

Tompkins County Sustainability Team 2009 Accomplishments and 2010 Goals

The Tompkins County Sustainability Team, whose **mission** is *to promote sustainable practices including social, environmental, and economic stewardship to benefit future generations and to inspire other municipalities, public and private entities, and the residents to do the same*, continued to build on its successes in 2009 and has set its sights on goals for 2010 as follows:

2009 Accomplishments:

The Sustainability Team is divided into sub-committees that are established annually by the goals set forth for the team. The sub-committees do the “real work” and then report back to the full team on their accomplishments.

- ***Environmentally Preferred Procurement/Finger Lakes Environmentally Preferred Procurement Consortium (FLEPPC) –***
 - This consortium comprised of TST-BOCES, Tompkins County, City of Ithaca, Cornell University, Ithaca College, TC3, the Chamber of Commerce, and Cayuga Medical Center, expanded its membership to include the Tompkins Council of Governments (TCCOG). Glen Morey, Town of Groton Supervisor, was elected by TCCOG to be its representative. The consortium continues to seek ways to use its collective purchasing power to purchase environmentally preferred products at the best possible price. In 2009, several of the member institutions were successful in jointly purchasing janitorial and other supplies. Research into other similar consortiums has yielded a connection with the West Michigan Sustainable Purchasing Consortium with whom information is exchanged. Conversations with NYS Office of General Services (OGS) have taken place to discuss obstacles recognized in joint purchasing ventures and to see if any relief or relaxation of the rules can occur to maximize purchasing options. A phone conference call was conducted with the Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) in October. Information was shared about FLEPPC and the resources RPN offer. Discussions of proposed ideas for how FLEPPC and RPN can potentially collaborate will continue into 2010.
 - The ***Environmentally Preferred Procurement Resource Guide*** continues to be a source of information on environmentally preferred products. The guide was last updated in 2008 to provide information on products in a wide-range of categories. The first Green Vendor Fair was held on October 22, 2009 and was sponsored by the Solid Waste Management Division and the Environmentally Preferred Purchasing sub-committee of the Sustainability Team.

- ***Green Fleet Policy***
 - A team comprised of county employees from departments that maintain fleet vehicles met several times to develop language for the County's Green Fleet Management policy. The policy received Legislature approval on November 17th and will become a policy in the County's Administrative Manual.

- ***Alternative Fuels Consortium***
 - A consortium consisting of members from the municipalities, educational institutions, and TCAT successfully sought bids for biodiesel for use in the public sector fleets across the county. The first tanker load of B20 was delivered to the County Highway Division in April 2009. Other consortium members purchased B5, B10, or B20 for use in their fleets. The bid contract with Mirabito Fuels remained in effect until the NYS OGS contracts was awarded and announced for diesel and biodiesel in October. However, the state contract award did not include B20 for Tompkins County. In subsequent conversations with the successful bidder for straight diesel for Tompkins County, Griffith Energy, they have expressed interest in supplying B20 by the spring of 2010 in order that consortium members can continue to use it. From April – October 2009, County Highway displaced 8,600 gallons of diesel with biodiesel, helping to reach the County's green house gas emissions reduction goals.

- ***Energy Efficiency***
 - The *Facilities Management and Workplace Environment* policy was finalized and approved by Tompkins County Legislature. Topics addressed in the policy include energy reduction, thermostat settings, and use of appliances in county buildings.

- ***Waste Reduction and Surplus Equipment***
 - Waste reduction assessments were finalized in all County departments and the program further expanded into the private businesses sector in the County, adding apartments and municipalities to the growing list of sectors. This program will help the Solid Waste Management Division reach its waste reduction goals.
 - The Waste Reduction Representatives in each department use a listserv to advertise surplus items to other departments, resulting in numerous success stories. This program has many benefits including cost reduction to a department that can avail itself of another's surplus item(s), keeping useful items in use, and reducing the amount of material entering the waste stream.
 - A composting pilot project got underway and will be continued to be rolled - out to various County departments into 2010.

