



# Partnership for a Green City Strategic Plan

*Our mission is to inspire and promote a sustainable  
green city...*

September 2011



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# Partnership for a Green City Strategic Plan

“Enhancing the **qualities of place** that distinguish Louisville as “livable” and compact is crucial in the competition to attract talented people and high-value enterprise. Louisville’s strength as a regional hub of social, cultural and economic life is a key asset.” [www.greaterlouisvilleproject.org](http://www.greaterlouisvilleproject.org)

## **Greater Louisville Project 2010 Competitive City Report**

“The Partnership for a Green City is a community best practice in breaking down silos to achieve meaningful change. Air and water quality cut across institutional boundaries. We are one city, one community, one family. Metro Government, the University of Louisville and Jefferson County Public Schools are working together to create a healthy environment where imagination thrives and ideas come alive.” **Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer**

“Our schools are among the most energy efficient in the country and we continue to develop new ways to create greener classrooms. Through this partnership with Metro Government and the University of Louisville, we’re shaping the future by showing our students what it means to be responsible citizens.” **Jefferson County Public School Superintendent Sheldon Berman**

“The University of Louisville has taken giant strides in the past year toward becoming more sustainable, and the Partnership for a Green City has helped make that happen. As we continue to work closely with Louisville Government and Jefferson County Public Schools in this partnership, we remain committed to being more sustainable in everything we do. Together, we can make our community a greener and healthier place for our children, our grandchildren and all the generations to come.” **University of Louisville President James Ramsey**

“We came together six years ago with a simple idea, to make Louisville a healthier, greener city. I’m proud to see what we’ve accomplished by working together. With Louisville Government, the University of Louisville and JCPS leading the way, we’ve been able to get other leaders in our community involved in a way that’s yielded real results. Our efforts have also garnered national attention. In March, the U.S. EPA named Louisville Government an ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year.” **Former Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson**

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## Strategic Vision Statement

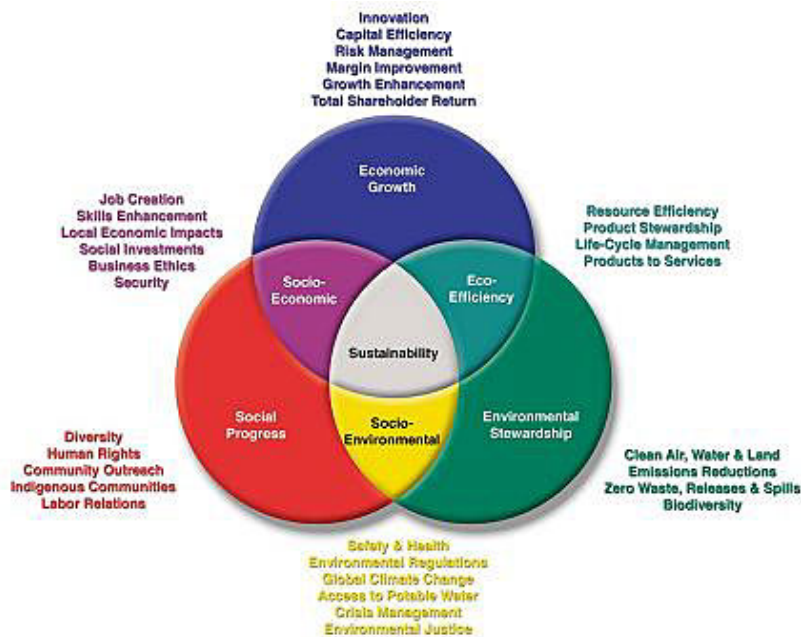
The Partnership for a Green City envisions Louisville as an innovative national leader for economic sustainability and environmental quality. As members and publicly funded institutions, the Jefferson County Public Schools, Jefferson Community & Technical College, Louisville Government and the University of Louisville make a long-term commitment to lead by example, educate, engage and collaborate with the community.

## Mission Statement

**Inspire and promote a sustainable green city** through innovation, collaboration, action and measurable progress.

## History

The Partnership for a Green City (PGC) is an innovative environmental collaboration of Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government, Jefferson County Public Schools and the University of Louisville, three of the largest public employers in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Created in August 2004, the initial focus of the group was environmental management, environmental education and environmental health initiatives. Over the past few years, interest in environmental issues and opportunities has grown, requiring a new look at the Partnership. A fourth public employer, Jefferson Community & Technical College, joined the partnership in mid 2010. As we work together to create a greener, more sustainable community while improving the health of our students and our employees, our intent is to assure sustainability within the organizations themselves and as partners.



