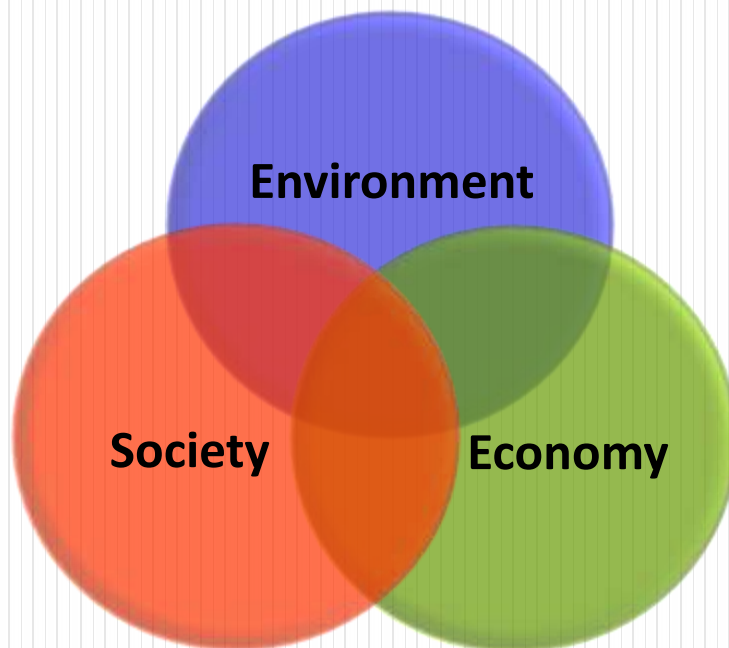


# Sustainability in Douglas County:

*Providing leadership, making decisions and taking actions to serve Douglas County by integrating a healthy environment, vibrant economy, and livable society to benefit current and future generations.*



# Why does Douglas County need a Sustainability Plan?

- Douglas County departments have been individually researching and pursuing sustainability initiatives in recent years. From our LED lighting retrofits around the County Courthouse to the solar thermal panels on the County Jail, we have been pursuing innovative and cost-effective projects. However, to truly embark on a sustainable path as an organization, we needed a County-wide focus for our efforts.
- **In February of 2011**, we embarked on the creation of a formal Sustainability Plan.
- This Plan expresses our commitment to integrating the values of sustainability throughout our activities and services, as we strive to balance the needs of current and future generations of Douglas County residents.
- **Improving the sustainability of our operations for the future can have immediate benefits for County residents today. Many measures that help us achieve sustainability can also reduce costs, improve the health of our residents, create jobs, and protect the Douglas County landscapes we call home.**

## What are we already doing? Sustainability Success Stories:

Department:	Project(s):
<b>Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Courthouse energy upgrades (boiler replacement, window sealing)</li> <li>▪ JLE energy upgrades (LED exterior lights, improved controls, fans, re-used VAV boxes)</li> <li>▪ All digital controls – allows for tracking and online management</li> </ul>
<b>Youth Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Solar Thermal Panels for hot water supply</li> <li>▪ Expanded recycling – offers to staff</li> <li>▪ Hybrid administrative vehicle</li> <li>▪ Retrofitted all lighting to T8s</li> <li>▪ Eliminated personal printers, streamlined PCs</li> <li>▪ Considering: flushometers on cells</li> <li>▪ Gardens for 4-H projects, small fruit production projects, shares excess produce with jail</li> </ul>
<b>All County-owned buildings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expanded recycling program</li> <li>▪ (Waste audit in 2010 revealed 19% waste diversion rate – expanded from 4 buildings to 8 in 2011)</li> </ul>
<b>Jail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BuyLocal program with food service contract</li> <li>▪ Garden for inmates</li> <li>▪ Solar thermal panels</li> <li>▪ Recycling of kitchen cardboard and cans for past five years, now expanded significantly</li> <li>▪ Flushometers for water conservation in high security areas</li> </ul>
<b>Citizen advisory board</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Douglas County Food Policy Council-</li> <li>▪ Citizen stakeholder group recommending policy to County Commission</li> </ul>
<b>Planning/ Zoning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environmental set-asides for residential properties (only 60% can be developed).</li> <li>▪ NE Sector Plan – first planning doc in history of DG County – where sector plan is looking at maintenance/preservation of agricultural use (rather than default for urbanization).</li> <li>▪ New focus on carrying capacity of the land – Ch 16</li> <li>▪ Collaborating with MPO on agritourism promotion efforts</li> </ul>
<b>Information Tech</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Virtualizing servers – reduced from 40 to 9 (reduced energy demand by 75%)</li> <li>▪ Exploring virtual PCs to further cut energy use</li> </ul>
<b>Human Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online job applications – saved 2,688 pieces of paper</li> <li>▪ Employee Wellness (Newsletter, bone density, cholesterol checks, discounted gym rates, health assessments)</li> <li>▪ WellTRAC pharmacy tracking system</li> <li>▪ Supports community: blood drives, book drives, canned food drives</li> </ul>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Switched to online tax records – avoids 38,000 mailings (x2) per year</li> </ul>
<b>Zoning/Codes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adopting 2009 IECC Energy codes</li> <li>▪ Adopting Green Building Codes</li> </ul>
<b>Public Works</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintenance of County Parks and Open Spaces:</li> <li>▪ Used on-site wood for mulch at Wells Overlook</li> <li>▪ Reduced chemical applications</li> <li>▪ Created community trails, activity spaces</li> <li>▪ Replaced culverts with open-bottom pre-formed concrete structures that don't impede streambed, and protect wildlife habitat</li> <li>▪ Reduced sand in road treatment mix to reduce sediment run-off</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Changed training materials – now online, CDs instead of printed materials, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Purchasing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recently begun incorporating sustainable options for purchase (i.e. hybrid vehicles, local food contracts, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Collaborating with City and STAPLES on coordinating green purchases of office supplies, cleaning supplies, etc.</li> </ul>

