Greenprint for Akron

April 2009

Our Vision:

The Greenprint for Akron sets a vision for a sustainable community that contributes to climate and environmental protection which will create opportunities for a healthier quality of life and economic growth.

A letter from the mayor

To the Citizens of Akron:

We are caretakers of our land, our water, and our environment. We must make wise choices today, so that our grandchildren and their children's children have a safe and clean city and a prosperous community.

That's why in August, 2007, I launched a new initiative to create a "Greenprint" for Akron. Just as contractors follow blueprints to build a house; our greenprint helps us plan how we will build an environmentally-friendly city in the 21st century.

We did not create a new department or add employees to prepare the extensive plan that is summarized in the document you are holding. Instead, we already had a well-established environmentally-friendly organization in place - Keep Akron Beautiful — whom I tasked with the job of spearheading Akron's effort to bring government, residents, and the private sector together to plan for the future.

How important is this task? As of today, 916 mayors from all 50 states have signed the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement which was developed during my term as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2004. I was proud to have Akron be among the first to join.

Akron has had a history of creating environmentally-friendly policies, even before it was fashionable. Fifteen years ago, Akron began curbside recycling. We developed the nation's first electric generating anaerobic digester system at our Water Pollution Control Plant. We have been recycling motor oil and asphalt for years.

This summary defines the vision for Akron's Greenprint, and the smart goals that we will strive to meet. Each goal has clear and measurable objectives. For example, I want the city to reduce our CO2 emissions from government operations as well as the community at large, by 5% by 2013, 10% by 2018, and 20% by 2025. These are aggressive goals, but Akron has been at the forefront of environmental issues and I know we can lead the way again. We will also work closely with Summit County Executive, Russ Pry and his Summit County Green Task force on joint projects to enhance the environment.

Many of our department managers have played a key role in developing this plan for the 21st century. My thanks to each of them and to Paula Davis, President and CEO of Keep Akron Beautiful.

The Greenprint is a living document, and as we learn more about climate change and our role in protecting the environment, we will fine-tune our plan for the future. I look forward to working with you in showing the nation again, how Akron is a leader in protecting the environment.

Sincerely,

Don Plusquellic, Mayor

Akron's Historical Connection with its Environment

Akron is a city driven by imagination made reality. In 1825, Akron became a city only because a few citizens imagined a canal could be cut through its steep and rolling terrain. From this birth Akron grew into a vibrant city center propelled by the continued imagination of its hardworking population and the wealth of natural resources that surrounded the hilltop city. Akron's imagination took resources from the earth and turned them into energy, products, infrastructure, and ideas that defined a region and helped sustain a country through depressions and wars. Canal City. Rubber City. Polymer City. Never before had a city grown so quickly and Akron became overwhelmed by its multiplying population. Services and infrastructure were pushed to their breaking points and the natural environment that had blessed our city with its prosperity became threatened. Changes had to be made.

In 1921, the Akron Metropolitan Park District began to acquire land for preservation and eventually grew into the Summit County Metro Parks that boasts over 9,000 acres and 4 million visitors. The City, along with Keep Akron Beautiful, contributes to the community's quality of life by maintaining 131 city park sites that comprise over 950 acres. Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDDs) have created an opportunity to correct infrastructure issues that threaten local waterways and wildlife. The City began to recognize its natural resources as a part of its identity, its responsibility, and its key to the future.

Akron has always seen a challenge as an extraordinary opportunity. Here is our next challenge: preserve and improve the Akron environment; contribute to a healthier quality of life for the Akron community; and grow the Akron economy to the betterment of both the environment and the community. What is our most promising natural resource? The people of Akron.

Creating a Sustainability Operating System

As with any plan, it is only as good as the process that develops it. It is through this process that the City learns to define goals and guidelines and, basically, how it will accomplish what it needs to do.

Since 2007 when Akron's Mayor Don Plusquellic first announced that the City would develop a sustainability plan and tapped Keep Akron Beautiful with the charge to lead the process; community members, city workers, and local sustainability experts Affinity Consultants, Inc. have been working diligently to create a strategy.

