roby Schottke
 2. Christine Houk
 3. Steve Robinette
 4. Jeff Davis
 5. Ted Berry
- Linda Rosine, Environmental Supervisor
- Kimberly Shields, Community Development Manager

MORPC

- Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer, MORPC

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING DEPARTMENTS’ SUSTAINABILITY STUDIO

A special thanks to the Ohio State University, City and Regional Planning Departments’ Sustainability Studio. The Sustainability Studio designed actions and objectives for this plan with input from the public.

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| • Kimberly Burton, P.E.,
AICP, CTP, LEED AP ND
– Associate Professor
of Practice | • Xiaoya Ji, BSCR |
| • Abby Anacki, BSCR | • Dan Blanchard, BSCR |
| • Thomas Graham, BSCR | • Derek Miller, BSCR |
| • Taylor Axene, BSCR | • Amber Boyd, BSCR |
| • Maeve Hogel, BSCR | • Jalen Miller, BSCR |
| • Annalise Bennett,
BSCR | • Alan Clinton, BSCR |
| | • Elise Schellin, BSCR |
| | • Allison DeLong, BSCR |
| | • Justin Scott, BSCR |

Knowlton School Awards
for City and Regional Planning
2020 Outstanding Studio Project:
GROVE CITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT

The Environmental Sustainability Committee's goals are to meet the needs of the present while supporting the future needs and long-term growth for the Grove City community. The committee promotes resource conservation, social equity and environmental responsibility while educating and supporting community involvement for a better quality of life now and for future generations.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- **Cathy Becker**, Chair,
Ready for 100 Ohio Coordinator
- **Bo Blackstone**, Director of Supply Chain,
State Industrial Products
- **Scott Compton**,
Community Representative,
Nationwide Children's Hospital
- **Glorianna Corman**,
Senior Risk Management Consultant, KPA
- **Zachary Kabelen**, OEPA
- **Brian Klei**, Materials Manager, Tigerpoly
- **Richard Rosine**, LEED AP
- **Kennedy Yowell**, student,
Biological and Environmental Sciences,
University of Cincinnati

COMMITTEE ADVISORS

- **Linda Rosine**, Environmental Supervisor,
City of Grove City
- **Ted Berry**, Council Member,
Ward 1, City of Grove City
- **Kimberly Shields**,
Community Development Manager,
City of Grove City
- **Brandi Whetstone**,
Sustainability Officer, MORPC

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BACKGROUND

Sustainable Grove City is a comprehensive sustainability plan to guide the City's sustainability efforts to ensure a more environmentally conscious and prosperous community. It provides a framework for building on the City's current efforts to continue as an environmental leader and to promote green practices for residents and businesses. It summarizes the City's efforts to date and outlines actions the City can take to ensure a balance of its economic, social and environmental needs for the future.

The plan provides best practices, policy guidance and measurable actions to address sustainability opportunities in the built environment, the natural environment, energy, transportation, waste reduction and recycling, business practices, City operations and community engagement.

WHY NOW?

In 2017, Grove City passed a resolution (CR-41-17) to commit to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Sustainability2050 Program.

MORPC has certified Grove City as a Sustainable2050 community and has recognized the City's sustainability practices, such as promoting alternative fuel vehicles and electric charging stations, adopting an Idle-Free policy, and hosting the annual EcoFest.

Grove City was awarded the Gold Sustainable2050 tier status in February 2019.



WHO'S INVOLVED?

As part of the City's efforts to achieve a more environmentally conscious and prosperous community, Grove City established the **Grove City Environmental Sustainability Committee**.

The committee is comprised of Grove City community members and representatives from businesses in Grove City using sustainable practices. Each member brings a unique background and skill set that enables the plan's initiation, completion, and implementation.

Together with consultants from The Ohio State University's City and Regional Planning Department Sustainability Studio, the Committee designed actions and objectives for this plan with input from the public.

THE COMMUNITY

An essential component of Sustainable Grove City comes from the insight of the people who live, work and raise families in Grove City. Members of the community were able to share comments and ideas both in-person and online.

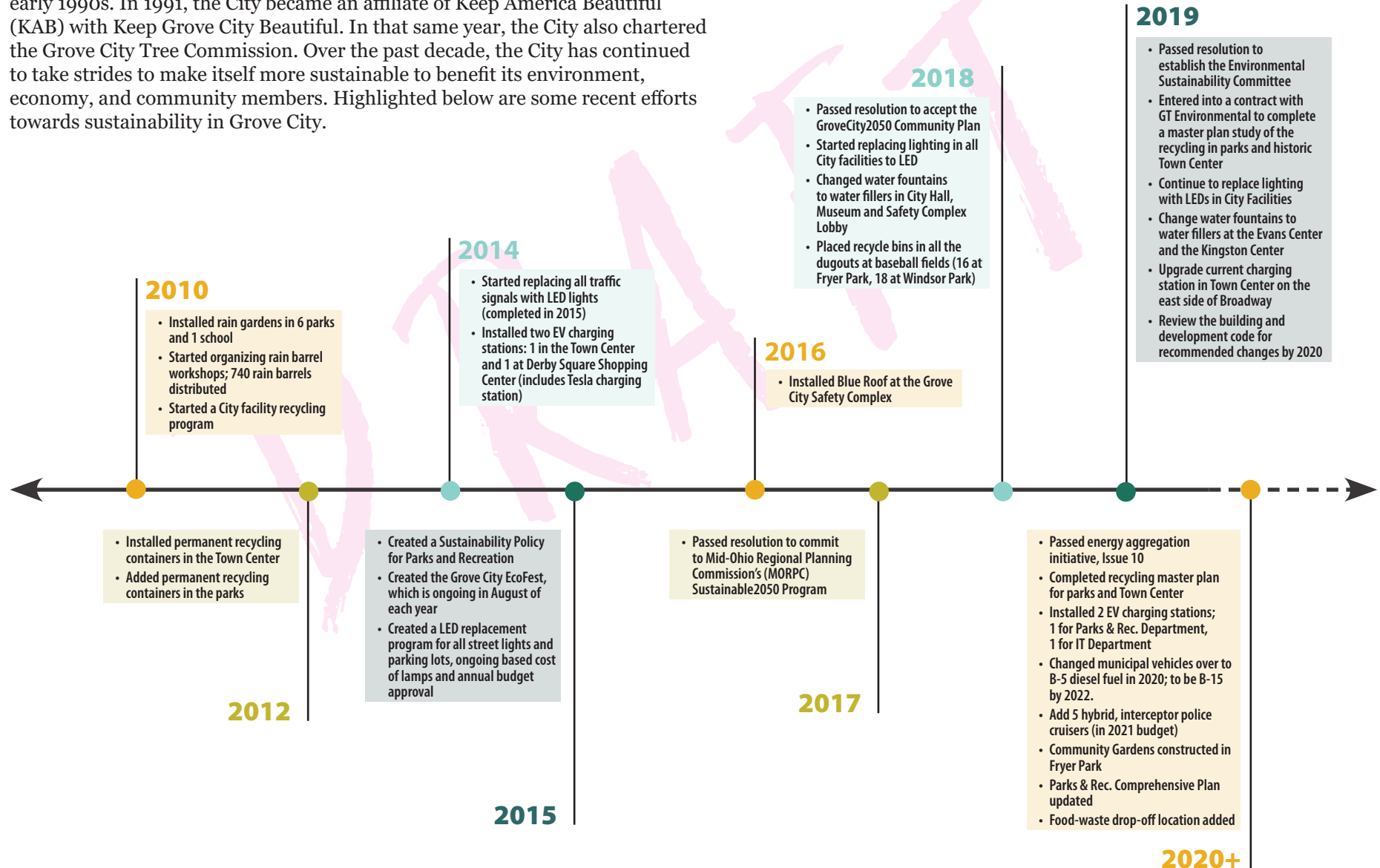
As a result of this collaborative process, a shared sense of responsibility for implementation has been cultivated to guide Grove City towards a more sustainable future.