Sustainability Venn Diagram - [www.gcbl.org/economy](http://www.gcbl.org/economy)

Collaboration allows the Partners to take advantage of resources that were unavailable previously, such as professional expertise, services and contracts. It increases educational opportunities, creates cost-savings opportunities and enables economies of scale through collective purchasing power. Partners enable each other to expand programs and services to their constituencies and to the community as well as save tax dollars. The bottom line is: healthier, more knowledgeable citizens (including our employees and students), more efficient institutions and more effective partners.

## Organization & Background

The Partnership process convenes peers from each public entity to address problems and share ideas. Peer engagement, rather than top-down decision-making, has produced significant changes in operating procedures within each partner. Together, these institutions employ over 27,500 people, enroll over 135,000 students, own and operate more than 531 buildings, 7,000 fleet vehicles and manage over 25,000 acres of land in Metro Louisville. The partners use approximately 12 million gallons of gas and diesel annually to fuel their fleet vehicles and they spend over \$42 million on utilities each year, increasing at five to seven percent per year.

Through coordination and cooperation, the Partnership has realized real results with long-term impact on children's health and education, waste reduction, energy use, purchasing practices, natural resource management and green infrastructure. Over 150 employees participate on Partnership teams that consult with external individuals or organizations. Quasi-governmental agencies also participate including the Transit Authority of River City (TARC), the Louisville Water Company (LWC), the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) and the Louisville Regional Airport Authority (LRAA).

The Steering Committee of partner representatives works with the Partnership Director to set and implement our direction by setting priorities and providing guidance to the teams. The members of this committee have close contact with the Mayor, JCPS Superintendent, JCTC President and UofL President and keep green efforts in the forefront of their minds.

For 2009-11, Climate Change has been the focus of the Partnership. Louisville Government and U of L have signed national commitments to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs). We have completed a GHG emission inventory and will prepare plans to reduce our organizational emissions. The plans will entail energy reduction/conservation, transportation, education, recycling, carbon sequestration by vegetation, and open-space creation and management. While focusing on climate change, we have been working on:

- Energy Efficiency
- Promoting alternative (and more efficient) transportation to reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Zero Waste Community
- Local Foods Initiative
- Stormwater Management
- Open Spaces and Biodiversity

## Strategic Planning Process

We convened the strategic planning group on August 3, 2010. The group includes members of the Partnership leadership, the partner organizations and community members. Since the Partnership works to make Louisville a green city, we valued input from community stakeholders. The listing of individual members is at the end of the document.

We followed a traditional strategic planning format, starting with information gathering and assessment, then identification of strategic priorities to the organization, development of a strategic vision statement, creation of a mission statement, development of strategic goals and formulation of strategies. Upon approval of the leaders of the three organizations of this strategic plan, an operational plan will be developed with action steps.



# Strategic Priorities

## **Strategic Priority 1 – Increase influence through collaboration.**

Since 2004 the Partnership has had many successes with sustainable projects. We now plan to use those success stories to embed sustainable practices within the culture of the Partners' operations, investments and policies. We will use the successes of the Partnership to collaborate with businesses, civic organizations and the community-at-large to make Louisville a sustainable green city.

### Steps

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#### **1. Investigate collaborations with green groups and community groups.**

- a. Explore expanding the umbrella of the Partnership to include business, civic and advocacy groups through collaboration with the Bingham Fellows.
- b. Meet with other “green” groups to decide how to work together.
- c. Determine how to best work with Making Connections Network and the community.

#### **2. Make the business case for what we have done and are doing – realizing we are good stewards of our natural and financial resources.**

- a. Show savings by green inventory of partnership projects over the years.
- b. Share best practices among the partners and other participants.
- c. Establish connections between partners and avoid duplication of committee work.
- d. Define metrics that will demonstrate the PGC successes on an annual basis.