Keep Akron Beautiful and the City of Akron utilize a secured web-based intranet site for the decision-making and implementation process. The site is an internal communication tool to inspire collaboration and promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the Greenprint Plan.

Guiding Principles

Akron has chosen 7 Guiding Principles that will assist the City with moving towards sustainability. The next step will be for the Task Force to determine City policies that will support the Guiding Principles and provide opportunities to implement a strategic Greenprint path.

Guiding Principle One: Akron will reduce its climate change impact.

The City of Akron has established a baseline indicator of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, a human driven factor that effects climate change. In 2008, two City of Akron Engineers were trained in how to gather the necessary governmental and community data and input it into the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection software to establish a baseline year for the City and the community's GHG emissions. The year 2005 was selected as the baseline year for the GHG ICLEI survey because that was the year that provided the best available data. The engineers collated the data received from the sources and input the data into the ICLEI software program to generate the report.

Paula Davis, President and CEO of Keep Akron Beautiful, and Director of the Greenprint Plan has captured actions the City of Akron has already implemented. Key successes will be quantified and, along with other community factors, input into the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection software to offer an estimated projection of emission reductions since 2005. Estimating GHG reductions of selected actions in the Plan will assist the City in understanding the implications of current policy and assist in reaching adopted GHG reduction targets. During this draft process, the City committed to a three-step targeted reduction of the City of Akron's GHG levels from the 2005 baseline. The reductions are 5% by 2013, 10% by 2018, and achieve a 20% reduction by 2025.

Guiding Principle Two: Akron will implement efficient waste management and waste reduction.

Reducing and reusing waste, and to some degree recycling, would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to global warming, and impact climate change. Additionally, waste reduction conserves raw materials and reduces the air and water pollution associated with the extraction, collection, and processing of raw materials.

The City of Akron will capture the quantitative affect of its current household curbside recycling initiative and success stories. These results will indicate the disposal trend and provide an opportunity for future initiatives.

Guiding Principle Three: Akron will promote environmental literacy.

The City will take environmental literacy a step further in engaging the community. This engagement will also be a tool in the decision-making process/guiding principle matrix. The engagement will include interviews and surveys of Akron residents and Akron-area businesses. These interviews and surveys will gauge perceptions of and receptiveness to proposed Greenprint ideas and processes among both residents and the business community in order to aid in plan prioritization. This will allow City officials to learn what the community's response will be to certain Greenprint programs and which programs the community emotionally connects with and believes will better their quality of life.

Guiding Principle Four: Akron will institute an environmentally, socially, and economically responsible purchasing program.

The ability to extend Akron's positive impact beyond City boundaries is assisted by this guiding principle. Furthermore, reviewing purchasing processes and understanding the benefits of responsible purchasing can open new networks and partnerships for the City. Existing purchasing partners can be encouraged to develop new policy that promotes corporate industry changes. Additionally, fresh innovative partnerships can create opportunities for new resources for the City by generating strengthened relationships with regulatory agencies, the media, and the sustainable business innovators.

Guiding Principle Five: Akron will seek outside funding sources and maintain fiscal prudence.

The role of city government is to provide basic municipal services at the lowest cost possible. Akron's goal is to maintain this same role while cohesively implementing sustainable actions. However, as an example, existing antiquated service rate structures might not comply with this concept and will need to be reviewed. Therefore, solutions must go beyond the norm and creatively find the funding to maintain basic services. The City government must be very careful to identify between basic necessary services, short-term solutions, and the long-term vision of sustainability. Not everything that provides an immediate cost benefit or avoids a negative fiscal impact is a long-term benefit to the community.

Opportunities in outside funding sources, including state and federal earmarked funds, will be actively researched and sought. This will encourage accountability, discipline, commitment, and completion of projects. Fiscal transparency and funding projects that are encouraged by community research will additionally provide a strong backbone to this guiding principle.

Guiding Principle Six: Akron will promote and seek the development of green jobs.