- ***Infrastructure Design***
 - The new Health Department building at 55 Brown Road has been under construction in 2009 with a projected move-in date for the Health Department in early 2010. LEED silver status seems obtainable, the County's first LEED certified project.
 - The Ithaca-Tompkins Regional Airport received permission from the FAA to develop a 20-year *Green* Master Plan, the first of its kind in the country. An advisory committee comprised of governments and community partners had its kickoff meeting on September 24th.
- ***Natural Resources***
 - The Planning Department continued to utilize the County's Comprehensive Plan to responsibly manage natural resources by _____
- ***Local Action Plan for Green House Gas Emissions***
 - The Planning Department tracked information for annual reports on the progress of reaching a 20% reduction in green house gas by 2050.
- ***Employee Education & Involvement***
 - 2009 goals for development of a sustainability web page and an interactive DVD for county employees had initial action and will continue into 2010.

2010 Goals:

The goals set for 2010 will be done through the same sub-committee structure that was in place in 2009.

- ***Environmentally Preferred Procurement/Finger Lakes Environmentally Preferred Procurement Consortium (FLEPPC)***
 - Seek out new and additional alternative products and services to recommend, including listing minority owned and local companies that sell the products.
 - Evaluate products and services for their cost-effectiveness in order to promote EPP in a fiscally responsible manner, and take budget constraints into consideration.
 - Seek feedback from county departments on environmentally preferred products and services to be sure they perform satisfactorily.
 - Work with FLEPPC members to identify products and services that can be jointly procured to benefit the environment and reduce costs.
- ***Green Fleet***
 - Implement and monitor the Green Fleet policy in County departments and through purchases.
 - Continue to pursue opportunities to address and manage vehicle needs that result in reduced dependence on petroleum products, reduce green house gas emissions, and provide transportation options to County employees providing services to county residents.

- Continue membership in and facilitation of the Alternative Fuels Consortium.
- ***Energy Efficiency***
 - Make a recommendation for following through on plug load audits in county facilities and implement a plan to reduce the energy use as identified.
 - Evaluate use and make recommendations on vending machine placement and use in the County since the Facilities Division subsidizes the payment of energy to run the machines.
 - Provide employee education on the Facilities Management and Workplace Environment policy.
- ***Waste Reduction***
 - Continue to perform waste assessments in area businesses.
 - Monitor the Waste Reduction Representatives listserv and make any needed adjustments.
 - Work with the Facilities Division to develop an improved bid for removal of recyclables and trash from county facilities.
 - Finalize the “matrix” for surplus equipment disposition.
 - Work with a third party business to develop a contract for moving/removing surplus equipment from county and/or between county departments.
 - Form a team to develop a solution to the management and shredding of confidential records.
 - Finalize the “matrix” for surplus equipment disposition.
 - Seek opportunities within the county to increase composting.
- ***Surplus Equipment***
 - Work with the county departments to clarify the various routing options for surplus equipment in order to maximize efficiency and reuse of items to the greatest extent possible or recycle them.
- ***Infrastructure Design***
 - Ascertain that all divisions/departments responsible for infrastructure maintenance and construction are being as environmentally responsible as possible in design and construction practices.
 - Ascertain LEED accreditation for the 55 Brown Rd. project.
- ***Natural Resources***
 - The Planning Department will continue to work on projects and programs related to natural resources elements as outlined in the Comprehensive Management Plan including _____.

- ***Local Action Plan for Green-house Gas Emissions***
 - Continue to collect, evaluate, and report on green - house gas emission reductions across the County.
 - Work with the local municipalities and the community to develop plans to reduce green - house gas emissions 80% by 2050 and measure and monitor the outcomes and successes.

- ***Employee Education & Involvement***
 - Develop and manage the Sustainability Team web page.
 - Develop an interactive DVD for employee education.
 - Promote sustainable practices to county employees.
 - Spotlight sustainability team members and other employees that exemplify sustainability through newsletters or other forms of communication.
 - Receive items/issues from other Sustainability Team sub-committees that pertain to employees and move them forward as needed to educate the county workforce.
 - Pursue options for getting the county employees more involved (i.e. education, contests/competitions, etc.).