SUSTAINABILITY TIMELINE

Existing Projects and Programs

Grove City has been working on sustainable projects and programs since the early 1990s. In 1991, the City became an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful (KAB) with Keep Grove City Beautiful. In that same year, the City also chartered the Grove City Tree Commission. Over the past decade, the City has continued to take strides to make itself more sustainable to benefit its environment, economy, and community members. Highlighted below are some recent efforts towards sustainability in Grove City.



SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES

These local businesses and organizations have been recognized for their commitment to sustainability.



- **Mid-Ohio Food Collective**, 3960 Brookham Dr.
- **Verizon Wireless**, 1782 Stringtown Road
- **Jackson Township Fire Station No. 204**, 4900 Buckeye Pkwy.



- **Kohl's**, 1548 Stringtown Road
- **Highland Park Elementary School**, 2600 Cameron Street
- **J.C. Sommer Elementary School**, 3055 Kingston Ave.
- **Monterey Elementary School**, 3811 Hoover Road
- **Richard Avenue Elementary School**, 3646 Richard Ave.



- **Kroger**, 2474 Stringtown Road
- **Kroger**, 5965 Hoover Road
- **Giant Eagle**, 2173 Stringtown Road
- **Target**, 4144 Buckeye Pkwy.
- **Staples**, 1739 Stringtown Road



- **New Harrisburg Station** (multi-family residential)
- **Lamplighter Senior Village**, 1185 Lamplighter Dr.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



In-person Meeting

Community members were invited to a meeting Oct. 19, 2019, facilitated by The Ohio State University, City and Regional Planning Department's Sustainability Studio where they joined conversations on a variety of sustainability topics such as energy, waste reduction and natural environment.

During these conversations, participants were asked to brainstorm action items related to these topics. At the end of the meeting, community members could view all the actions and individually identify the actions they thought were most important. This input helped inform the plan by identifying areas that were a priority to the community.



Community and committee members prioritize actions that were brainstormed during the charette.



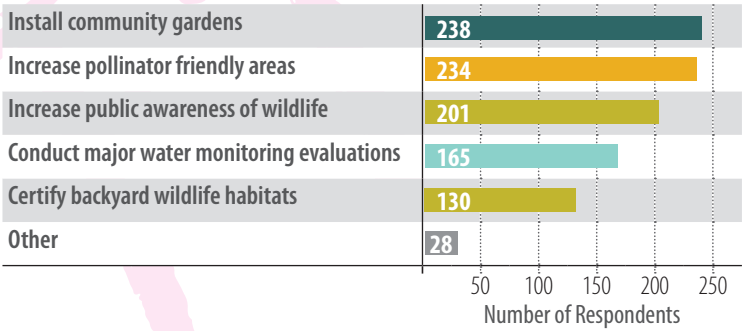
Participants look at a variety of actions and decide in which category they belong.

Online Survey

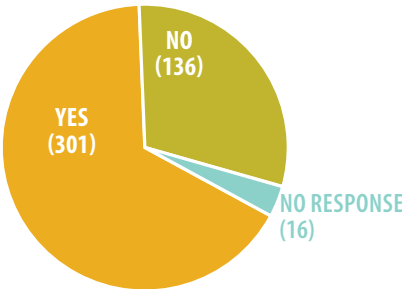
Following the meeting, a survey containing questions related to plan topics was shared with the Grove City community. The survey was available for a week and there were over 500 responses. Selected survey results are shown below. See appendix for full responses.

What types of programs would you like to see the City foster to maintain sustainable habitats and encourage a healthy, balanced environment?

CITY-FOSTERED PROGRAMS

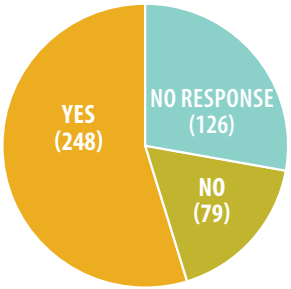


Would you be interested in a city-wide composting program?



Would you like to see Grove City implement a Sustainable Checklist

for current businesses and future development to assess and score the sustainability of a development in categories such as green roofs and LEED certification, etc.?



Who We Heard From

- More than half of the respondents were in the 30-64 age group.
- About 93% of respondents lived in Grove City, while 38% worked in Grove City
- 30% of respondents have lived in Grove City for 20 years or more

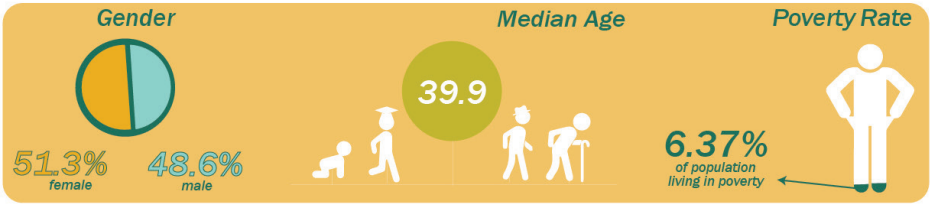
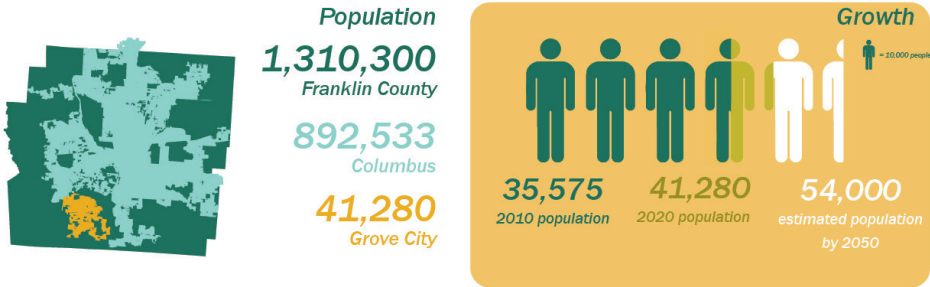
See appendix for more details.