The Environmental Business Journal notes that, in the United States in 2005, the green industry was worth about $265 billion and employed 1.6 million people in an estimated 118,000 jobs. It is estimated to be growing at a rate of approximately 5% annually.

Akron has always been on the cusp of innovation with its history in the rubber industry and its current polymer industry and biomedical corridor. The development of the City's Greenprint Plan provides opportunity for the promotion of the City as a green-friendly environment for new green industries. The movement of green industries into the area through the Akron Global Business Accelerator will provide job creation and retain green job seekers that would otherwise go elsewhere for opportunities. The influx of new green technological industry will also create competition and ingenuity among existing local industries.

Local green jobs would help to revitalize the City's strong middle class, provide pathways out of poverty, encourage new skills (and some new thinking about old skills), and strengthen the community, besides protecting the health of the planet.

Guiding Principle Seven: Akron will encourage the concept of new urbanism and regional smart growth.

New urbanism falls in line with City goals on many levels. This engagement can retain residents, create community connections, develop a stronger tax base, and encourage infill housing and job development – all leading to an economically sustainable City. It offers opportunities in cross-collaboration, with stakeholders and the community, to resolve development issues, create planning and investment guidelines, gain support leading to innovative strategies, and ultimately define a strengthened cultural identity for the City.

Furthermore, a city that incorporates these changes has an opportunity to better public health. A 2006 study prepared for the US Green Building Council (USGBC), Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the participants in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) Core Committee focused on understanding the impact the built environment and development changes has on public health. These improvements include links between air quality from vehicle emissions and respiratory and cardiovascular health, roadway designs that can decrease traffic accidents, walking and biking paths and increased public transit use that can lead to improved physical fitness, and how these changes can create healthy social networks for the community.

Additionally, appealing to quality of life standards and creating a city center where people choose to live and companies choose to invest is one of the most effective ways to achieve environmental sustainability by reducing land consumption and the greenhouse gases produced by extraneous transit.

Greenprint Akron:
A sustainability plan for the City of Akron

Greenprint Mission:

Greenprint Akron creates an environmental partnership to foster a sustainable, eco-friendly community through education and leadership.

Greenprint Vision

Greenprint Akron sets a vision for a sustainable community that contributes to climate and environmental protection which will create opportunities for a healthier quality of life and economic growth.

Cities for Climate Change Campaign

ICLEI – Local governments for sustainability

Milestone 1

Conduct a local inventory and forecast of greenhouse gas emissions.

Milestone 2

Adopt an emissions reduction target.

Milestone 3

Draft an action plan to achieve target.

Milestone 4

Implement an action plan.

Milestone 5

Evaluate report on progress and update plans.

Greenprint Guiding Principles

1. Akron will reduce its climate change impact.
2. Akron will implement efficient waste management and waste reduction.
3. Akron will promote environmental literacy.
4. Akron will institute an environmentally, socially, and economically responsible purchasing program.
5. Akron will seek outside funding sources and maintain fiscal prudence.
6. Akron will promote and seek the development of green jobs.
7. Akron will encourage the concept of new urbanism and regional start growth.

