

RESOLUTION NO. 646

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE,
WASHINGTON ADOPTING THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATIONAL
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

WHEREAS, the City Council has identified exploring and supporting green options as a goal for the 2009-2010 biennium, and

WHEREAS, the City Council previously adopted Resolutions 623 and 624 in support of the City's Green UP initiative and the effort to become a more sustainable organization, reducing the City's impact on the environment through efforts to reduce energy use, use environmentally friendly products, and adopt other environmentally friendly practices as practical, and

WHEREAS, the community's long-term environmental health, economic vitality and quality of life are of critical importance to citizens of the City, and

WHEREAS, the City can maintain and enhance the quality of life by establishing responsible and sustainable practices, and

WHEREAS, the Organizational Sustainability Plan identifies practices and goals that support increasing sustainable practices and the organization's sustainability with considerations of the City's limited resources.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
UNIVERSITY PLACE, WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Adopt Organizational Sustainability Plan. The City of University Place Organizational Sustainability Plan attached hereto is hereby adopted.

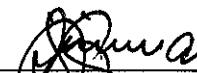
Section 2. Effective Date. The resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON MAY 17, 2010.



Debbie Klosowski, Mayor

ATTEST:



Emy Genefa, City Clerk

City of University Place Organizational Sustainability Plan

UNOFFICIAL DOCUMENT

May 2010



University Place Organizational Sustainability Plan

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Mayor's Introduction

Friends and Neighbors,

Being "green" is a long standing value in University Place. When people are asked why they live in our community, they inevitably cite the quality of life, large expanses of trees throughout the city, open spaces and parks, and our close proximity to Puget Sound, the Olympics and Mt. Rainier. Sidewalks and bikelanes along many of our arterials enable people to safely reach destinations while providing opportunities for exercise, not to mention reductions in traffic congestion, air pollution and reliance on oil (along with more money in their wallets).

People in our community, along with many others in the Pacific Northwest, value what we have. But it is imperative that we recognize and take appropriate action to ensure that the quality of life that we enjoy is preserved and protected for our children and future generations.

With that in mind, it is with a sense of urgency that we present our first "Green UP" strategy for our city and our community. Although many people are already incorporating "green measures" within their daily routines, we need to undergo a detailed examination of how we can conserve existing resources so that future generations will be able to meet their own needs.

True sustainability is more than a "feel good" measure. It is a comprehensive commitment to fully evaluate the economic, social and environmental impacts of our actions. Working together, we can enhance community awareness and participation in a long term sustainability plan that will protect and preserve our community's resources for years to come.

Sincerely,

Debbie Klosowski

Mayor, City of University Place



Background

The Sustainability Movement

The City of University Place has been practicing environmentally friendly and sustainable policies for years. Since incorporating in 1995, the City has made an effort to increase green space, walkability and operational efficiencies. Over the last decade, these types of policies have garnered an increasing amount of attention in both the public and private sector and have been broadly categorized as “green” or “sustainable” practices. A growing number of local governments and professional organizations have embraced sustainability as a serious or emerging issue facing local government.

In 2009, the National League of Cities (NLC) held their first Sustainable Cities Conference in Portland, OR. Over 235 cities, including University Place, were represented at the conference. The NLC prioritized sustainability as an important overarching concept for local governments to use as “an organizing framework by which to evaluate all activities and plan comprehensively for the future.”¹

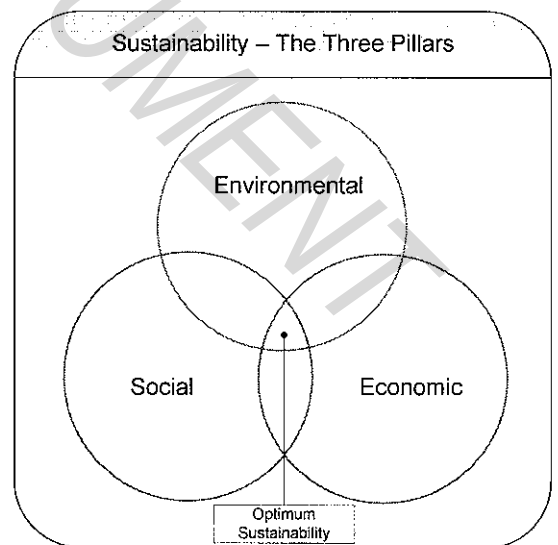
The International City-County Management Association (ICMA) launched the Sustainable Communities Leadership Initiative in 2007 to help communities meet the challenges of building sustainable communities. The initiative establishes an ICMA advisory group to provide guidance on the subject, generates dialogue, and provides local government managers with tools and best practices to assist in their development of a sustainability plan for their communities.