#### **3. Determine a proactive structure that supports the Partnership's Statement of Environmental Principles.**

- a. Review and update the organizational and committee structure.
- b. Re-create the committees with a core group of committed decision makers (1 or 2 from each partner and any additional resource members).
- c. Empower the committees to work with partners to seek projects and grant funding.
- d. Ensure that committees track progress and report to Director and Steering Committee on a quarterly basis.

#### **4. Clarify the Partnership's authority with all partners.**

- a. Advocate for the Director taking a more hands-on role in working with department heads and leaders within the Partner organizations to both publicize the work and gain commitment for projects.
- b. Minimum of one biannual meeting of the PGC leaders (Mayor, Superintendent & President).

#### **5. Identify sustainability champions in PGC and determine ways to gauge accountability.**

- a. Connect sustainability persons or sustainability champions to Partnership.
- b. Clarify the roles of the sustainability person or champion for transparency and share job descriptions.
- c. Make PGC work an assigned portion of work time (accountability) for participants.
- d. Work with partners to identify and standardize operations among them when possible.

#### **6. Leverage partner resources.**

- a. Determine whether the Partnership should incorporate.
- b. Leverage resources for projects.

## **Strategic Priority 2 – Increase influence through resource enhancement.**

The Partnership’s operating budget is limited to the salary of the director, but the Partners contribute resources when needed. The Partnership will increase environmentally-friendly, cross-institutional, cost-saving opportunities. We will work together to better align our resources. We will seek additional opportunities to collaboratively purchase green products and services. We will act as a team to secure external funding.

### Steps

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- 1. Leverage Partnership’s successes to make a business case for funding.**
- 2. Develop a resource enhancement plan for revenue, facilities and expertise.**
- 3. Attract and leverage external funding sources. Maximize the potential for grant opportunities through collaboration and coordination.**
  - a. Determine if there is an advantage to the PGC incorporating. Work with Legal Counsel of the partners.
  - b. Monitor grant announcements and apply for applicable grants – determined through the appropriate partner.
  - c. Apply for national and international excellence awards/rewards.
- 4. Utilize internal resources to tell our story and share the role of the Partnership.**
  - a. Work with public relations/communications personnel from the partner organizations.
  - b. Implement social media networking as a way to get information out and students involved.
  - c. Work within organizations to get information out in e-mail and web sites.
  - d. Seek media opportunities to get out the sustainability message.
  - e. Explore whether PGC should hold fundraiser events or initiatives.



### **Strategic Priority 3 – Increase influence through advocacy.**

The Partnership will increase attention to sustainability. We will identify areas that are ready for change and that pose the greatest risks to the environment, and to fiscal and social equity. We will recommend legislative concerns of common interest to the Partners leaders. We will seek avenues to influence environmentally sustainable individual behavior among our employees, students and citizens. We will collaborate with business and nonprofit groups to develop media opportunities to educate the community of the benefit and value of living and working in a sustainable green city.

#### Steps

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#### **1. Environmental Advocacy (internal advocacy, organizational & institutional practices).**

**We will concentrate on these areas this year:**

- a. Green Businesses - Advocate gray-water, net-metering and other efficiency ideas.
- b. Local Foods - Influence the local food system to support local farmers and benefit food quality.
- c. Green Infrastructure - Create new team for green infrastructure and stormwater issues.
- d. Efficient Land Use – Determine the cost of sprawl/development.
- e. Climate change – Continue working on the Climate Action Report recommendations.

#### **2. Legislative Advocacy. Identify suggested priority list of key legislative and funding issues (e.g. tariff on solar energy).**

- a. Collaborate with other “green” initiatives.
- b. Identify and capitalize on key best practices/legal issues in other cities/regions/states.
- c. Monitor and track trends to report and pass along to affected parties.

#### **3. Advocate individual responsibility with employees (& students) of the partners and residents in the community.**

- a. Expand the PGC web site.
- b. Connect with students, employees and community by either Facebook or Twitter sites.

#### **4. Increase awareness. Involve students and employees to advocate for sustainability.**

- a. Select one “theme” for each year tied to strategic priorities or create a “theme” and empower other departments and employees to carry the theme and create their own initiatives.
  - i. environmental awareness/climate change
  - ii. energy efficiency
  - iii. local foods
  - iv. alternative transportation
  - v. green jobs
- b. Work with existing environmental education efforts.

