



# Memorandum

**To:** Wyoming City Council  
**From:** Planning Commission  
**Date:** 01/15/08  
**Re:** “Go Green Challenge”

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## **Recommendation**

At its meeting of January 7, 2008, the Planning Commission voted 4-0, to recommend that the City of Wyoming take the “Go Green Challenge”.

## **Background**

Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, The Christ Hospital, The University of Cincinnati, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, and the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District have partnered together to create the “Go Green Challenge”. The mission of the Challenge is to encourage organizations to commit to reducing their impact on the environment. As the partners to this point have not included municipal corporations, this presents a unique opportunity for the City of Wyoming as will be explained below.

## **Discussion**

On December 10, 2007, Heidi Spicer and Terry Vanderman met with several representatives of the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District for purposes of discussing the initiatives outlined in the City’s 2007 Master Plan and exploring what, if any, resources might be available at the County level to assist the City in its efforts to implement those aspects of the Plan related to those areas governed by, or otherwise under the general umbrella of, the District. More specifically, community input on the Plan expressed significant support for the City’s past and current efforts for recycling, tree planting program, leaf collection/mulch distribution, and similar programs. Further input suggested that, as a community, we should look beyond our existing focus and develop additional programs aimed at increasing our environmental awareness and promoting more sensitive development practices and lifestyle choices that impact the environment. While woven throughout the Master Plan, the bulk of the recommendations pertaining to ecological issues are contained within the “Theme/Vision” entitled “Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability”.

During the discussion of the 2007 Master Plan with District representatives, the topic of the “Go Green Challenge” was introduced and it was ultimately concluded that it seemed to be very consistent with the Plan. Ms. Spicer subsequently introduced the topic to the Planning Commission at its January meeting. Members reviewed the potential benefits of taking the Challenge which include:

**Consistency With the Master Plan.** The Go Green Challenge is directly aligned with the City of Wyoming 2007 Master Plan. The Plan includes an entire chapter on “Ecological Stewardship and Sustainability” which is one of only seven themes/visions found in the Plan. This chapter contains four objectives, two of which will be addressed with the “Go Green Challenge”.

“Objective 3”. (pg. 35 Master Plan) Green Initiatives. The City will act as a leader of sustainable policies and environmental conservation in the region. By taking the Challenge, Wyoming will become the first political jurisdiction in the County to do so.

“Objective 4”. (pg. 35 Master Plan) Environmental Education. Environmental stewardship is essential to the future of Wyoming and the region. Wyoming will provide educational resources to highlight the importance of sustainability. One of the strategies is to “develop/provide/sponsor ecological education programs and/or information utilizing the City web site, newsletter and other media and presentations.” This strategy is among the top priorities in the Plan and could serve as the basis for the “Goal” for our “Go Green Initiative”.

Depending on the goal(s) selected for the Go Green Challenge, the City could simultaneously advance any number of strategies identified in the Plan.

**Reduced Environmental Impact.** Measures taken to achieve the City’s stated goal(s) will lessen our collective impact on the environment. Again, depending on the goal(s) specified for the Challenge, these improvements/benefits could be realized at the City administrative level, the citizen level, or both.

**Positive Economic Impact.** Reductions in the total amount of household and other waste sent to landfills, increases in our percentage of recycled materials, and reductions in the amount of energy consumed, all potentially have positive implications on the City budget. As these practices are endorsed by our residents, they too will enjoy similar economic benefits.

**Public Recognition.** Receiving recognition on Earth Day as a program participant is part of the story. The City of Wyoming will be distinguished even further by being recognized as the *first* political jurisdiction in the County to take the challenge.

### **Conclusion**

Should Council endorse this recommendation and take the Challenge, the Planning Commission believes that the City of Wyoming will: 1. be taking a major step forward in the advancement of the 2007 Master Plan; 2. further demonstrate its continued commitment to the environment; 3. advance the implementation of one or more aspects of the Master Plan, and; 4. support the overarching objective of being one of the most livable Cities in the region. In short, “Live Smart - Live in Wyoming”. The administration should help establish the goal or goals that will demonstrate the City’s commitment to the environment in general and to this project in particular, and take the necessary measures to successfully achieve the stated goal(s).