CHARLOTTE

Charlotte City Council

# Environment Committee

Meeting Summary for December 8, 2010

## COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

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

Action: None.

**II.** **Subject:** **Next Meeting**

TBD

Committee to be polled for early January meeting.

## COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Present: Edwin Peacock, Nancy Carter, Jason Burgess, Andy Dulin and David Howard

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Agenda Package
2. Handout: NLC Service Line Warranty Program
3. 12/8 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 this was part two of the discussion on the Focus Area Plan. The Committee has been provided with an updated plan reflecting comments from the last meeting.

Howard: What's the difference between the red and blue text?

Burch: Blue reflects the first round of changes suggested by staff and red reflects the Committee discussion. At the last meeting we stopped in Initiative #2, Lead by Example.

Carter: Back to the first red target, I'd like to add "if fiscally feasible".

Peacock: I agree. I'd also like to point out the initiatives are now in all caps. I thought in the previous versions it was difficult to understand the difference. And, with economic conferences, they don't have to cost anything. We could also add "in conjunction with and funded by other partners."

Burch: There are various conferences around energy, so we laid this out more as information, but we don't want to duplicate any efforts with the target audience. Funding is an issue, so private partners are good.

Peacock: As an example, Charlotte Clean and Green, CPCC has supported those efforts by their participation and we've seen an increase by allowing others to showcase their environmental efforts. We also had my recent Town Hall meeting and the Power2 vision. There has been so much more progress and more context than I think this first measure/target can bring.

Howard: You could also add "and other educational opportunities."

Burch: We would need some clarification around the subject of education. We didn't include it because there would be a lot involved in development and implementing an environmental education plan that communicates with CMS and the County. We would want to partner with them to develop

something, but we also would seek clarification about the audience. Is it CMS kids, parents, other groups? It is a tall work order.

Peacock: I think we are talking about piggybacking on the efforts going on already at CMS and talking with the County, again, in partnership and piggybacking on their efforts. We want to help staff find success and victories and this seems to be an easy, low-cost way to fulfill that mission.

Dulin: I don't want to be super picky here, but I hope we don't use the word "piggyback."

Peacock: This is a workshop here to get this document how we want it.

Burch: As this relates to the target, does this capture what you wanted?

Howard: Took care of mine.

Burgess: In that first target it says partners, who are they and do we need others?

Burch: Power2 energy now has Duke, Piedmont Natural Gas, CPCC, among the others.

Carter: I think we need an opening collaborative word.

Burch: Do you like coordination better?

Peacock: Yes.

Burch: I didn't mean to skip the first page, if you wanted to review that again.

Dulin: Recycling. Our complaints with the new rollout have gone from like 400 to 0, so I assume that means folks are using the carts. How are we tracking the increases?

Garrett: Recycling is up. We have seen an increase that gets us to the 20% target in collections with single-stream. We track this with information from Mecklenburg County. They send us monthly tonnage reports from the recycling facility and we have data from the trucks.

Dulin: I'd be interested in getting updates. We're the voice to the people and if we have up-to-date numbers, we can tell people where we are. This is a victory.

Garrett: We do send a monthly service report to the Manager's Office.

Dulin: Maybe we get it and I just haven't seen it.

Burch: We could put something in the memo.

Dulin: I have talked to the recycling people; I like to say thank you; and they all say how much they like their jobs. They also say the South Charlotte picks are cleaner. Some crews spend a lot of time picking garbage out of the recycling. How can we help the other areas? I know I have the sticker, but can we let all areas know that? We need to keep educating people.

Burch: That's good feedback.

Peacock: Why isn't "achieve 30%" highlighted?

Burch: That's an error.

Carter: I also wanted to add a bullet about recruiting manufacturers that use recycled materials.

Peacock: I think we need to do more and help more. Are you talking about adding an economic development component?

Carter: There are companies that make things from recycled materials, like Styrofoam, fill insulation from cardboard, etc.; I would like to see us increase our outreach.