What is Sustainability?

Although the label “green” is sometimes used solely to refer to practices that are environmentally friendly, it is increasingly used as a broad term encompassing all aspects of sustainability. Two widely used definitions of sustainability are the United Nations’ 1987 Bruntland Commission definition and the triple bottom line approach.

The Bruntland Report, officially named *Our Common Future* states that “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”² This definition conveys the goal of sustainability without limiting it to specific types of development, allowing individuals and organizations the flexibility to apply it to a wide variety of issues.

The economic, social and environmental impacts are frequently included when evaluating sustainability.



¹ National League of Cities. <http://www.nlc.org> (accessed March 15, 2010)

² *Our Common Future*. United Nations. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987.



Together, the three are referred to as the triple bottom line of sustainability or the three pillars of sustainability. The triple bottom line approach recognizes the interdependence of environmental, social, and economic factors and acknowledges the importance of balancing the three spheres. By evaluating decisions, policies, and practices by these principles, the immediate and long-term environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the organization and community are well served by evaluating the impact decisions, policies, and practices have in these areas.

Green UP

The Green UP Initiative launched in 2009 under the leadership of the University Place City Council. The Council, acknowledging the growing movement and the value of applying the principles of sustainability in University Place, articulated the City's desire to support sustainable projects and operations in Goal Two of the four 2009-2010 Council goals:

"Explore and Support 'Green' Options

- *Library/Civic Building L.E.E.D. Certifiable*
- *Increase circulation options ("green" roadway designs, sidewalks, bike lanes and transit oriented development)*
- *"Green" vehicles in City fleet purchases*
- *Storm Water Management and Open Spaces*
- *Community Education and Action"*

Early in 2009, an internal Green Team was formed to create a plan for developing and implementing the Council goal. The Green Team consisted of the Mayor Pro-Tempore and staff representatives from Economic Development, Finance, Public Works, Communications, and the City Manager's Office. The team established the goals and framework for the Green UP Initiative to implement and promote short-term and long-term sustainable practices.

The Green Team established the working guidelines and goals for the sustainability initiative that are presented in this sustainability plan. The plan is intended to provide guidance for the organization and a map of where the sustainability initiative is headed. It is the intent of the Green Team that this plan and the Green UP Initiative will continue to evolve as the social, economic, and natural environment in which we live changes and new information becomes available.

Initiative Guidelines

In order to help focus the goals, the Green Team developed a list of six major guidelines for the Green UP Initiative. The guidelines serve staff and the public as reminders of considerations to make before finalizing any policies, projects, or other aspects of the sustainability plans.

1. Affordable

The City budget is limited and recommendations should take into account the financial implications they would have on the City.



2. Staff
Similar to financial resources, staff resources are limited and staff time is valuable. Staff time should be considered in order to ensure that additional sustainability projects do not unintentionally detract from staff's regular responsibilities, but are integrated into existing responsibilities.
3. Multi-Year
This initiative will continue for multiple years and, as such, should include both short term and long term goals and practices aimed at increasing the City's sustainability.
4. Practical
Recommendations should be realistic and feasible for implementation.
5. Measurable
In order to track the progress of the initiative, strategies should include monitoring components.
6. Internal-External
The initiative is targeted at both the City as an organization as well as the University Place community. Although the first phase is primarily internally focused, the initiative should grow to include strategies and recommendations within the City organization as well as the community at large.

Goals

The Green Team identified three primary goals around which the City's organizational sustainability plan is focused. The three broad goals will also serve as guidance for the citizen task force as it develops the community's sustainability initiative. The three goals are:

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The well known "Three Rs" approach provides a clear and concise first goal for the City. In order to save resources, both financial and natural, the City strives to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Reducing the amount of resources consumed is the first and best way to save money and protect the environment. The City will get as much possible use out of available resources before they are discarded. When discarded, the City commits to recycling as much as possible and practical.

An example of how the City continues to reduce, reuse, and recycle is the use of office paper. The City reduces printing as much as possible with electronic database use and double sided printing. When printing is required, staff is encouraged to reuse paper for scrap paper or reuse posters or other presentation material for multiple Council meetings. Staff also has access to recycling containers at each work station and the paper is recycled through UP Refuse.



Outreach and Education

Crucial to the success of the City's sustainability efforts is the awareness and support of staff, and, as the initiative grows, the public. In order to increase the awareness, staff will receive information on City practices and policies and be asked to support the City's commitment to reduce, reuse, and recycle. The information provided to staff will come directly, through emails and other individual contact, as well through point-of-use information such as reminders to turn off lights near light switches and informational posters about recyclables at recycling locations.

