CHARLOTTE

Charlotte City Council

Environment Committee

Meeting Summary for November 22, 2010

COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

I. **Subject:** **FY2012-2013 Focus Area Plan for the Environment**

Action: None.

II. **Subject:** **Alternative Energy Strategy**

Action: None.

III. **Subject:** **Next Meeting / 2011 Meeting Schedule**

The Committee approved their 2011 meeting schedule (*Peacock, Carter, Burgess and Dulin – for).* Following the meeting, the Committee agreed to meet again on December 8 at 3:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Present:	Edwin Peacock, Nancy Carter, Jason Burgess, and Andy Dulin
Absent:	David Howard
Time:	3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Agenda Package
2. Handout: Possible Sustainable/Alternative Energy Strategies
3. 11/22 Environment Committee FAP Notes

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Committee Discussion:

Committee Chair Edwin Peacock welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked those around the table to introduce themselves. He then tuned the meeting over to Julie Burch.

I. FY 2012-2013 Focus Area Plan for the Environment

Ms. Burch advised there were two main items on the agenda; however, they can possibly to be combined. The first item relates to the Focus Area Plan. This has been placed on the agenda for preliminary discussion; no action is required. There were minor tweaks made last year, but this is the year for major change. Staff has made some recommendations and the Committee has been presented with a draft of those preliminary ideas. Staff, means the Environment Cabinet, which is chaired by Ms. Burch and made up of nine Key Businesses [the service delivery workforce], COG, CMS and the County. The Cabinet has discussed this for the last several months.

The plans for all five Focus Areas reflect the highest priorities. They are very strategic, and not meant to reflect everything we are doing. This is a top-level, higher look. It does reflect our partnerships and collaborations especially related to the environment because there is so much crossover. This also assumes no new resources, which is the same as the other four plans.

The Cabinet review included an effort to streamline the plan; simplify it. The Environment Focus Area has had a lot. The Cabinet tried to streamline it down; however, it is up to the Committee to agree or change. Again, no action is being requested today. The other Committees have started engaging this process and everyone is working toward the Council Retreat. We would like to have one or two more conversations and gain general concurrence. The Focus Area Plans will be discussed at the Council Retreat and will come back to Committee for one more review. In February or March, staff will be asking for a final recommendation to get final adoption in March or April. So, there will be lots of opportunities for comments.

Peacock: We'd like to welcome Council member Burgess. I'd like to point out to the Committee the last item, which is information only, was really part two of a meeting held right before the block grant last year. About 50 folks attended and staff prepared a summary which I asked to be attached. I see representatives from CPCC, Sierra Club and SustainCharlotte are all here today. I want to you let you know we appreciate you being here, but we will not be taking formal comments now.

I would like to suggest that we look at the proposed meeting schedule first. Any comments?

The Committee agreed to maintain the current schedule of the fourth Monday of each month at 3:45 p.m. with a motion by Council member Dulin and a second by Council member Carter.

(Peacock, Carter, Burgess, Dulin – for)

Peacock: Will we walk through the Alternative Energy Strategy?

Burch: We have provided a new draft from what you saw previously.

Peacock: I asked Council to refer the Alternative Energy Strategy to this Committee's agenda. As background for this coming up with the Focus Area Plan, this past summer there was a Mayor's Business Breakfast with large and small energy companies. Bob Morgan, Ron Kimble, Tom Flynn and other ED folks were there and heard ideas about alternative energy and the growing need for partnerships. Staff prepared a handout [copy attached] but I believe the last paragraph is different now?

Burch: These are just broad categories listed, not related to the Focus Area Plan as drafted. They are related as an alternative energy strategy has been related back to the Economic Development Focus Area Plan. It talks about a green energy hub and its relationship to other initiatives.

Peacock: We have two Committee carryovers here with Council members Burgess and Dulin. But, these comments came direct from that breakfast and really make some good points. We need to think about these and I think it would be prudent to integrate them.

Dulin: A lot of these are the same.

Peacock: They are.

Burch: We wanted a representative from the Chamber here today but they have their Board of Advisors meeting. Brad Richardson, our new Economic Development Manager, is here today and he drafted this initially. Also, as we dialogue today on the Focus Area Plan, Wilson Hooper will be taking electronic notes so we can address the items that come up. [Notes attached.]

Carter: One thing that I see that has not been included is "nuclear". I think we should also add "emerging technology."

Burch: Let's start with the first page. I will point out that all the changes have been highlighted in blue.

The first change is in the tagline adding the word "sustainability" to broaden how we look at this. We then streamlined the bullets in the middle and are suggesting three initiatives.

Peacock: Should we add the text "energy" before environmental? I like the simplified edits.

Dulin: Why energy?

Peacock: We are trying to become an environmental leader and it is natural to promote a conservation of energy. Charlotte has Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas, Siemens, Toshiba all creating green jobs that link us back to economic development.

Carter: I didn't find anything dealing with Federal and State regulations. There is more on the table with policy changes at the Federal and State level so municipalities have to step up.

Peacock: I think we can add that to the document. ENV4 - "improve regulatory environment." Which also gets me to my suggestion to spell out ENV, so it would be Environment 1 and so on and then put the initiatives in all caps to distinguish them from the measures and targets.

Dulin: I know sustainability is a big deal, but is that just a buzz word?

Peacock: I could go 50/50 on it. I think it is used too much.

Phocas: It is recognized in the larger community and gives more description to Charlotte as it is used across the country. Sustainability is one of the three pillars: economic development, environment, and sustainability. So, we are introducing the language people are talking in. Shannon Binns is here as well as CPCC, but this is the language being used by Center City Partners and Bank of America as well.

Peacock: Council member Dulin, do you have some wording you'd like to substitute?

Dulin: No, I was just following through.

Burgess: If the Environment Committee wants to be the leader in energy and protecting the environment, maybe it should say energy and environment? It's a minor point, but if that's the main focus, maybe we should add energy?

Dulin: Should it say "environmental sustainability <u>while</u> preserving…?"

Peacock: It's an important sentence.

Burgess: We've got "while" after natural resources.

Carter: I think environment and energy should go before sustainability.

Burgess: What about environment sustainability and energy sustainability?

Carter: Ok.

Burgess: Does energy sustainability make sense?

Carter: It does.

Dulin: With the block grants, do they rotate off at different times? Are you tracking when they are up?

Phocas: We have sixteen projects to implement and they are over April 2012. We have to have spent the Department of Energy money by then.

Dulin: 15-16 months, so they are up and running?

Phocas: Yes and the money spent. We are looking toward having the money obligated by February 4 either by contract or purchase order.

Dulin: So, then the projects will be finished in 14 months?

Phocas: Yes.

Env. 1 – Promote and participate in the development of a sustainable community

Burch: We will collect the baseline data to add environmental variables to the Quality of Life study.