#### **5. Partner with media relations teams to use their resources.**

- a. Create short videos or public service announcements about successes and themes for the general public for television, conferences and web site.
- b. Identify “PR tools” available to use for advocacy (department web sites, communication staff at each agency, newsletters, e-mails, “did you know”).





#### **Strategic Priority 4 - Increase the level of sustainability research and demonstration.**

The Partnership will actively support and disseminate cutting-edge research that furthers sustainable practices. We will seek joint projects under the Partnership umbrella to demonstrate best practices based on the Partnership's Statement of Environmental Principles. We will work with other groups seeking strategies to address sustainability problems. We will publicize our efforts through a variety of publication and media sources.

##### Steps

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- 1. Identify researchers and doctoral students at UofL (and possibly other local universities) conducting sustainability research and establish interest in working collaboratively.**
- 2. Determine grants and funding sources for the Partnership to work with researchers.**
- 3. Join forces with the Kentucky Institute on the Environment and Sustainable Development (KIESD) to create or expand new projects and research opportunities through the Partnership.**
- 4. Collaborate with KPPC – Kentucky's Resource Center on Environmental Sustainability – on projects.**
- 5. Work with the City Solution Center on sustainability projects applicable to municipalities.**
- 6. Collaborate with the Urban Design Studio on better design practices.**
- 7. Team with the Bingham Fellows and Leadership Louisville and other groups on projects.**

#### **Strategic Priority 5 – Increase influence through measurement.**

To track progress toward achieving the Partnership mission, we will develop for each Environmental Principle specific cross-institutional metrics. By measuring our successes, we will make progress toward practices that make us a sustainable green city. We will also measure our effectiveness so that we can continue to improve.

##### Steps

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- 1. Identify cross-institutional sustainability metrics. Define what to measure & create standardized measures (craft measurements for each strategic priority or strategic initiative). Identify data gaps. Determine what is being measured now? Compound certain statistics annually/multiple data.**
  - a. Survey green initiatives at UofL and JCPS like the survey done in Louisville.
  - b. Identify green progress.
  - c. Base measurements on the ten Environmental Principles and other important items.
    - i. Leadership commitment and Measures
    - ii. Sustainable use and protection of natural resources
    - iii. Land and water management
    - iv. Reduction and disposal of waste
    - v. Energy use
    - vi. Transportation
    - vii. Purchasing
    - viii. Design and management of the built environment
    - ix. Public health
    - x. Environmental education
    - xi. Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change recommendations
    - xii. Local foods purchased by partners

xiii. Existing and new “green jobs”

d. Identify the number of initiatives, partnerships and collaborations among the three agencies.

**2. Take credit for accomplishments. Find people who are already measuring the statistics we need and mine that data. Collect data through surveys like Survey Monkey.**

- a. Survey partners on what they currently measure and identify data to mine.
- b. Identify appropriate people with data at each partner.
- c. Determine data collection timeframes.
- d. Use common tools for measuring (Energy Watchdog or Portfolio Manager).
- e. Engage community-based groups.

**3. Develop a sustainability culture at each partner agency.**

- a. Determine the sustainability champion at Louisville after new Mayor makes changes.
- b. Maintain sustainability champions at JCPS and UofL.

**4. Tell our story – anecdotal & community outreach.**

- a. Identify whom to engage to help us get our story out.

**5. Finish what we start - Get data to CEOs.**

- a. Identify number of “projects” initiated, success of each project, measure at agency level and build up for success of PGC.

**6. Report accomplishments and progress towards goals.**

- a. Produce updates to the strategic plan with an annual work plan.
- b. Re-examine strategic priorities at specific intervals to evaluate effectiveness and include in annual update.
- c. Meet with three leaders biannually to present updates and present on line for all to view.
- d. Review the strategic priorities internally on a calendar-year basis.
- e. Place mission statement on business cards and letterhead.
- f. Consider how to present the annual update and how to expand the audience past the PGC.