# Sustainability Planning Process (February 2011)



- ## GREEN PURCHASING
- look for opportunities to reduce packaging
  - all packaging materials need to be re-
  - refillable pens
  - all paper should be recyclable ●●●●
  - less toxic ink products for all printers/cop
  - when available, purchase energy-star equip
  - adopt bid process that requires sustainab
  - part of the evaluation criteria ●
  - departmental purchasing goals should require s
  - policies ●●●●
  - develop office supplies "green purchases list"
  - products as default ●●●●●●●●●●
  - establish policy to use environmentally friendly
  - cleaners for uniform cleaning
  - eliminate bottled water contracts with wast
  - supply in offices ●●●●/safe

# Douglas County impacts sustainability through:



**Operations:** The day-to-day operations of serving Douglas County: The fuel we use in our vehicles, the products we purchase, and the waste we generate all have an impact on our region. We first need to get our own house in order, and find ways to be more sustainable as we offer services to residents.



**Buildings:** The energy used by our buildings has a significant impact on our environment. One of the keys to reducing this impact is reducing our energy use, and making our buildings more “green.”



**Employees:** The practices of our employees: Our employees are commuting to work, making purchasing decisions, using energy, and generating waste too. With 400 + employees, we can have a real impact by sharing our sustainability goals with our employees.



**Policy:** The policies our Commissioners adopt can set us up for long term sustainability and viability. Commissioners’ direction and commitment is vital to our sustainability efforts.



**Community:** The community we serve looks to Douglas County for leadership. We can share our sustainability goals, and help our citizens consider the impacts of their decisions too.

# Douglas County Sustainability Goals

## Douglas County will:



- incorporate sustainable landscaping practices.
- continue to implement an organization-wide document management system to reduce paper waste.
- reduce waste (priority order: reduce consumption, reuse existing equipment, recycle or buy recycled products)
- incorporate sustainable practices into road operations.
- be more efficient with fuel consumption.



- reduce energy consumption by 30% by 2015. (2009 baseline)
- strive to meet LEED standards for certification in new County buildings.



- create and deliver a sustainability employee education and action campaign.
- encourage sustainability as a routine and normal practice for Douglas County employees.



- adopt policy to articulate that sustainability is a valued position.



- provide services to citizens in their homes when appropriate (i.e. online services).
- facilitate community understanding of sustainability practices.

# **\*Sample\* initiatives to achieve sustainability goals:**



- Incorporate native plants and recycled products in landscaping (i.e. mulch).
- Purchase at least 30% post-consumer recycled content paper.
- Evaluate snow and ice road treatments to determine environmentally-preferable, efficient methods.
- Study and improve vehicle routing with GIS to reduce fuel waste.



- Install occupancy sensors on light switches in offices, conference rooms, etc.
- Purchase EnergySTAR office equipment.



- Form a county staff “Green Team” with representation from all departments, all staff levels. Meet monthly to plan staff outreach projects.



- Adopt county sustainability goals . Consider future, specific policies to advance goals (i.e. LEED building policy, environmental purchasing policy, etc.)



- Promote online county services.

# Sustainability Plan by Rank

February 2011

<b>Total points</b>	<b>Topic/project/idea</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
41	Employee Education and Communications	County Sustainability Team, Kari Wempe
25	Natural landscaping	Mike Perkins, Bill Bell, Jail, YS
22	Douglas County policy to guide sustainability efforts	Eileen Horn, Sarah Plinsky
22	Fully implement document management system	Jim Lawson, Jamie Shew, Sarah Plinsky
21	LEED certified for new public facilities construction	Jackie Waggoner, Keith Browning, Craig Weinaug
20	Deliver county services on-line and with self-service operations	Jim Lawson, Paula Gilchrist, Linda KV, Jamie Shew
18	Reduce paper use	Sustainability Team, Jackie Waggoner
17	Install OCC sensors	Bill Bell
17	Telecommuting and 4-day workweek	Kari Wempe, Sarah Plinsky, Jim Lawson
14	Use "green" office supplies	Jackie Waggoner, Sustainability Team
13	Purchase hybrid vehicles	Jackie Waggoner, Keith Browning, Eileen Horn
13	Incorporate sustainability practices into road operations	Keith Browning, Mike Perkins
13	Facilitate community acceptance of sustainability practices	Sustainability Team, Craig Weinaug
11	Use energy efficient office equipment	Jackie Waggoner, Jim Lawson
10	Purchase only recycled paper	Jackie Waggoner, Sustainability Team