Peacock: The FY12 measure is to collect the baseline, should there also be an education plan coordinated with CMS and the County to promote participation? I hear at conferences that there should be a more integrated plan. Maybe the Cabinet could look at some measures.

Also, I'd like to add a FY12 measure to suggest that we host an expo or conference around sustainability. I know we have said no new money, but if this could be funded through partners, don't know if that's possible or appropriate to insert.

Burch: It would increase awareness, so we could look to incorporate it and look at resources.

Peacock: I would just like to insert that I see a need to compete in the economic development arena. The Mayor hosted a conference on capital with the Chamber involved. I think working in concert with the Chamber and County we could start with a conference. I have no idea about the agenda.

Carter: What about "explore" hosting given the economic factors. If a conference is going on, we could look at international speakers as official attendees and that might help us achieve the coverage. We could leave it to CMS to develop an agenda to explain to students.

Peacock: We know citizens get involved, look at the tree issue. But, even recycling starts early with children. The discussion should not be so much of a back and forth with groups but to advance a broader initiative.

Burch: You would want to identify the core audience to determine the best host.

Dulin: I don't think we should coordinate, I think the word should be "communicate". We shouldn't be getting into the education business, but we can make our data available, it is not secret.

Burch: We do that now.

Peacock: I agree. But, one of the targets and measures is to increase awareness.

Burch: We have just launched the Power2 campaign as a measure.

Peacock: We need to promote our actions. Have we done that through our partners? We need to take credit and if we introduce something CMS uses, that gives us a measure and target.

Burch: We have an initiative to educate the public. There are a lot of audiences, we need to give this more thought and need to work with Kim McMillan. Let us think about this one.

We also have a new initiative from Planning to implement an alternative energy text amendment.

G. Johnson: We first did some research to determine what sources are feasible. We then had to define this and insert it where it was most appropriate in Zoning. We thought we were thinking proactively, but we're actually playing catch up.

Burch: Another new target is to implement the tree canopy investment strategy. This will actually be on your December workshop and in the draft we have suggested referring this back to Committee to set a goal.

Carter: How do you measure success? Another fly over?

T. Johnson: Yes. We envision some future analysis with American Forests. They recommend every five to seven years.

Carter: But, if we are planting smaller trees, the canopy doesn't develop as fast so our current investments won't show up.

T. Johnson: True.

Peacock: I mentioned this previously, but San Antonio and San Jose really received the deluxe versions of the American Forests reports; it would be great if we could have that kind of detail.

T. Johnson: We are working on that now.

Peacock: Could you provide targets for each district? I think that is more impactful. We could see the growth and loss?

T. Johnson: Yes. And, we have the talent and resources in-house, so that would be something you would not have to pay for.

Peacock: I think we are missing a trees measure and should have a goal to break it down by district. I think it would be easier to quantify. We had that article from Bruce Henderson about our ship sinking, but I think EPM is doing okay and the ordinance was doing a good job, but the revisions will do more. Can we use the report more? The City put in $50,000?

T. Johnson: Yes.

Peacock: The measure reads "…streams, ponds, and wetlands." But, there is no target. Do we want to add one?

Burch: We were staying focused on the tree canopy.

Hammock: We have a pond and dam restoration program and a stream restoration program that we build on every year to preserve, protect, improve and enhance.

Peacock: So, should we cross that out or do we give it a target?

Burch: There is a lot related to the environment that is not reflected here. We've been in the environmental business a long time.

Carter: We have interaction by priorities, but look at Edwards Branch; there were extra trees that were removed. What is more important?

Burch: The contractor did take trees down in error as part of the Edwards Branch stream restoration program and staff has worked to improve that procedure to avoid a repeat in the future.

Carter: Thank you.

Peacock: Wasn't the target already to have a 20% increase in recycling?

Garrett: We met that target and thought it would be reasonable to continue. The Charlotte area led the State.

Peacock: Could we raise the bar on the number? Should we push it up?

Garrett: That creates a challenge operationally if we push up the number with our resources. If we push up it becomes increasingly hard to stay in budget and try to balance within our operating parameters.

Peacock: But, that is a good problem.

Garrett: Yes, but we still have to manage it.

Peacock: What if we put in a new number like 25% or 22.5%?

Burch: We think it is a stretch objective at 20%.

Peacock: We have achieved a repeat. I read this as assumed not met in the previous year.

Burch: We are providing the current measurements and compiling data.

Burgess: What if we added "annually" to the end of the sentence. It might not be hard this year, but next year could be tough.

Garrett: We are trying to stretch.

Burch: Let us go back to Victoria Johnson.

Peacock: What about recycling downtown, at hotels, at apartments?

Burch: The 20% applies to multi-family. Hotels work in the partnership with the CRVA, who has a green team. But, that is a private decision. We don't pick up at hotels.

Burgess: What about hospitals?

Burch: No.

Carter: Could we add a target that we recruit businesses that produce from recycled materials?

Richardson: We are trying to grow a clean energy economy that includes recycling. We have companies that are part of that list.

Burgess: You could partner with hotels.

Carter: And, find companies that deal with materials we recycle, like insulation.

Env. 2 – Lead by example by practicing environmental stewardship in City operations and facilities.

Peacock: What about a FY12 target for water conservation in City facilities? We know our energy use, but do we track water? Could water conservation be reflected here? As I read the document, this is a business plan with targets and measures to hit on a balanced scorecard, but we are not measuring water.

Shell: Under the third measure, leading by example, we provide an annual report and could set a metric for energy and water. We have another document to report on Sustainable Facilities.

Burch: In May 2007, Council adopted a resolution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from City facilities. We did an inventory of all operations with block grant money and have a baseline now. We worked with the four Key Business Units most responsible (EPM, CATS, Airport and CMU). Now, we are moving ahead to identify the projects to reduce emissions.

Peacock: We also have the CDM document, which is an action plan.

Burch: We have reworded the vehicle fleet target with a new target related to CATS to achieve 4.3 mpg.

Peacock: How is that a stretch?

Feltman: Each tenth of a percent is hundreds of thousands of dollars in gas. This is a stretch for us. We were approaching 4.2 last year. A super hot summer or super cold winter would stretch us. There could be a big pay off, but it is hard to see the comparables because of the climate differences.

Peacock: Is there an issue with people riding their bikes to buses and putting the bikes on the buses lowering the mpgs?

Feltman: No, bikes don't weigh as much as a person. Even including some idling this still contributes to air quality improvements.

Burch: The City has also implemented a new Fleet Policy in August of this year.

Peacock: I just want to make sure we are improving. We have a lot of broad statements. CATS specified 4.3, should we see similar statements from other fleets like SWS?