Richardson: Thank you for clarifying. Our role in business recruitment is limited though. We don't recruit businesses, the Chamber does. I would suggest some words around our small business efforts and business corridors. Could you give us to the next meeting to craft some better language?

Carter: Yes.

Dulin: I think it would be worth making sure there is education about how to better recycle. That should be ongoing.

Burch: The second target on the first page, references increasing exposure of Curbit, which includes what materials are and aren't acceptable.

Garrett: And, that includes single and multi-family.

Peacock: I know there are overall tonnage increases, and I don't want to get too detailed, but I think a district by district breakdown would be good to see. We could help be more specific with the lowest measure and we could also focus education on the weakest district.

Dulin: We should be very careful about target marketing.

Peacock: But, we can be specific about increasing in certain areas. We're just brainstorming here.

Burch: We wouldn't look through the Council district lens. The City is divided into four zones for solid waste, so it is a different service model. With the contract we have now, we are doing things differently. But, if see neighborhoods need more education, we try to do that now.

Garrett: We receive data from the truck routes citywide and use that data to see what areas are by route and overlay that with the geography and download from Inland. We are in the early stages of being able to break out information to determine what areas need more education. It is a long-term goal.

Peacock: We have the tree canopy broken down district by district so we can alert the representatives if they need a tree planting program. We can deploy resources to address issues. We have the partnership with Coca-Cola. Tell us what you want to see. If we are talking about increasing education, would it be helpful to have an extra target?

Bonfiglio: Curbit is being lead by Solid Waste Services with our support. We are responsible for Power2. If you are talking about Curbit, there is cross pollination of information. We are taking it and using the vehicles we have to promote energy day to day for citizens. We are not measuring the use though.

Peacock: I think if we show an increase we should report it to the public that these efforts are decreasing the amount going to the landfill.

Carter: Could we determine a figure that would be fair during the six-month period prior to citizens getting the bins?

Burch: July 1 is when we started. We have had a lot of interaction with homeowners associations, community groups, and Solid Waste Services staff will come out, they do it all the time, to meet with a person or group. They are happy to present a Recycle 101.

Carter: Including apartments?

Garrett: Yes.

Peacock: Do you have any questions about the 30%?

Garrett: We had a baseline in 2009-2010 with single-stream recycling and increasing recycling 20%. We looked at how to extend the recycling. We think we will achieve 30% but this is still a stretch target for us.

Howard: How does this policy support something like ReVenture? Or, does that get referred back to alternative energy?

Peacock: Would that go under Initiative 4?

Burch: I think so. We have been mindful not to get ahead of Council particularly around the subject of economic development. We haven't put anything ahead of Council.

Peacock: In Initiative #2, the Airport, where are we with the ARC?

Burch: Airport Recycling is just a placeholder right now.

D. Carter: We have been recycling a long time. We are recycling 70% of all waste and food products.

Peacock: Compost?

D. Carter: We have an anaerobic digester so we can compost food byproducts, like we've done with the Starbucks coffee grounds.

Peacock: Why is it in here?

Burch: To get to leading by example. We will have a target by the next meeting.

D. Carter: We have measures for tons and pounds and our goal was to reduce what was sent to the landfill.

Peacock: That is good news. Did you achieve that or improve?

D. Carter: We always exceed. But, we are sticking with the 70%.

Howard: That is incredible, I didn't know.

D. Carter: We have 34 million passengers that generate a half pound of waste each. That is a huge magnitude. We are part of a North Carolina State study.

Howard: That was not highlighted in the annual report.

Carter: I recently had a discussion with Sarah Stevens about a breakfast food policy and also a fresh food market at the Airport. Food could be raised and sold to employees in the area.

Peacock: We need to take this report and share it with folks. I think some people were shocked at our successes and these measures are a great demonstration. I was reminded about the measure with the streams, ponds and wetlands. Was there any discussion about putting a target in around that?

Burch: We can look at a natural resources measure; we were focusing on the tree canopy.

