



Forest Grove Sustainability Action Plan

Prepared by the Forest Grove
Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee
October 15, 2013



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How are the Children?

The Masai are well known for their greeting: "How are the children?" That is how these people, famous for being warriors, view the importance of their offspring.

Like the Masai, we should also ask the same question and answer with: "The children are well." For if we answer with truthfulness and, indeed, want the children and our children's children to be well, then we must recognize that it is in us and on us to provide a world in which the children can do well. That is the overarching goal of the sustainability plan for Forest Grove.

Environmentally, we want a world that supports and nurtures life. Economically, we want that life to be robust and productive. Socially, we want that life to provide for the future, that the world is left in better shape than when we found it, through research, through education, and through human understanding.

This report by the Forest Grove Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee is not the final step. Rather, it could be an instruction manual on preservation. It could be an operator's guide for mother earth and give us tips and pointers on how to reverse some destructive practices. We have long since passed the point of arguing whether we have to deal with global warming, with water conservation, and with air quality. Those trains have left the station. It is not a matter for debate; it is settled science.

There is time, and we must use it wisely, for ourselves and for our children. For if we don't, we may not have a good answer for the question: "And how are the children?" And conversely, if we do, we and those who follow us will be able to say: "The children are well, thanks to those who came before and did the right thing."

Pete Truax, Mayor, City of Forest Grove
August 22, 2013

The Time Is Now

Sustainability is becoming an increasingly important concept throughout the world. Signs of climate changes are being experienced in various parts of the globe, and just one example of this is the ability to sustain agricultural productivity to feed an expanding population. The prime source for climate change, the emissions of hydrocarbons, is on the increase at alarming rates. The cause of these emissions rests with the products we make and ship, energy production and use, transportation, and the way we live. Adding to that, the loss of natural systems and increasing pollution into our air and water threatens our ability to continue life. In short, continuing our lifestyle is making life on earth unsustainable.

While this is a global condition, an important part of the solution is to begin changing how we do things locally. We find this occurring in many communities throughout the world in general and the United States, in particular. For example, Oregon is one of many states taking on the challenge of reducing our carbon footprint.

Supporting these actions and to begin addressing the issue, a group of concerned residents in Forest Grove believed that action must be taken in our community. Formed in October, 2011, the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee focused on developing a strategy to reduce carbon emissions and wastes locally and promote a healthy and sustainable lifestyle. The Plan focuses on six topical areas that emerged through community discussions:

- Energy Conservation and Green Building
- Food
- Materials Management
- Natural Resources
- Social Equity
- Transportation and Planning

The following tables express the vision, goals, strategies, measures or actions and a proposed timeframe to implement these efforts in each topical area. The plan can then serve a way to monitor community efforts in the future. Successes and further efforts can be identified to move Forest Grove towards a more sustainable community.

Jon Holan, Community Development Director, City of Forest Grove
July 3, 2013



Forest Grove Sustainability Action Plan Executive Summary

The City of Forest Grove initiated a community-based sustainability effort by convening Sustainability Institute on October 8, 2011. The formation of the Forest Grove Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee (Committee) was the result of that meeting. The Committee members decided that its main purpose would be to develop a Sustainability Action Plan to implement sustainable practices in the community. Three Sustainability Summits and one Town Hall Meeting were held during 2012-2013; approximately 200 people attended the meetings. This Sustainability Action Plan is the result of the efforts of the Committee, all of the public and private partners, and the concerned residents who gave their time, knowledge, and energy to help Forest Grove become a sustainable community.

Definition of Sustainability

The Committee uses the following definition of sustainability:

Using all resources (societal, economic and natural) in an efficient and equitable manner. Sustainability in Forest Grove means considering long-term environmental, economic and social impacts of our actions. Sustainability prioritizes long-term needs over short-term gains to ensure that resources necessary to sustain life are available now and in the future.

Topic Areas

Six topic areas emerged from the series of public meetings; they are the focus of the sustainability efforts in this action plan. The topic areas and associated vision statements are:

- Materials Management
Forest Grove will be a city that focuses on the recapture, reduction, and elimination of its material stream to enable a high quality of life for all residents.
- Energy Conservation & Green Building
Forest Grove will become a leader in the support of green building practices and the promotion of energy and natural resource conservation.

- Food
Forest Grove will be a thriving food community in which all residents have the opportunity to grow, prepare and consume nutritious local food in order to support the health of the land and its people.
- Social Equity
Forest Grove is a place that welcomes and supports equitable and sustainable opportunity for all community members by providing the means for human needs to be met.
- Natural Resources
The residents of Forest Grove demonstrate good stewardship of our natural resources by preserving the health of our watershed, forest, air, and greenspace for future generations.
- Transportation
To develop a safe, affordable, reliable, sustainable, and connected transportation system that is energy efficient while supporting alternative transportation modes.

This Action Plan sets goals, associated strategies, measures and timeframes for each of the six topic areas, which, when implemented, are intended to move towards achievement of each vision.