Eight Smart Areas	Smart Area Goals
Smart Energy & Emissions Energy Efficiency, Alternative Energy, Green Rooftops, Green Building, EnergyStar, Advocating for Energy Audits	1. Reduce the total amount of electricity and fuel used in City own 2. Research and pilot alternative sources of energy for City serv 3. Promote green building practices through the combined Buil 4. Strive to create a sustainable culture within the City that enc energy efficiently. 5. Develop or support programs in the community that assists res save money through energy efficiency. Improve air quality by st
Smart Water & Wastewater Management Water Quality & Conservation, Improving Water & Wastewater Systems, Methane Recovery, Waste Sludge to Energy, Storm Water Pollution Prevention	1. Promote water conservation in Akron. 2. Establish programs and policies that improve water quality. 3. Continue the production and development of alternative energy at the Waste Water Treatment facilities. 4. Strive for energy conservation within the Akron Public Utilities Bureau.
Smart Materials & Solid Waste Management Environmental Purchasing, Curbside Recycling, Reducing Consumption of Natural Resources, Preventing Non-point Source Pollution	1. Strive to recycle more of Akron's municipal solid waste stream. 2. Develop sustainable procurement practices, policies and procedures. 3. Limit non-point source pollution from Akron's roads and highways.
Smart Transit Mass/Rapid Transit, Walkable Urban Neighborhoods, Bicycle Plan & Towpath Trails, Carpooling, Conversion of Municipal Fleets, Efficient Traffic Control	1. Manage City transportation fleet in a manner that limits energy usage. 2. Maintain an efficient transportation network. 3. Align transportation plans and land use decisions to limit travel miles.
Smart Development Neighborhood Revitalization, Brownfield Recapture, Reducing Urban Sprawl, Land Banking, Adaptive Reuse, Historical Preservation	1. Encourage neighborhood revitalization. 2. Modify building regulations and standards. 3. Continue land reutilization. 4. Align land development standards. 5. Curb urban sprawl.
Smart Conservation of Natural Resources Urban Forestry, Preserving Streams & Watershed, Maintaining and Expanding Open Spaces, Maintaining Municipal Park System	1. Preserve and improve the Urban Forest. 2. Preserve and conserve wetlands, and natural areas. 3. Preserve and improve water and air quality. 4. Conserve public green space.
Smart Community Education and Promotion of Progress Educating Youth on Sustainable Practices, Greenprint Implementation and Tracking, Clearinghouse for Climate Change, Community Engagement, Promotion of School Recycling, Employee Training & Incentives, Commercial/Industrial Support	1. Educate the government and community about strategies for reducing global warming and conserving natural resources. 2. Introduce a Greenprint Plan for Akron. 3. Promote progress towards the Greenprint for Akron goals and track targeted greenhouse gas reductions.
Smart Green Jobs Green Job Recruitment, Promotion of the Greentech Incubator, Providing Green Skills Training Locally	1. Increase the number of green jobs in Akron.