Burch: CATS actually offered this up. We have different fleets with different operational needs. This isn't a one size fits all target. We couldn't compare CATS to Police as a measure. Some departments don't buy as many vehicles; they reuse vehicles when possible. That is part of the new policy, so it's hard to put a number on all the fleets.

Peacock: So, each one has their own standard to be accountable?

Carter: What about a smart car concept? Where many people use one vehicle?

Burch: We have pool vehicles now.

Jarrell: At CMU, we have several different divisions that use pool vehicles and we even share from division to division. We share what we have.

Burch: The CMGC parking deck also has pool vehicles.

Peacock: This is a very abbreviated document; we don't hear all the good news.

Burch: There is a lot of horsepower behind this and a lot of work and effort that doesn't get reflected here. We can't capture it all in one document.

Peacock: We need folks to hear about what we are trying to accomplish if we are going to be a "national leader". Kim McMillan's work has already given us a different look and feel. We need to say look at what we have and what we have done. We have been in the business for some time.

Burch: Given the time, should we draw the line here and look to schedule an additional meeting? Again, I would remind the Committee the focus areas are the subject of the Retreat, but the more work done here, the easier then.

Meeting Adjourned

Environment Committee

Monday, November 22, 2010 at 3:45 p.m.
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 280

Committee Members:	Edwin Peacock, Chair Nancy Carter, Vice Chair Jason Burgess Andy Dulin David Howard
Staff Resources:	Julie Burch

AGENDA

I. <u>FY 2012-2013 Focus Area Plan for the Environment</u>
Staff Resources: Julie Burch and members of Environment Cabinet

In preparation for discussion at the Council retreat in late January, all Focus Area Plans are being reviewed. Staff will present preliminary ideas about possible changes to the Environment Focus Area Plan and seek Committee feedback and comments. The current adopted plan and preliminary draft of possible changes are <u>attached</u>. No action is requested.

II. <u>Alternative Energy Strategy</u>
Staff Resources: Julie Burch, Rob Phocas

On November 1, Council referred discussion and dialogue on developing a City "alternative energy strategy" to the Environment Committee. No action is requested.

III. <u>Next Meeting / 2011 Meeting Schedule</u>

There is no Committee meeting scheduled in December at this time as the regular meeting day falls on December 27. Also, staff seeks Committee direction on next year's meeting schedule, which is <u>attached</u>.

<u>INFORMATION ONLY:</u>

- Summary notes and attendees, November 10 Town Hall meeting, provided at request of Council member Peacock
- <u>Annual Reports</u>: Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities Advisory Committee; Keep Charlotte Beautiful

Distribution:	Mayor/City Council Mac McCarley	Curt Walton, City Manager Stephanie Kelly	Leadership Team Environmental Cabinet

FY2011 Strategic Focus Area Plan

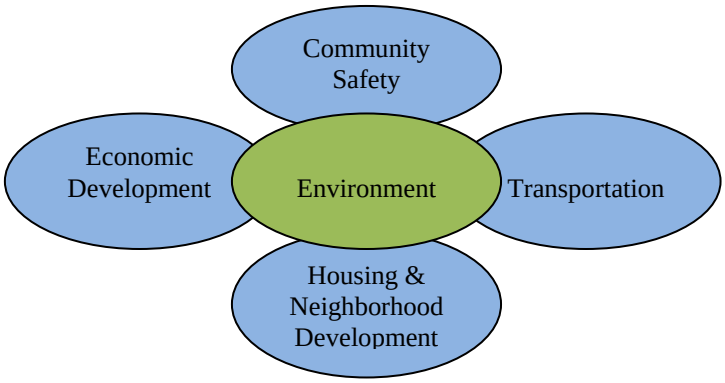
"Charlotte will become a national leader in environmental initiatives to preserve our natural resources while balancing growth with sound fiscal policy."

The City of Charlotte recognizes that environmental stewardship is fundamentally important to our quality of life and essential to maintaining a vibrant economy. Protecting our natural resources, promoting conservation, and improving the environment enhance our City's mission to preserve the quality of life for our citizens.

Charlotte's economic vitality presents challenges to maintaining a healthy environment. The City recognizes that conscientious environmental stewardship and concern for the public interest requires more than meeting mandates and minimum standards. By always being conscious of the need to meet regulatory compliance standards and the needs of future generations, the City will avoid costly remedial action. The City is committed to:

- *promoting environmental best practices and protecting our natural resources: the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the natural ecosystems we cherish, including the tree canopy;*
- *recognizing important interrelationships among air quality, water resources, land preservation, and energy and resource conservation;*
- *making sound land use decisions regarding our future growth and development supporting sustainability so as not to jeopardize our future generation of citizens;*
- *achieving our goals of becoming a national leader in the successful stewardship of our environment by maintaining a cooperative and open agenda with Mecklenburg County, our regional neighbors, and the business community; and*
- *leading by example and promoting sound, cost effective environmental and energy conservation practices in City operations.*

As illustrated in the graphic below, the Environmental Focus Area is interrelated to <u>all</u> of City Council's other focus areas.



Specific initiatives in Economic Development and Transportation Focus Area Plans relate directly to Charlotte's environmental goals including initiatives for renewable energy and green industry, and land-use planning and transportation choices.

Environment

Safeguard the Environment

ENV.1	Focus Area Initiative:	Support environmental sustainability by making wise decisions regarding growth and development, recognizing the interrelationships between air quality, water resources, land preservation, and energy and resource conservation
➢	FY11 Measure:	Percent of residential and office developments located within centers and corridors to continue implementing Centers, Corridors, and Wedges Growth Framework
	FY11 Target:	Minimum of 40% of new housing unit permits and 70% of new multi-family unit permits in the city located within the centers and corridors
	FY09 Target:	40% and 70% respectively
	FY09 Actual:	55.8% and 71.9% respectively
	FY11 Target:	Minimum of 75% of new office development square footage and 75% of new employment occurring in the centers and corridors
	FY09 Target:	75% and 75% respectively
	FY09 Actual:	97.6% and 91.4% respectively
➢	FY11 Measure:	Percent of rezoning decisions consistent with adopted plans and/or staff recommendation
	FY11 Target:	95% of rezoning decisions consistent with adopted plans and/or staff recommendation
	FY09 Target:	95% of rezoning decisions consistent with adopted plans
	FY09 Actual:	93.4% rezoning decisions consistent with adopted plans
➢	FY11 Measure:	Percent of rezoning decisions consistent with adopted environmentally sensitive site design policies
	FY11 Target:	80% of approved re-zonings incorporate environmentally sensitive site design components as per the General Development Policies-Environment
	FY09 Target:	N/A – new measure for FY10
➢	FY11 Measure:	Implement the General Development Policies Phase II - Environment
	FY11 Target:	Initiate strategies to address two additional General Development Policies—Environment and continue to focus on policies dealt with by previous Focus Area Plan targets
	FY09 Target:	Initiated strategies to address five of the 15 GDP-E by June 2009
	FY09 Actual:	Initiated strategies to address six additional GDP-E