Recommendations

The Committee recommends that the City of Forest Grove adopt the Sustainability Action Plan and establish a Sustainability Commission to advise the community and City Council regarding its implementation. We recommend that this plan be reviewed and progress on the action plans be updated every 3 years.



What is Sustainability?

Many people think of sustainability as involving environmental efforts to improve the long-term health of the earth. That is only part of the story. Sustainability involves the physical, economic, social and governmental aspects of the community that promote long-term community health. Besides environmental considerations, equity, participation and economic considerations are hallmarks of sustainability.

The key concept to sustainability is to understand the holistic cycle between action (i.e., doing something) and capacity (i.e., the ability to do something). In considering this cycle, we must be mindful of human, financial and resource regeneration rates (i.e., the ability to replenish resources being used to perform an action).

Definitions

Many definitions of sustainability have been developed over the years. The most commonly recognized definition is “Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (UN Brundtland Commission).” The definition of sustainability used in this action plan is:

- Using all resources (societal, economic and natural) in an efficient and equitable manner. Sustainability in Forest Grove means considering long-term environmental, economic and social impacts of our actions. Sustainability prioritizes long-term needs over short-term gains to ensure that resources necessary to sustain life are available now and in the future.
- The term *efficient* means using resources in a cost-effective way taking into account life-cycle and replacement cost. Efficient use of resources means using natural resources no faster than they can be replenished through natural systems.
- The term *equity* means the benefits and costs associated with society are distributed proportionately within the community.

Sustainability in Forest Grove

The Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee created a Sustainability Mission Statement in November 2011. Part of that Mission Statement identified the City of Forest Grove’s role in sustainability as follows:



The City of Forest Grove recognizes its responsibility to:

- Provide efficient, equitable and responsible access to and use of social, economic and natural resources
- Utilize resources cost-effectively while ensuring they are used no faster than they can be replenished through natural systems
- Assure that the benefits and costs of society are equitably distributed throughout the community
- Consider the long-term environmental, economic and social impacts of our actions
- Promote education and awareness of the benefits of sustainable practices to enhance the community
- Support residents, organizations, businesses and neighborhoods both within and outside the community to invest in sustainability and continually improve their practices and environments
- Prioritize long-term needs over short-term gains to ensure that the resources necessary to sustain life are available now and in the future

Additionally, the City of Forest Grove includes sustainability in its Vision Statement (2007):

A community recognized for its commitment to conserve, preserve, protect and restore our natural assets.

- **Objective 1:** Maintain and improve the quality of air, water, soil, etc. to ensure livability by using leading technology and land use methods.
- **Objective 2:** Promote Forest Grove as “The Greenest City in Oregon” through landscaping and ecologically-sound industry, businesses, utilities, transportation and development.
- **Objective 3:** To be recognized by an organization such as the Green Guide as a “Green City”.

Other local sustainability efforts drawn from include Pacific University, United Church of Christ's sustainability statement, City of Forest Grove's ongoing efforts, City of Portland, State and Metro efforts involving Greenhouse Gas reduction and the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. The Forest Grove Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee's main purpose was to develop a Sustainability Action Plan to be used by the community and the City of Forest Grove as a blueprint to implement sustainable practices.

Process & Public Input

As a way to initiate a community-based sustainability effort, the City of Forest Grove convened a Sustainability Institute October 8, 2011, and 16 interested residents attended. This was an initial information session to discuss what sustainability is and why it is important to the residents of Forest Grove. Various sustainability efforts ongoing locally and regionally were reviewed. The formation of the Forest Grove Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee was the result of that meeting. The Committee's focus evolved over time and resulted in

- a mission statement, and
- hiring a Pacific University sustainability intern who created the following reports:
 1. Inventory of sustainability-related organizations in the Forest Grove community
 2. Water Consumption Assessment Report with recommendations
 3. Energy Assessment Report with recommendations
 4. Socio-Economic Assessment Report
 5. Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

A series of three Sustainability Summits were held with the intent to engage community members in creating a sustainability action plan for Forest Grove. These facilitated sessions built off the Committee's efforts and gathered participants' ideas about critical sustainability issues and long-range goals. The emphasis was on stewardship of our economic, social, environmental and cultural resources in a manner that is equitable for present and for future generations.

The first Summit was held October 12, 2011, and resulted in productive and engaging work sessions. At the end of the first Summit, six different focus areas emerged from the discussion including green building, transportation, locally sourced food, social equity, recycling and solid waste, and solar and renewable energy.

The fall of 2011 the Committee was also invited to plan and facilitate the City of Forest Grove Annual Town Meeting with a focus on sustainability. It was held January 26, 2013, with over 100 people in attendance.

Roundtable discussions were held on the following topics relating to sustainability:

- What are we doing well?
- What do we need to improve?
- What are the barriers to get there?
- How do we go forward to create a safe, equitable, sustainable, and healthy city?