Hammock: We do have stream restorations, pond rehabilitations and conservation easements that we track and can report back on. Those are tied to the stormwater fees.

Peacock: But, you might have a target to restore 15 streams. Don't you have a plan each year? I'd like to see you put the bar higher, with no money.

Hammock: We can come up with some language.

Peacock: Just one bullet or we need to take it out.

Environment 2: Lead by Example by Practicing Environmental Stewardship in City Operations and Facilities

Burch: We have a greenhouse gas action plan for City operations; we looked at the cost/benefit and are working through a draft that should be completed by June 2011. This is a result of the Council resolution from 2007. We are on track.

We had some discussion last time about the fleet on page two.

Dulin: Line three references hybrid vehicles. I know the cost is coming down, but they are still high. I think it is like $600,000 for a hybrid bus and $340,000 for a regular bus. I will not support purchasing hybrid equipment just to make us feel good. It has to make good business sense.

Peacock: Would you like to edit that paragraph?

Dulin: No, I'm just letting you know how I feel.

Burch: We don't want you to interpret that statement as a budget endorsement; it is just one way to maximum the fleet. We will be looking to Carolyn Flowers and her staff to analyze what makes the most business sense.

Dulin: But, if it is in here, it will happen. I'm not saying we need to take it out.

Peacock: The target is the achieve 4.3 by "continuing acquisition …" but it is not a requirement. They will still come to Council by consent.

Dulin: I'm just letting people know.

Peacock: Better mpg is just one way to increase efficiency.

Dulin: In tight budget years we won't be able to pay more.

Feltman: Hybrid vehicles are in the string of things, it is just one facet. We are always pursuing specialized funding opportunities and would take advantage if we could make a comparison.

Burch: Like grant opportunities.

Peacock: You just have to get to 4.3 within budget and not go over it.

Feltman: That is just one part of the fleet.

Dulin: How many miles per gallon does regular diesel get over hybrid?

Feltman: At least 50% better.

Dulin: You should know that.

Feltman: We have so many vehicles; I don't have that exact information me with me. I need to get the table.

Burch: We can bring that information back to you.

Burgess: It is worse to leave it out as a possibility? This is not a rubber stamp.

Howard: The problem is looking at this year to year in a vacuum. We are looking at targets but hybrid might be for a future document. I hope there is a way in the future to give longer-term goals.

Peacock: Do you want to reference that here?

Howard: We are talking about the budget in years, not just one year.

Peacock: In the FY12 target, we could delete the wording after fleet vehicles.

Howard: Don't delete it. Technology gets better all the time. These additional things save gas.

Peacock: And, push the 4.3.

Feltman: The challenge is we were close to 4.2 now; however a hot summer or cold winter could affect things negatively.

Peacock: Where are we with efforts for CMPD and idling?

Burch: We have recently adopted a City Fleet Administration Policy and idling is specifically addressed there.

Robinson: It is the Fleet and Equipment Policy – we manage all motorized assets. We want to be as green as possible and idling is related. We have been working with Police to manage their fleet more efficiently.

Peacock: Is this a measure or target? Again, this is an excellent report. People don't know what we are doing. If we put in a target and achieve it, we need to put that out there. We are doing work here that people aren't talking about.

Robinson: We have an opportunity to look at the data collection, but we also have a 7,000 vehicle fleet with different City and County standards.

Peacock: What about the Clean Water Act requirements? Would something like that fall under here?

Burch: We do track water consumption in City facilities.

Shell: The reporting is important as well as how well we communicate. In new and renovated facilities we have a measure to track water and energy efficiency in the annual report.

Burch: We also promote this through the course of the year.

<u>Environment 3: Seek and Support Collaborative and Regional Solutions to Environmental Problems</u>

Burch: We are collaborating with our energy partners, and you were recently briefed on Smart Energy Now by Charlotte Center City Partners.

