

Facility and Support Services

600 West 4th Street

Davenport, Iowa 52801-1003

fss@scottcountyjowa.com

(563) 326-8738 Voice (563) 328-3245 Fax



December 16, 2009

To: Dee F. Bruemmer
County Administrator

From: Dave Donovan, Director
Facility and Support Services

Subj: Green Team report to the Board – 2009

As you know, the Board of Supervisors established several goals and objectives relating to green and sustainability issues for 2009. In response to those goals and the corresponding action plans, the Scott County Green Team has been actively working to move forward green and sustainability issues during the past year. Collectively, Scott County has achieved numerous operational changes and initiatives during 2009, including:

- Increases in the types and amounts of waste from our operations diverted from the landfill. Items recycled rather than landfilled include office paper, plastics, scrap metals and cardboard;
- The introduction of alternative fuel vehicles into the County fleet;
- Increases in the number and type of recycling of printer cartridges;
- Widespread practice of double-siding documents and reduced paper use practices;
- Weekly "tidbit" educational articles on the County intranet;
- Board adopted Clean Air Pledge;
- Began efforts aimed at reducing energy usage including installation of occupancy sensors, reminder cards to turn off lights, etc.;
- Implemented a "free-cycle" bulletin board for the reuse of office supplies;
- County Week activities including tree planting and lunch and learn sessions;
- Planned for building energy audits;
- Developed "green" content for the Garbage Guide;

Each of the above accomplishments and initiatives corresponds to 2009 Action Item – "Green Team Initiatives".

To allow the Green Team and the entire County organization to move forward with our green efforts, the County Administrator asked that we develop benchmarks or measures for the coming year. I have attached a draft of those measures as recommended by the Green Team. The bench marks that we are recommending are measurable and realistic, yet

ambitious. They will require real commitment and effort to achieve success. These measures could become the basis for a 2010 Green Team Action Item should the Board wish to do so.

Another Action Item – “Sustainability Policy for Scott County” has received much attention and discussion during the past year. As the Green Team along with County Department Heads discussed this issue it became apparent that there are actually two elements to this item: an internal policy and a community effort. The internal policy is relatively straightforward and will address internal operational issues and directions. The internal policy is also the incorporation of sustainability into other general policies, most notably the Purchasing Policy and any fleet related policies.

The community effort is recommended to include a community sustainability assessment and a gap analysis. This will require a fair amount of research and dialog out into the community to better understand existing sustainable practices, public perceptions and opinions. As you may remember, we included this community assessment as part of our pending Department of Energy grant application. We earmarked \$26,400 for the sustainability assessment and we intend to contract with the Bi-State Regional Commission to conduct that assessment.

We expect to complete the community assessment, gap analysis and the internal policy document during 2010. Attached is a draft of the Scott County Sustainability Document that we plan to use to report the content of our internal policy along with information from the community effort.

I plan to attend the next Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss this report, 2009 Green Team activities and our planned activities for 2010.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary Pg. 2

Taking Stock: Pg. 3

- What is sustainability?
- Why should we commit to sustainability?
- Why we must share that commitment out into the community?

Where we've been and where we're going: Pg. 4

- Where we are today – a community and organizational assessment
- Our sustainable mission
- Our sustainable Goals
- Sustainability: A community and organizational culture
- Who is Responsible?
- The Green Team

Our Future Actions: Pg. 7

- Energy Use
- Purchasing
- Transportation and Vehicles
- Waste Reduction and Recycling
- Facilities
- Land Stewardship and Conservation
- Strategic Partnerships
- Communication: Organizational Education/Training; Community Education/Training
- Planning and adjusting our course
- Measuring and Evaluating

Executive Summary

Scott County citizens, the geographic area of the county and our natural resources are faced with numerous challenges. Those challenges include: growth, economic instability, environmental stewardship (taking good care of our natural resources) and balancing our way of life with our quality of life. We know that global climate change is real; we see its consequences daily. The demands that we make on our limited natural resources are depleting them (both locally and globally) faster than they can reasonably be expected to recover or regenerate. As we use up resources such as fossil fuels, we also put harmful greenhouse gases and emissions into the atmosphere.

To reverse these harmful effects to our environment, our way of life and our health, we must take steps to examine and restructure the way we establish policies, processes and programs. As a government entity, Scott County plays a critical role as both a consumer of the present and an architect of the future. To ensure our county's sustainability, we must address such issues. We should address them through rules and regulations; however that is not enough. We cannot focus merely on governing. Rather, we must direct our efforts toward change. Change that will help us to preserve and enhance the community we love and are invested in by creating a shift in the way we think and act - change that ensures success well beyond the time of our service. That change in thinking and actions becomes the basis and the motivation for this document.

Our strategy for success relies on modifying the collective behavior of county government operations and (even more importantly) our citizens to create lasting changes. Those changes must move us toward our goal of a sustainable and renewable community. No single entity can accomplish this. Broader community partnerships will expand ownership and responsibility - the more inclusive the effort, the greater the likelihood of success. Sustainability is not the sole responsibility of any one person or organization; nor is the responsibility for sustainability owned by government; it should become a lifestyle mandate for all. Success requires that we reinvent the way we live and the way we interact with the world we live in.