The second Summit was held Saturday, February 9, 2013, on the Pacific University campus, and 40 residents gathered to further refine their visions and goals for the six topic areas. As a result, vision statements, goals and strategies were discussed. The six topic areas were revised to combine solar and renewable energy with green building and add natural resources. The third Summit was held Saturday, April 20, 2013, in honor of Earth Day, at the Forest Grove Senior & Community Center. The meeting focused on refining the actions and strategies in the six topic areas.

Following the three Sustainability Summits, the Committee met several times to refine each topic area and ensure that it had a vision, goal, strategies and timeline that supported the goal. During the period of May through September 2013, the Committee solicited input from community organizations and residents for further feedback and input on the draft Plan. In July the Committee presented a copy of the draft Plan to the City Council for their review.

Forest Grove Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee	
Chair	Elaine Cole
City of Forest Grove Liaison	Jon Holan
Action Team Leaders:	
Transportation/Planning	Kathy Karppinen
Social Equity	Karin Pfeiffer-Hoyt
Food	Dairy Creek Community Food Web, Robin Lindsley
Energy Conservation and Green Building	John Hayes
Materials Management	Ron Calkins and Eric Canon
Natural Resources	Bruce Countryman
Editors	Linda Feik, Katie Countryman and Kathy Juvet
Members-at-Large or Participants:	Dale Feik
	Linda and Brad Taylor
	Deke Gundersen
	Kiersten Iwai, Student Intern
	George Cress, Director Forest Grove Light and Power
	Michael Sykes, City Manager
	Johanna Wood
	Paul and Stephanie Edwards
	Paul Johnson
	Pete Truax, Mayor
	Victoria Lowe, City Councilor
	Kathryn Harrington, Metro Councilor

Action Plans

The following pages are Action Plans for the six topic areas. These contain the goals and strategies needed in order to make the vision statements a reality, for example, the FUNctional Food Garden Tour held Saturday, August 10, 2013. These goals and strategies are not meant to be exclusive; they complement other actions already being taken by individuals, organizations, and governments. The topic areas are meant to be integrated, and contribute to the ultimate vision of Forest Grove as a sustainable city. There is some repetition in the goals and strategies since many of the topic areas overlap. Many strategies have measures and timeframes. A monitoring plan should be developed that would indicate how well the strategies are being met in the timeframes given and whether or not a revision of the overall Sustainable Action Plan is needed.



Materials Management

Vision – Forest Grove will be a city that focuses on the recapture, reduction, and elimination of its material stream to enable a high quality of life for all residents.

Goals	Strategies	Measures	Timeframes
Goal 1 - In an effort to reduce the waste stream, Forest Grove community members will be aware of options concerning the disposal of all materials that cannot be recycled curbside	Strategy 1a – Promote a Forest Grove Green Fair at the Forest Grove Farmer’s Market	Increase recycling participation by 25%	By 2016
	Strategy 1b – Contact the Washington County Recycle at Work specialist in multi-family housing for educational materials and to establish contacts with Apartment Management	Distribute materials (bi-lingual) to 50% of multi-family apartments	By end of 2015
	Strategy 1c – Encourage residents via a public information and community-based social marketing campaign to cut household waste with a “One-Bag-a-Week” challenge. Offer a prize for the best story about accepting the challenge	Fifty participant stories received	By 2015
	Strategy 1d – In the Forest Grove utility bill, include web site information and phone numbers for organizations that support materials management	Monthly info to all Forest Grove Light and Power users	By 2014
	Strategy 1e – Provide how-to workshops and educational materials on traditional composting, Bokashi, and vermiculture	Hold three workshops	By end of 2015
	Strategy 1f - Encourage residents to reduce the amount of materials entering the waste stream through precycling and upcycling	25 interactions at an exhibit at First Wednesday	By end of 2015
Goal 2 - Implement a city-wide composting program	Strategy 2a – Set up a meeting with Waste Management to discuss the feasibility of a pilot curbside composting program	Expand green waste collection to include kitchen food waste	By end of 2015
	Strategy 2b – Encourage back yard composting and vermiculture through education and subsidizing equipment	Distribution of 25 composting units at Farmer’s Market	By end of 2015
	Strategy 2c – Draft a grant to provide low-cost composters	Submit the grant for Community Enhancement Project funds	By end of 2016
Goal 3 - Provide the means to collect materials that are difficult to recycle	Strategy 3a – Expand recycling options at the transfer station to include items such as block Styrofoam, film plastics, and household hazardous waste and other items accepted at Far West Fiber	Work with Waste Management to establish drop offs for 3 new items	By end of 2017