Long-term Sustainability

Although not always called sustainability, the City has been practicing sustainable policy for years. For example, the City's land use and zoning policies focus density in certain areas of the city, while preserving the natural environment. Increased availability of sidewalks and bike lanes also encourages pedestrian activity and bicyclists, which saves money by eliminating the expense of fuel, and reduces congestion and air pollution. Long-term sustainability requires the implementation of policies and actions today that will help the City minimize its impact on the natural environment while responsibly planning for an increasing population with limited public finances.

Policy and Implementation

City Policy

The City Council will continue to examine the impact of proposed policies on the community, including the environment, society, and economy. The City has and will continue to balance the short term and long term needs of the community and support policies in which the long term effects to the City will positively impact future City residents.

On September 21, 2009 the Council adopted two resolutions (attached) supporting the sustainability initiative. The first, Resolution No. 623, established the City's membership in the Cascade Land Conservancy's Cascade Agenda Cities Program.

The Cascade Agenda Cities Program focuses on assisting cities to responsibly plan for the future, taking into account the unique needs of urban and suburban life to continue to provide great places to live, work, and raise families. Specifically, the program provides best practice research, technical assistance, connections to peers, workshops, and other assistance from a professional staff. University Place will use the program to continue to grow into a complete, compact community, while preserving the region's natural resources.

Resolution No. 624 is a resolution committing to support sustainability efforts, including the collaborative Green UP Initiative. The resolution recognizes the efforts of the Fire Department and School District and commits to continuing to develop Green UP as a community wide initiative to reduce our energy use and impact on the environment. The City is responsible for only a fraction of the total resources government organizations use in



University Place and officials from the City, Fire Department, and School District recognize the benefit a coordinated effort can have on the community in terms of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Green UP initiative.

Responsible Internal Practices

Implementation at the staff level has begun and many Green Team recommendations, such as recycling, have been in practice in the organization to some extent for years. Although the recommendations may not be possible in all situations due to cost, availability or other circumstances, the City is promoting them as priorities. The sustainable practices identified for continued emphasis and promotion throughout the organization include the following, which are not mutually exclusive:

- *Recycling* – Mixed use recycling containers are available throughout City facilities, including at every work station. Education materials have been posted and distributed and additional recycling containers for glass have been located at City Hall. The City also emphasizes recycling vegetation and materials collected by Parks and Public Works, when possible.
- *Electricity Conservation* – Reducing the number of appliances such as microwaves and heaters, and turning off lights, computers, and other equipment when not in use.
- *Paper Waste Reduction* – Reducing the amount of paper waste by saving and sending files electronically and printing double sided copies when hard copies are necessary.
- *Green Purchasing* – Purchasing energy efficient equipment and vehicles, ordering and using items that are not harmful to the environment and are made from recycled products. Bulk purchases to reduce waste and save money and purchasing reusable items such as rechargeable batteries is suggested when possible.
- *Fuel Use* – Reducing the amount of fuel used by City vehicles by carpooling, reducing idling and driving efficiently. Purchasing fuel efficient vehicles, such as hybrids, when vehicles are added to the fleet.
- *Cooperation* – The initiative will achieve the most success with the support of the entire staff. Staff is encouraged to self monitor the aforementioned recommendations and submit any additional suggestions to their supervisors. Furthermore, staff will continue to receive updates and education on how to increase the City's sustainability efforts.

While the Green Team has established a good initial action plan and taken the first steps toward organizational sustainability, continuing leadership is necessary to institutionalize the recommendations. During the next phase of the initiative, key staff members will be identified to continue to promote the recommendations. Many of these staff members have already begun implementing the recommendations to some degree, such as Building Inspector Dean Bentley who has led the City's recycling movement. Staff promotion of these goals will not require an extensive time commitment on top of their demanding workloads.

The City has obtained an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) to assist in the implementation of sustainable practices. The grant provides \$135,000 to fund a solar panel project in Town Center, recycling containers for Market Square, bicycle lockers and car



charging stations for the public garages, and salary funding to manage the Green UP Initiative. The EECBG grant will help the City implement the internal and community sustainability plans along with providing excellent examples of the City's commitment to sustainable practices.

Partnerships

During the process of establishing the vision for Green UP, the University Place Fire Department (Fire Department) and University Place School District (School District) joined the Green Team to share their vision for a sustainable community. The three public organizations, which share nearly the same constituency, have committed to working together with each other and the community on the Green UP Initiative. By sharing the leadership on the issue the organizations will be able to have a greater positive impact and will benefit from the shared soft and hard resources when possible. Sustainability will be best achieved through the cooperation and collaboration of all the major stakeholders in the City and planning with the Fire District and School District is a step in the right direction. As the broader community effort continues, other organizations providing services to the community, such as the utilities or library, will also play a crucial role in shaping sustainability efforts.