Peacock: I would like to point out comments I asked Tracy Swett to forward to you all from SustainCharlotte and CPCC who did a very thorough review of the Focus Area Plan. I asked the Committee members to look at their comments, which gets to the referral I made about establishing an Environmental Advisory Committee.

Burch: That was referred to the Restructuring Government Committee.

Peacock: This could be a potential target, but we can't say establish?

Burch: We need Council to decide if they want to establish such a committee and then talk through the implications.

Howard: That is something that needs to be fleshed out more. We also have folks embrace transportation plans from all angles and mass transit is about saving energy. I think that is leading by example and there is nothing here. I would love to see transportation targets in every policy, but I don't know where to put it.

Peacock: Why don't you send Wilson Hooper some text and language around that?

Dulin: I would still like to know how many miles per gallon hybrid buses get.

Burch: It is no problem for us to get you that information.

Howard: I didn't see the document last year.

Peacock: We want this easier and more accessible.

Howard: We need to get credit for what we are doing.

Peacock: That is why the measures and targets can be a challenging.

Burch: This represents Council's priorities and it makes sense that they impact each other. We can show where the plans overlap.

Howard: It gives the environmental impact credibility.

Carter: I would like to see a new target and measure under the third one about "exploring citizen access to healthy foods" and "working with a food policy council regarding codes to allow for markets" and "continue development of neighborhood gardens through grants."

Dulin: We just had an exhaustive briefing on open, fresh food markets in town, uptown, and each and every one of them is open. We already have this.

Carter: It is about providing access.

Peacock: We can work through this idea for consideration.

<u>Environment 4: Improving the Regulatory Environment to Facilitate the Growth of Sustainable Industry, Including the Alternative Energy Industry</u>

Peacock: This is just the brief headlines you have tried to integrate?

Burch: Brad Richardson was involved in drafting the original paper; this is just a rough concept.

Peacock: So, is there a true measure and target?

Burch: We are still clarifying the City ordinances.

Johnson: There are a couple of text amendments coming up this month and one is an eco-industrial district.

Peacock: So, these are zoning related?

Johnson: We were working on defining use and determining a district for ReVenture. The text amendment defines uses. We are working through the kinks. The other issue concern with alternative energy is the zoning ordinance doesn't have a definition for wind and solar energy. We are doing what we need to do to get up to speed.

Peacock: Is there a business at the Airport that is using wind?

Johnson: We are trying to decide if this is allowed in any district, residential versus industrial. We are giving this a lot of thought and are still really in the research stage.

Dulin: I'm all for solar and especially in residential.

Johnson: This is all to be determined; we are just looking at it now.

Dulin: Is there a limit at a home for how much solar can be used?

Johnson: There is Federal legislation, but local government controls the aesthetics.

Burch: This is a result of the conversation last time and part of your legislative agenda. We tried to capture it.

Carter: Where there is conflict between homeowner's regulations versus Federal regulations, Charlotte is well-positioned to be an ombudsman.

Burch: It will be an interesting challenge with private property versus homeowners associations.

Johnson: The text amendment generated a lot of discussion, but we thought this fit together.

Carter: You fill an important role between two bodies.

Johnson: The education really goes both ways.

Peacock: I think a little more work needs to be done on Environment 4; it is too vague.

Phocas: A lot could be added, we'll take a further look at it.

Burch: We wanted to leave some room because the issue of a sustainable energy strategy is new.

**II. Next Meeting**

Burch: We need to finalize the next draft prior to the Council Retreat.

Peacock: Are there items other than this?

Burch: The Alternative Energy Strategy was referred back on November 1, which has been worked into the Focus Area Plan. We do have the tree canopy goal.

Peacock: Can the Committee be polled to meet the first part of January? If we wait until January 24, that might be too late.

Burch: Yes.

Council member Carter provided the Committee with a handout regarding the NLC Service Warranty Program [copy attached].

Peacock: Is this like the prescription benefit?

Carter: Yes. And, the prescription benefit has already saved our citizens over $100,000.