	Strategy 3b – Design a round-up event to capture recyclable materials not accepted curbside and educate participants about waste reduction	Round-up event at Farmer’s Market	Twice per year events starting 2014
	Strategy 3c – Partner with Metro Master Recyclers, Far West Fibers, Waste Management, Forest Grove Police and Fire departments to expand collection of materials not accepted at curbside	Three partnerships established	By 2016
Goal 4 – Establish a safe location for the year-round disposal of pharmaceuticals	Strategy 4a – Approach Pacific University’s Health and Human Services Department and the School of Pharmacy in an effort to determine the feasibility of a drop-off site for unused pharmaceuticals	Establish year round drop site for unused prescription medications	Timeframe to be determined. DEA regulations currently allow only law enforcement to collect schedule II drugs
	Strategy 4b – Meet with Forest Grove Police Department in an effort to expand the existing prescription drop-off program	Determine additional locations	By end of 2016
Goal 5 – Utilize local higher educational institutions to involve participants in reducing waste	Strategy 5a – Establish ongoing internship and project opportunities for students to help support implementation of strategies in the Plan	Expansion of internship and project opportunities	By end of 2014
	Strategy 5b – Meet with Pacific University Center for Civic Engagement Director to provide a list of service learning opportunities for students	List of opportunities on CCE web site with 2 to 5 students participating	

Possible Partners: Waste Management Forest Grove Transfer Station, Metro Master Recyclers Program, Forest Grove Police and Fire Departments, Forest Grove Farmers Market, Pacific University, Far West Fibers, New Earth Farms, B-Street Farm, Center for a Sustainable Society, Forest Grove School District, Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce, local churches and service organizations, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Metro Regional Illegal Dumping patrol, SOLVE, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Poison Hot Line, Backyard Burning Schedule, Animal Control, SWATCO, Washington County Recycle at Work, etc.

Energy Conservation and Green Building Action Plan

Vision - Forest Grove is a leader in the support of green building practices and the promotion of energy and natural resource conservation.

Goals	Strategies	Measures	Timeframes
Goal 1 – Implement and maintain an ongoing education campaign on the individual economic benefits of energy conservation and reduced resource consumption.	Strategy 1a – As a demonstration, conduct an energy audit and then retrofit an older home for energy conservation, choosing a suite of strategies that, in aggregate, return 20% annually of the initial capital cost (\$1,000 investment saves \$200 in utility bills annually)	Publish the results of the demonstration project, reaching 100% of all homes	Publish results by 2015
	Strategy 1b - Educate the community about the availability of Oregon lifetime \$1,500 tax credits for energy conservation measures	Publish information in utility bill insert, local newspapers, talks to local groups	Info about energy tax credit in utility bill inserts annually
	Strategy 1c – Educate the community about federal tax credits for geothermal heat pumps, residential wind turbines, solar hot water and electric systems	Publish information in utility bill insert, local newspapers, talks to local groups	5 newspaper articles & talks to groups annually
	Strategy 1d – Foreground energy conservation on the city website	Revise city website	Completed by December 2014
	Strategy 1e – Provide energy conservation tips in the Utility bill inserts	Utility bill insert contains energy conservation tips	Info in 4 utility bill inserts per year
Goal 2 – Retrofit 100% of older, single and multifamily housing stock with energy conservation measures	Strategy 2a – Work with local banks on financing projects for homeowners and apartment owners	Have City Light and Power do a survey of households to find out the percentage that have implemented conservation strategies	100% retrofit by 2020
	Strategy 2b – Work with Energy Trust on homes that use Northwest Natural gas for heating, taking advantage of incentive grants		Ongoing
	Strategy 2c – Have City L&P implement a program to replace residential and commercial mercury thermostats and other non-programmable thermostats with programmable thermostats. Perhaps do this in cooperation with BPA and Metro, with the city or contractors installing the thermostats	Report the numbers of changed out thermostats. Include a question about programmable thermostats in the survey for Goal 2.	Annual report
	Strategy 2d – Require return of old thermostats and installation of programmable thermostats as a condition of home sales. (Check the legality of this.)	Report the number of returned thermostats	Annual report
Goal 3 – Reduce energy used by buildings in both new and retrofit construction	Strategy 3a – Rigidly enforce the statewide energy building code for new and retrofit construction		Ongoing
	Strategy 3b – Develop a point system and a sliding reduced-fee schedule for energy performance beyond minimum code requirements	Point system and sliding reduced-fee schedule developed	Published by 2015
	Strategy 3c – Publicize construction companies that build beyond minimum code requirements	List of companies published	Published by December 2014