GROVE CITY BY THE NUMBERS

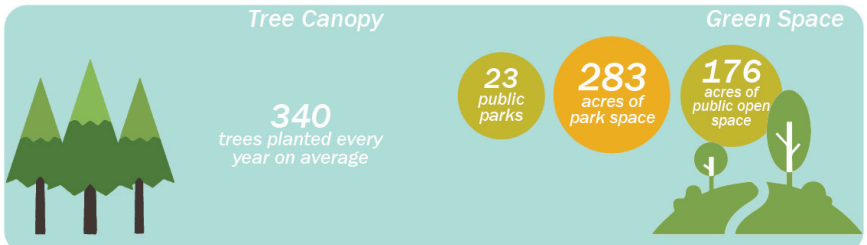
Grove City Today

The following demographic information regarding Grove City residents contextualizes important characteristics regarding the varying backgrounds of community members. While creating a plan for a more sustainable Grove City, it is key to consider community members of all backgrounds so valuable information and suggestions for how they can benefit from a more sustainable city is communicated effectively.

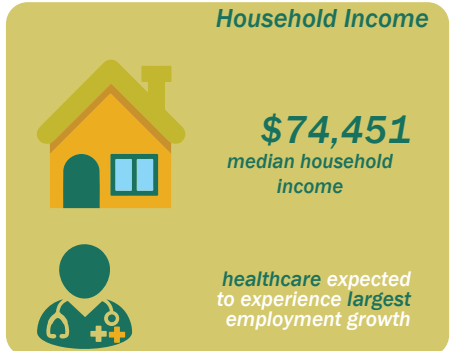
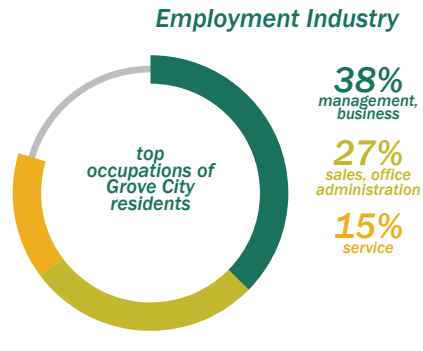
PEOPLE



PLANET



PROFIT



FOCUS AREAS



Built Environment



Natural Environment



Energy



Transportation



Waste Reduction & Recycling



Business Practices



City Operations



Community Engagement



Built Environment

The built environment is defined as “the human-made space where people live, work and recreate on a day-to-day basis.” It provides access to healthy food such as community gardens, fosters mental and physical health, and offers safe and easy transportation options for pedestrians and bicyclists. The City of Grove City strives to create neighborhoods, green spaces and business districts that are integrated, connected and environmentally friendly.

I. Update building and zoning code to encourage best practices for sustainable development.

Promote sustainable design and construction methods in order to reduce energy consumption by the built environment and increase public health and safety.

II. Remove regulatory and permitting barriers for Low Impact Development practices.

Low impact development (LID) refers to systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes in order to protect water quality and control stormwater flow. Implementing LID practices like clustering homes and reducing paved surfaces in new developments will help Grove City improve water quality and reduce flooding, while preserving green space and natural vegetation.

III. Remove regulatory and permitting barriers for Green Infrastructure and practices.

Implementing green infrastructure (GI) such as rain gardens, green roofs and permeable pavement into new developments and replacing gray infrastructure with green helps to control stormwater, improve water quality and decrease flooding. GI can incorporate natural vegetation, improving aesthetics.

IV. Incentivize LEED principles and green practices for new commercial buildings and retrofits.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system incentivizes green practices by using alternative, more sustainable design and construction practices. LEED-certified buildings save energy, water and other resources, generate less waste and support human health. They also cost less to operate.





Built Environment

V. Incorporate EV compatible outlets in new builds and retrofits.

Electrical outlets of 240 or more voltage can be installed in homes in order to offer faster charging and incentivize owning electric vehicles.

VI. All new residential construction to be Energy Star certified.

To earn the Energy Star, a home or apartment must meet strict program requirements for energy efficiency developed by Energy Star's Residential New Construction program. Energy Star certified homes and apartments are at least 10% more efficient than homes built to code and achieve a 20% improvement on average.

VII. All new-build multifamily and senior living facilities to provide recycling for their residents.

It is an important part of the City of Grove City sustainability efforts to give all residents the opportunity to recycle and reduce the solid waste deposited in the landfill.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

OUTCOME OBJECTIVE:	The built environment consists of man-made structures created or modified for human activity. Elements include architecture, landscape architecture, cities and infrastructure. The City of Grove City aims to promote sustainable design and construction methods.						
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Action Items	Measures	Responsibility	Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	
I. Update building and zoning code to encourage best practices for sustainable development.						
	1. Create incentives to reflect sustainable material use in the residential and non-residential appearance standards.	• Development Department • City Council • Building and Zoning Division	X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. City Council adopts updates to the Zoning Code by 2021 that encourages sustainable development practices.		X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
II. Remove regulatory and permitting barriers for Low Impact Development (LID) practices.						
	1. Clustering homes and reducing paved surfaces in new development.	• Development Department • City Council	X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Incorporate better language in the new code to create and preserve green space and natural vegetation.		X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
III. Remove regulatory and permitting barriers for Green Infrastructure (GI) and practices.						
	1. Strengthen storm water policy for implementation of rain gardens, green roofs and permeable pavement in new developments and existing homes.	• Development Department • Service Department • City Council		X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
IV. Incentivize LEED principles and green practices for new commercial buildings and retrofits.						
	1. Reduce permit fees to developers implementing LEED practices in new builds or retrofitting existing spaces/buildings.	• Building and Zoning Division • City Council - Funding		X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Create incentive tiers and how to measure.			X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
V. Incorporate EV compatible outlets in new builds and retrofits						
	1. Add to zoning text for new residential PUDs.	• Development Department	X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
VI. All new residential construction to be Energy Star certified.						
	1. Help builder/developer to become an Energy Star partner.	• Development Department • Building and Zoning Division			X	☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Develop incentives for developers to become Energy Star certified.				X	☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	3. Promote those contractors who are Energy Star certified on the Building Department's web page for registered contractors.				X	☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE

VII. All new-build multifamily and senior living facilities to provide recycling for their residents.						
	1. Create a new code to require developers to provide recycling containers/dumpsters for all multifamily and senior living facilities. Note: This has been added to the draft standards in the new code.	• Development Department • City Council	X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE

DRAFT



Natural Environment

The natural environment entails all living and non-living things that exist in nature without interference or actions from humans. The City of Grove City aims to ensure an environmentally healthy community for both its citizens and natural resources by protecting habitats, incorporating native plant species and adapting open spaces, parks and community gardens.