Meeting Adjourned

# Environment Committee

Wednesday, December 8 at 3:30 p.m.
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 280

| | |
|---|---|
| Committee Members: | Edwin Peacock, Chair<br>Nancy Carter, Vice Chair<br>Jason Burgess<br>Andy Dulin<br>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*

Discussion will continue on revisions to the Focus Area Plan. <u>Attached</u> is a new draft reflecting Committee member comments and ideas from the November 22 meeting, as well as the current adopted plan. No action is requested.

**II. <u>Next Meeting</u>**

Monday, January 24 at 3:45 p.m. in Room 280

**<u>INFORMATION ONLY:</u>**

- <u>Annual Reports</u>: Tree Advisory Commission

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Distribution: | Mayor/City Council<br>Mac McCarley | Curt Walton, City Manager<br>Stephanie Kelly | Leadership Team<br>Environmental Cabinet |

"Charlotte will become a national leader in environmental and energy sustainability, preserving our natural resources while balancing growth with sound fiscal policy."

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.
- Improving the regulatory environment to facilitate the growth of sustainable industry, including the alternative energy industry.

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**

**Environment 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:** Explore hosting a sustainability expo/conference in conjunction with other partners.

**FY12 Target:** Increase the exposure of the Power2Charlotte, CurbIt recycling campaign, and other educational/outreach efforts in collaboration with other partners.

**FY12 Target:** Implement the nine (9) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant projects that are catalyst projects or promote energy investments in revitalization areas, 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 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 30% increase in tonnage of recycled materials over FY10 baseline data.

**Environment 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

**DRAFT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **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 plans for stormwater best practices for priority field operations 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 ARC item* |
| **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.* |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Environment 3**<br>**Focus Area Initiative:** | SEEK AND SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE AND REGIONAL SOLUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS |

**DRAFT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **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 Charlotte Center City Partners 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 4**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Focus Area Initiative:** | IMPROVING THE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT TO FACILITATE THE GROWTH OF SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY, INCLUDING THE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY INDUSTRY |
| **FY12 Measure:** | Clarify and enhance City ordinances to facilitate environmentally and energy sustainable practices. |
| **FY12 Target:** | Initiate alternative energy text amendments and implement eco-industrial ordinance text amendments to better define and provide guidance for environmental land uses by June 2012. |
| **FY12 Measure:** | Take a leadership role in changes to policy at the state and federal level |
| **FY12 Target:** | Support energy related legislation that would enhance and solidify Charlotte's emergence as an energy center in the United States. |

**DRAFT**

FY2011 Strategic Focus Area Plan

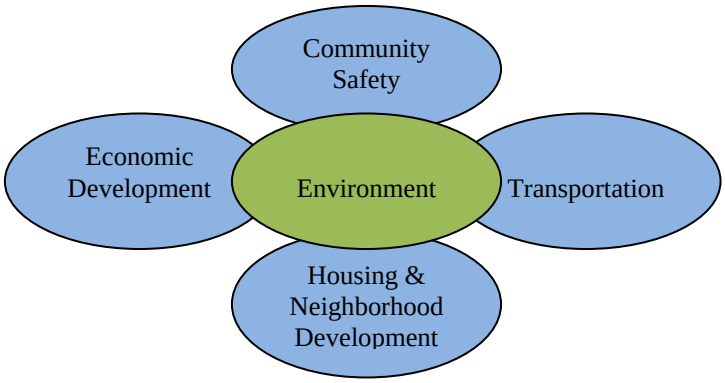
# "Charlotte will become a national leader in environmental initiatives to preserve our natural resources while balancing growth with sound fiscal policy."

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)

CHARLOTTE.

# MEMORANDUM
# FROM THE
# OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

**DATE:** December 1, 2010
**TO:** City Council
**FROM:** Stephanie C. Kelly, CMC, City Clerk
**SUBJECT:** **Attached Annual Report: Tree Advisory Commission**

The attached report of the Tree Advisory Commission 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 this board, Environment Committee.

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.