Environment

ENV.2	Focus Area Initiative:	Lead and support efforts to improve Charlotte and regional air quality
	FY11 Measure:	Promote long-term reduction in ozone-causing emissions
	FY11 Target:	Implement projects in partnerships with business/management organizations to encourage increases in travel by alternative modes to/from/within two mixed-use activity centers by June 2011
	FY09 Target:	N/A – new measure for FY10
	FY11 Target:	Adopt and implement a revised Tree Ordinance that will help improve air quality through the preservation and growth of Charlotte's tree canopy
	FY09 Target:	Adopt revised Tree Ordinance by June 2008
	FY09 Actual:	Revised Tree Ordinance pending adoption
	FY11 Target:	Continue collaboration and participation with COG's CONNECT Regional Air Quality Work Team, the Regional Air Quality Board and Clean Air Works, Mecklenburg County Division of Air Quality and the State of North Carolina Division of Air Quality to develop and implement strategies to improve air quality
	FY09 Target:	N/A – new measure for FY10
	FY11 Target:	Implement the City's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant air quality projects

ENV.3	Focus Area Initiative:	Protect natural ecosystems and habitats, including the tree canopy
➢	FY11 Measure:	Maintain a significant and healthy tree canopy
	FY11 Target:	**Present Tree Appreciation Awards in June to developers and persons for exceptional tree preservation, tree planting, citizen contributions and other outstanding achievements that enhance Charlotte's tree canopy**
	FY11 Target:	**Adopt an overall tree canopy goal for Charlotte and measure the effectiveness of the newly revised tree ordinance meeting the goal**
➢	FY11 Measure:	Protect stream corridors, ponds, and wetlands through public acquisition of additional conservation easements and enhancing existing buffers
	FY11 Target:	Meet mitigation requirements through local rather than state-level restoration efforts 100% of the time when streams are negatively impacted by City projects
	FY09 Target:	N/A – new measure for FY10
➢	FY11 Measure:	Maintain permit compliance with treated wastewater
	FY11 Target:	100% compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements for all five wastewater plants
	FY09 Target:	100% compliance
	FY09 Actual:	5 violations - 99.9% compliance

Environment

ENV.4	Focus Area Initiative:	Lead by example, adopting sound environmental practices in City facilities and operations
	FY11 Measure:	Implement strategies to reduce City fleet emissions to improve air quality
	FY11 Target:	Reduce the amount of harmful emissions from the CATS bus fleet by maintaining the 5% idling reduction from FY10 baseline data in CATS' fixed bus fleet, including emissions reduction equipment on the engines of all new fixed route buses, and procuring hybrid buses as funding allows
	FY09 Target:	Reduce idling by 5% from FY07 baseline data in Charlotte Area Transit System's fixed route bus fleet
	FY09 Actual:	Reduced idling from 35.15% to 30.30%
	FY11 Target:	Improve the efficiency of the overall City fleet by purchasing alternative fuel vehicles as funding allows and by seeking grant funding to outfit current vehicles with emissions reducing technology
	FY09 Target:	Increase percentages of City fleet using alternative fuel or emission efficient technologies
	FY09 Actual:	37 hybrids; 337 flex fuel vehicles (excludes CATS)
➢	FY11 Measure:	Incorporate environmentally responsible actions in the design, construction, and operations of City facilities and in other operating practices
	FY11 Target:	Implement adopted Policy for Sustainable City Facilities and conduct first year review of effectiveness
➢	FY11 Measure:	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from City facilities and operations
	FY11 Target:	Establish the City's targets to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions for City facilities and operations
	FY11 Target:	Implement the City's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant projects for City facilities
	FY09 Target:	Develop Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Action Plan by December 2008
	FY09 Actual:	Developed Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Action Plan, as part of Energy Strategy
	FY11 Target:	Develop and implement a City-wide environmentally preferable purchasing policy by July 2010
	FY09 Target:	Develop pilot
	FY09 Actual:	Pilot program with Wake Forest and UNCC completed; assessing software and methodologies for cost/benefits analysis
	FY11 Target:	Increase recycling within City facilities
	FY09 Target:	N/A – new measure for FY10

Environment

- FY11 Measure: Operate a best-in-class wastewater treatment facilities that continually seek efficiencies and minimize environmental risk

  FY11 Target: Achieve ISO 14001:2004 certification for the for the McDowell Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant by December 2010

  FY09 Target: Receive certification

  FY09 Actual: Received Bio-solids ISO 14001:2004 certification

- **FY11 Measure:** Advance renewable energy projects, including biodiesel, methane**,** solar and **geothermal** initiatives

  FY11 Target: Complete a master plan of Utilities' properties viable technologies, including financing models and implementation steps, by December 2010

- **FY11 Measure: Develop and implement pilot project(s) for renewable energy**

  FY11 Target: Develop and implement a solar energy pilot project on airport-owned property by December 2010

Develop Collaborative Solutions

ENV.5 Focus Area Initiative: Collaborate with local and regional public and private partners and neighborhoods to enhance environmental quality and long-term sustainability

- FY11 Measure: Continue collaboration and actively participate in public and private sector partnership's environmental and visioning initiatives
- FY11 Target: Continue collaboration and participation with Centralina Council of Governments, Duke Energy, UNC-Charlotte, CPCC, CRVA Green Team, and other partners' current initiatives

  FY09 Target: Continue collaboration and participation with SEQL, Centralina Council of Governments, Regional Visioning Council and other partners' current initiatives

  FY09 Actual: Active in COG-sponsored Regional Growth and Regional Environment Cabinets; participated in CRVA Green Team, Coca-Cola "Recycle and Win," CPCC, Duke Energy and other partners' current initiatives.

