



CITY OF DUNWOODY

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Kimberly Greer, Assistant to the City Manager

Date: January 19, 2010

Subject: **Sustainability Commission – 2009 Year in Review**

In December 2008, Mayor and Council created the Sustainability Commission to promote sustainability initiatives in the City of Dunwoody. Since their creation, the Sustainability Commission has been working diligently to pursue the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Community Certification.

This voluntary certification program recognizes and promotes local governments that are leading the way to sustainability by reducing their environmental footprint. Certification is achieved by adopting policies and ordinances to affect both the actions of the City and the community. In 2009, the Sustainability Commission focused on measures that affect the City of Dunwoody's policies, ordinances, and actions. From the No Idling Policy to eliminate unnecessary idling to the Purchasing Policy promoting recycled paper purchasing, Dunwoody is promoting sustainable actions.

The 2009 Year in Review – progress towards Green Community Certification highlights our progress. Although the certification is not yet attained, through the Sustainability Commission's research and Mayor and Council's adoption of policies and ordinances, we have documented 105 points of the 175 needed to reach Bronze, the first level of certification. Our goal is to apply for Bronze certification this year and then continue towards Silver certification.

The Green Community Certification will have many benefits for the City of Dunwoody. Green Community certification fosters civic pride, creates a positive image of a place to live or conduct business, sets example for businesses and organizations, and leads to greater quality of life.

The Sustainability Commission appreciates the support it has received thus far from the Mayor and Council. Many of measures they will be researching and addressing in 2010 will require community involvement and input. The Sustainability Commission will need your help to raise awareness and get people involved. We believe that together with your help, 2010 will be the year to attain Green Community Certification.

Dunwoody Sustainability Commission

Year in Review:
progress towards



certification



Dunwoody Sustainability Commission

- Resolution 2008-12-31 established the Sustainability Commission to promote sustainability initiatives in the City of Dunwoody
- The Sustainability Commission has been pursuing ARC's Green Communities certification



ARC Green Communities Program

- Voluntary certification program to recognize and promote local governments that are leading the way to sustainability by reducing their environmental footprint.
- Achieve certification by adopting policies and ordinances to affect the actions of both the City and the community.
- In 2009, Green Communities Certification was attained by Alpharetta, Atlanta, Decatur, DeKalb, Douglas, Fairburn, Roswell, and Suwanee.



Green Communities are Leaders

Green Community certification:

- Fosters civic pride
- Creates a positive image of a place to live or conduct business
- Sets an example for businesses and organizations seeking to reduce their environmental impact
- Leads to greater quality of life



Dunwoody's Pursuit of Certification

- 175 points needed for bronze level certification
 - Ten categories
 - 61 measures
 - Divided into “government” “community” measures
 - Each worth 5 or 10 points
 - 2009 focused on “government” measures



Certification Manual

October 2008

Prepared by
Atlanta Regional Commission
Environmental Planning Division

Dunwoody adopts Sustainable Policies

- Dunwoody “Lights Off/Power Down” Policy - Energy Efficiency Category - (5 points!)
- Encourages all City Hall employees turn off their lights and power down their computers at the end of each day

Lights Off / Power Down Policy

Sustainability Commission

In December, Mayor and Council checked the Sustainability Commission to provide resources that encourage Dunwoody to work towards reducing the environmental footprint of the government through its policies, practices, buildings, and fleets. The Sustainability Commission has been working with staff to research and pursue measures to attain the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities certification program.

Find out more

To find out more about the Sustainability Commission and the other measures which they are researching and presenting to Mayor and Council, please visit their website:
www.dunwoodyga.gov/sustainability



ConservativeABILITY

Dunwoody City Hall

This policy reinforces the City's commitment to environmental, economic, and social stewardship. By incorporating environmental considerations into public use of resources, the City of Dunwoody will positively impact human health and the environment and improve the environmental quality of the region.

Lights Off / Power Down Policy for Dunwoody

At the end of the day, powering down your computer and turning off lights and other electronic equipment are simple steps that can make a big difference in terms of energy efficiency.

On May 26, 2009 Mayor and Council enacted a Lights Off / Power Down Policy for all current and future Dunwoody City facilities including City Hall. The official policy is attached. After you read the policy, if you have any questions, please contact the Community Development Department.