I. Create community gardens within the Grove City community.

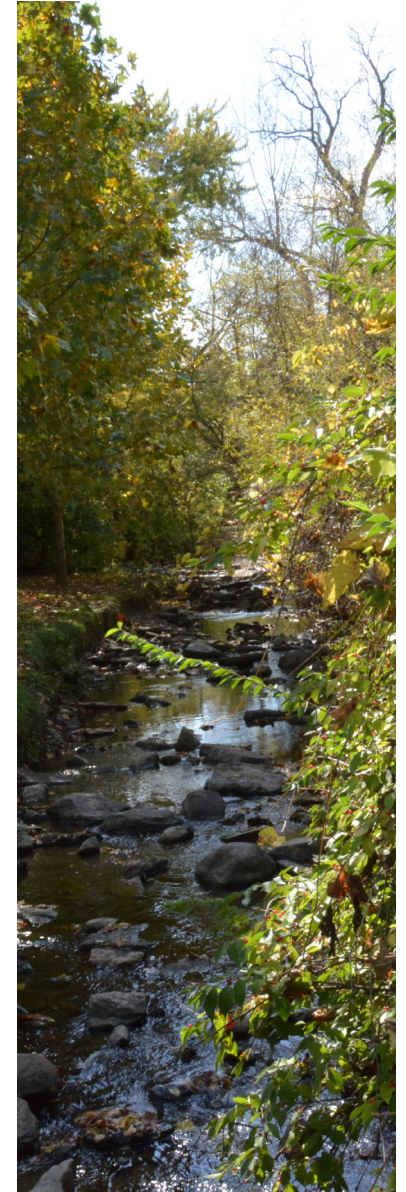
Community gardens on Grove City owned property will provide residents with an opportunity to connect with nature and produce locally grown foods. Promoting sustainable agriculture practices provides residents with access to healthy, nutritious, locally grown food.

II. Increase the number of native species planted on both non-recreational and recreational areas within Grove City.

Native plants have adapted to the Grove City environment and therefore are low maintenance, require less water and help local animals and insects to thrive. Grove City will evaluate potential open spaces and rights of way to plant native species and determine the correct blends for those chosen areas.

III. Form a community volunteer group to remove invasive species on City-owned non-recreational and recreational areas and, if possible, replant with native species.

Invasive species can threaten the health of native species by competing for the same resources or directly preying on them. Removing invasive species prevents them from spreading further and fosters a healthy ecosystem.





Natural Environment

IV. Encourage homeowners to manage their gardens and yards as Backyard Wildlife Habitats.

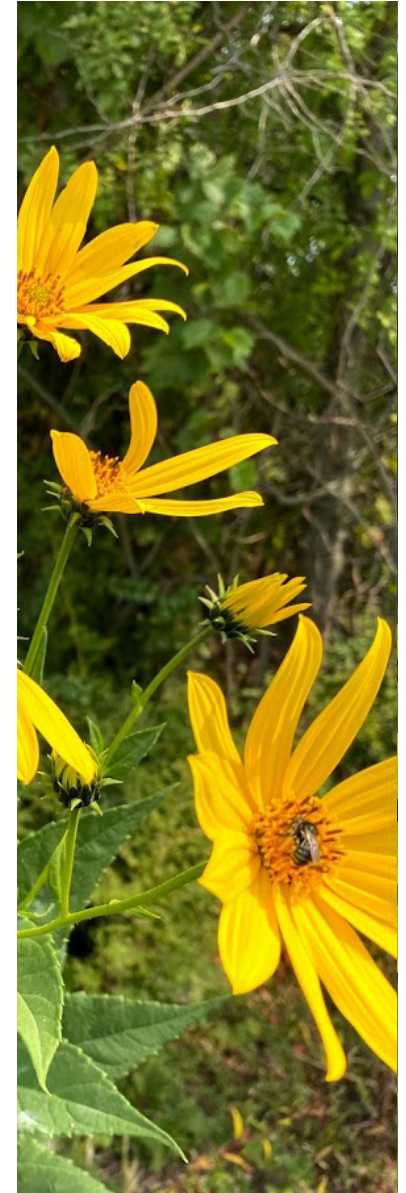
Environmental changes and increased development can make it more difficult for the wildlife to find an appropriate habitat. By creating and certifying a yard or garden as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat, residents can help to maintain healthy and diverse animal habitats and ecosystems.

V. Conduct a tree canopy study to determine the amount of tree canopy currently in Grove City.

Urban Tree Canopy (UCT) refers to the layer of tree leaves, branches and stems that provide tree coverage of the ground when viewed from above. Improving a city's tree canopy can have numerous benefits including reducing summer peak temperatures and air pollution, enhancing property values, maintaining wildlife habitat, providing aesthetic benefits, and attracting businesses and new residents.

VI. Change commercial development landscape codes to suggest using native plants, shrubs and trees.

An ecologically sound landscape plan incorporating native vegetation can contribute to the overall soil, water and air quality. Historically authentic plantings using native species result in a diverse and seasonally changing landscape that, once established, requires far less maintenance than traditional landscapes. Native plant landscapes generally do not require irrigation, fertilizers or pesticides. Studies have even shown that employees are more productive when surrounded by natural areas.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

OUTCOME OBJECTIVE: Protect and conserve our natural resources, through protecting habitats, incorporating native plant species, and adapting open spaces, parks and community gardens.

Action Items	Measures	Responsibility				Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	
I. Create community gardens within the Grove City community.									
	1. Determine location(s) of community gardens and assemble a management plan for those gardens.	• Parks and Recreation Department • Grove City Parks Board				X			☒ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Promote the gardens through social media, community meetings and events.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
II. Increase the number of native species planted on non-recreational areas and recreational areas within Grove City.									
	1. Evaluate potential open spaces (outside of parks) and rights-of-way to plant native species.	• Urban Forestry Division • Parks and Recreation Department					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Set up master plan and timeline for creating these areas.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
III. Form a community volunteer group to remove invasive species on City owned non-recreation and recreational properties and, if possible, replant with native species.									
	1. Organize a group of volunteers to help remove invasive species.	• Urban Forestry Division • Grove City Tree Commission					X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Hold a series of workshops to educate our residents about invasive species and to help identify areas.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	3. Determine the types of native perennials to be planted.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
IV. Encourage homeowners to manage their gardens and yards as Backyard Wildlife Habitats.									
	1. Hold workshops for residents on how to become a certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat.	• Urban Forestry Division • Keep Grove City Beautiful • Franklin Soil and Water • Community Relations				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Work toward a Community Wildlife Habitat certification for our different communities.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE

V. Conduct a tree canopy study to determine the amount of tree canopy currently in Grove City.

1. Hire a company to conduct the study and create a tree canopy plan with goals and objectives for increasing the canopy.	• Urban Forestry Division	X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
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VI. Change commercial development landscape codes to suggest using native plants, trees and shrubs.