# Summary of SWOT Analysis

## Synopsis of Strengths

- **Human Capital** – creates a solid foundation for the three public employers.
  - **Leading sustainability efforts by example** – provides a captive audience of 120,000 students and over 26,000 employees.
  - **Competitiveness** - fosters peer pressure in a positive sense given that nobody wants to be the one not doing something sustainable.
  - **Champions** – drive each partner to succeed in its sustainability efforts.
  - **Knowledge, innovation, collaboration** - used by Partnership participants.
  - **Resources** – manage over 25,000 acres of land, 500 buildings, and 7000 vehicles
  - **Accountability** – use of tax dollars and how we communicate progress.
  - **Mayor, Superintendent and President** – grants access to key leaders.
  - **Climate Action Report** – provides a roadmap for Louisville to reduce its carbon footprint.
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## Synopsis of Weaknesses

- **Action plan, timelines and implementation plan** – need to be developed and shared.
  - **Succession** - ensure that a change in personnel by leaders/team members/director will not change the direction and focus of the partnership.
  - **Lack of interest (commitment)** – figure out how to avoid inertia and stagnation.
  - **Lack of definitions** - define terminology, to the extent possible, for common understanding by participants and our human capital.
  - **Funding** - secure funding through all available opportunities and channels.
  - **Evaluation** - quantify and report the successes.
  - **Communication** – report successes to community.
  - **Participant awareness** – keep volunteer participants informed.
  - **Competing Priorities** – understand the differences among the partners.
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## Synopsis of Opportunities

- **Re-focus mission** - how we help Louisville achieve green city status.
- **Collaboration** – work with other green groups working on similar goals to create more effective economies of scale.
- **Funding** – determine creative ways to fund the Partnership.
- **Louisville Green Inventory** – assay what is happening in the community.

- **Goals** – periodically revisit goals and develop new ones.
  - **Recognition** - create a Green Awards program to laud local people, businesses, non-profits, etc.
  - **Improve Green Profile** - increase sustainability/green scores on surveys.
  - **Branding** – make the Partnership the recognized brand for sustainability.
  - **PGC health initiatives** – think beyond the partners to the entire city.
  - **Focus** – promote sustainable development and quality of life issues.
  - **Structure** - expand staff and update committee structure as needed.
  - **Website** - create a more informative and interactive PGC website.
  - **Outreach** - improve community environmental literacy and environmental education.
  - **Ownership of vision** – promote involvement at all levels.
  - **Accountability** – uphold accountability to stakeholders.
  - **Champions** - identify sustainability “champions” in the partners and the community.
  - **Identify new initiatives** - green buildings, green infrastructure, parklands and the loop.
  - **Climate Action Plan** - implement the recommendations, beginning with the no-cost and low-cost opportunities.
  - **Clear authority (and buy in)** – obtain support for the strategic plan and its goals from the three leaders.
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## Synopsis of Threats

- **Uncertainty** – how to deal with it.
- **Partisanship** – how to remain apolitical.
- **Timidity** – how to take bold action when resistance presents itself.
- **Losing a partner** – how to continue if one leaves.
- **Infrastructure** – need infrastructure updates and increased green infrastructure.
- **Loss of passion** – how to infuse new individuals and partners with enthusiasm.
- **Leadership transition** – how to maintain leadership continuity.
- **Public malaise** – how to reach a disinterested public.
- **Rejuvenating ourselves** – work for incremental changes, which have additive value.
- **Naysayers to Cuckoos** – how to cope with misinformed and sometimes deceitful persons.
- **Competing agendas** – how to work around differences.
- **Preaching to the choir** – how to stop doing this and engage people in the community.

## Next Steps

Prepare 2009 – 2010 Update documenting activities and progress.

Develop prioritized list of action steps for each strategy.

- Short-term actions steps.
- Steps to complete in one year.
- Steps to achieve in two years.
- Steps to accomplish in five years.

Update of the strategic plan and report to the public in the annual updates.

Work with Bingham Fellows to establish ways we can work together to make Louisville a green city.

Seek ways to connect with the community to promote sustainability.

## Partnership for a Green City Planning Documents

The Partnership Project – Fall 2004

<http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Departments/EnvironmentalEd/images/greencity/GreenCitybook.pdf>

The Partnership Project – Six Month report – Spring 2005

[www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Departments/EnvironmentalEd/images/greencity/6monthReport.pdf](http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Departments/EnvironmentalEd/images/greencity/6monthReport.pdf)

The Partnership for a Green City – One-year report – Fall 2005

[www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Departments/EnvironmentalEd/images/greencity/GREENreport2005.pdf](http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Departments/EnvironmentalEd/images/greencity/GREENreport2005.pdf)

