

**Community Sustainability Council  
Greensboro, North Carolina  
September 19, 2011  
(draft)**

A regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, September 19, 2011 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chairs Joel Landau and Bob Powell, Tom Duckwall, Valerie Vickers, Eric Hoekstra, Art Davis, Bob Skenes, Carolyn Allen, Derrick Giles, and Bob Kollar. Staff present included: Jamal Fox, Barbara Harris, and Caitlin Warren with Planning and Community Development; and Steve Randall, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager.

**Approval of Minutes from August 8, 2011 Meeting:**

Mr. Davis moved to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2011 meeting as written, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion.

**Eat Local Campaign:**

Co-Chair Landau stated that the Eat Local America Challenge is sponsored by local co-ops around the country every year in an effort to inform the public of the benefits of buying from local growers. Some of the benefits include better nutrition and a lower carbon footprint because the food does not travel as far to get to the consumer. The Mayor has issued a proclamation that September is "eat local" month in Greensboro.

Co-Chair Powell joined the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

**Piedmont Triad Sustainable Community Plan:**

Co-Chair Powell updated members on the Piedmont Triad Sustainable Community Plan. There are plans to hold a county meeting in each of the 12 participating counties. Individuals and groups will have an opportunity to present ideas toward a vision of sustainability in their county and how it should be implemented. Technical groups, community leaders, and grass root organizations will be among those invited to attend the county meetings.

**BetterBuildings Greensboro Update:**

Caitlin Warren, Program Specialist with BetterBuildings, stated that approximately 375 applications have been processed and 30 applications remain to be processed. The first training session for contractors, conducted by Advanced Energy, was held on August 23, 2011. Thirty contractors attended the session and are now certified to do work with the BetterBuildings program.

Ms. Warren stated that City Council recently approved a community outreach contract with the Center for Energy Research and Technology (CERT). Community outreach team members are being trained to contact home owners who have submitted applications and assist the home owner throughout the entire upgrade process of BetterBuildings.

**Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Update:**

Mr. Fox stated that a portion of the EECBG was set aside to provide sub-grants for energy efficiency education activities. He reviewed the six initiatives under the grant moving forward at this time.

**(1) Green Jobs Development:** This is a collaborative effort between BetterBuildings and Work Force Development to survey employers to determine the needs of training for the contractors that will be helping with the BetterBuildings grant. Doug Hall has been hired to work in the green jobs

industry. A draft agreement with Work Force Development is currently under review to move forward with allocations to do training for contractors.

**(2) Materials Recycling Enhancement Initiative:** This initiative is headed up through the Solid Waste Management team. Multi-family recycling units are currently in place and there are plans to add recycling units in public housing, downtown areas, and at the Coliseum.

**(3) Improve City Facility Recycling:** Mr. Fox stated that money for this initiative was being reprogrammed to the Parks and Recreation Department for remote lighting systems in ballparks. In addition, receptacles will also be placed in shelters at parks, at the Coliseum, and downtown.

**(4) Solar LED Street Lights for Greenway:** The equipment for this initiative has been received; however, the poles will not be installed until the Greenway trail is completed in December, 2011.

**(5) Energy Efficiency Education Grants -- (a) E-3 Grant for Guilford County Schools Energy Wise Program:** This \$30,000 grant is to teach energy efficiency to students, staff, and community and to monitor energy use in schools. **(b) E-3 Grant to Conduct Audits:** This \$24,000 grant is to conduct City-wide energy efficiency audits on five small commercial buildings in different parts of the City. There will be collaboration between high school and college students to conduct the audits.

**(6) Public Library Grant:** This \$3,400 grant goes toward a series of five different workshops each targeting a different set of users for energy education. Users to be targeted include homeowners, educators, and students from elementary school through high school. The workshops will take place at schools and libraries in Greensboro. In addition, solar panels will be added to the existing greenhouse at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Library and used for education. The program will provide 50 hours of work for college interns.

Mr. Skenes asked Mr. Fox to provide the CSC with an accountability update of grant money as it is spent.

### **CSC Action Strategies:**

Action strategies were reviewed in detail at the last meeting and prioritized. Co-Chair Landau read a recommendation made by Mr. Kollar to be considered for inclusion in the action strategies:

#### **Waste Reduction and Recycling, Initiative 3:**

*More frequent information to citizens specifying which items can be recycled. Suggested methods include billing inserts, colorful eye-catching refrigerator magnets, television spots, reemphasize and focus on effective recycling efforts at all City operations such as recreation centers, and label inside container lids.*

Members discussed the recommendation and agreed it would be a good way to raise awareness.

Mr. Kollar moved to direct staff to add the recommendation to the list of CSC Action Strategies, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion.

Ms. Vickers left the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

### **Bring Your Own Bag Campaign Update:**

Co-Chair Landau indicated that brochures describing the campaign are now available. The focus of the initiative is to get retailers to educate and encourage their customers to use reusable bags. Members pointed out that CVS and Target have programs that reward customers for not using bags.

**Items from Co-Chairs:**

Co-Chair Landau distributed a brochure from Sustainable Raleigh listing initiatives the organization is currently involved in.

Councilwoman T. Dianne Bellamy-Small and Dale Wyrick will be present at the next CSC meeting to discuss Greensboro's Bottle Up recycling program.

**Items from Council Members:**

Mr. Hoekstra attended a workshop recently at Research Triangle Park on plug-in electrical vehicles. He commented that the City of Raleigh has worked to streamline the process of approving permits for home plug-in charging stations for electric vehicles.

Mr. Hoekstra informed members that a series of Transition Town programs will be shown at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on September 20, 2011.

**Items from Staff:**

None.

**Items from the Public:**

Joe Wheby, 405 Fulton Street, asked how individuals were chosen to conduct interviews for the BetterBuildings program. Co-Chair Powell explained that they were selected through the RFP process. The A&T Center for Research and Technology won the bid. Their plan is to hire five students to be energy ambassadors throughout the City. In addition, the Center for Research and Technology plans to do work in five communities selected by the City. Five individuals will be hired, one from each of the communities, to be volunteer coordinators. There will be ten paid individuals from around the City who will also engage volunteers from those neighborhoods.

**Acknowledgement of Absences:**

Mr. Davis moved to acknowledge the absences of Ms. Sanford, Ms. Hancock, Mr. McClough, and Mr. Clary, seconded by Mr. Hoekstra. The Council voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Kollar moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Skenes.

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau, Co-Chairman  
Community Sustainability Council

JL:sm/jd