	Strategy 3d - Educate consumers and builders about the individual economic value of investments in energy conservation		Ongoing
	Strategy 3e – Work with regional home appraisers to include insulation and other energy conservation measures in their analyses		
Goal 4 – Reduce energy used for lighting	Strategy 4a – Replace city lighting with fluorescents and LEDs	100% of city lighting is fluorescents or LEDs	By 2018
	Strategy 4b – Replace incandescent bulbs in single and multifamily homes	Replace in 80% of single and multifamily homes	By 2020
	Strategy 4c – Educate the community about the importance of safe disposal of fluorescent bulbs.	Publish information in utility bill insert, local newspapers, talks to local groups	By end of 2014
	Strategy 4d – As the price of LEDs drop, educate the community about them as an economic alternative to CFLs	Info in utility bill inserts	Ongoing
	Strategy 4e – Use the information from the International Dark-Sky Association and similar organizations to decrease city’s use of nighttime lighting	Have City Light and Power conduct a report of energy for street lighting	By July 2015
Goal 5 – Implement a financially feasible program to add solar domestic hot water in residences	Strategy 5a – Have City Light and Power implement a bulk purchase solar hot water heater program	City Light and Power reports number of solar hot water installations and the percent of total housing stock using solar hot water	December 2015
	Strategy 5b – City develops an incentive program to encourage installation of solar hot water systems		
	Strategy 5c – City works with local banks to help with financing of solar hot water projects		
Goal 6 – Reduce Greenhouse gas production in the community	Strategy 6a – Update the Greenhouse gas inventory.	Conduct a Greenhouse gas survey	Every three years
	Strategy 6b – Obtain a more precise emissions factor for electricity consumption, working with EPA and other analysts		By 2015
	Strategy 6c – Calculate the amount of carbon sequestration in the 4,700-acre municipal forest		By end of 2014
Goal 7 – Investigate other sources of energy production	Strategy 7a – Investigate power generation by the city		By 2016
	Strategy 7b – Investigate the feasibility of power generation by individuals and businesses		

Possible Partners: City of Forest Grove, Pacific University, Centro Cultural, Adelante Mujeres, Forest Grove School District, Energy Trust of Oregon, Metro, Bonneville Power Administration, Northwest Natural

Food Action Plan

Vision– Forest Grove will be a thriving food community in which all residents have the opportunity to grow, prepare and consume nutritious local food in order to support the health of the land and its people.

Goals	Strategies	Measures	Timeframes
Goal 1 - Develop partnership systems to sustainably feed all Forest Grove area people experiencing ongoing hunger	Strategy 1a – Create a draft document to be used in assessing hunger in our community. Support the Oregon Food Bank and Community Food Assessment.	Draft document created	July 1, 2014
	Strategy 1b – Report out the results of the community food assessment completed by Oregon Food Bank	Base assessment completed and distributed	Report by July 1, 2015; update every two years
	Strategy 1c - Work with state and regional food programs, agencies and anti-hunger organizations to increase access to nutritious, safe and adequate food by all residents experiencing ongoing hunger	Connect local food agencies/religious organizations/community groups	Report to public by July 2017
	Strategy 1d - Work to eradicate issues of continuing hunger by implementing proposed methods as outlined in “A Place At the Table” documents. (<i>A Place At the Table</i> , Peter Pringle, Editor. NY: Public Affairs Books, copyright 2013)	Report progress to public via local and regional media	Report on progress in local media by July 2015; update every two years
Goal 2 - Develop school gardens and nutrition education programs at every Forest Grove public school	Strategy 2a - Develop curricula to be used by appropriate grades; See Healthy Kids Curriculum from OSU Extension Service	Curricula developed and in place at a minimum of 5 local schools	Media report by July 2015
	Strategy 2b – Determine the funding and the funding sources needed to establish and maintain gardens	Compile a list of grants and funding sources	Report out by July 2014
	Strategy 2c – Determine needed personnel	Personnel chosen	By July 2014
	Strategy 2d – Develop workable timelines and contracts with local farmers and gardeners to provide year-round food directly to local schools	Contracts signed with Oregon Farm to School Program	Grant deadline July 31, 2014
Goal 3 – Increase the use of sustainably grown, local food	Strategy 3a – Review local land use policies to establish needed changes to allow for more sustainably grown local food. Compare local policies with established models for sustainable agriculture	Have a draft of the local land use policies including recommended changes	Draft completed by July 1, 2014
	Strategy 3b - Form a subcommittee to focus on a food co-op. Investigate past history of success and problems with former Forest Grove Food Co-op	Subcommittee reports history of FG Food Co-op	July 1, 2014
	Strategy 3c - Have two meetings with food co-ops in the Portland Metro region to explore development of a food co-op	Report result of meetings	July 1, 2014
	Strategy 3d - Establish a Community Gleaning Project, based on the Portland Fruit Tree Project and Leda Glastonbury’s PU Senior Capstone Project.	Draft of plan written by April 30, 2014	Functioning project by August 1, 2014
	Strategy 3e – Establish at least six community gardens	Project report by July 1, 2014	Six gardens functioning by July 1, 2015