	Ideas That Are Working	New Initiatives	Green Economic Stimulus Proposals
ed buildings and facilities, using the 2005 baseline year data. ices. ding Department. courages employees to conserve resources and work more sidents, industry and companies to reduce their emissions and triving to meet mandated level of particulates.	LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) buildings in Akron, Ohio: Akron Zoo Komodo Kingdom, Metro Parks Ranger Station/ Seiberling NatureRealm, WAC FirstEnergy, METRO RTA Intermodal Transit Facility, STEM National Inventors Hall of Fame Middle School. Complete retrofit of parking deck lights to LED (Light Emitting Diodes) at Akron Centre Super Block.	EnergyStar Portfolio Manager to track improvements in energy use from the ICLEI 2005 baseline survey. Reviewed and re-issued Service Department Anti-Idling Policy. Required LEED certification for a new office park to be built on White Pond Drive through the Job Ready Site state program.	Install green rooftops at the Landmark Building and the Cascade Parking Deck, which would be Cascade Plaza. LED lighting replacements: complete all traffic signals citywide, retrofit all city parking decks, yard lights, street lights and city owned lights.
	Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDDs) enable the city to reinvest funds into water and sanitary sewer projects in township service areas-eliminating aging septic systems. Constructed Rack 40 (Cuyahoga Street) Storage Basin to capture up to 10 million gallons of combined sewer overflow during major rain events.	Convert the remaining two-thirds of the Akron Compost Facility over to the Anaerobic Digestion System producing electricity for the grid. Rain barrel and rain garden clinics for installation and maintenance at homes. Host a pharmaceuticals collection event. Provide home tests for leaking toilets, promote water waste tips.	Combined sewer overflow separation projects, storage, and addition treatment. Build the Ohio Canal Tunnel. Sanitary sewers reconstruction and rehabilitation. Water main replacements and substation equipment replacements.
	Automated curbside recycling with Smart Carts since 2007 increasing household participation to 57%. Hot in Place asphalt recycling machines reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 55%. City curbside recycling program expanded to accept all plastics, #1-7 resins.	Provide recycling receptacles at public venues, parks, Community Learning Centers and Derby Downs. Sponsor in-house procurement fairs that educate department managers about eco-friendly alternatives. Reduce harmful applications of salt on roadways by using brine solutions, geo melt and calcium chloride.	Purchase a waste oil burning furnace for Motor Equipment. Install solar panels for electricity at the Municipal Center on Triplett Boulevard. Pilot the use of a wind turbine at the Municipal Center to reduce electrical costs. Build a new trash/recycling Transfer Station that would obscure the transfer of trash from residents and be built to LEED certification.
	Installed 3,200 red LED bulbs in traffic signals. Service Department re-issued their Anti-Idling Policy for enforcement. Construction continues on the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath for bikers and hikers through downtown Akron with the bridge link from Beech Street.	Last link on the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath will be from Wilbeth Road to Waterloo in South Akron as the towpath stretches from Cleveland to Zoar. Bike Aboard! Program of the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic railroad brings park visitors into the Northside Train Station. Akron Police Department has two Bike Units.	Build a CNG fueling station. Purchase replacement equipment for 3 1 ton chassis that are CNG capable. Replace city fleet cars with extended range electric, plug-in hybrid, battery electric B.E.V. hybrid. Build the necessary electrical outlet infrastructure. Purchase 4 plug-in alternative fuel trucks and three hybrid mowers for Public Works.
	City has received over $12 million in Clean Ohio Fund and US EPA grants since 2003 for Brownfield cleanups. Sustainable development initiatives have resulted in Northside condos, Spicer Village Townhomes, and 2 Akron Metropolitan Housing Hope VI grant projects. Historic preservation is important adaptive reuse of buildings downtown like the O'Neil's building, the Troppe Historic District, and the Quaker Square hotel to university housing.	Encourage new in-fill housing in existing neighborhoods. Continue concentrated neighborhood rehabilitation and waiver demolition programs. Establish energy efficiency standards for housing projects that include city investment. Create a Brownfield inventory program. Promote use of land banking to assemble vacant land for redevelopment.	Seiberling environmental cleanup for $40 million mixed-use conference center, adjacent to new Goodyear Corporate Headquarters, to retain and grow local jobs. Acquisition, assembly and preparation of property for Wilbeth and Main neighborhood/ business development around new $84 million Bridgestone International Tech Center. Preparing the 23 acres of urban industrial park land with extension of utilities and grading for former Brown-Graves site.
	Forest to Furnishings recycles remnants of the Urban Forest into architectural moldings and hardwood flooring. Flowerscapes in downtown Akron have provided 28 years of professional public land beautification. Lock 3 Farmers' Markets are attracting large crowds downtown-winter and summer.	The city is in the process of inventorying the urban canopy using the I-Tree software. The city is completing the landscape plan for the new policy of no-mowing on the expressways. City of Akron has a representative on the NE Ohio Food Congress and has since started a pilot community gardening program. Map and conserve the wetlands and flood plains.	Bath Road erosion control project. Provide green landscaping for Lock 1, Lock 2 and Lock 3 along towpath. Demolish Rubber Bowl and restore green space near Akron Fulton Airport. Haley's Ditch restoration and cleanup.
	Awarded a 2009 OEEF $50,000 grant to train 6th grade Akron Public Schools science teachers in the Ohio Energy Projects energy efficiency curriculum. Taught 7 lessons and sent energy efficiency kits home to 1,700 families. Created a Green Ribbon Panel of City Managers for environmental literacy. Joined ICLEI and worked through 3 milestones.	Create a city model of energy efficiency by retro-fitting Municipal Hall. Sponsor an awards programs for individuals, organizations and businesses based on green technology and energy efficiency. Partner with Summit County on projects that will create more green jobs, clean the air and move the region towards alternative energy. Conduct the ICLEI greenhouse gas survey every five years.	Fund the continuation of the piloted OEEF Be E3 Smart energy efficiency curriculum in all sixth grade classrooms-public, private and charter, each spring semester for 3 years. Includes pre and post home audits in over 2,000 homes, aided by take home kits with devices that will save energy and water.
	Green jobs have supported all of the LEED green construction projects in Akron. The Akron Global Business Accelerator is on the cutting edge as a green technology incubator for companies in the early stages of advanced/ renewable energy processes and cleantech companies.	Work with Economic Development to seek out alternative fuel, energy efficiency and recycling companies to launch in Akron by creating a incubator space. Work with area universities and trade schools to ensure the proper training for energy efficiency improvements is available. Promote the successes of clean technology companies residing in the Akron Global Business Accelerator.	Creation of a LEED certified Biomedical Incubator, within the designated corridor, to house start-up biomedical companies. Restore and build out 655 S. Broadway as an expansion of the Akron Global Business Accelerator.

