

Green 13 – Built Environment

June 23, 2009 Update

Team Members:

Jerry Cargile, Randy Boyd, Micah Bullard, Mark Harris, Joe Gehrdes

Definition:

As taken from “Wikipedia” the broad definition for “built environment” means anything “man-made that provide the setting for human activity...” For the purpose of our effort “built environment” will refer to existing and new construction for both public and private “buildings” as well as related regulations and practices affecting their construction and pattern of development.

Mission Statement:

The mission for the “team” is to identify and propose goals, benchmarks, and “initiatives” related to the “built environment” which will identify opportunities for the City to set the example for a sustainable way forward. This will include recommendations to promote and encourage sustainable development patterns within the community as a whole.

Subject Matter Experts:

The team has identified the following as a preliminary list of potential “subject matter experts” (SME’s) which we would anticipate involving in the process of research and discovery;

Marie Bostick, George Dagle, Randy Cunningham, Shane Davis, Jeff Easter, Barry Crumrine, Peter Geofrian, Joy McKee, and Larry Denman.

The team is also looking to identify the proper point of contact/SME within the following organizations; Huntsville City Schools, TVA, Huntsville Planning Department with respect to “long range planning” for transportation infrastructure, and others to be determined. We are also looking to identify the “key leadership” in our group of “target communities” identified for research.

Proposed Process:

The following is a general outline of our proposed process and team strategy.

1. Evaluate other “green building” practices in place in other communities (what incentives, regulations, programs are already in use), and identify the “best practices” which are most applicable to Huntsville.
2. Evaluate the current building, zoning, and subdivision regulations in place in Huntsville. Identify any “obstacles” within these regulations adversely affecting

- the built environment with respect to sustainability, and formulate appropriate recommendations.
3. Evaluate local “resources” for sustainable building practices and identify any missing “key resources” needed.
 4. Identify key components/messaging to be included in any educational initiatives and make appropriate recommendations.
 5. Develop a “score card” for the community with respect to the built environment.

We have identified the following communities to research (team member responsible):

1. Austin, TX (Randy Boyd)
2. Madison, WI (Mark Harris)
3. Sarasota, FL (Micah Bullard)
4. Chattanooga, TN (Jerry Cargile)

Each community will be researched including an overnight visit which will include meetings with the key individuals associated with the built environment (i.e. someone from at least the following departments- planning, zoning, building, administrative, and possibly legal). We are in the process of identifying a budget for this effort (Joe Gehrdes).

We propose to identify a “matrix” to guide us in our exploration of each community with respect to a sustainable built environment. We plan to begin the assembly of a draft of this matrix at our next meeting. The “key elements” included in the matrix will be related to Building Codes (Randy Boyd), Zoning Reg’s (Jerry Cargile), Subdivision Reg’s (Mark Harris), and “other public policy related to the built environment” (Micah Bullard).

Challenges:

The greatest challenge which we see at this point is getting “buy-in” on the overall relevance of “sustainability.” The message that we deliver will seek to address that as we move forward.

We will identify any logistical or other challenges as we progress in our effort. Budgetary needs are being developed.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule/Frequency:

Third Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m.