1. Develop a list of native plants, trees and shrubs to present to developers for use in their new and/or existing projects.	• Urban Forestry Division • Development Department	X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
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DRAFT



Energy

Energy/renewable energy is focused on exploring actions that can be taken to increase adoption of renewable energy, reduce total energy consumption, and generally support more sustainable energy practices. The City of Grove City seeks to minimize the adverse impacts of fossil fuel and other energy usage throughout the City in a effort to pursue a more sustainable city.

I. Implement energy aggregation.

Aggregation is a process by which individual energy consumers can join together to buy energy as a group. This process is unique in Ohio, and Grove City should consider the potential of aggregation as a means of enhancing the buying power of energy consumers in the city.

II. Commit to City operations using MORPC's Local Government Energy Partnership.

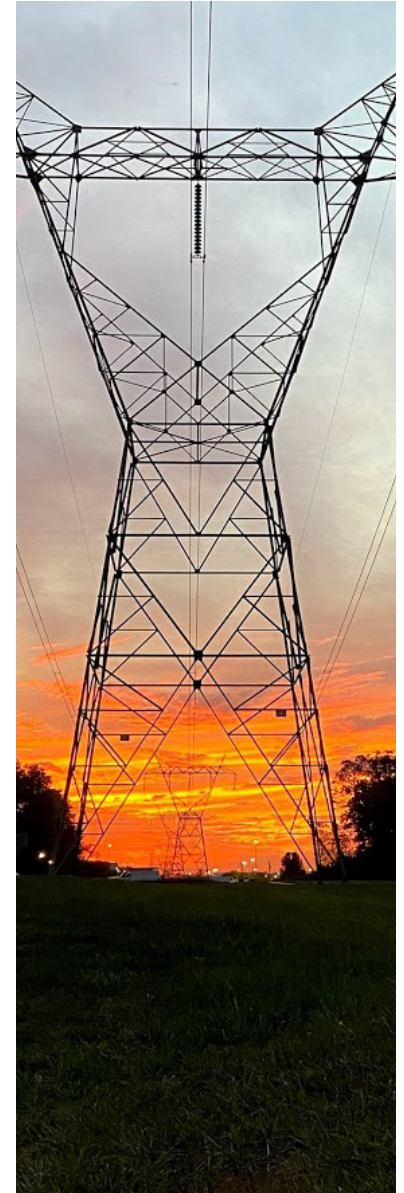
The Local Government Energy Partnership is a collaborative initiative providing MORPC members with technical services, best practices, support for policy development and financing opportunities. Its focus is on improving government operations and fleets.

III. Encourage residents and businesses to use solar and wind power.

Ensuring that all members of the Grove City community have the opportunity to reduce their energy footprint is another essential aspect of making Grove City more sustainable. The City should seek viable options to help residents and businesses achieve a goal of reducing their energy footprint.

IV. Promote energy efficient building practices.

It is important that the development occurring in Grove City is done with sustainability in mind. Buildings designed to be energy efficient carry numerous benefits to both tenants and the surrounding environment, including less wasted energy, lower energy costs and less harmful impacts to the natural environment from where building materials and energy are sourced.



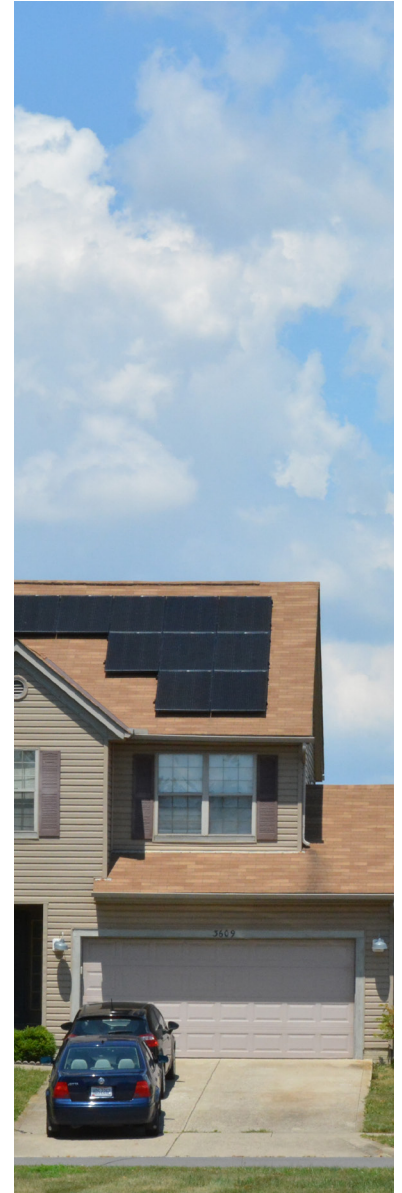


Energy

V. All City facilities to be net zero to the grid by 2035.

A building is generally considered net zero energy if it produces as much energy as it consumes, reducing the use of and need for nonrenewable energy. This is usually measured over a 12-month period to capture differences related to seasonal effects on a building.

DRAFT



ENERGY

OUTCOME OBJECTIVE: Increase adoption of renewable energy, reduce total energy consumption and generally support more sustainable energy practices.

