



# **Sustainability Commission 2017 Work Plan**

## Bloomington Sustainability Commission 2017 Work Plan

May 1, 2017

Bloomington City Council Members:

The following is the 2017 Bloomington Sustainability Commission Work Plan for your consideration and approval. This Work Plan includes initiatives in all four areas of sustainability that are within our charter including:

- Energy / Carbon
- Solid Waste
- Water (Surface and Ground)
- Ecological / Land Stewardship

The Bloomington Sustainability Task Force in collaboration with key staff members developed a draft of this plan in October of 2016. The plan was then revised by the Sustainability Commission at its kick-off meeting on March 4, 2017 and approved at its first regular meeting on April 11, 2017.

Given that the commission is still in its formative stages this is a good and likely ambitious start. We expect that as we get our sea legs this plan will evolve. We will provide the council with periodic updates on our progress.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Sandry  
Chair

## City of Bloomington Sustainability Commission

- Commissioners:** Tim Sandry, Commission Chair  
Steve Flagg, Commission Vice-Chair  
Dwayne Lowman, City Council Representative  
Sherrie Bartsh  
Rob Bouta  
Paul Erdmann  
John Jaimez  
Joseph Strommen  
Steven Thomforde
- Staff Liaison:** Mary Hurliman, Deputy Director of Public Works

### 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.” (Ord. 2016-23, passed 10-24-2016).

### Operating Principles

- Collaborate: Show-up, Be Prepared, Be Respectful, Participate, Understand, Compromise
- Be Compassionate to those with differing opinions
- Think Big / Start Small / Move Fast
- Don't let perfect be the enemy of the good

### Work Plan

#### A. ENERGY / CARBON

##### Xcel - Partners in Energy

- **Description:** The Partners in Energy Program offers resources to cities for two years to identify energy objectives, develop a plan, and implement strategies.
- **Plan:**
  - May: Form workgroup and kick-off
  - May – October: Identify objectives / Develop Plan & Budget
  - November -- April 2018: Implement Strategies

#### B. SOLID WASTE

##### Develop and Implement a Residential Organics Drop-off Program

- **Description:** Set up drop-off locations for residential organics recycling.
- **Plan:**

- May: Form volunteer group and get organized
- June - August: Design
- September: Rollout

## **SURFACE / GROUND WATER**

### **Review and Comment on Watershed and Staff Surface Water Plans**

- **Description:** Every 10 years the watershed districts and the city develop a comprehensive surface water plan. The Sustainability Commission will review and provide comments on all 5 watershed surface water plans and the plan developed by city staff.
- **Plan:**
  - May: Form volunteer group and get organized
  - May - December: Review surface water plans and provide comments

### **Support the Nine Mile Creek “Adopt a Storm Sewer” Program**

- **Description:** Assist with marketing and getting volunteers adopt a storm sewer.
- **Plan:** TBD

## **ECOLOGICAL / LAND STEWARDSHIP**

### **Develop Plan for Protecting Ecological Hotspots in the MN River Valley**

- **Description:** A pilot of a broader effort to identify and catalog unique / sensitive biologically diverse areas in Bloomington and develop a plan to restore and protect the areas. The initial focus will be work that the city is doing in the MN River Valley in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- **Plan:**
  - May - June: volunteer group and get organized
  - June - July: Plan and Design
  - August – December: Implement

## **PLANNING / METRICS / ADMINISTRATION**

### **Start-up / Infrastructure**

- Bylaws, Operating Procedures, Volunteer / Work Groups (done)
- Recruit volunteers for Work Groups (in process)
- Establish Intra-Commission Communications Guidelines and Structures (done)
- Develop Community Communication Framework and Strategy
- Develop Process for Handling Ad Hoc Requests

### **Metrics:**

- Evaluate Green Steps City Program Membership
- Identify Metrics for Each Area of Sustainability

### **Plan:**

- Develop 2018 Work Plan
- Determine long-term goals and target

	March	Apr	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec.
<b>Energy/Carbon -- Partners in Energy</b>										
Renew XCEL Partners in Energy (PIE) Grant	X									
Design and Plan										
Implementation										
<b>Solid Waste -- Organics Drop-off</b>										
Identify commissioners and staff and Volunteer Group Members										
Design and Setup										
Rollout										
<b>Water (Surface and Ground)</b>										
Identify commissioners and staff and Volunteer Group Members										
Determine 2017 work plan										
Review Watershed Plans										
9 mile creek – share resources; promote and adopt WMO										
2018 work plan										
Prioritize 2018 plan										
Ongoing surface water recommendation on Ike’s creek, Spring stream, Long Meadow, and Bush Lake										

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	March	Apr	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec.
<b>Ecological and Land Stewardship</b>										
Form Workgroup			■							
Clarify roles of city vs. USFWX			■	■						
Feedback to city regarding consulting plan			■							
Act on restoration and preservation plans from consultants				■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Community outreach about MN River Valley ecology and restoration				■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Identify and revise ordinances at odds with ecological land use (pollinator and prairie grasses, mowing transmission lines, etc.)				■	■	■	■	■	■	■
<b>Planning/Metrics and Administration</b>										
Council Approval of Work Plan			■							
Clarify rules on electronic intra-commission communication and documentation storage		■								
Identify potential Volunteers		■	■							
Consider / Recommend Green Step City Membership			■							
Develop 2018 Work plan				■	■	■	■			
Develop community communication framework / strategy			■	■	■					
Identify metrics for each SC topic						■	■			
Determine long-term goals and targets							■	■	■	