Partnership 2007 Annual Report -

[www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Departments/EnvironmentalEd/GreenCity/AnnualRept.pdf](http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Departments/EnvironmentalEd/GreenCity/AnnualRept.pdf)

Green City Partnerships – A Guide to Successful Partnerships -

<http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Departments/EnvironmentalEd/GreenCity/GuideforSuccess.pdf>

Climate Action Report 2008 - 2009 -

[www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Departments/EnvironmentalEd/GreenCity/ClimateActionRpt.pdf](http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Departments/EnvironmentalEd/GreenCity/ClimateActionRpt.pdf)

Web site – [www.partnershipforagreencity.org](http://www.partnershipforagreencity.org)



## Strategic Planning Members and Affiliations

**Russ Barnett** - Kentucky Institute on the Environment and Sustainable Development (KIESD) – University of Louisville (UofL) and PGC Steering Committee

**Arthur Camins** - Gheens Institute for Innovation – Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) and PGC Steering Committee

**Isabella Christiansen** –Ph.D. candidate in Urban Planning and Policy, UofL

**Chris Cieminski** – Hines Management (Aegon Tower) and Louisville Energy Alliance

**Natasha Cummings** – Network Center for Community Change (NC3)-Making Connections Network – Neighborhood organizer interested in getting sustainability information to the underrepresented community

**Allan Dittmer** – Grawemeyer Awards – UofL and PGC Steering Committee

**Pamela Dumm** – Jefferson Community & Technical College (JCTC) and PGC Steering Committee

**Sarah Fritschner** - Local Foods Consultant - LMG

**Brent Fryrear** – Partnership for a Green City

**Geoff Hobin** – Transit Authority of River City (TARC) and Bike Louisville

**Althea Jackson** – Mayor’s Office, LMG

**Dan Jones** – Twenty-first Century Parks

**Maria Koetter** – Sustainability Consultant, Bingham Fellow and Green Convene Chair

**David Martin** – UofL representing the Purchasing Managers of the partners, TARC, Louisville Water Company, MSD and the Regional Airport Authority

**Cam Metcalf** – KPPC, Kentucky’s Sustainability Resource Center, Speed School, UofL

**Mike Mulheirn** - Facilities and Transportation – JCPS and PGC Steering Committee

**Mary Lou Northern** – Mayor’s Office, Louisville Government (LMG) and PGC Steering Committee

**Tom Owen** – President of the Metro Council

**John Walczak** – Louisville Zoo

**Lynne Wheat** – JCPS Gheens Academy for Curricular Excellence and Instructional Leadership replaced Arthur Camins on the PGC Steering Committee

**Thank you to the entire strategic planning group for their time and diligent efforts in completing this plan. Special thanks to Jeff Prewitt for keeping us on track and completing the plan. Our common thread is the desire to see Louisville achieve “green city” status and the commitment to make it happen. As change is inevitable, we are determined to make it a positive change sustainability-wise, only improving Louisville’s quality of place.**

# Accomplishments 2009-10

## Climate Change Committee

- Published Climate Action Report
- Participated in the National Teach-in on climate change

## Environmental Education Committee

- Spring and Fall Youth Summits with hands-on environmental activities
- Bioneers 2009 (organized and produced)
- Created *What Every Environmental Educator Should Know About Jefferson County*

## Environmental Health Team

- Louisville Department of Health and Wellness' \$7.9 million *Communities Putting Prevention To Work* grant. The grant includes collaboration between Metro, JCPS and UofL and is based on our work (local food procurement, changing JCPS menus, developing a joint Masters Degree at UofL (MPH and MUP))
- Work at Lassiter MS on asthma. JCPS is using new means of identifying students with asthma based on this work

## Green Buildings Team

- Monitored energy savings performance contracts at Louisville and UofL
- Constructed two new and one renovated building meeting LEED Certified buildings
- Multiple Energy Star buildings at JCPS and Louisville
- JCPS had 150 schools in Kilowatt Crackdown and multiple Energy Star school buildings

## Green Fleets Team

- Partners adding hybrid/alternative fuel vehicles
- Right-sized vehicles
- Diesel emission reduction grants at JCPS and Louisville
- Idle reduction policies developed and promoted

## Green Infrastructure

- Developed memorandum of agreement (MOA) with partners and Metropolitan Sewer District

seeking green infrastructure project investment in lieu of stormwater management fees at JCPS and UofL