  FY11 Target: Implement the City's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant projects for energy investments in revitalization areas, the neighborhood energy challenge, and catalyst projects

Environment

- FY11 Measure: Increase awareness of the environment as a priority for the community and the organization
  - FY11 Target: Continue implementing the internal and external communication plans, including the Pledge to Improve Our Environment and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant public outreach and education campaign
  - FY09 Target: Continue implementing the internal communication strategy for the environment focus area
  - FY09 Actual: Developed and distributed pledge cards to improve our environment, dedicated employee CNet page to the Environmental Focus Area, featured environmental data in FYI and FYIcast, and Earth Day activities partner

- FY11 Measure: Continue a leadership role in regional water resources planning
  - FY11 Target: Actively support North Carolina's defense of the North Carolina versus South Carolina water rights lawsuit to protect the interest of Utilities' customers
  - FY09 Target: Lead the group with Utilities' staff as chair of the Water Management Group and be actively involved in committee work in 2008
  - FY09 Actual: Utilities' staff led the Water Management Group

- FY11 Measure: In support of State recycling goals, increase single family recycling participation to achieve a 20% increase in annual tonnage of recycled materials
  - **FY11 Target:** Implement single-stream recycling collection **and public education** program**s** by July 2010
  - FY09 Target: Implement single-stream recycling program by July 2010
  - FY09 Actual: N/A – (target is for single-stream - not yet implemented)

- FY11 Measure: Continue implementing the multi-family recycling education program
  - FY11 Target: Educate 20 non-participating multi-family property managers on the benefits of recycling by July 2010
  - FY09 Target: Educate 20 non-participating multi-family property managers on the benefits of recycling by July 2009
  - FY09 Actual: 46 managers trained (230% of target)

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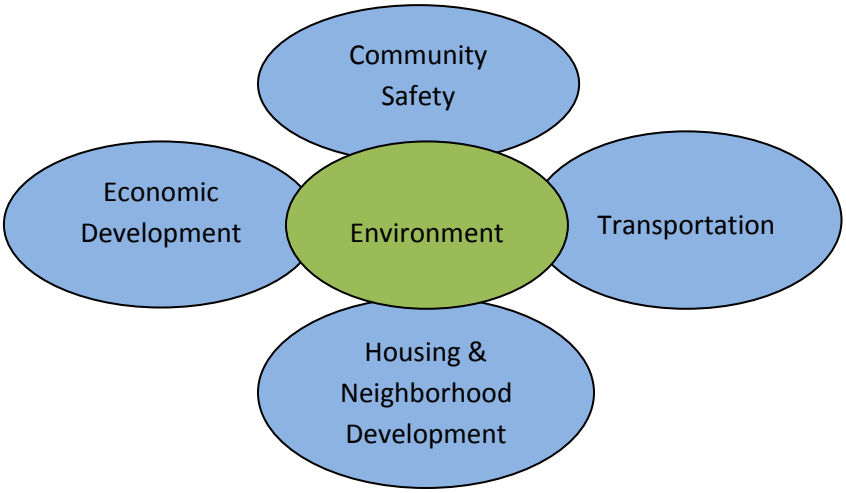
The City of Charlotte recognizes that environmental stewardship is fundamentally important to quality of life and essential to maintaining a vibrant economy. Protecting natural resources, promoting conservation, and improving the environment all enhance the City's mission to preserve the quality of life of its citizens.

Charlotte will become a national leader in environmental sustainability by:

- Promoting and participating in the development of an environmentally sustainable community;
- Leading by example by practicing environmental stewardship in City operations and facilities;
- Seeking and supporting collaborative and regional solutions to environmental problems.

As illustrated in the graphic below, the Environmental Focus Area is interrelated to all of City Council's other focus areas.



Specific initiatives in Economic Development and Transportation Focus Area Plans relate directly to Charlotte's environmental goals including initiatives for renewable energy and green industry, and land-use planning and transportation choices.

DRAFT

Environment

Safeguard the Environment

Env. 1 Focus Area Initiative: Promote and participate in the development of a sustainable community

FY12 Measure: Increase awareness of the environment as a priority for the community

FY12 Target: Increase the exposure of the Power2Charlotte, CurbIt recycling campaign, and other educational/outreach efforts.

FY12 Target: Implement the nine (9) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant projects that are catalyst projects or promote energy investments in revitalization areas, including the Neighborhood Energy Challenge.

FY12 Target: *Collect baseline data on environmental variables in preparation for adding those variables to the biennial Quality of Life study.*

FY12 Measure: Make wise decisions regarding growth and development that are consistent with adopted plans and policies (including the GDP-Environment) and minimize negative environmental impacts of land use and development.

FY12 Target: Ninety-five percent (95%) of rezoning decisions consistent with adopted area plans and/or staff recommendations.

FY12 Target: Eighty percent (80%) of approved rezonings incorporate environmentally sensitive site design components (Implementation of GDP-Environment)

FY12 Target: Initiate an alternative energy text amendment and implement the eco-industrial ordinance text amendment to better define and provide guidance for environmental land uses by June 2012.

FY12 Measure: Responsibly manage Charlotte's natural resources including the tree canopy, streams, ponds, and wetlands.

FY12 Target: Implement the City's Tree Canopy Investment Strategy and measure the effectiveness of the Tree Ordinance and the Tree Planting Programs in meeting the tree canopy goal.

FY12 Measure: In support of State of North Carolina and City recycling goals, increase single family and multi-family recycling participation.

FY12 Target: Achieve a 20% increase in annual tonnage of recycled materials.

Env. 2 Focus Area Initiative: Lead by example by practicing environmental stewardship in City operations and facilities.

FY12 Measure: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from City facilities and operations.

FY12 Target: Adopt a greenhouse gas action plan by June 2011 and begin implementation in FY2012

FY12 Target: Complete seven (7) of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant projects designed to improve efficiency of City facilities.

FY12 Measure:	Demonstrate environmental sustainability in the management of the City's vehicle fleet.
FY12 Target:	Achieve 4.3 mpg across CATS Bus Operations fleet vehicles, by continuing acquisition of and maximizing the use of fuel efficient and hybrid vehicles, maintaining and monitoring idling practices, continuing to control vehicle speed through governor settings, use of battery power for vehicle maintenance when feasible, and continued use of ultra low sulfur diesel fuel
FY12 Target:	Improve the efficiency of the overall City fleet from 2011 levels by purchasing alternative fuel vehicles as funding allows in accordance with the fleet management policy, purchasing smaller vehicles that meet operational requirements, and by seeking grant funding to outfit current vehicles with emissions reducing technology.
FY12 Measure:	Demonstrate environmental sustainability in the design, construction, and operation of City facilities.
FY12 Target:	Prepare annual report on the implementation of the Policy for Sustainable Facilities, reporting project decisions, common facility metrics, and recommended policy adjustments.
FY12 Target:	Per Clean Water Act requirements, develop and begin implementing stormwater best practices for City construction and maintenance activities by June 2012.
FY12 Target:	One-hundred percent (100%) compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirement for all five wastewater plants.
FY12 Target:	*Airport Recycling Initiative*
FY12 Measure:	Implement environmentally-conscious practices in the acquisition and disposition of City resources.
FY12 Target:	*Conduct first year review of the effectiveness of Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy by December 2012 and collect baseline info so that specific improvement target may be set in the future.*
FY12 Measure:	Identify and advance renewable energy projects leveraging City resources.
FY12 Target:	Implement the initial construction of a Combined Heat and Power project at McAlpine Wastewater Management Facility by June 2012.
FY12 Target:	Develop and implement a solar energy pilot project on CATS-owned bus canopies by *month/year.*
Env. 3 Focus Area Initiative:	Seek and support collaborative and regional solutions to environmental problems.
FY12 Measure:	Collaborate and participate in public and private sector partnership's environmental and visioning initiatives
FY12 Target:	Collaborate with City's Energy Partners and other agencies to leverage resources and enhance the impact of cooperative projects.

