



Partnership for a Green City
Louisville

2008 Annual Report

Sponsored by:
University of Louisville
Jefferson County Public Schools
Louisville Metro Government

The Partnership for a Green City 2008 Steering Committee

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Introduction

Nearly five years ago, the Partnership for a Green City was created as an innovative environmental collaboration of Louisville Metro Government (LMG), Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) and the University of Louisville (UofL). Originally, the Partnership focused on environmental management, environmental education and environmental health initiatives, but over the past year has nimbly moved to meet the needs of the three partner organizations. The Partnership works to create a greener, more sustainable community, improving the health of citizens while improving and institutionalizing environmental practices within the organizations themselves making them more sustainable as well.

Each year, the Partnership committees and teams work to build upon the previous year's successes. The teams work to achieve their goals, with the guidance of the Interagency Coordinating Committee and Steering Committee.

Such collaboration allows the Partners to take advantage of resources that were previously unavailable, such as professional expertise, services and contracts. It also increases educational opportunities and diversity of thought, creates cost-savings opportunities, and enables efficiencies of scale through collective purchasing power. Partners enable each other to expand programs and services to their constituencies and to the community in general, and to save tax dollars. The bottom line is healthier, more knowledgeable citizens and more efficient public institutions.

Organization

The Partnership convenes peers from each public entity to share ideas and address problems. Peer pressure, rather than top-down decision making, has produced significant changes in operating procedures within each partner. Over 150 employees participate on Partnership teams, which consult with external individuals or organizations to receive additional assistance.

The Director, overseen by the Steering Committee, leads the day-to-day operations and activities of the Partnership, while both work with the teams setting priorities and providing guidance. The Interagency Coordinating Committee assumed the role of making high-level management decisions and focusing the long-term objectives of our collaborative efforts. The structure of the Partnership remained the same as previous years, with the exception of the addition of a Green Infrastructure Team (seeking stormwater management opportunities) and a Local Food Initiative Team, which seeks to increase the amount of local foods used in the partner entities. The teams continuing to work on partnership objectives in 2008 were the Climate Change Committee, the Communications Team, Energy Use

Partnership, Green Fleets, Environmental Education, Environmental Health, Green Purchasing and Waste Management.

Representatives from many community agencies, organizations and corporations have participated in the work of the teams and have provided valuable resources. Quasi-governmental agencies also participate including the Transit Authority of River City (TARC), the Louisville Water Company, the Metropolitan Sewer District and the Louisville Regional Airport Authority.

Accomplishments

A number of accomplishments were made during 2008 in the Partnership. Many of the accomplishments help to organize the Partnership after the addition of the Director. Achievements and the work of each committee or team will be discussed in the individual sections.

- The Interagency Coordinating Committee is meeting on a regular basis twice a year with the Director and the Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee and the Director are meeting on a bi-weekly basis.
- The Teams, the Climate Change Committee and its subcommittees had meetings set so they are not competing for the same date and time.
- The Partners continued supporting each others' endeavors such as the Louisville Metro Community of Trees project, an effort dedicated to inventorying, improving and maintaining the urban tree canopy and fostering tree planting as a climate protection measure.
- The Partnership worked with Brightside to put on Youth Summits in the spring and the fall. The summits worked with students to conduct the Green & Healthy Schools inventories.
- The Partnership supported the development of a number of environmental courses in the University's Honor Program. The courses were taught by members of the Partnership and research classes had students conducting studies on issues being addressed by the Partnership. The research and participation of students has helped the Partners understanding and addressing environmental issues.
- The Partnership worked with the Lincoln Foundation during the summer with students working on a variety of Partnership issues culminating in a presentation of options and best practices for different issues.

Climate Change

The Climate Change team, chaired by Art Williams, Director of the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District, was created after Mayor Jerry Abramson signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The Climate Change team meets every other month with the following working groups meeting monthly: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, Energy Efficiency, Outreach & Education, Local Impacts, Utility Regulations & Policy, and Land Use, Transportation & Urban Forestry. Each working group is focused on a portion of a local climate action plan that will be compiled at the conclusion of the greenhouse gas emission inventory process.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory Working Group

The focus of this working group is to work with a consultant to establish a current greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for the Partners and the community. The Trinity Consultants, Erlanger Kentucky, has been chosen and has started working on the inventory. The scope includes Metro, JCPS, and UofL GHG emissions inventory projects, targets, offsets, registry, trading, federal legislation, etc.

