



VISIONEERING  
WICHITA

**Visioneering Wichita  
Environmental Sustainability Alliance  
August 5, 2010  
Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:** Lindsey Mahoney, Mike Kniffin, Kay Johnson, Kathy Dittmer, Lorie Lawrence, Yegana Jafarova, Melisa Carpenter, Charlie Applegate, Caroline Hosford, Sharon Fearey, David Lararus, Brian Meier, Janet Miller, Michelle Stroot, Tami Bradley, Diane Longfellow

**Review Benchmarks**

Tami Bradley reviewed the Alliance's sustainability model. Everything the alliance does needs to be directed toward the vision: *A viable, natural environment*. The mission is how this is accomplished. (*To promote the sustainability of the Wichita region by facilitating collaboration and integrated solutions among individuals and organizations, and serving as a resource, catalyst and advocate for environmental, economic and social sustainability.*) All action steps must tie to one of the Visioneering key benchmarks of job growth, per capita income, racial diversity and regionalism.

<http://www.visioneeringwichita.com/minutes/environmental/Alliance%20Model.pdf>

**Breakout Work Session**

From current and previous alliance discussions the following workgroup action plans have been drafted.

**Social Environmental**

**Mission**

To provide access to resources that will promote a healthy environment for all people in South-Central Kansas, especially those in economically challenged neighborhoods.

**Benchmarks**

Transportation

- Decrease motor vehicle miles by 5% by 2015
- Increase public/non-motorized transportation by 2015

**Strategies**

- Research
- Educate, Facilitate, Motivate

**Tactics/Actions**

- Connect with Health Care and Older Adult Alliances
- Assess supply and demand of healthy food options in 4-county area (community gardens, grocery stores, etc.)
- Map transportation options
- Communicate about gaps; engage the community toward solutions
- Promote fresh, local food sources (community and home gardens)

**Projects/Grant Ideas**

- Creating community gardens – produce + native plants
- Education – locally grown

- Transportation – Farmer’s Market, bike paths, bus passes/routes
- List of restaurants – food giveaways

## **Economic Environmental**

### **Mission**

To increase the number of energy efficient buildings and homes and recruit new “green” businesses to South-Central Kansas in order to support economic development in the region.

### **Benchmarks**

#### Energy Efficiency

- Department of Energy
- Average KW hours similar or less than peer cities

#### Built Environment

- Number of LEED certified or energy efficient standards buildings by 2015
- LEED for existing buildings
- Green policies and codes

### **Strategies**

- Partnerships
- Raise public awareness
- Policies/codes

### **Tactics/Actions**

- Develop partnerships with builders about economic advantages of energy efficient structures
- Identify demonstration projects to promote as “best practices”
- Partner with GWEDC to recruit “green” businesses
- Change policies/codes in accordance with “Aging in Place” concepts
- Work with WABA about choices in home construction
- Provide education opportunities for businesses that work to promote “green” practices
- Encourage businesses to recycle, reduce waste

### **Projects/Grant Ideas**

- Retro-fitting/remodeling – Planet Re-Use reduces waste to landfill
- Habitat for Humanity
- Schools/school board
- Case studies (architectural firms)
- Cost savings and impact
- March sustainability summit
- Recycling
- Construction

## **Natural Resources**

### **Mission**

To promote policies and programs that improve air and water quality, decrease waste and contribute to a clean, renewable energy supply in order to help make the region a healthy place for people to live, work and play.

### **Benchmarks**

#### **Water Quality**

- Assure quantity/quality of water supply that meets Federal Drinking Water Criteria

#### **Air Quality**

- Keep Wichita in compliance with national air quality standards

#### **Solid Waste**

- WIRE benchmark regarding recycling

### **Strategies**

- Assess, analyze
- Educate, organize, promote
- Raise awareness

### **Tactics/Actions**

- Assess air and water standards in the region (i.e. Greenhouse gas emissions; carbon footprint)
- Promote assessment results, “tips” and other resources on [www.greenwichita.gov](http://www.greenwichita.gov)
- Promote bike racks for businesses
- Promote policy change toward recycling (Derby example)

### **Projects/Grant Ideas**

- Green Neighborhoods - community meetings, outreach to NPs/faith
- Household/Community Gardens – other groups, Home Energy (Westar)
- Septic Systems – leakage/water quality

[www.greenwichita.org](http://www.greenwichita.org)

Kay Johnson gave an overview of the greenwichita website. This website will be used by the alliance to communicate/educate the community on sustainability. Kay asked alliance members to help populate the website. Send information to Kay Johnson, [kjohnson@wichita.gov](mailto:kjohnson@wichita.gov).

### **HUD Grant Update**

Butler, Harvey, Sedgwick, Sumner and Reno Counties along with the five major cities in each of the counties are applying for the HUD grant. It will be on the Wichita City Council agenda August 17<sup>th</sup> and the Sedgwick County Commission agenda August 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Upcoming Meetings & Agenda**

**Leadership Team:** August 26, 8:30 a.m., the Chamber

**Alliance:** September 2, 3:00 p.m., the Chamber

#### **September Agenda:**

- WIRE grant update
- Sustainability Conference