## Green Issues Orientation Team – On hiatus

- JCPS first partner to have Partnership present at classified new employee orientation
- UofL created a sustainability/Partnership presentation at new employee orientation
- Louisville includes LMG sustainability in new employee orientation
- Professional Development for JCPS Classified Staff in Dumpster Dives and Energy Audits
- PGC doing Professional Development at LMG

## Green Purchasing Team

- Executed new Purchasing Consortium MOA between partners, MSD, Louisville Water Company, Regional Airport Authority and TARC
- New paper contract for 30% and 100% post-consumer recycled content paper

## Local Foods Team

- Collaboration between UofL and Louisville on Gray Street Farmer's Markets
- UofL Community Supported Agriculture opportunities on campus

## Urban Forestry Team

- Determined storm damage assessment software
- Prepared for urban street tree inventory
- Grant application with Biology and Psychology with in kind participation by Director and Partnership on Urban Trees and community attitudes

## Waste Management Team

- All partners on single stream recycling
- Electronics recycling at all partners



# Statement of Environmental Principles

*As stewards of metro Louisville* and of all its resources, we understand the interdependence of humans and the environment. We must apply thoughtful and creative planning to achieve a thriving economy built on the principles of sustainability. We must foster conservation, pollution prevention, and restoration of ecosystems with both public policy and personal behavior. We must promote a common agenda for Louisville as a green city, preserve and enhance the quality of life for our citizens and future generations, and widen recognition of the importance of good stewardship of the community's natural resources.

- **Leadership Commitment and Measures**

We will implement these principles by demonstrating community leadership and collaborative planning and by adopting best environmental practices. We will establish goals, objectives, and indicators; conduct an annual self-evaluation of our progress; and jointly issue a public report.

- **Sustainable Use and Protection of Natural Resources**

We value and conserve natural resources and will seek to preserve and make sustainable use of our air, water, soil, and forests. We will protect and conserve nonrenewable natural resources through efficient use, careful planning, and collaborative land-management programs. We will reduce the use of substances that may cause environmental damage to the air, water, earth, and its inhabitants. We will safeguard all habitats affected by our facilities and operations, especially the public lands we manage, while promoting biological diversity. We will conserve open spaces through comprehensive planning.

- **Land and Water Management**

We will promote natural areas for biological diversity, protect areas along streams and water bodies, and plant native species. We will enhance, enlarge, and protect our urban forests. We will practice responsible water use.

- **Reduction and Disposal of Waste**

We will combine resources to reduce or eliminate waste through source reduction, reuse, and recycling in our own facilities and operations and for the metro area in general. We will handle and dispose of all waste using safe and responsible methods.

- **Energy Use**

We will conserve energy and improve the energy efficiency of our buildings, vehicles, and equipment and of the goods and services we use. We will use environmentally safe and sustainable energy sources, while achieving savings. We will increase our use of energy from renewable sources.

- **Transportation**

We will build and redevelop our community to minimize transportation demands, while providing pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly pathways and an effective public transit system. We will work to reduce vehicle miles traveled in the community, while implementing the vision of our organizations using energy-efficient vehicles.

- **Purchasing Products and Services**

We will pool our knowledge and resources to jointly purchase green products and services. We will work with our suppliers to adopt sustainable approaches and solutions. We will partner to create a stronger market for environmentally friendly and regionally produced products and services.

- **Design and Management of the Built Environment**

We will design, build, restore, and manage our facilities and neighborhoods in ways that promote and protect health and safety. We will use school campuses, partners' buildings, and lands as settings for learning.

- **Public Health**

We will monitor our policies and practices to assess and reduce public health risk. When potential risks are identified, we will identify and implement solutions.

- **Environmental Education**

Through environmental education, we are committed to developing and supporting environmentally literate citizens. We will involve colleagues, students, and citizens in demonstrating the ability to implement these principles.

## Partnership for a Green City



Adopted:  
December 5, 2005

Adopted:  
December 15, 2005

Adopted:  
December 20, 2012

Adopted:  
January 8, 2006

[www.partnershipforgreencity.org](http://www.partnershipforgreencity.org)  
[info@partnershipforgreencity.org](mailto:info@partnershipforgreencity.org)