

**Hamilton County Climate Initiative Kick-Off Meeting  
October 31, 2008  
Cincinnati Zoo Harold C. Schott Education Center**

**Meeting Notes—Answers to: *If HCCI is successful, what will change in your community next year?***

- **Green Building**
  - Green Loan Fund-H.I.P. Program
  - LEED Legislation for all public buildings
  - Include LEED:EB on existing facilities
  - Reuse Brownfields for – LEED & Greenspace
  - Charge Green Building Fee for Development Review, Building Review-applicant gets fee back if they build green
  - Green Buildings (municipal) retrofit
  - Rehabbing using green initiatives
  - Community green housing
  - New golf course designed with green standards
  - Lots of trees, green, sidewalks, etc.—with sustainable developments
  - More sustainable buildings-improvements that will last longer
  - Buildings would be eco-friendly (“green”) designed
  
- **Recycling/Solid Waste**
  - Extremely low landfill input (people produce less trash)
  - Add convenience for hazardous waste
  - Recycling-Paint Re-use
  - Recycle + Reduce Products
  - Increase participation in recycling
  - Educate students on recycling
  - A mobile pick-up for toxic waste, electronics, and organic waste
  - Continue hazardous waste collection
  - Increase residential recycling
  - Recycling Carts (64 gallon)
  - Reduce plastics consumed (bottles, bags)
  - Recycling numbers go up tremendously
  - Need to have more drop-off locations
  - Increased recycling program
  - Carts for curbside recycling
  - Awareness/see increase in participation—residential recycling
  - More recycling % by residents
  - Recycling community-wide
  - Recycling rates increase, waste decreases
  - More recycling programs started
  - More recycling-improve tonnages
  - Increase recycling/reduce solid waste
  - Recycling by businesses

- **Energy Efficiency**
  - Light bulbs, building audits, monitoring
  - Change out light bulbs
  - LED holiday lights
  - Energy/cost reduction (Up to 50%)
  - Replace to LED lights (traffic signals)
  - Replace to CFLs in city buildings as current burnout
  - Save 15% on energy costs
  - LED traffic lights
  - CFLs in Village buildings
  - If implemented efficient lighting, HVAC, etc.-our city building energy consumption would be reduced in same areas as much as 50%
  - Do what we can to reduce energy needs (lights, heat/ac)
  - Energy efficiency
  - Utilize our resources more efficiently for our daily operations
  - Alternatives to provide energy –solar, etc.
  - Energy savings, cost savings
  - Increase solar power use
  - Insulation of buildings
  - Energy efficient units-HVAC
  - Saving money from being more energy efficient
  
- **Transportation**
  - Analyze transportation/urban environment
  - Develop comprehensive alternative transportation model includes entire region
  - Safe bike path on main roads
  - Hike/bike paths
  - Coordinated transit-system expansion underway
  - Initiatives underway to increase public transportation, increase development in urban core
  - Implementation of hike/bike paths for entire community
  - Safe bike paths on main routes
  - Continue creative sidewalk connections
  
- **Increased Awareness/Education**
  - More education to residents about initiatives
  - Bring focus to climate options/solutions
  - Awareness in our community-providing info on WEB
  - People are going to be more informed and empowered through education and awareness-people change mindsets and attitudes
  - Changes of habits (behavioral modifications)
  - Change of mindset (\$ saving—not treehugging!) –embrace ideas
  - Better understanding/education
  - Educate
  - Green Success Story-Map/Inventory

- Increased awareness on new ways “to do business” (i.e. go green)
- Happier residents!

- **Public Policy/Initiatives**

- Go to Form-based Code
- Develop a 20 yr. Vision Plan!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Work will Hamilton County start mobile units
- Rain Garden on Village property
- Energy audit for Township
- Hamilton County Climate Initiative
- Set standards for green historic districts
- Assess current efforts/projects
- Municipalities/communities will have a list of action items to use-find way to compare with other communities
- Initiate Action-fund sustainable solutions-financially effective
- Consider climate change in zoning and planning regulations
- Establish urban service boundaries
- Institutionalize lifecycle cost analysis so budgets overlap
- Strategic Incentive Funding-“beat the tipping point”
- Some progress on LID
- Metrics: evaluate performance of every strategy for environmental, economic, and cultural benefits
- Incentives for residential retrofit
- Address low hanging fruit (why not?)
- Focus on Solutions (Divisions: homeowners, businesses, city, individuals)
  1. Zoning guidelines, checklist
  2. Toolbox for solutions
  3. Focus on existing buildings
- City effort becomes regionalized
- Coordinated land use/growth planning
- Communities implement life cycle cost accounting to allow for energy upgrades of government-owned facilities
- Climate change, energy efficiency opportunities become part of decision making process for budget, new projects, facilities management
- Revised processes which will focus on reduced consumption
- Have an adopted local energy/conservation program/policy
- Implemented 2-3 measures suggested by “greenprint”
- Improved development regulations
- Tackle what we can quickly, simply and inexpensively
- Fresher, healthier environment
- Programs with pr / expand recycling / model ordinances
- Begin to analyze existing carbon footprint so that measurable changes can be made