FY12 Target:	*Identify opportunities to participate in/pursue the development of a coordinated sustainability plan for the community with CCCP and other partners*
FY12 Measure:	Lead and support efforts to improve Charlotte and regional air quality by promoting long-term reduction in ozone causing emissions.
FY12 Target:	Implement projects and partnerships with business/management organizations to increase travel by alternative modes to/from/within two mixed-use activity centers by June 2012.
FY12 Target:	Continue collaboration and participation with COG's CONNECT Regional Air Quality Work Team, the Regional Air Quality Board and Clean Air Works, the Mecklenburg County Division of Air Quality and the State of NC Division of Air Quality to implement strategies to improve air quality.
FY12 Measure:	Continue a leadership role in regional water resources planning
FY12 Target:	Utilities staff to continue participation in regional Water Management Group and be actively involved with committee work.
FY12 Target:	Actively support North Carolina's defense of the North Carolina vs. South Carolina water rights lawsuit to protect the interest of Utilities' customers.

Environment Committee
2010 *Proposed* Meeting Schedule

4th Monday from 3:45 to 5:00 in Room 280
(except where noted)

January 24

February 28

March 28

April 25

May 23

June 27

August 22

September 26

October – tbd
(4th Monday 10/24 - NCLM Conference)

November 28

Notes:
No July meeting due to Council's summer schedule
No December meeting pending new Committee assignments

AT-LARGE TOWN HALL MEETING
HOSTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER EDWIN PEACOCK, III
ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NOTES

Attendance: About 50 people

CITIZEN FEEDBACK

Media

- Media focus is too much on negative stories these days. Have stations focus a one-minute segment on sustainability.
- Provide presentations to the media to educate them (Kim McMillan mentioned Corp Comm could give them a presentation like the one she did regarding Power2 to raise their interest)

Getting Citizens Involved/Educated

- Let different regions/neighborhoods compete for incentives
- More corporate recycling is needed; get places that sell electronics to recycle
- Apartment and multi-family household residents need more education on recycling, yet, don't make general indictments towards apartment dwellers—it's not that they all don't recycle and it's not that they don't want to recycle
- "Sustainability" is a confusing term when it comes to technology because technology becomes obsolete and impacts people's health; more education needed on the detrimental effects on people of certain items deemed recyclable (i.e., items with electronic fields, fluorescent bulbs, etc.). Conservation and making things that last are better considerations
- The sense of urgency is needed to address only one subject at a time, perhaps on quarterly basis and reach out to more than just the usual environment-conscious groups and citizens

What the City Can Do

- Give citizens information on what to do with the recyclable products they can dispose of
- Make disposal of recyclable products easier and more accessible
- Bring Code and Zoning into the conversation—don't automatically demolish homes/buildings that can be retrofitted
- Establish an Environmental Citizens' Board/Council to help prioritize activities
- Have one staff person/position with an environmental focus in various departments or a Department of Environment
- Consider the natural (tree) buffer zones in bike plans; bike master plan needs to be fully implemented
- Consider a ban on single-use plastic bags
- Consider a bolder approach to the environment (i.e., provide some consequences for not recycling, in Europe, if you have more trash than your allotment, it won't get picked up, etc.)
- Create programs or partner with agencies that have programs where citizens can recycle/purchase/fund bins; recycle prescription bottles; sell rain barrels and/or composters at a reduced price, etc. (one person mentioned how organizations could fund environmental programs with energy savings)
- Have quarterly town hall meetings on broad topics: air quality, water, waste, etc.

TOWN HALL MEETING: FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT
NOVEMBER 10, 2010

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TOWN HALL MEETING: FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT
NOVEMBER 10, 2010

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TOWN HALL MEETING: FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT
NOVEMBER 10, 2010

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TOWN HALL MEETING: FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT
NOVEMBER 10, 2010

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TOWN HALL MEETING: FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT
NOVEMBER 10, 2010

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TOWN HALL MEETING: FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

NOVEMBER 10, 2010

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CHARLOTTE.

M E M O R A N D U M
FROM THE
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

DATE: July 8, 2010
TO: Environment Committee Members
FROM: Stephanie C. Kelly, CMC, City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities Advisory Committee Annual Report**

The attached report of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities Advisory Committee is being sent to you pursuant to the Resolution related to Boards and Commissions adopted by City Council at the November 23, 2009 meeting. This resolution requires annual reports from City Council Boards and Commissions to be distributed by the City Clerk to both City Council and to the appropriate Committee for review.

This report is also being sent to the Economic Development Committee as directed in the above referenced resolution.

If you have questions or comments for the board, please convey those to staff support for a response and/or follow-up.

Section 6. **REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS**

The City Council finds it appropriate to periodically review each standing board, committee, and commission to which they make appointments for the purpose of assessing whether said board, committee, or commission should be renewed, dismantled, expanded or its charge redefined. To this end, each board, committee, and commission that is part of the City, or that was established by the City Council, whether acting alone or in conjunction with one or more other local governments, is required to submit annual written reports that must contain in depth reviews of the body's activities, including goals, objectives, successes, problems, and/or the need for City Council assistance. These reports shall be submitted to the City Clerk and will be staggered through the year according to a schedule established by the City Clerk. The City Clerk shall then provide the Mayor and City Council with copies of the reports and refer the reports to the appropriate Council Committee for the Committee's information.

Boards, committees, and commissions that are not part of the City shall submit reports in accordance with the reporting requirements set forth in their contract, if any, with the City.

In addition to required written reports, the City Council may request on a case-by-case basis that an oral report be made to the Council.

Utilities Advisory Committee
Annual Report for FY2010

Introduction & Purpose
The seven-member Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities Advisory Committee operates under a City/County agreement that requires three members appointed by the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, three appointed by Charlotte City Council and one by the Mayor of Charlotte. With the exception of a towns representative, the members of the committee must be actively involved in one of the following categories: real estate developer, neighborhood leader, water and/or sewer contractor, civil engineer specializing in water/sewer construction, and a financial expert. This composition of member representation and skill sets was suggested by a 13-member citizen committee that reviewed Utilities policies from April to November 1990. At that time, the citizen committee recommended the five-member *Community Facilities Committee* be transitioned to a seven-member *Utilities Advisory Committee* with these characteristics and qualifications. The change took effect in June 1991.

Current Members
Members are appointed to 3-year terms, and may be appointed for up to two full terms (plus filling an unexpired term).