Energy Efficiency Working Group

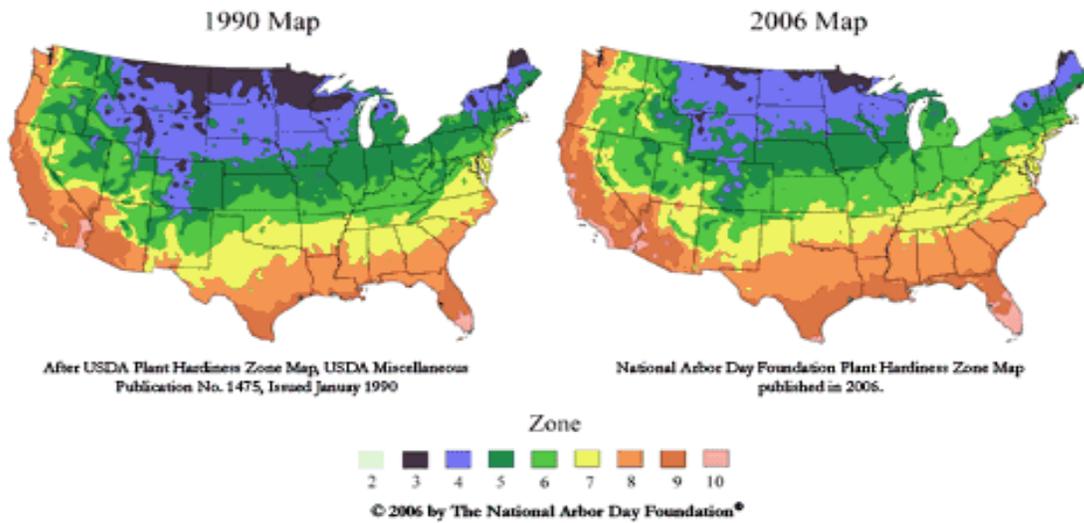
The focus of this working group is to promote energy efficiency across all sectors (the Partners' operations, as well as residential, commercial, industrial, public and other sectors) as one means of decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. It includes appliances, buildings, fleets (fuel, fuel efficiency, and transit incentives), pumps and motors, renewable energy (solar, hydro, methane, geothermal), etc.

Outreach & Education Working Group

This working group will seek ways to present environmental and climate change data to people of all ages (O&E to students, partner employees, the general public and businesses) in the community so climate change is understandable. This provides the population with opportunities to reduce their environmental impacts (or carbon footprint).

Local Impacts Working Group

The focus of this group are the local impacts of climate change, including public health effects, extreme climate events (heat, drought, floods, storms), ecological impacts, business disruption, food supplies, fuel supplies, adaptation, mitigation and response. The Plant Hardiness Zone Map below shows Kentucky's growing season has lengthened due to warmer temperatures.



Utility Regulations and Policy Working Group

The scope of this group's work includes the areas of utility regulatory policies and utility practices related to climate change issues. Demand side management strategies and programs, net metering, renewable portfolio standards, and energy efficiency projects are all areas of discussion and work.

Land Use, Transportation and Urban Forestry Working Group

The scope of this working group includes land use, forest practices, urban laws and policies, transportation, transit, mobile sources, urban heat island, etc. This working group has divided into sub groups covering each of the three title areas that meet individually and an integration group which will synthesize the findings of the three groups.

Energy Use Partnership

The Energy Use Partnership has been an active team meeting throughout the year. In 2007, EUP has worked to install solar hot water systems in the school district at Churchill Park School, Farmer Elementary and in the new Ramsey Middle School which is under construction. In this latest school, the hot water system will be instructional for the students and a wind turbine is under consideration. JCPS also installed dimmable light ballasts in classrooms which dim the fluorescent lights when sunlight comes through the windows and brightens the classroom when the ambient light is lower. Work has continued to install light shelves harvest sunlight into classrooms. After working on several designs, JCPS is now creating its own light shelves in its metal fabrication shop.



Farmer Elementary Solar Hot Water Panels

Future initiatives for this team could include promoting Green Building initiatives; further expanding and developing energy management software; implementing opportunities from previous pilot projects and audits; investigating demand-side management; promoting Green Power initiatives; and working with E-On/LG&E to increase incentives for Green Energy.

Green Fleets

The Green Fleets Team made major progress in comparing mileage, fuel, vehicles, types of equipment and such to create baselines of the fleets. Jefferson County Public Schools is using B2(2%) biodiesel in all of its school buses and has been in the planning stages of getting the new Superintendent a new hybrid vehicle. Louisville Metro government is using B5(5%) biodiesel in its diesel vehicles. Green Fleets also conducted fuel bid comparisons and has met with other fleet operators such as UPS to learn their best practices and pertinent experiences. Green Fleets has investigated car pooling and van pooling as well as Zip Cars as a possibility for UofL and the community.