CHARLOTTE.

# CITY OF CHARLOTTE
# CHARLOTTE TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION

---

DATE: November 22, 2010
TO: Charlotte City Council
FROM: Donald McSween, City Arborist

RE: **2010 Report to City Council**

## History of Charlotte Tree Advisory Commission

The first meeting of the Charlotte Tree Commission was on February 8, 1956. Due to the lack of funding, the Commission disbanded a year later. In December 1971 the "Charlotte Tree Advisory Commission" (CTAC) was restored. It met for the first time on January 4, 1972. CTAC has been meeting on a regular basis since that time. The current Commission has 12 members (10 elected and 2 ex-officio).

## Purpose of the Charlotte Tree Advisory Commission

The purpose of CTAC is to give advice to the City Council and City Manager regarding Charlotte's tree canopy. It is also tasked with ruling on Appeals to the enforcement of the Tree Ordinance (Chapter 21 of the City Code). The Commission considers the education of citizens and elected officials regarding our tree canopy to be one of its tasks.

## Members, Meeting Time, Meeting Place

The current members of the Charlotte Tree Advisory Commission are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Craig Madans (Chairman) | Christopher Buchanan (Co-Chair) |
| James Cochran | Ann Macon-Ellis |
| Matthew McLaren | Martin Sondey |
| Susan Thompkins | Carrie Winter |
| Tom Johnson (Ex-officio) | Donald McSween (Ex-officio) |

In December there will be three vacancies on the Commission. All three are Mayoral appointees. The following names have been recommended to the Mayor's office: Janet Nelson, Debra Glennon, and Kavita Gupta.

The Commission meets the third Tuesday of each month in Room 266 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center at 6:00PM.

**Accomplishments and Events**

After many volunteer hours over several years, the Charlotte Tree Advisory Commission and City Staff presented recommended changes to the Tree Ordinance that allowed more flexibility in tree save requirements for Commercial and Multi-family developments. These changes also included additional tree planting requirements for these sites. The City Council passed the recommended changes to the Tree Ordinance.

The CTAC members celebrated Arbor Day in March of this year at Eastway Park and Briarwood Elementary School. Two large trees were planted in memory of CMPD Officer Sean Clark and CMPD Officer Jeff Shelton who were killed in the line of duty. Two hundred seedlings were given out to attendees and the school children.

There were four Appeal Hearings before the Commission. Three were withdrawn or resolved prior to the hearing. The fourth was held in judgment against the appellant.

The Charlotte Public Tree Fund through the "Trees for Change" program has been working with several schools to raise funds for tree planting projects. The Fund has a planting project scheduled for December along Little Sugar Creek in the Belmont Community.

The City of Charlotte was awarded "Tree City USA" status for the 30th year in a row.

**Recommendations to City Manager, Mayor and City Council**

- In conjunction with the Tree Advisory Commission, establish an overall Tree Canopy Percent goal.