Action Items	Measures	Responsibility				Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	
I. Implement energy aggregation.									
	1. Council passed ordinance C-37-20 to put the energy aggregation on the November 2020 ballot (Issue 10). Issue 10 passed 63% to 37%. The City to send out requests for proposals for the generation of clean renewable energy.	• City Council • City Administration				X			☒ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. The City to send out requests for proposals for the generation of clean renewable energy.	• City Administration				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
II. Commit to City Operations using MORPC’s Local Government Energy Partnership.									
	1. Collaborate with MORPC to develop the energy partnership.	• City Council • City Administration • Service Director					X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Create a plan to reduce energy usage and source the electricity still being used from emission-free sources.	• Facilities Maintenance					X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
III. Encourage residents and businesses to use solar and wind power if possible.									
	1. Change zoning code to allow for new and built residential generation of renewable energy via wind or solar power.	• Development Department • Building and Zoning Division					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Work with HOAs to encourage and become more accepting of wind and solar power.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
IV. Promote energy efficient building practices.									
	1. Provide residents with information on programs such as Ohio PACE, MORPC home weatherization, and LEED Green Building certification.	• Development Department • Building and Zoning Division • City Council (funding)				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Create green building checklists for municipal certification.	• Community Relations					X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	3. Incentivize green building practices through reduced permit fees or fast tracking applications with green building practices.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
V. All City facilities to be net zero to the grid by 2035.									
	1. Develop goals and objectives for net zero plan.	• Service Director • Facilities Maintenance Supervisor						X	☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE



Transportation

Sustainable transportation consists of the efficient use of existing resources to increase mobility while balancing current and future needs. Key to improving Grove City's sustainability is through multiple modes of transportation: walking, biking, driving motorized vehicles and using public transportation. By setting goals and implementing strategies to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), a robust, heavily-used alternative transportation system can dramatically increase Grove City's economic vitality, health and quality of life.

I. **Adopt a Complete Streets policy.**

A Complete Streets policy promotes safety, accessibility and all modes of transportation within the thoroughfare. Additionally, social equity can be achieved by implementing the Complete Streets policy. Transportation infrastructure that considers multi-modal connectivity accommodates for all people of varying socio-economic status that live and are traveling through Grove City.

II. **Build more active transportation infrastructure.**

Active transportation accommodates and plans for pedestrians and bicyclists. Prioritizing additional active transportation infrastructure will increase various transportation options, connect residents to community assets and to downtown Columbus, improve the health of the Grove City community, preserve green space and further economic development opportunities.

III. **Enhance connectivity and access to EV charging stations.**

Residents and employees located in Grove City will want to have ease of access to charging stations near homes and businesses that is equally as comprehensive as traditional gas stations are today. Local businesses will benefit from an increased level of traffic from EV owners that utilize these convenient charging spots. Identifying potential locations with the highest value of convenience will be an important step in establishing a reliable network.

IV. **Expand the range of transportation options citywide.**

Prioritizing and assessing our current transportation options in the City will allow us to expand our current plan, giving more options to our residents and improving the health of our community.



TRANSPORTATION

OUTCOME OBJECTIVE: Provide our community with access to a range of transportation options that accommodate all users who, walk, bike, take public transit, move goods or drive cars.

Action Items	Measures	Responsibility				Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	
I. Adopt a Complete Streets policy									
	1. Pass a resolution to adopt the Complete Streets policy as part of GroveCity2050.	• City Council				X			☒ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
II. Build more active transportation infrastructure									
	1. Add more trail miles within Grove City to provide cyclist connections to the Central Ohio Greenways regional trail network.	• Parks and Recreation Department • Development Department • Service Department • City Council - Funding					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Prioritize trail segments in Grove City based on the needs of the community.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
III. Enhance connectivity and access to EV charging stations.									
	1. Identify locations in Grove City that hold high EV charging potential such as nearby businesses, residences and apartments.	• Development Department • City Council - Funding • Visit Grove City				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Give incentives to businesses, hotels, etc. for developing their own charging station area in coordination with the City to have the greatest level of impact.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	3. Help businesses connect to partners to create EV stations.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
IV. Expand the range of transportation options citywide.									
	1. Assess the transportation need of our businesses and workforce.	• Development Department • City Council - Funding • Parks and Recreation • Safety Director					X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Continuously monitor and evaluate our transportation needs.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	3. Look into piloting a bike-share program.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	4. Work with COTA for COTA//Plus to increase ridership and further expand* the program, possibly incorporating a southwest corridor. * Note: this program was expanded for 2020-2021.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE



Waste Reduction & Recycling

Waste reduction or source reduction is the practice of preventing waste by decreasing or eliminating the amount of materials going into the landfill. Actions include reducing the amount of trash generated (e.g., prevent food waste) and diverting materials from the landfill (e.g., recycle, repurpose by composting or reuse).

I. Partner with SWACO to create commercial recycling initiatives.

Work with SWACO to create opportunities to allow businesses in Grove City to recycle cost effectively. Work with the businesses waste haulers to provide recycling services. Getting more businesses to recycle can significantly reduce the amount of waste deposited in the landfill.

II. Promote convenient food waste recycling options for our residents.

Develop a convenient residential composting program and designate various locations around the city as drop-off locations for compost in order to make composting as easy as possible for residents. Composting can greatly reduce the amount of waste entering our landfill.

III. Increase the community's diversion rate.

A waste diversion rate represents how much waste an individual diverts from the landfill by recycling and yard waste management. Waste diversion is a critical component to any successful recycling program whether done at home, school or work. It is not just about effective recycling, but more importantly about reducing the amount of waste produced. An effective educational program and recycling opportunities will go a long way in increasing our City's diversion rate.

IV. Increase recycling in City parks and facilities.

Creating thought out recycling opportunities and education in City parks will increase recycling by residents. Evaluating recycling containers in City buildings and creating an educational recycling campaign for our employees will reinforce the City recycling message internally.





Waste Reduction & Recycling

V. All City facilities to be zero waste by 2025.

Creating a zero waste plan for each City building will help us achieve this goal. Simply put, we need to aim to send nothing from City facilities to the landfill by reducing need, reusing as much as possible, sending little to be recycled, and composting what cannot be recycled.

VI. All City and non-City events to be zero waste by 2025.

Creating a zero waste plan for all events occurring within Grove City will help achieve this goal. Using this as an educational tool for our residents will show them the need to reduce as much as possible in their own households.



WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

OUTCOME OBJECTIVE: To reduce the amount of waste going into our landfill that otherwise is not being recycled or re-purposed.