Goal 4- Develop year-round farmers market in the Forest Grove area	Strategy 4 – Bring together personnel from all pertinent organizations and agencies to build agreements and contracts to open year-round farmers market in the Forest Grove area	Visit other year-round farmers markets. Open a local year-round farmers market	Visits completed by August 2014; Open year-round market by May 1, 2015
Goal 5 - Develop and implement adequate local community kitchens for increasing micro-enterprise development and teaching/learning food preparation and processing	Strategy 5a – Provide at least four area community kitchens available for continuing use as teaching sites and small business development resources	Determine existing community kitchens available for this program	Report progress by July 1, 2014; Kitchens functioning by July 1, 2015
	Strategy 5b - Hire a kitchen managerial team to design a strong program for supporting the kitchens	Manager hired and a program has been designed	By December 31, 2014
	Strategy 5c – Provide opportunities for workshops and courses for teaching/learning about food processing and preparation for at-home cooking	Local community kitchens are functioning as sites for continuing food-related workshops	By July 1, 2015
Goal 6 - Support new farmers	Strategies 6a – In the existing video promoting Forest Grove, include farming, agriculture, farm bed and breakfasts, and agritourism.	Update the City of Forest Grove website and promotional materials	By July 1, 2015
	Strategy 6b – Have farmer mixers to develop locally designed new-farmer opportunities	Have four mixers during each of the next three years at community auditorium, Forest Grove Senior & Community Center, Forest Grove Grange #282, and North Plains Jesse Mays Community Center	Begin by 2014; in January, April, August and November
	Strategy 6c – Partner with Friends of Family Farmers’ iFarm programs and other related organizations. This will strengthen opportunities for new farmers to access farmland, tools, equipment, adequate funding and critical, continuing mentoring. (www.friendsoffamilyfarmers.org/iFarm)		

Possible partners: Dairy Creek Community Food Web, Adelante Mujeres, City of Forest Grove, Forest Grove School District, Forest Grove Senior and Community Center, North Plains Community Center, The News-Times and the Forest Grove Leader, Pacific University, local churches, Community Matters, Forest Grove Grange #282, The Oregon Food Bank, Committee for Citizen Involvement, The Portland Fruit Tree Project, Kitchen Commons (Portland community kitchens), local service groups such as Elks, Lions, Masons, Odd Fellows; Oregon State University - Extension Service: Master Gardeners/Master Food Preservers, Forest Grove Community Gardens, local and regional health organizations such as Tuality Healthcare, Kaiser Permanente, and Providence Healthcare; Friends of Family Farmers, North Plains Farmers Market, Cornelius Farmers Market, City of North Plains, Forest Grove/Cornelius Chamber of Commerce, North Plains Chamber of Commerce, Columbia Grange, area farmers.

Social Equity Action Plan

Vision – Forest Grove welcomes and supports equitable and sustainable opportunities for all community members by providing the means for human needs to be met.			
Goals	Strategies	Measures	Timeframes
Goal 1 – Support equitable access to opportunities and the distribution of resources	Strategy 1a – Draft an abstract or white paper to present at a City Council meeting with ideas for effective bilingual services needed (signage and utility notices in Spanish; interpretation services for meetings, police and fire dept. notices; recruit bilingual staff)	Interpretation and childcare services available at public meetings. Signage, utility notices, etc., available bilingually	By 2015
	Strategy 1b - Advocate for equitable access at the city and county level, as well as private and non-profit sectors	Survey the community to assess city livability, opportunities and resources	By June 2014
	Strategy 1c – Create more opportunities for civic engagement in the arts and in recreation. Promote more involvement to help meet the needs of low-income, minorities, youth, seniors, and other underserved populations		
	Strategy 1d – Improve access to affordable health care by supporting the marketing of local health care services such as the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Clinic	Survey the community to indicate increased access to affordable health care	By 2017
Goal 2 – Increase sustainability of local businesses and support small business development	Strategy 2a – Support education and incentives for local businesses regarding sustainable practices	Sustainable practices of local businesses increase per yearly surveys; Recognition program of businesses is established	By 2016
	Strategy 2b – Examine current policies that affect small businesses	Survey to assess small business satisfaction in terms of starting and/or expanding small businesses in Forest Grove	By June 2014
	Strategy 2c – Address obstacles that exist for small businesses to start and expand	Increase small local businesses by 20%, from 2013 baseline data	By 2017
	Strategy 2d – Encourage the City of Forest Grove to develop a marketing identity to support small, sustainable businesses and tourism	Sustainability is incorporated into the city’s marketing strategy	By 2015
Goal 3 – Increase the sustainable living wage of Forest Grove residents	Strategy 3a – Support local workforce training efforts to serve individuals who are seeking employment and/or increased job skills	Increase living wage jobs by 15%, from baseline of 2013 data	By 2020
	Strategy 3b – Promote partnerships among community entities such as the Library, Workforce Development Centers, PCC, etc.	Increase availability and accessibility of employment-related services	By 2017
Goal 4 – Strengthen the representation and civic engagement of all people in	Strategy 4a – Identify barriers to civic engagement among underserved populations in Forest Grove, with input from community-based organizations	Primary barriers identified, plan in place for addressing barriers	By June 2014

the Sustainability Committee’s efforts and the decision-making process of city-wide issues	Strategy 4b – Work with community groups and organizations who serve Latino and other underserved populations to address barriers to civic engagement and public service access.	Demographic data on community engagement, including representation at public forums, city-wide committees, and in leadership roles	By 2015
	Strategy 4c – Increase representation from the Latino community and other underserved populations on the Committee for Citizen Involvement	Demographics of CCI more closely reflect city-wide demographics	By 2015
	Strategy 4d – Establish a Forest Grove City staff Social Equity Committee (comparable to the City Safety Committee) that would examine barriers to service within the city and improve the quality of life for all community members	Establishment of a FG City staff Social Equity Committee	By June 2014
Goal 5 – Promote and increase affordable housing	Strategy 5a – Advertise Bienestar’s work	Survey community members and community-based organizations about the availability of adequate affordable housing	By 2020
	Strategy 5b – Work with the City of Forest Grove Planning Commission to encourage the adoption of building more mixed use and affordable housing units within the city		
	Strategy 5c – Work across public and private sectors to increase access to affordable housing		