## **What will change in 20 years?**

- **Green Building/Sustainable Design**
  - All new buildings LEED
  - Save the Bungalow-Green Up the rehabbing-keep historic structures, but make them green
  - Be carbon neutral-all development
  - Move toward regenerative design-all buildings are self-sustaining in terms of water, waste, energy and air quality
  - Low-Impact Development
  - Local housing/energy project in Lincoln Heights
  - Sustainable homes
  - LEED Certified Municipal Building
  - Smart Growth/Density
  - LEED buildings in community-retrofit old schools
  - LEED buildings in Community---New technologies applied to Village building, i.e. solar, instantaneous water heaters
  - Earth data (wind speed, light intensity) collection for use in building design
  - New technology for old buildings
  - Required green building standards (countywide)
  - Design performing arts conference center to green standards
  - Taxes decrease due to financial savings--Green Buildings
  - Require all green development including infrastructure as standard
  - New government building LEED certified
  - New MU building LEED certified
  - Work with local CIC and business association to promote green development initiatives / projects / programs
  - Any new construction be required to meet a certain % of green building regulations
  - Water use/reuse
  - Grey water conveyance
  - All new buildings mandated for carbon footprint=green design only (including residential)
  - Low Impact Development
  - All new buildings would be designed by earth data as to what the building
  - Less storm water runoff—cleaner storm water
  
- **Recycling/Solid Waste**
  - Packaging
  - 100% voluntary recycling-promote life cycle
  - Biogas digesters norm for energy harvesting
  - Hamilton County zero waste county
  - Increased recycling
  - Less waste (charged for waste removal by weight)
  - Zero Waste

- See a dramatic difference in energy consumption and reduction in carbon footprint
  - Better quality of life-cleaner environment
  - Zero waste community in Hamilton County-composting (food & yard) and curbside recycling available to every resident
  - Waste-no plastic bags!!
  - All residents (both residential & businesses) don't even think about recycling-they automatically do it
  - More options for recycling
- **Energy Efficiency**
    - Energy generating
    - Self-contained energy systems
    - Energy costs will go down
    - People will invest more in energy saving
    - Investing in energy efficient vehicles
    - Operations costs will go down
    - Residential savings from energy conservation for charging electric vehicles
    - Small scale solar/wind (not have to expand the current grid)
    - Zero imported energy
    - Reduce electric/natural gas consumption and cost by double-digit percentages
    - Employing vast array of conservation and energy efficiency measures suggested by "greenprint" –using nuclear power vs. fossil fuels
    - Will use as renewable energy source
    - Using only the energy we need-"conservation"
    - Smaller carbon footprint-less dependence on energy luxuries
    - LED Traffic signals-solar powered + street lights
    - Motion sensors where appropriate
- **Transportation**
    - Bikes/walkways
    - Pedestrian friendly-culture change
    - Right of way for alternative transportation
    - To reduce auto transportation—add public transportation
    - Regional public transit/non-vehicular transportation
    - Less use of auto to biking and walking
      - But safety will be a concern in some places
      - Other places will need to develop walkways
    - More pedestrian/bike paths-less vehicle use
    - Street Car System/Light rail
    - Fuel efficient vehicles (city)/ alternate fuels
    - Bikepaths
    - Bike paths-improved public transit

- Increased use of mass transit & bicycles (more user-friendly)
  - Zoning rules and planning policies that support improved community mass transit services
  - Public transit (whole region)
  - Village vehicles-reduced carbon footprint by Village
  - Public transportation readily available, alternative energy
  - Roundabouts instead of traffic signals>80%
  - Solar/wind power---much better transit
  - All hike/bike paths finished
  - Bike paths
  - Pedestrian / Transportation alternatives
  - More bike paths
  - Corn-fueled vehicles
  - Alternative fuel vehicles/buildings
- **Increased Awareness/Education**
    - Culture shift by residents-green as a way of life
    - A very informed community
    - 100% sustainable on all concerns
    - Better quality of life for residents/improve environmental impact
    - Spending habits will drop/change because people will be more conscious and Informed
    - 100% sustainable (all aspects: NRG, water, green space, waste)
    - Behavior change on individual level (residents are ingrained to reduce energy/waste)
    - Green outreach and incentives for residents and businesses
    - “Green” is a way of life----not an initiative
- **Public Policy/Initiatives**
    - Carbon Neutrality
    - Green house gas regulations with incentives and penalties
    - Regulatory/incentives to reduce carbon
    - Unified Government-its ridiculous to think this region can ever be sustainable with 49 governments and at least three major universities doing everything in a silo
    - Tax credits for sustainable initiatives (commercial and residential)
    - \$ savings=lower taxes—leaving our community better for next generation
    - Have tools specific to region
    - Recession-proof economy
    - Healthier population (air quality)
    - 100% more trees
    - 98% improvement in carbon footprint
    - Taxes decrease due to financial savings
      - School pickups-no idling
      - Cleaner air thus decrease in asthma