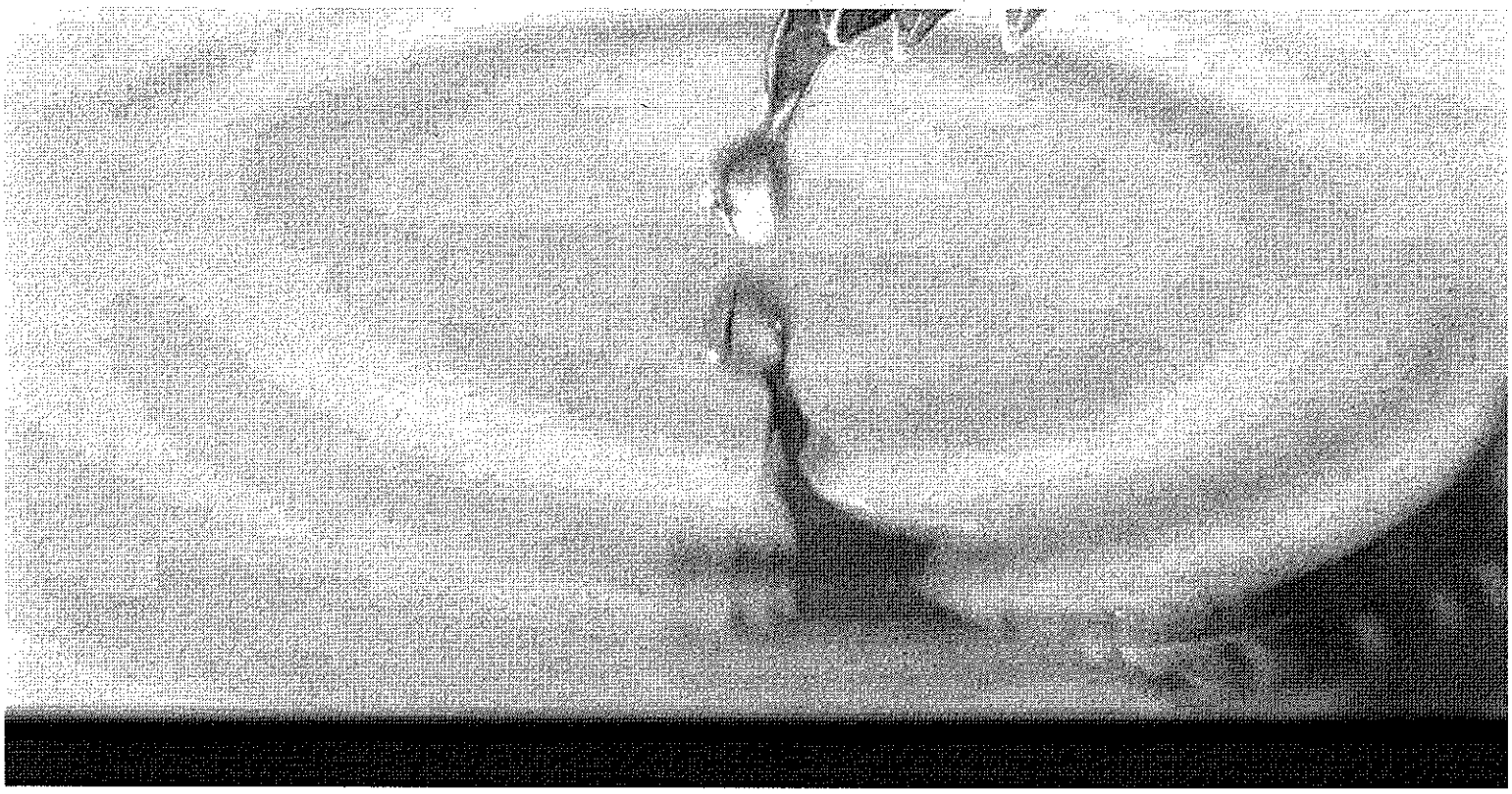
**Future Projects**

- Review rules set forth in the Tree Ordinance to ensure standards of planting and preservation are being met.

NATIONAL LEAGUE of CITIES | ENTERPRISE PROGRAMS

# NLC SERVICE LINE WARRANTY PROGRAM

## BRINGING PEACE OF MIND, ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME



NATIONAL LEAGUE of CITIES

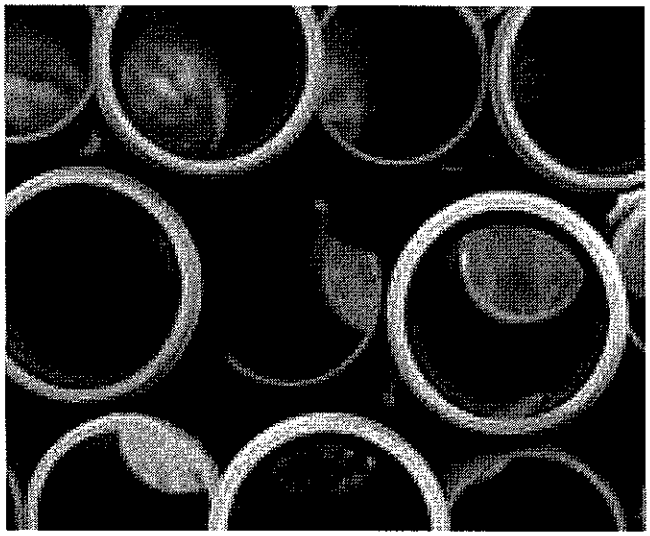
*Bringing Solutions and Savings to Cities*