Next Steps

Monitoring

The Green Team recognizes the benefit of tracking the Green UP Initiative in order to measure progress. Due to the limited staff and resources available, much of the initiative indicators will be based on readily available data and simple benchmarks. The following matrix was developed to track annual efforts to become more sustainable.

2010 Organizational Green UP Tracking							
<i>Reduce, Reuse, Recycle</i>			<i>Outreach and Education</i>		<i>Long-Term Sustainability</i>		
Practice	Indicator	#	Action	Completed	What steps have been taken to encourage long-term sustainability?	Policies / Actions	
Paper Use	Reams of paper per week (avg.)		Include Green UP article or tip in each newsletter			What steps have been taken to encourage long-term sustainability?	
Material Recycled	Bins recycled per week (avg.)		Green UP articles or tips on website				
Fuel Consumption	Gallons of fuel per quarter		Produce one sustainability focused UPTV program				
Utility Use	Electricity usage per quarter		Host or participate in sustainability focused community workshops or meetings				
	Water usage per quarter						

Staff is beginning to collect and measure the indicators as their 2010 workloads allow and will continue to report on the progress Green UP is making.



Citywide Initiative

In accordance with Council's direction and previous staff reports, staff will lead the formation of a sustainability advisory committee. The committee will consist of University Place stakeholders and community members, including representatives from partners such as the School District and Fire District, other key stakeholders such as Tacoma Public Utilities and UP Refuse, as well as at-large citizen representatives.

The sustainability advisory committee's goal will be to create a community wide sustainability plan. The community wide plan should include practical and actionable recommendations on how Green UP can increase community awareness and make University Place more sustainable. Following the recommendations it is expected that the committee or volunteers organized by the committee will take leadership of the community focused initiative and implement the recommendations.



RESOLUTION NO. 624

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE, WASHINGTON TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS THROUGH THE GREEN UP CAMPAIGN WITH THE UNIVERSITY PLACE FIRE DISTRICT AND UNIVERSITY PLACE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of University Place has made it a goal to explore and support “green” options; and

WHEREAS, the City of University Place wants to become more sustainable, reducing the City’s impact on the environment by reducing energy use, using environmentally friendly products when practical, and adopting other environmentally friendly practices; and

WHEREAS, the City of University Place wishes to partner with the University Place Fire District, the University Place School District, and other organizations that have identified the goal of sustainability to share information and ideas, and to work collaboratively to make University Place a more sustainable community; and

WHEREAS, the collaborative sustainability initiative in the city has been named “Green UP”; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE, WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

In consideration of the similar intents of the City of University Place, the University Place Fire Department, and the University Place School District to improve sustainability efforts, the City of University Place commits to participate in and continue to develop the collaborative “Green UP” program.

Linda Bird, Mayor

ATTEST:

Emelita Genetia, City Clerk



RESOLUTION NO. 623

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE,
WASHINGTON TO BECOME A CASCADE AGENDA CITY**

Whereas, the population in the Puget Sound region is expected to double in the next one hundred (100) years on top of the already dramatic growth recently experienced, thereby significantly impacting the growth of cities and towns, and

Whereas, long-term ecosystem health, economic vitality and quality of life are of critical importance to citizens of the City, and

Whereas, in the face of such growth, the City can maintain and enhance the quality of life by guiding how and where this growth will occur, and

Whereas, The Cascade Agenda is a 100-year collective vision for the central Puget Sound region with the goals of conserving 1.3 million acres of working farms, forests, and natural areas and creating vibrant and livable communities, while sustaining a strong regional economy, and

Whereas, The Cascade Land Conservancy, recognizing the relationship between making our communities spectacular enough to attract growth and the conservation of this region's ecosystems and working lands, has launched the "Cascade Agenda Cities Program" to help local jurisdictions create complete, compact and connected communities.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE,
WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Endorsement. The City endorses the vision articulated in The Cascade Agenda as beneficial to the City and the region as a whole.

Section 2. Partnership. The City shall pursue a partnership with the Cascade Land Conservancy as a member of the Cascade Agenda Cities Program to advance this vision within the community.

Section 3. Policies. The City will seek to align policies and programs on community development, housing, transportation, parks, and open space with strategies aimed at increasing sustainability, reflecting the values and goals of The Cascade Agenda Cities Program, striving to make the City more complete, compact and connected.

Section 4. Contact. The City shall appoint a staff person to act as the City's primary link with respect to Cascade Agenda Cities related activities.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2009.

Linda Bird, Mayor

ATTEST:

Emelita Genetia, City Clerk