Action Items	Measures	Responsibility				Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	
I. Partner with SWACO to create commercial recycling initiatives.									
	1. Work with SWACO to create an educational campaign to explain what can be recycled and the benefits.	• SWACO • Economic Development				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Create an awards program that can be displayed in their storefronts, for their recycling efforts.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
II. Promote convenient food waste recycling options for our residents									
	1. Develop pilot residential food waste drop-off program.	• Environmental Supervisor • SWACO • Community Relations • City Council - Funding				X			☒ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Locate options for convenient drop-offs around the City.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	3. Create an educational program for the new drop-off program and a campaign to encourage proper residential composting.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
III. Increase the community's diversion rate.									
	1. Increase the City's diversion rate 28% - 40% by 2023.	• Community Relations • Environmental Supervisor				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Provide more opportunities for our residents to recycle or donate items.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	3. Educate our residents about recycling.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
IV. Increase recycling in City facilities and City parks.									
	1. Create a recycling master plan for our parks and Town Center.	• GT Environmental • Environmental Supervisor • Parks and Recreation • Community Relations				X			☒ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Evaluate all recycling containers in City buildings.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	3. Create an educational campaign for our employees and residents.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE

V. All City facilities to be zero waste by 2025.

	1. Conduct a waste audit in all City facilities.	• City Facility Manager • Representative from Each City Department • Environmental Supervisor		X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Create a zero waste plan for each building with goals and objectives.			X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	3. Educate our employees about our zero waste plan.			X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE

VI. All City and non-City events to be zero waste by 2025.

	1. Create a zero waste plan for all City-sponsored events.	• Environmental Supervisor • City Event Management Personnel • Representatives from non-City entities planning events		X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Create a zero waste plan for all events occurring in Grove City sponsored by other entities.			X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	3. Create a packet of information for all event managers.			X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE



Business Practices

Green business practices have potential to increase the tax base and give Grove City some of the greenest companies in the area. The creation of a sustainable checklist for existing businesses can make this possible by guiding creation of internal programs. The Development Department could create checklists for new construction projects and, if developers abide by the regulations set by the green checklist, City fees could be waived.

I. **Create a Grove City green business program.**

The Grove City green business program seeks to encourage current businesses in Grove City to work towards an environmentally sustainable workspace. Existing businesses could become part of the solution and get recognition for their green actions. A program would be developed consisting of different categories to recognize businesses for implementing a variety of measures that indicate a commitment to sustainability.

II. **Create a Grove City new development checklist.**

A green development checklist would guide new businesses relocating to the area, encouraging them to follow the standards set in place for eco-friendly development. This checklist will contextualize, assist with and stimulate green sustainable techniques for site development and green building for new projects.

III. **Create a green business round table.**

A green business round table would bring together business owners in Grove City to hold facilitated discussions on sustainable business practices. Round table events could be hosted twice a year with different discussion topics at each.



BUSINESS PRACTICES

OUTCOME OBJECTIVE: Create a business environment that encourages the growth of environmental friendly businesses, technology and buildings.

Action Items	Measures	Responsibility				Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	
I. Create a Grove City green business program.									
	1. Develop a green business program to recognize businesses for their commitment to sustainability.	• Business Development • Building and Zoning Division • Community Relations • Chamber of Commerce					X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Add a “green spot” type program to the tier program.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
II. Create a Grove City new development checklist.									
	1. Develop green design standards to be incorporated into the development text.	• Development Department • Building and Zoning Division • City Council					X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Create green development text for new and existing businesses.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
III. Create a green business round table.									
	1. Develop discussion topics for quarterly green business round tables.	• Development Department • Community Relations • Chamber of Commerce • Visit Grove City				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Develop a targeted outreach list of local business owners who are interested in learning about sustainable business practices.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE



City Operations

City Operations include all the things that keep a city running start. This includes performing basic city services such as sanitation, water, quality streets, police and transportation. Grove City plays an important role in contributing to the local economy, enabling a healthy and active work force, and ensuring environmental well-being for the Grove City area. Implementation of innovative ideas throughout Grove City can enable the City to operate in a more sustainable manner and set an example for residents and businesses.

I. Create an Office of Sustainability for the City of Grove City.

The Office of Sustainability would establish best practices and guidelines, and coordinate sustainability efforts throughout all City departments. This department would report to the City Administrator and be responsible for ensuring the Sustainability Plan is followed and reviewed annually.

II. Create a sustainable procurement and purchasing policy.

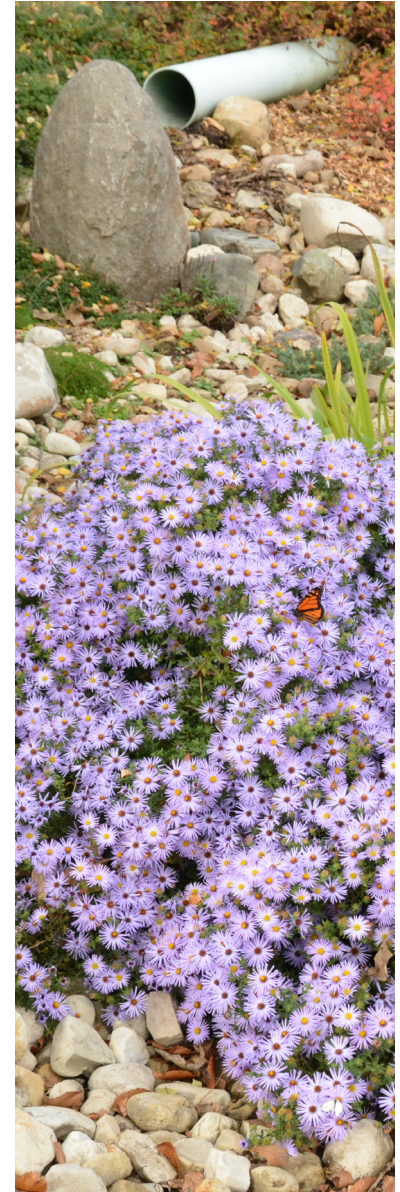
A policy pertaining to the products and services the City buys or provides for the community would lead to the development of options for more sustainable goods and services alternatives. Sustainable purchasing options encourage the use of greener products and can lead to reduced bid costs and lower utility bills.

III. Transition City fleet to electric vehicles where applicable.

Transition the city's vehicle fleet, especially police cars and other regularly used city automobiles, to electric or hybrid vehicles. Reducing emissions is key for reducing the City's carbon footprint and increasing health outcomes as a result of better air quality. Reducing the City's emissions is one step toward a healthier community.

IV. Implement a City-wide water efficiency plan.

Implementing a plan to reduce the amount of water being consumed in City facilities will benefit the City's sustainability efforts. Best practices include rain gardens, and low-water-use appliances, fixtures and products. By investing in these types of best practices the City will decrease the municipal operational cost, time and energy.





City Operations

V. Create a rain harvesting system at the Service Complex.

Rainwater harvesting systems can be employed as simple and effective methods to meet a municipality's stormwater management program, allowing us to better utilize an energy resource. It serves as an excellent source of water for plants and landscape irrigation since it has no chemicals such as fluoride and chloramines (chlorine).



CITY OPERATIONS

OUTCOME OBJECTIVE: Implement sustainable practices throughout the City and it's facilities that enable sustainable operations and expand environmental education and stewardship throughout the Grove City Community.