Smart Action Areas

Smart Energy & Emissions

Goal 1: Reduce the total amount of electricity and fuel used in City owned buildings and facilities, using the 2005 baseline year data.

Goal 2: Research and pilot alternative sources of energy for City services.

Goal 3: Promote green building practices through the combined Building Department.

Goal 4: Strive to create a sustainable culture within the City that encourages employees to conserve resources and work more energy efficiently.

Goal 5: Develop or support programs in the community that assists residents, industry and companies to reduce their emissions and save money through energy efficiency. Improve air quality by striving to meet mandated level of particulates.

Objectives:

1. Reduce energy use in City facilities.
2. Pilot alternative sources of energy.
3. Promote green building through new city/county department.
4. Incorporate resource conservation into City culture.
5. Develop community programs that help meet emission reduction goals, improving air quality.

Smart Water & Wastewater Management

Goal 1: Promote water conservation in Akron.

Goal 2: Establish programs and policies that improve water quality.

Goal 3: Continue the production and development of alternative energy at the Waste Water Treatment facilities.

Goal 4: Strive for energy conservation within the Akron Public Utilities Bureau.

Objectives:

1. Provide public information.
2. Encourage public participation.
3. Direct capital investment to meet goals.
4. Incorporate alternative energy uses.

Smart Materials & Solid Waste Management

Goal 1: Strive to recycle more of Akron's municipal solid waste stream.

Goal 2: Develop sustainable procurement practices, policies and procedures.

Goal 3: Limit non-point source pollution from Akron's roads and highways.

Objectives:

1. Expand the City's residential curbside recycling program by increasing weekly participation and the volume of recyclables collected.
2. Manage and measure a workplace recycling program in City of Akron office buildings.
3. Work towards a zero landfill policy of waste generated through the Public Works Department.
4. Provide expanded opportunities for the citizens of Akron to recycle.
5. Work with large institutions in the community to increase or improve system-wide recycling programs.
6. Continue to identify green, biodegradable cleaning and custodial products for use by Building Maintenance Department (BMD) that effectively handle cleaning needs.
7. Continue to identify the least hazardous products for use by the Motor Equipment Division.
8. Concentrate on educating City department heads about green alternatives when requesting purchases.
9. Examine Purchasing Department specifications to include earth-friendly options in the bid process.
10. Reduce harmful applications of road salt.

Smart Transit

Goal 1: Manage City transportation fleet in a manner that limits energy usage.

Goal 2: Maintain an efficient transportation network.

Goal 3: Align transportation plans and land use decisions to limit travel miles.

Objectives:

1. Improve fuel efficiency among vehicle types.
2. Expand use of alternative fuels as appropriate.
3. Establish fleet operating procedures that reduce energy consumption.
4. Reduce employee vehicle energy use.
5. Assure that City right-of-way is in good condition.
6. Support multi-modal transportation options throughout the City.
7. Develop a Community Bicycle Plan.
8. Expand access to transport vehicles.
9. Use energy efficient traffic control devices
10. Encourage street connectivity.
11. Encourage compact, mixed use development along arterial streets.
12. Support distribution of necessary goods and services within reasonable access by residents.
13. Emphasize road maintenance over road extension.

