Dubuque's Sustainability Plan



Vision Statement

Dubuque is a viable, livable, and equitable community. We embrace economic prosperity, social/cultural vibrancy and environmental integrity to create a sustainable legacy for generations to come.



Dubuque's 11 Sustainable Principles

These principles guide government, business, non-profit, and individual actions in Dubuque. Community planning documents including the Comprehensive Plan, Long-Range Transportation Plan, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and many others are guided by this sustainability framework.

Social/Cultural Vibrancy



Green Buildings: Dubuque is a community that values a productive and healthy built environment.

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Healthy Local Food: Dubuque is a community that values the benefits of wholesome food from local producers, distributors, farms, gardens and hunters.

Community Knowledge: Dubuque is a community that values education, empowerment and engagement to achieve economic prosperity, environmental integrity and social/cultural vibrancy.



Reasonable Mobility: Dubuque is a community that values safe, reasonable and equitable choices to access live, work and play opportunities.

Environmental Integrity



Healthy Air: Dubuque is a community that values fresh air, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and minimized health risks.



Clean Water: Dubuque is a community that values water as a source of life and seeks to preserve and manage it in all forms.



Native Plants & Animals: Dubuque is a community that values biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and connection of nature and people.

Economic Prosperity



Regional Economy: Dubuque is a community that values a diversified regional economy with opportunities for new and green markets, jobs, products and services.



Smart Energy Use: Dubuque is a community that values energy conservation and expanded use of renewable energy as a means to save money and protect the environment.



Smart Resource Use: Dubuque is a community that values the benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling resources.



Community Design: Dubuque is a community that values the built environment of the past, present and future which contributes to its identity, heritage and sense of place.



In 2006, Mayor Roy D. Buol signed on to the U. S. Conference of Mayors Climate Action Agreement in support of the Kyoto Protocol to Reduce Global Warming. Each year since, the Mayor and City Council have identified being designated a Sustainable City as one of their top priorities for our community.

The Dubuque Community is Achieving its Sustainability Vision

While this list grows daily, below are a sampling of Dubuque's Sustainability successes

Social/Cultural Vibrancy

- Implementing Historic Millwork District Revitalization
- 11 certified public & private Green Vision Schools
- Free Ride for students on Keyline Bus system
- Collaboration to achieve downtown WiFi
- Proudly Accessible Dubuque, a community partnership
- Revitalizing Port of Dubuque through America's River Phases I & II
- Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque expanded Youth Area Philanthropists (YAPPERS) organization

Environmental Integrity

- Incorporating complete streets concepts into East-West Corridor Study
- Green Dubuque lobbies for local and state policy and establishes social networks
- Historic Preservation Commission & Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission guide City policy
- Conducting Landfill Methane reduction study
- Community using greenhouse gas inventory to set targets for emission reductions

Economic Prosperity

- First City in Iowa to create Office of Sustainability and hire Sustainability Coordinator
- Five Farmers' Markets, including one year-round organization
- Created Dubuque 2.0, an initiative to Inspire Sustainability
- Named First Smarter Sustainable City in North America
- Petal Project, a green business certification program, promotes local buyer-supplier networks
- Implementing Project HOPE (Helping Our People Excel)
 - THE CITY OF DUBUQUE Masterpiece on the Mississippi

- City implemented Intercultural Competency Initiative
- Multicultural Family Center expansion
- Implementing Bilingual bike/hike trail signage
- Every ChildlEvery Promise, a community-wide partnership
- Partnered with Crescent Community Health Center
- Created National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium Environmental Education Program
- Installation of LED traffic and street lights
- Implementing green roofs on municipal building renovations
- City adopted hybrid and flex fuel vehicle fleet policies
- Sponsored community garden partnership with Dubuque Rescue Mission
- Developed Dubuque Community School District Garden Organic Program
- Implemented Zero-Waste Special Events program
- Area college campuses formed Dubuque Area Campus Sustainability Network
- Hosts Annual Growing Sustainable Communities Conference
- Conducted Green Asset Mapping
- Founded Sustainability Business Innovation Consortium
- Implemented Curbside Food Scrap recycling, one of 100 in nation and only one in Iowa

www.cityofdubuque.org