Action Items	Measures	Responsibility				Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	
I. Create the Office of Sustainability for the City of Grove City.									
	1. Coordinate sustainability efforts through the City and departments.	• City Administration • City Council					X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Establish best practice guidelines for the City of Grove City.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
II. Create a sustainable procurement and purchasing policy.									
	1. Create a policy to prioritize and require sustainable procurement.	• City Council • Service Department/Facility Manager				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Create a list of default and preferred products that are regularly purchased.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
III. Transition City fleet to electric vehicles where applicable.									
	1. Carry out plan for transitioning to an electric, clean diesel or B- bio diesel, where applicable.	• Service Director • Fleet Manager • City Administration • City Council - Funding					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
IV. Implement a city-wide water efficiency plan.									
	1. Create a plan for City facilities to determine what best practices we can use to decrease the municipal operational cost, time and energy; i.e.; rain gardens, low-water use appliances, fixtures, products, etc.	• Service Department/Facility Manager • City Council - Policy and Funding					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
V. Create a rain harvesting system at the Service Complex.									
	1. Develop a plan and quote for installing a rain harvesting system.	• Service Director • Urban Forester • City Council - Funding				X			☒ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE



Community Engagement

The key to long-term sustainability is community engagement. It can be presented in a variety of ways and involves the collaboration of different organizations, institutions and individuals to achieve a common goal. Community involvement can be represented through city events, educational programs and city forums. Improving communication and strengthening relationships within the community not only increases a sense of place, but improves overall quality of life.

I. Create a social media and web presence about the City's sustainability efforts and future goals.

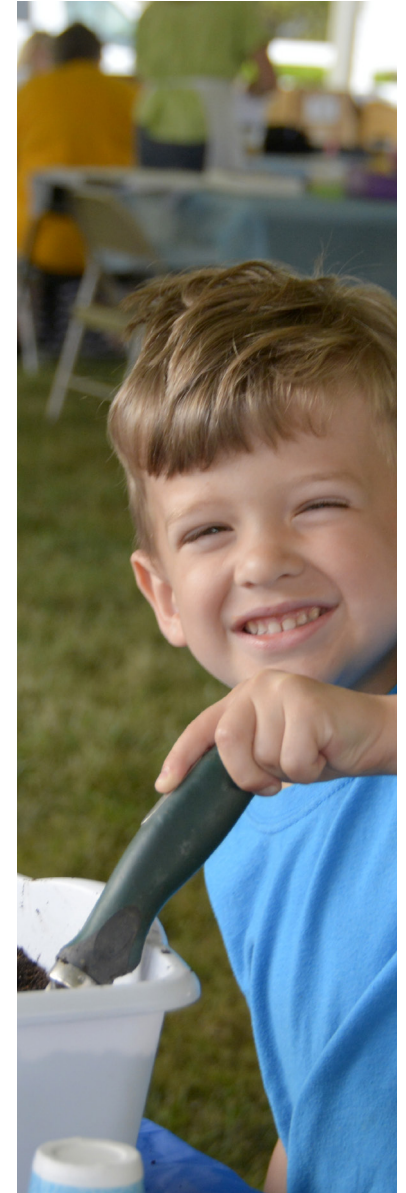
Grove City can capitalize on its strong online and social media presence to bring awareness to sustainability topics and educate citizens. Having a dedicated web page to house all things sustainable on the Grove City website can be a resource for community members to easily learn about upcoming events and how to adopt sustainability practices into their everyday life.

II. Offer community workshops on sustainability topics.

Community workshops on sustainability are used to introduce and educate members of the community on how Grove City plans to implement new ideas in the City. This is a way for community residents, organizations and city officials to learn more about what the community is doing and how they can get more involved.

III. Meet with Grove City HOAs to provide resources for and encourage sustainable practices.

Homeowners Associations (HOAs) are a main reason why residents are hesitant or prohibited from carrying out sustainable practices. Meeting with HOAs and educating them on how to incorporate sustainability into their communities and the benefits can encourage them to consider adopting these practices and ultimately drafting new language into their covenants.





Community Engagement

IV. Educate the public about energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.

In conjunction with City Operations pursuing 100% emission-free sourced electricity, Grove City residents and businesses should do their best to achieve this same goal. Providing assistance to community members who seek more information on renewably generated electricity is a key function of the implementation of this plan.

V. Implement a community education program around planting more native species on private residences.

Develop educational materials targeted to encourage residents and businesses to preserve and plant more native species. Native species planted on private property help protect local animal and insect species and use less water than non-native species.

VI. Apply for the OEPA E3C (Encouraging Environmental Excellence for Communities) recognition.

The E3C has three levels of recognition. Grove City should try to attain the Sustainable Level, the highest.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OUTCOME OBJECTIVE: Strengthen relationships with members of the community using improved communication that emphasizes how sustainability is relevant to them.

Action Items	Measures	Responsibility				Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	
I. Create a social media and web presence about the City's sustainability efforts and future goals.									
	1. Create a sustainability web page.	• Environmental Supervisor • Community Relations				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Use social media to present sustainability topics and events.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
II. Offer community workshops on sustainability topics that would help our residents incorporate these practices in their daily lives.									
	1. Plan workshops either monthly or quarterly on such topics as rain gardens, recycling and composting, solar and wind power, water usage, renewable energy and energy usage.	• Environmental Supervisor • Community Relations				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Link webinars and create partnerships with organizations for virtual workshops.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
III. Meet with Grove City HOA's to provide resources for and encourage sustainable practices.									
	1. Facilitate conversations with HOAs and Grove City to encourage them to consider adopting these practices and drafting new language into their covenants.	• Development Department • Building and Zoning Division					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
IV. Educate the public about energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.									
	1. Provide assistance to our community regarding information on renewable energy practices.	• Environmental Supervisor • Community Relations • MORPC				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
V. Implement a community program to educate about planting native species on private residential property.									
	1. Create a campaign to encourage and educate our residents on the importance of planting and landscaping with native species of plants and trees.	• Urban Forestry Division • Community Relations • FSWCD				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
VI. Apply for the OHIO EPA E3C (Encouraging Environmental Excellence for Communities) recognition.									
	1. Attain the "Sustainable Level," the highest level of recognition offered by the E3C.	• Environmental Supervisor				X			☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE



Implementation

Implementation is a key component of the Grove City Sustainability Plan. The action items in each focus area identify recommended projects, policies and programs to improve our sustainability efforts and those throughout the City of Grove City. It is important to track the progress of implementation for each actions items, in order to make the process as seamless as possible. All focus areas have outcome objectives that outline timelines, responsible parties and metrics to measure success for each action item.

The Sustainability Committee would be part of the implementation process, working to ensure the execution of each action item. Members could follow up with responsible parties, track progress and update the timelines to account for unforeseen changes in the future. The committee could also provide an updated report once a year to show which action items have been implemented and where work still needs to be done.

The City of Grove City would like to thank the Sustainability Committee members for their hard work over the past two years to bring this plan to fruition.