# NLC SERVICE LINE WARRANTY PROGRAM

## BRINGING PEACE OF MIND, ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

### HOME PROTECTION SOLUTION

The NLC Service Line Warranty Program, administered by Utility Service Partners, Inc. (USP), is an affordable home protection solution for your residents offered at no cost to the city. It helps city residents save thousands of dollars on the high cost of repairing broken or leaking water or sewer lines. The city also receives a share of the revenues collected.



### PEACE OF MIND

Residents, who have not set aside money to pay for an unexpected, expensive utility line repair, now have an opportunity to obtain a low-cost warranty that will provide repairs for a low monthly fee, with no deductibles or service fees. The work is performed by licensed, local plumbers who will call the customer within one hour of filing a claim. The repair is performed professionally and quickly, typically within 24 hours. USP provides a personally staffed 24/7 repair hotline for residents, 365 days a year.

### BENEFITS

- NO COST to your city
- Generates revenue for your city
- Affordable rates for residents
- 24/7 customer service
- Trusted local contractors
- Simple implementation process
- Fewer citizen complaints
- Repairs performed to local code

### IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The program will be offered to all cities in the 48 contiguous states and rolled out over an 18-month period in six-month intervals. Once your city agrees to participate in the program, start up is simple. The program is designed for a quick launch, taking up little of your city employees' valuable time. USP administers the program and is responsible for marketing, billing, customer service, and performing all repairs to local code.

### MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about this program, visit NLC's website at www.nlc.org/enterpriseprograms or contact Denise Belser, Program Director, at belser@nlc.org or (202) 626-3028. The program is currently available in West Virginia and Oklahoma. Call your State League or NLC to sign up for the program.

This program is offered by Utilities Service Partners, Inc. (USP).
USP is solely responsible for the implementation and operation of the program.

NATIONAL LEAGUE of CITIES

12/8 Environment Committee FAP Notes

- Insert phrases “if fiscally feasible” “…in conjunction with and funded by other partners” into expo/conference target. Add “and other educational opportunities” to that target.
- Target to the effect of “piggyback on other partners outreach and education efforts…”
- Change “in collaboration” to “in coordination with other partners” in increase exposure target.
- Have ED staff create target reading something to the effect of “investigate and recruit small businesses that use recycled material to create new products”.
- Consider adding a district-by-district target for increased recycling tonnage, or a target specifying that resources will be deployed in areas of town with lower participation. (Measure should separate periods before and after implementation of single-stream)
- Target reading to the effect of “Airport Recycling Center to divert 70% of the materials from the airport waste stream”. Next draft to have specific units of measure, etc.
- Insert into FAP target highlighting responsible management of streams, ponds, and wetlands in addition to target highlighting tree canopy. FAP to include units of measure used in EPM SOP.
- (Provide committee with information on the fuel efficiency of hybrid buses compared to traditional diesel)
- Target tracking  the efficiencies brought about by implementation of the Fleet Mgmt. Policy
- Consider a target referring to the establishment of an environment citizens advisory committee, pending the outcome of Restructuring Govt. Committee discussion
- Insert target regarding implementation of the Transportation Action Plan, similar to those in the Transportation and Planning FAP
- New target/measure under third initiative to the effect of “explore citizen access to healthy foods” “work with food policy council regarding codes to allow for markets” “continue development of neighborhood gardens through grants”, etc.
- Strengthen measures/targets for fourth initiative