This document is intended as a "road map" of future goals and actions. It contains information about the sustainability efforts of Scott County, the governmental organization, as well as community-wide information. This document represents a massive planning effort that includes:

- Assessing current sustainable efforts and practices;
- Identifying gaps at both the organizational and community levels;
- Creating goals that support closing or eliminating those gaps;
- Developing a mission statement regarding sustainability;
- Identifying those responsible for implementing sustainable practices;
- Developing bench marks or measurements for evaluating our progress toward our goals.

Taking Stock:

What is sustainability?

Sustainability means different things to different people. Within Scott County, we understand sustainability to mean stewardship of all our resources in such a way that we can meet the basic human need for a quality place to live today and leave a legacy of enhancement for future generations. Sustainability also refers to our efforts at achieving a “zero impact” to our natural environment. That “zero impact” is our ultimate goal – our ability to leave little or no negative impact to the world we live in. Achieving that goal becomes our challenge.

Why should we commit to sustainability?

Scott County commits to sustainability as a statement to our community and a demonstration and understanding of the urgency that is required to slow and stop the decline of the health and well being of our natural environment. We commit because we can and must – leadership in sustainability is necessary to building momentum for sustainable initiatives. Momentum is required to ensure success. We commit because we must.

As policy makers for this jurisdiction, Scott County must commit to governing in a sustainable way by putting in place this policy and local legislation that supports this initiative. As participants and members in the larger state and federal governing communities, we also commit to promoting our sustainability message at all levels of government.

Why we must share that commitment out into the community?

We must share our commitment out into the community to be successful in this endeavor. Without the commitment, support and active involvement from all community sectors our success is jeopardized. All must work together to have a positive, long term and measurable effect.

By sharing our commitment into the community, we acknowledge that we cannot do it all or lead it all — there are numerous opportunities for sharing the effort, and we can use our collective energy and intellect to evolve and develop the best community solutions. The path to sustainability relies heavily upon the connections and interdependency of people and systems — and the process will require persistence. We don't have the answers today. We do have the will to discover them over time.

Where we've been and where we're going:

Where we are today – a community and organizational assessment

Summary information from the Bi-State Community Sustainability Assessment would be added here. Reference their full document using a hyper-link or web address.

Our sustainable mission (DRAFT – DRAFT – DRAFT)

It is the mission of Scott County to provide services to our citizens in a professional and sustainable manner. Our efforts and actions should be accountable to the following tenets or values:

- Environmental responsibility – understanding and weighing our impact to our natural environment;
- The betterment of our world for future generations – knowing that our actions have an impact going forward in time;
- The “true costs” of doing business – making business decisions with a full understanding of costs, both monetary and non-monetary that can or will impact us. This may include environmental, economic and social costs associated with the business of County Government;
- The quality of life in our community – cherishing and protecting the quality of life in our community for today and tomorrow.

Further, Scott County shall strive to not simply practice and implement the values herein, but to provide leadership and empowerment to our community on the issues encompassed in the concepts of sustainability.

Our sustainable Goals

Insert broad goals here

Sustainability: A community and organizational culture

In the process of our research for this document we have found one very important concept, almost a natural law. That concept is that sustainability is a truly a cultural issue. It is not a fad or a buzzword; it is much bigger and much, much more important than that. The future of the planet that we live on is a fundamental concern. We must be concerned for what has been done to the earth, what we are doing to the earth and what we will leave behind for future generations.

To address those concerns requires an examination of our cultural values. For some, that is an easy proposition. The problem is easily seen and embracing the actions and values that will address the problem are readily incorporated into the individual or organizational culture and daily lives.

For others of us, that cultural change is much slower to occur. Many persons and organizations make change much more deliberately and measured. This cautiousness

does not minimize the importance of an issue; rather it is likely the result of comfort with the status quo and some skepticism of what change may mean or bring.

Technology and the availability of solutions to some sustainability issues can also affect the speed at which we change our behaviors. Reducing air pollution and developing alternative energy sources does not happen over night. Research and science continues to move forward with new ideas, products and technology coming to market almost daily. There are no "magic pills" to fix sustainability issues. However, science has shown that individual efforts can have significant measurable impacts. We cannot sit back and wait for science to rescue us. Our behavior must change as well.

For the sustainability issues, the rate at which organizations and individuals change is less important than the actual change itself. That is not to say that the speed in which we work to lessen our impact on the environment is not important; it is. Every day, toxins are introduced that have almost irreparable effects; every day, endangered animals come closer to extinction; every day, there are fewer natural resources available. Sustainability is an issue with urgency – make no mistake of that.

However, for truly lasting change to occur it must become a part of our culture. Sustainability and the concepts wrapped up in that word must become natural to us. If we allow it simply to exist in our community as a fad or a buzzword, we will not win the battle.