Future initiatives for this team could include investigating increased use of alternative-fuel vehicles in fleets; increasing the use of biodiesel; promoting car pooling and increasing the number of people car pooling by incentives such as special parking; and working with Thornton's to provide 5% biodiesel at Thornton's stations throughout the community.

Green Purchasing

The Green Purchasing team worked with the Waste Management team to prepare a RFP and issue a solid waste management contract for containerized waste that all the partners can use. Louisville Metro and JCPS are utilizing the contract. The Partner Purchasing Managers are also meeting with their counterparts at the Transit Authority of River City, the Louisville Water Company, the Metropolitan Sewer District and the Louisville Regional Airport Authority on all purchasing issues. Green Purchasing will likely become a topic of that group as well and the Steering Committee is supportive of expanding the Green Purchasing group to include all these parties. The larger group is investigating lighting and fuel of all kinds. Expansion of E-Waste (electronic) recycling is also under consideration.



Collectively the Partners consume 500,000 reams of paper annually. As a result of the joint recycled paper purchasing contract executed in 2005, the partners save 1,000 tons of paper a year, which is the equivalent of saving 17,000 mature trees and 24 million gallons of water.

Future ideas should include requests for proposals (RFPs) and contracts that specify minimal packaging and should require

“This is a great project. All of these recommendations (August 2004 report) fit our mission and our goal for a healthy community. Partnerships are very important to us.”

Dr. Adewale Troutman (M.D., MPH, MA), Director, Louisville Metro Health Department (now Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness)

“Persuasion, modeling, and support are the approaches we must take to make this project successful for JCPS.”

Pat Todd, Executive Director, Jefferson County Public Schools

Energy Star specifications wherever applicable; a joint contract to purchasing energy efficient lighting; purchase reduced-toxicity chemicals and janitorial supplies; and require “VendingMisers” or Energy Star® approved vending Environmental Education

The Environmental Education team was active on a variety of environmental education initiatives in 2007. The Committee has a long-term focus on environmental education but does most of its work in working groups which are convened, do their work and are disbanded. They have been working on outdoor classrooms, local foods, the youth summit, alternative energy and middle school environmental education pilot. A significant number of Environmental Education team members also participate on the Climate Change Outreach & Education working group. The education team is interested in having members of its team become liaisons to the other teams so that they have a better understanding what the teams are doing, but also so the liaisons can provide input on environmental education opportunities the other teams have.



Outdoor Classroom Lassiter MS, JCPS

The Youth Summit, a joint event of the Partnership and Brightside, hosted two summit dates that focused on implementing the environmental principles that were adopted by the partnership. Over 300 students attended both the spring and the fall summit.

The Partnership also resulted in greening the UofL Honors Program by developing a series of environmental courses for UofL juniors in the Honors Program. The courses will be taught in the fall, and then in the spring, independent research will take place. Courses include: Reading the Natural Landscape: Tools and Perspectives on Environmental History and Planning; Urban Water; Global Ecopolitics; Reading, Writing and Toxics: Children’s Health and Environmental Justice; and Environmental Education.

Future initiatives could include creating an Environmental Career Fair for high school students; securing funding for more outdoor classrooms; promoting stormwater management (water pollution prevention) education; and researching indoor air quality in schools.

Environmental Health

The Asthma Initiative at Lassiter Middle School is in its second year. The Principal of the school is actively involved and interested in the program. UofL's School of Public Health & Information Sciences has had two Master of Public Health students working with the school to identify sources of absenteeism. Out of a student body of 600, only 17 students officially identified themselves as having asthma. This is a small number, based on the student population in an Ohio Valley school. JCPS and UofL personnel designed a questionnaire and distributed it to two grades of students. With 300 responses to the survey, one third signaled a probability of having asthma. The Environmental Health team is working with students and parents to decrease the impact of asthma on students. The team projects \$32,000 of additional revenue to the school and school district by increased attendance. There is a plan to do an environmental audit of the school looking for asthma triggers.

Future initiatives could include the creation of an asthma registry, development of an environmental health report card for Louisville Metro, and research healthy indoor air quality.

Waste Management

The Waste Management Team worked with the Green Purchasing Team to secure a contract for solid waste disposal. Louisville Metro and JCPS are utilizing the contract and savings should be evident midway through the first year of the contract starting in 2008. The University decided to manage its solid waste disposal with its own waste truck and take the solid waste to the Metro Solid Waste Management Department near the campus.