Member Name	Appointed By	Representative Role	Term Expires
David A. Jarrett, Chair	City	Towns	6/30/12
George Beckwith, Vice Chair	City	Financial	6/30/12
Keva Walton	County	Neighborhood Leader	6/30/10
James Merrifield	County	Developer	10/31/12
Erica Carter	County	Engineer	6/30/11
Robert E. Linkner	Charlotte Mayor	Engineer	6/30/10
Marco Varela	City	Water-Sewer Contractor	6/30/11

Duties & Responsibilities
- Review and make recommendations to Charlotte City Council regarding:
  - Annual water & sewer capital improvement programs
  - Proposed changes in water and sewer rate and fee methodologies; and
  - Proposed changes in the policy for water and sewer extensions.

- Review and make recommendations to Charlotte City Council through the City Manager regarding:
  - Requests for one or more specific extensions of the water and sewer system that have not been approved within a reasonable time by the Director; and
  - Proposed changes to the specifications for installing water and sewer facilities that have not been approved by the Director.

- Sit with City Council in public hearings on any matter required.

- Present an annual report on the operations of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities and on the activities of the Advisory Committee to City Council and the County Commission.

- Review and report on any matter related to water and sewer service as requested by the Director, City Council or County Commission.

The Utilities Advisory Committee typically meets the third Thursday afternoon each month at 5100 Brookshire Boulevard. The group's annual meeting schedule is posted at *www.cmutilities.com*.

Utilities System Activities for FY10

Our community's water and sewer system includes two drinking water intakes from impounded lakes on the Catawba River (Lake Norman and Mountain Island Lake), three water treatment plants, five wastewater treatment plants, 74 sewage lift stations and a combined total of 8,053 miles of water distribution and wastewater collection pipe. A staff of 720 clean water professionals operates the system and provides customer service to 250,000 water account holders (equal to roughly 774,000 customers). During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, Utilities safely treated and delivered more than 39 billion gallons of drinking water to customers throughout the county. Staff also collected, treated and discharged nearly 28 billion gallons of wastewater effluent back into our local waterways.

Utilities Advisory Committee Activities during FY10

The Utilities Advisory Committee met 11 times during FY10. Its activities are listed below.

Late Summer/Fall 2009

- Received updates for and supported bond rating review and $385 million revenue bond sale that occurred in December 2009. Utilities retained its 2 AAA ratings and AA1 rating. Credit status upgraded to 3 AAAs in May 2010.
- Reviewed educational video produced by Utilities staff and City-community partners (including Utilities Advisory Chair) to promote the value of clean water systems. Video won national industry award.
- Reviewed and discussed amendments to Utilities Water and Sewer Extension Policy. Supported recommended changes to City Council, which were approved.
- Considered changes to Customer Assistance Program that helps customers pay back new connection and capacity fees over a 10-year period. Changes made to Extension Policy (previous bullet) allow more flexibility for how the Customer Assistance Program may be applied.
- Received updates on the SC vs. NC water rights lawsuit and the City's involvement.

Winter 2009-2010

- Received a staff overview of proposed FY11-FY15 Capital Improvements Program.
- Received updates on a proposed regional wastewater treatment plant at Long Creek, including a proposed Memorandum of Understanding with Town of Mount Holly.
- Received staff report regarding the Utilities response to public concerns regarding unexplained high water bills, customer service complaints and policies, and the tiered water rate structure.
- Discussed staff process for working with a citizen water bill task force assembled by the Mayor of Cornelius. Advisory encouraged more effort to educate citizens about the tiered rate structure.
- Reviewed and supported utility financial needs/policies presentation to City Council Restructuring Government Committee (prologue to FY11 budget/rate recommendation).

Spring 2010

- Received final report and presentation from Cornelius water bill task force in March 2010.
- Received information regarding proposed ReVenture development project that could include a partnership with the Long Creek wastewater plant.
- Received information on the May launch of the meter equipment audit, a component of the 9-part City-Manager Sponsored Utilities Customer Service Evaluation (UCSE) project under way since early 2010.
- Received updates about the UCSE project effort/progress while producing a Utilities Advisory Committee response to the citizen water bill task force report. Advisory response released to public in June 2010.
- Reviewed and supported FY2011 budget/rate recommendation to City Manager, City Council Restructuring Government Committee and Charlotte City Council.
- Discussed plans for a Utilities water and sewer rate study to occur in FY11.
- Received information about the Utilities 2009 Water Quality Report, mailed countywide in Spring 2010.
- Received information about the upcoming Utilities Meter Route Resequencing project, which will reduce lag time between meter reading and issuing of bills and equalize workload associated with processing bills.
- Utilities Advisory Chair participated in City Manager's selection process for new Utilities Director.

CHARLOTTE.

M E M O R A N D U M
FROM THE
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

DATE: October 19, 2010
TO: City Council
FROM: Stephanie C. Kelly, CMC, City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Attached Annual Reports: Keep Charlotte Beautiful Committee**

The attached report of the Keep Charlotte Beautiful Committee is being sent to you pursuant to the Resolution related to Boards and Commissions adopted by City Council at the November 23, 2009 meeting. This resolution requires annual reports from City Council Boards and Commissions to be distributed by the City Clerk to both City Council and to the appropriate Committee for review. This report is also being sent to the Council committee aligned with these boards, Environment Committee.

Section 6. **REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS**

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KEEP CHARLOTTE BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE

Keep Charlotte Beautiful Committee is a volunteer-based affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. It is supported by Neighborhood and Business Services Key Business and Charlotte Code Enforcement Division. The Committee supports activities that comprise the three focus areas of Keep America Beautiful: Litter Prevention, Beautification, and Waste Reduction, and places a strong emphasis in helping to ensure that all Charlotte neighborhoods are beautiful, safe, and desirable places to live. The Committee is a proud recipient of the 2009 President's Circle Award.

Keep Charlotte Beautiful has twenty members appointed by Charlotte City Council and the Mayor's Office. They meet the first Monday of every month and also conduct various subcommittee meetings in the interim. Committee members as of June 2010 are:

Stephen Ashworth

Jamie Banks (Staff – Communications)

Sheridan Bell

Kevin Brown

Charita Curtis (staff)

Delores Holbrook Dixon

Sara Downing

Wendy Gigante (Executive Director)

Elissa Gilleland (Staff)

Rosemary Hall

Bruce Hammermann (Chairperson)

Alyson Higgins

Jennifer Kletter

Dean Pawlowski

Casey Peura

Gregory Phipps (Ex-officio)

Charles Prendergast

Donald Robinson (Staff)

Henri Rumph

Stephen Scott

Stephanie Stenglein

Corine Thomas

FY 2010 ACTIVITIES

Keep Charlotte Beautiful plans and conducts activities through Subcommittee work and Events.