Possible Partners: Forest Grove Economic Development Director, Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce, City of Forest Grove departments, Committee for Citizen Involvement, Washington County Cooperative Library System, Washington County Commission on Children and Families, Community Action, FG Senior and Community Center, FG School District, FG Family Resource Center, FG Community School, Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC), Pacific University (Residence Life, Centers for Civic Engagement, Gender Equity, and Diversity), Small Business Administration, Local businesses, Adelante Mujeres, Centro Cultural, Washington County Housing Authority, Bienestar and other affordable housing agencies, Service clubs, Coalition for a Livable Future

Grants and ideas for funding: Community Development foundations, Small Business Administration, Foundations that support social sustainability efforts, Affordable housing agencies, Coalition for a Livable Future, FG Public Arts Commission (for free public arts programming with special consideration for underserved populations)

Natural Resources Action Plan

Vision- The residents of Forest Grove demonstrate good stewardship of our natural resources by preserving the health of our watershed, forest, air, and greenspace for future generations.

Goals	Strategies	Measures	Timeframes
Goal 1 - Increase the amount of tree canopy while planting species adapted to this area	Strategy 1a - Develop a master plan identifying areas for additional tree planting, as well as long-term needs for conversion to more appropriate species or mix of ages	Five percent increase in tree canopy, completion of master urban forest plan	Canopy increase by 2018; Master Tree Plan completed by 2016
Goal 2 - Reduce average per capita water consumption	Strategy 2a - Encourage the use of low flow shower heads and toilets	Five percent reduction in per capita water consumption	By 2018
	Strategy 2b - Encourage the planting of native plant species that require less water		
	Strategy 2c - Support the efforts of Clean Water Services and the Friends of Fernhill Wetlands in their water conservation efforts		
	Strategy 2d – Encourage the use of drip irrigation systems or other means to reduce household outdoor water use		
	Strategy 2e – Encourage the use of rain sensors with outdoor sprinkler systems		
Goal 3 - Increase the amount of park/natural areas	Strategy 3a - Identify additional sites for natural area restoration (such as adding to the Forest Grove City Watershed)	Two percent increase in greenspace or parks, increase number of partnerships developed or renewed	By 2018
	Strategy 3b - Develop partnerships for funding acquisitions for new, or enhancement of existing park/natural areas.		
	Strategy 3c - Support the efforts of Clean Water Services and the City of Forest Grove’s Forestry Commission and Parks and Recreation		
Goal 4 - Continue to support the restoration of natural areas such as Fern Hill Wetlands	Strategy 4a - Support and market the activities related to restoration efforts in Forest Grove	Increase participation in events initiated by Friends of Fernhill Wetlands and other conservation nonprofits	Ongoing
Goal 5 – Reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides	Strategy 5a – Support the efforts of Clean Water Services and the City of Forest Grove to reduce environmental toxins	Five percent reduction in use of pesticides and herbicides. Advertise and support Household Hazardous Waste events	By 2018
	Strategy 5b – Promote existing education organizations such as Natural Resources Conservation Service and Master Gardeners		

Goal 6 – Inform and educate the residents of Forest Grove on the benefits, care, and maintenance of trees for aesthetics, shade, and carbon storage.	Strategy 6a - Develop (or use existing programs such as Tree School) an education program about the benefits of city trees (carbon, shade, aesthetics etc.)	Development and implementation of outreach or education materials and programs	By 2015
	Strategy 6b - Develop an education program for the proper care of trees (pruning, planting, maintenance)		
Goal 7 – Improve air quality	Strategy 7a – Reduce the amount of backyard burning		Ongoing
	Strategy 7b – Encourage the use of mass transit	Support the marketing of GroveLink and TriMet	Ongoing

Possible Partners: Metro, Friends of Fernhill Wetlands, Pacific University, Forest Grove Forestry Commission, Forest Grove Parks and Recreation Commission, City of Forest Grove, Tualatin Valley Watershed Council, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Oregon Environmental Center, Water Master, Soil and Water Conservation District

Transportation Action Plan

Vision– Forest Grove has a safe, affordable, reliable, sustainable, and connected transportation system that is energy efficient while supporting all transportation modes.