Smart Transit Objectives Continued...

14. Adjust off-street parking development standards.
15. Adjust on-street and off-street public parking fees to reflect market conditions.
16. Support access to buildings for all users regardless of physical abilities.

Smart Development

Goal 1: Encourage neighborhood revitalization.
Goal 2: Modify building regulations and standards.
Goal 3: Continue land reutilization.
Goal 4: Align land development standards.
Goal 5: Curb urban sprawl.

Objectives:

1. Preserve existing neighborhoods.
2. Create new housing in neighborhoods.
3. Improve permitting process.
4. Make building standards sustainable.
5. Educate stakeholder groups about green building.
6. Recapture Brownfields for reuse.
7. Promote land banking and infill development.
8. Establish energy standards for City assistance projects.
9. Promote efficient zoning and land use standards.
10. Improved parking and development standards.
11. Examine Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDD) policies.
12. Realign transportation policy.

Smart Conservation of Natural Resources

Goal 1: Preserve and improve the Urban Forest.
Goal 2: Preserve and conserve wetlands, and natural areas.
Goal 3: Preserve and improve water and air quality.
Goal 4: Conserve public green space.

Objectives:

1. Inform the public of the many benefits of trees and how they enhance the community's quality of life.
2. Adopt additional end uses for urban timber to stimulate the arts, employment, and economic opportunities.
3. Become a national leader in the area of Urban Forestry.
4. Suppress/slow urban sprawl.
5. Promote local food production on vacant City property where conditions are conducive.
6. Conserve wetlands and maintain flood plains.
7. Conserve soil from wind and water erosion.
8. Minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides.
9. Promote air filtration and oxygenation.
10. Promote a riparian corridor protection ordinance for future implementation by the City of Akron.
11. Preserve public land.
12. Conserve expressway berms, slopes, and infields.

Smart Community Education and Promotion of Progress

Goal 1: Educate the government and community about strategies for reducing global warming and conserving natural resources.
Goal 2: Introduce a Greenprint Plan for Akron.
Goal 3: Promote progress towards the Greenprint for Akron goals and track targeted greenhouse gas reductions.

Objectives:

1. City becomes a model and acts as a catalyst for professional associations, businesses and industry to reduce global warming and conserve natural resources.
2. Educate City of Akron employees and other jurisdictions about reducing global warming pollution and conserving natural resources.
3. Reach Akron's youth about the importance of reducing global warming pollution.
4. Providing opportunities for the community to become involved in reaching The Greenprint for Akron goals.
5. Utilize ehsOnline internally to plan and share Greenprint Plan components.
6. Continue to coordinate Green Ribbon Panel/Greenprint Plan.

Smart Green Jobs

Goal 1: Increase the number of green jobs in Akron.

Objectives:

1. Increase jobs in green construction.
2. Increase jobs in alternative fuels.
3. Increase jobs in energy efficient products.
4. Increase jobs in recycling and waste management.

Greenprint Team Structure

Greenprint is a collaborative effort and requires a team structure. The team consists of the City Service Director, Keep Akron Beautiful, and 8 Smart Action Areas whose Key Point Persons also comprise a Task Force.

The Task Force comprised of the Key Point Persons of each action area, holds the purpose of creating City policies to support the guiding principles and developing a quantifiable decision-making matrix for evaluating action items associated with each guiding principle.

The Smart Action Areas hold the responsibility of brainstorming, and once approved, implementing action items and strategies that support the City's guiding principles, policies, mission, and vision.

The City Service Director reviews and approves the recommended action items from the Task Force.

Keep Akron Beautiful facilitates the review process and captures quantifiable results for a City report card.

Environmental Awareness & Education

Saving taxpayer dollars

Improving Air Quality & Public Health

Increase the Quality of Life

Build Local Economy – Create Jobs

Investment in Long-Term Livability

Inspire Community Engagement

Keep Akron Beautiful /Greenprint for Akron

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Our Mission:

The Greenprint for Akron creates an environmental partnership to foster a sustainable, eco-friendly community through education and leadership.

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