2010 Subcommittee Projects

ADOPT-A-CITY NEIGHBORHOOD

Each year, through a competitive process, Keep Charlotte Beautiful adopts a City neighborhood and implements a community service project of the neighborhood's choosing. The Wilmore neighborhood, adopted in 2010, sought to beautify a stretch of tall weeds and overgrowth on the block where their neighborhood entrance sign is located. With volunteers from the neighborhood, Keep Charlotte Beautiful and Nations Ford Baptist Church, the overgrowth was removed, mulch was put into place, and several varieties of decorative shrubs were planted along an 80 foot-long area behind the neighborhood entrance.

ADOPT-A-CITY STREET

Formal implementation of a web-based Adopt-A-City-Street application was launched in early FY 2010. This system replaces a paper-heavy application form. The system saves significant staff and turnaround time, and makes more efficient the approval process. Primary system features include: significant saving of paper and paper storage space; a color-coded, real-time view of the adoption status of any City street, a mileage counter that enables applicants to see exactly how much they have adopted, and the ability to run reports from the database. In order to lead by example, the Committee has adopted Central Avenue between Kings Drive and The Plaza, and conducts its own quarterly clean-up of that section.

ANNUAL LITTER INDEX

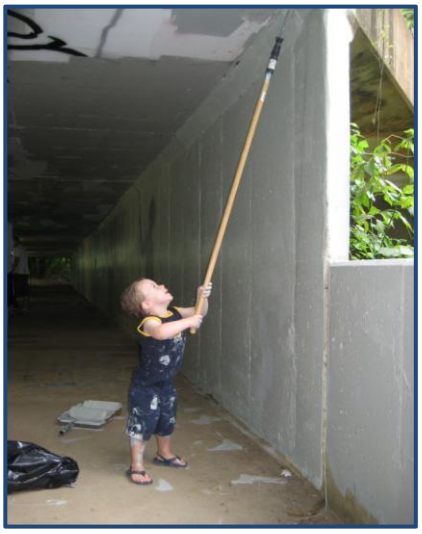
Each year, Keep Charlotte Beautiful conducts a litter index of Charlotte. The index is a dashboard measurement of litter visible from a driver's perspective, and is an effective tool for educating citizens and the media on the state of litter prevention efforts in Charlotte. After a training session, volunteers survey 70 pre-determined locations throughout the City (comprised of ten locations per political district) at the same time each year, to measure visible litter and determine trends from year to year. A mix of land use is chosen for each district. The scale used in the survey is: 1= virtually no litter; 2=slightly littered (easily cleaned up by one or two persons); 3=littered (readily seen and will require an organized effort to remove); 4=heavily littered (heavy litter or a dump site is obvious and will require special equipment and additional manpower to remove). Scores are averaged for each political district and for the City overall. The City's overall rating in 2010 was 1.62, a slight improvement from the 2009 rating of 1.69.

Traditionally, only the appearance of litter was surveyed. Beginning in 2011, two more indices will be added to the measurement; graffiti and the presence of signs in the City right of way.

RECYCLABLE MATERIALS ART CONTEST

During the 2009-2010 school year, Keep Charlotte Beautiful held their second annual Recyclable Materials Art Sculpture Contest with Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools. This year, the contest was expanded to include students in the elementary and middle-school levels. Entries were submitted by both classroom groups and individual students. First, second, and third place winners at all three school levels were selected by the Committee. Students and their schools were recognized in an awards ceremony held at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center on Friday, April 23, 2010.

EVENTS



In addition to many year-round events held by Adopt A City Street volunteer groups, other Committee volunteer events in FY 2010 included:

- 8/7/09 – Central Avenue Clean-up;
- 8/15/09 – Provided supplies for JC Smith University Students/ Beatties Ford Road Clean-up;
- 11/7/09 – Graffiti Clean-up at Fairview Tunnel;
- 11/14/09 – Sign Sweep;
- 11/21/09 – Central Avenue Clean-up;
- 2/10/10 – Central Avenue Clean-up;
- 4/3/10 – UNCC/College Downs Neighborhood Clean-up;
- 4/24/10 – Litter clean-up at Belmont "Green the Block";
- 5/8/10 – Central Avenue Clean-up;
- 6/12/10 – Wilmore Neighborhood Entrance Beautification;
- 6/26/10 – Graffiti Clean-up at Fairview Tunnel.

ISSUES LOOKING FORWARD

Dissolution of Inmate Clean-up Crew – At the end of FY 2010, Mecklenburg County Commissioners voted to disband the Inmate Clean-up Crew. City of Charlotte Key Businesses, such as Neighborhood and Business Services and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police regularly call on the Inmate Crew to clear-out major dump sites throughout the City that pose health and safety risks to the public and are not generally appropriate for volunteer groups. They remove many tons of debris each year. Without the Inmate Crew, our ability to safely clean-up dump sites in the City at a low cost may not be possible in the future.

Possible Sustainable/Alternative Energy Strategies

Preliminary Draft: For discussion purposes only

November 22, 2010

Based on input from the industry and information on programs in other cities, possible city government actions to promote the growth of the sustainable/alternative energy industry fall into the following strategy areas:

- Improve the Regulatory Environment
- Promote Energy Efficiency
- City Lead by Example
- Funding for Sustainable Energy
- Increase Public Awareness of Sustainable Energy
- Public/Private Partnerships

For these purposes, "Sustainable/Alternative Energy" includes: energy efficiency, electric and natural gas vehicles, solar, wind, geothermal, hydro and bio-mass.

11/22 Environment Committee FAP Notes

- Include possible city actions to promote sustainable/alternative energy industry (refer to handout) (improve regulatory environment, promote energy efficiency, etc.)
- Consider including "nuclear" and "emerging technology" to list of "sustainable/alternative" energy types
- "Charlotte will become a national leader in ENERGY and environmental sustainability" as wording in preamble or "Charlotte will become a national leader in environment sustainability and ENERGY sustainability"
- Take a leadership role in changes to policy at the state and federal level, add that goal to the FAP
- Include ENV 4 "Improve the regulatory environment"
- Spell out what ENV stands for, then spell out those initiatives in all caps to distinguish them from measure/targets
- Env 1, add a measure: "develop and implement an environmental education plan that communicates with CMS and Mecklenburg County" with measures TBD by Environmental Cabinet or "partner to develop an environmental education plan"
- Env 1, add a target under first measure: "host a sustainability expo/conference" with partners and leveraged resources. Or word as "explore hosting…"
- Targets regarding the collection of baseline data on tree canopy for each district, and establishing tree canopy improvement targets for each district
- Include targets re: streams, ponds, wetlands or omit mention of those from the measure altogether
- Consider raising the bar on % increase in recycling tonnage. Or phrase "achieve a repeat 20% increase in annual tonnage of recycled materials" or "Achieve a 20% increase of recycled materials annually"
- "Recruit business that produce products from local recycled materials" in this plan to mirror similar measure/target in ED plan
- FY12 target on water conservation in City facilities in Env 2