Possible initiatives for 2008 include increasing diversity of recyclable materials partners recycle; investigating printer ink-jet and toner cartridge recycling among partners, which is already being done in Louisville Metro; determining the need for a joint hazardous waste lab packing and disposal contract; creating a joint recycling contract for fluorescent lamps, ballasts, and recyclable batteries (Louisville Metro and JCPS are already utilizing a joint contract); promoting grease recycling; investigating ways to become a zero-waste community; seeking polystyrene recycling opportunities; conducting dumpster dives in schools and increasing electronics waste (E-Waste) recycling.

Looking to the Future

The future is bright for the Partnership. The Partners are dedicated to protecting Louisville's environment and resources, to improving the health of its citizens, to improving its green infrastructure, and creating a sustainable climate that attracts development. Social equity is also advanced through Partnership activities, for example through its support of programs such as E-Corps, which provides meaningful work experience, involvement and financial

support to youths who generally come from disadvantaged backgrounds, and especially through the work of the Environmental Health Team. For example, the highest incidence of unmanaged asthma occurs in households with lower socio-economic characteristics. While impacting the entire community, the work of the Environmental Health Team is expected to have the greatest impact on that population.

A new team will be started in 2008 - the Green Issues Orientation Team. This group will focus on a video presentation for new employee orientation and professional development of seasoned employees. The video will discuss the Partnership; tell employees how important their participation is to achieving the goals of the Partnership and enumerate things that anyone can do at work and at home to be environmentally conscious. At the conclusion of the video, each partner organization can discuss internal sustainability initiatives, policies and plans.

A Communications Team will be recreated to increase publicity about the Partnership. The team will include the Director of the Partnership and one public relations person from each institution. A communication plan will be developed, detailing communication with the leaders, with the teams, with the partner organizations and with the local print and broadcast media. An update of the website is also planned.

The Partnership will promote better communication among the teams by having a quarterly Chairs' meeting with the Steering Committee where team leaders will discuss achievements and what each team is working on. The Chairs will also discuss overarching goals and themes of the partnership and make recommendations to the Interagency Coordinating Committee. The Steering Committee will meet with the Interagency Coordinating Committee at least twice a year to discuss the direction of the Partnership and make recommendations to Mayor Abramson, Dr. Berman and Dr. Ramsey.

Over time, some team members have left employment with the partner organizations leaving vacancies on some of the teams so replacements will be selected and placed on the various teams.

In 2008, the Director will meet and make presentations to Mayor Abramson, Dr. Berman and Dr. Ramsey along with the Metro Council, the Board of Education and the UofL Board of Trustees. A strategic Plan for the Partnership will be developed along with performance matrices to measure the sustainable practices of the partners.

While operating largely internally, the three Partners intend to eventually welcome new partners where feasible, so that the benefits of collaboration can be further shared through the Louisville Metro community.

The Partnership will continue to lead the community, demonstrating by example and becoming the envy of countless organizations while seeking continuous improvement in its own efforts.

Statement of Environmental Principles

As people who love the city of Louisville and all of its natural resources—such as the land, water, air, and soil—we understand the human need for a healthy world. We will follow common goals to help Louisville become a greener city that will be beneficial for those people who live here as well as for those people who will live here in the future. We appreciate the help of good people who have come before, and we have to work harder to take care of our natural resources.

Be a Leader
We will be a role model for the community. As we find innovative ways to work, we will be doing a great job, and we will be doing it right. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right.

Energy Use
We will use energy wisely and work to reduce the amount of energy that we use in our homes, schools, and workplaces. We will reduce our use of non-renewable resources.

Everyone's Health
We will make a commitment to our future generations by ensuring that we are doing the right thing for everyone. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
We will work together to reduce the amount of waste that we create. We will do this by recycling, reusing, and repairing. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right.

On the Move
We will create more ways for people to get around town. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right.

Buying Green Products
We will think about what we are buying. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right.

Land and Water
We will create natural areas for many different kinds of animals and plants. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right.

Natural Resources
We will protect and take care of our natural resources. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right.

Stacking About the Environment
We want people of all ages to learn about the environment. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right.

Our Buildings
We will plan, build, and operate buildings in a way that is good for the environment. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right. We will be doing it right.

Participating members of the Green Building Advisory Board include the following: UofL, JCP, and Louisville Metro. To read the full report, visit www.gba.org.

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