Who is Responsible?

Each department, office and agency has responsibility for sustainability. The mission, values and goals are shared by all within the organization. At a minimum, each entity must ensure that their daily government operations and actions reflect those ideals in planning and in practice. They have a responsibility in that regard that is inherent within their role in local government, whether in an elected or appointed capacity. Our constituency (those that elect us and that we serve) expects that of their government.

Further, our community expects government to provide the leadership, education, services and legislation that enable and empower the larger community to practice sustainability. Many departments and agencies provide those enabling actions to the community for other issues including public health, safety and conservation to name a few. Those departments and agencies have a "voice" in the community and are charged with also sharing the sustainability message through their work.

To be successful, our efforts must build and leverage partnerships. Local governments must collaborate with one another, sharing resources, information and project opportunities. The public sector (government) must work together with the private sector (business) to create and practice within a shared community vision. As a community, our focus must be broad yet narrow – understanding the largeness of our community and never losing sight of our goals. Scott County, our elected offices, departments and partners have a responsibility to nurture those relationships and keep our sights focused on our sustainable ideals.

Collectively, local County government must also seek other ways to engage their internal organization and the community in sustainability. The County Green Team is one way

that those varied and diverse departments, offices and agencies come together to share resources and work together to promote sustainability, within both the government organization and the community. Again, the community expects this type of effort from their government tax dollars.

The Green Team

In 2008, the Scott County Board of Supervisors authorized the formation of the Scott County Green Team. The intent for this group is to provide broad representation from County Offices and Departments as well as from our partners that share our buildings and spaces. Members of that team and their represented office or agency are:

Jon Burgstrum	County Engineer / Secondary Roads
Roland Caldwell	Auditor's Office
Dave Donovan	Facility and Support Services
Chris Gallin	Board of Supervisors
Stephanie Glasgow	Sheriff's Office, Jail Division
Matt Hirst	Information Technology
Brian Hitchcock	Scott Emergency Communications Center
Howard Thomas	7 th Judicial District - Court Administration
Sherlyn Huber	Recorder's Office
Ann Jepson	Health Department
Kathy Gaylord	7 th Judicial District - Court Administration
Marcy Mendenhall	Scott County Kids
James "Dave" Murcia	Conservation Department
Robin Edwards	7 th Judicial District – Clerk of Court
Rhonda Skahill	Treasurer's Office
Casey Smith	Juvenile Detention Center
Tammy Speidel	Facility and Support Services
Mary Thee	Administration / Human Resources
Mitch Tollerud	Information Technology – Webmaster
Kathy Walsh	Attorney's Office

The Green Team was created to explore, research and analyze sustainable or "green" issues that impact government operations within our jurisdiction. Further, this group will help formulate the sustainability role of County government in our larger community. The Scott County Board of Supervisors looks to the Scott County Green Team to make policy and operational recommendations and as a resource for information. The Scott County Green Team provided much of the information for and authored this document.

Our Future Actions:

Energy Use

Purchasing

Transportation and Vehicles

Waste Reduction and Recycling

Facilities

Land Stewardship and Conservation

Strategic Partnerships

Communication: Organizational Education/Training; Community Education/Training

Planning and adjusting our course

Measuring and Evaluating

December 22, 2009

The Scott County Board of Supervisors and the County Administrator have challenged the Scott County Green Team to develop "green benchmarks" for the coming year. These measures and objectives will become goals that we can strive to achieve over the course of the next year and beyond. Below are our *final drafts* based on the past several Green Team meetings:

During calendar year 2011, the Scott County Green Team intends to meet or exceed the following:

- Continue to advocate for right-sizing and alternative vehicles in our fleet wherever and whenever appropriate.
- Provide "green education" training to 30% of county and state employees. Training will include "green driving", "green offices" and "being green at home".
- Complete energy audits on the four largest county facilities and schedule audits on the remaining facilities.
- Reduce our building energy consumption by 10%.
- Complete the Community Sustainability Assessment and present the report to the Board of Supervisors.
- Complete the County Sustainability Policy for adoption by the Board of Supervisors.
- Reduce the amount of waste that we send to the landfill by 20%.
- Track and report the use of the "free-cycle" bulletin board for the reuse of office supplies. Raise awareness for this resource.
- Complete the re-write of the County Purchasing Policy, integrating green issues including reduced packaging, product stewardship and recycled content.
- Track and report the number of printer cartridges recycled and the use of remanufactured cartridges throughout the County.

THE COUNTY AUDITOR'S SIGNATURE CERTIFIES
THAT THIS RESOLUTION HAS BEEN FORMALLY
APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON

DATE

SCOTT COUNTY AUDITOR

RESOLUTION

SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

December 22, 2009

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SCOTT COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY POLICY.

BE IT RESOLVED BY the Scott County Board of Supervisors as follows:

Section 1. That the Scott County Sustainability Policy be adopted as presented
to the Scott County Board Of Supervisors.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