Goals	Strategies	Measures	Timeframes
Goal 1 – To make mass transportation more accessible to a larger portion of the community	Strategy 1a – Work with Forest Grove City Council and city staff on the current city bus proposals by providing input on the planning and execution of proposals in progress	Increase ridership of TriMet/Ride Connection buses by 35%	By end of 2014
Goal 2 – Increase the use of bicycle transportation	Strategy 2a – Partner with Metro Councilors to further explore plans for several new bike trails like the Council Creek Trail	Increase miles of trails for bicyclists and pedestrians	Ongoing
	Strategy 2b – Participate with the Quarterly Trails Forum to assist in carrying out plans for new bike trails like the Council Creek Trail	Increase miles of trails for bicyclists and pedestrians	Ongoing
	Strategy 2c – Promote the use of the new covered bike racks in Forest Grove by providing brochures at the Wednesday Market, in the utility bill, at First Friday, and other community gatherings	Increased use of the racks by residents	By end of 2013
	Strategy 2d – Publicize bike trails and covered bike racks on bike websites	Increase use of bicycle transportation by 25%	By end of 2015
	Strategy 2e – Create a spreadsheet or listing of all currently planned or funded bike/pedestrian enhancement projects with contact information, trail name, map, completion date	Aids in tracking all of the entities promoting expansion of bike trails in the area. Increases communication with these groups	By June 16, 2013
Goal 3 – Increase the safety of bicycling in Forest Grove	Strategy 3a – Increase the number of useable bike paths	Decrease the reported bicycle accidents in Forest Grove by 20%	By end of 2015
		Increase in the number of useable bike paths by 20%	By end of 2015
	Strategy 3b – Reduce the speed limit in Forest Grove on Pacific and 19 th Aves to 25mph.	No cycling accidents reported in the next five years in Forest Grove	By end of 2015
	Strategy 3c – Create more bike lanes on existing roads	No cycling accidents reported in the next five years in Forest Grove	By end of 2018
	Strategy 3d – Work with the Forest Grove City Planning Department to create a safe bike/pedestrian crossing over Hwy 47 (near Maple St.)	No cycling accidents reported in the next five years in Forest Grove	By end of 2018
Goal 4 – Retrofit electric car charging station with plugs/adapters to fit all types of cars and electric bicycles.	Strategy 4a – Work with the Forest Grove City Planning Department and Forest Grove Light and Power to add adapters that will fit all electric cars and bicycles including ones not currently supported	Increased ability of electric car drivers and bicyclists in to utilize current charging stations	By end of 2015

Goal 5 – Add peak hour express buses from Forest Grove to Hillsboro Transit Center	Strategy 5a – Work with TriMet and the Forest Grove City Council to introduce a pilot program for Line 57 express bus route from Forest Grove to Hillsboro TC during peak hours	Faster service to Hillsboro will attract more ridership on bus/max and reduce the amount of autos on the roads	By 2014
Goal 6 –Expand light rail to Forest Grove	Strategy 6a – Draft a statement of support to TriMet regarding expansion of light rail from Hillsboro to Forest Grove	Expansion of MAX into Forest Grove	By 2020
	Strategy 6b – Utilize the help of the Forest Grove City Council and form a committee of residents to lobby for this expansion		
Goal 7 – Fit new city vehicles and Ride Connection buses to run on electric power	Strategy 7a – Meet with TriMet and Ride Connection staff to encourage purchasing new vehicles equipped with electric power	Cleaner air for Forest Grove and all areas they serve	By 2020
Goal 8 –Encourage the City of Forest Grove to acquire electric or hybrid vehicles	Strategy 8a –Set up a meeting with City staff to encourage purchasing hybrid or electric vehicles within their new acquisitions	New vehicles acquired are hybrids or electric powered	By 2018

Possible Partners: Metro Councilors, Forest Grove City Council, Forest Grove City Staff, Emerald Bike Path, TriMet, Ride Connection, Quarterly Trails Forum, Council Creek Trail, Bicycle Transportation Alliance, Forest Grove Light and Power, Washington Country Transportation Alliance, Forest Grove Farmer’s Market



Appendix

As part of the effort to create a more sustainable Forest Grove, the City hired an intern, Kiersten Iwai, to assess the current social, economic, and environmental conditions of the City and community.

The following reports are available at <http://www.forestgrove-or.gov/city-hall/community-development-sustainability.html>

1. Inventory of sustainability-related organizations in the Forest Grove community
2. Water Consumption Assessment Report with recommendations
3. Energy Assessment Report with recommendations
4. Socio-Economic Assessment Report
5. Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Acknowledgements

Elaine Cole, PhD in Sustainability led us with expertise, finesse, skill, compassion, and passion. Early on after the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee formed in October, 2011, we, as a group, looked for someone in our Committee to volunteer to guide, lead, coordinate, plan presentations for the Summits and Annual Town Hall meeting, take notes if no else volunteered, and make sure they got distributed. Elaine Cole worked well with Jon Holan, Community Development Director, to do all of that.

Thank you Elaine and Jon

If you are interested in working with the Forest Grove Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee on this important effort, please contact Elaine Cole, elainecole11@gmail.com.