You can help

- Make sure the lights are turned off in your office, conference room, or workroom when the space is not being used.
- At the end of each day, power down your computers, printers, monitors, copiers, and miscellaneous office equipment.
- Unplug seldom used equipment such as paper shredders, pencil sharpeners, electric staplers, punch machines, and televisions—plug them in when you are ready to use them or use switch controlled power strips and leave the strips off until ready to use.
- Also, make use of natural light if work areas are located on the perimeter of a building with windows.

"We Have the Ability to Create a More Sustainable City!"



Dunwoody adopts Sustainable Policies

- Dunwoody Purchasing Policies – addresses four categories five measures – **(35 points!)**
 - Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (10 pts)
 - Recycled Paper Purchasing (5 pts)
 - Green Fleet Policy (10 pts)
 - Energy Star Purchase Policy (5 pts)
 - High Efficiency Plumbing Fixtures (5 pts)



Dunwoody promotes Sustainable Actions

- Dunwoody Actions :
 - Installing LED lamps in traffic lights (**5 pts!**)
 - Supporting Community Garden and Farmers Markets (**5 pts!**)
 - Supporting “Safe Routes to School” program (**5 pts!**)
 - Offering curbside Recycling (**5 pts!**)
 - Collecting Organics/Yard Debris (**5 pts!**)



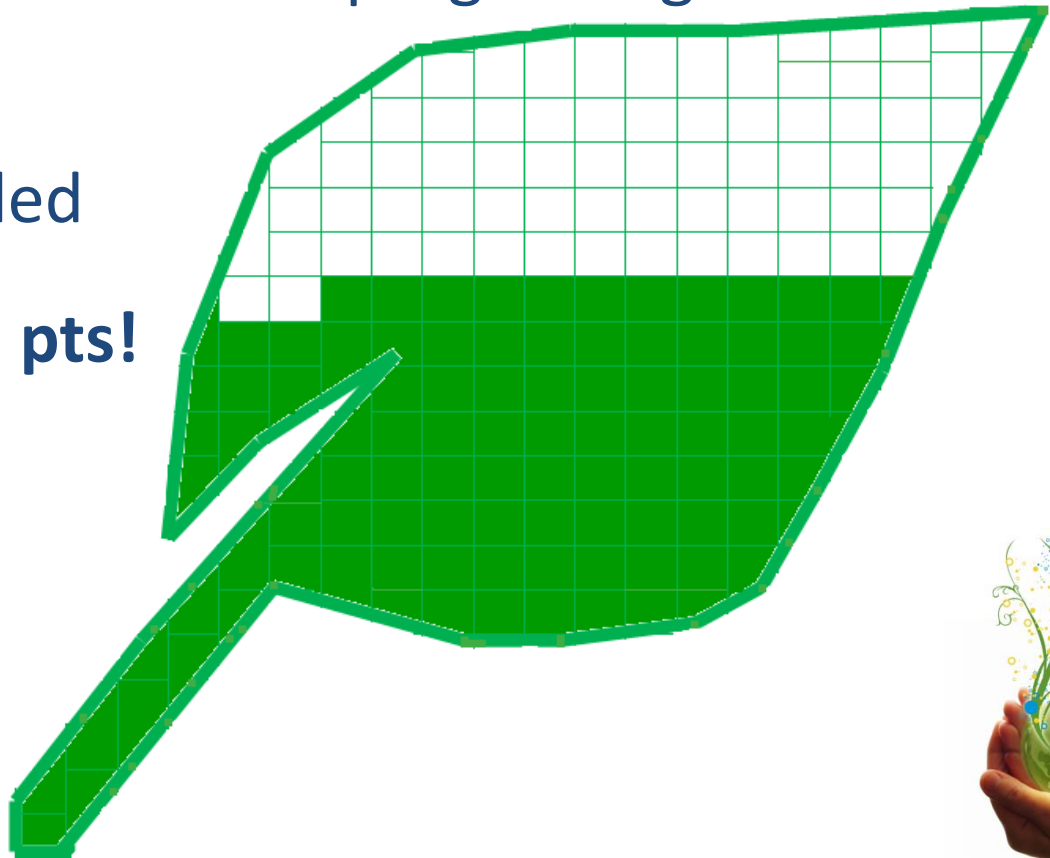
Dunwoody Sustainability in Action



2009 Progress Towards Certification

By adopting policies, ordinances, and promoting sustainable actions we are progressing towards certification.

- 175 pts needed
- Attained **105 pts!**



2010 – Plan for Action

- Researching Policies and Actions, including:
 - Outdoor Light Efficiency (Community)
 - *Eliminating excessive and misdirected light*
 - Complete Streets (Community)
 - *Planning our streets to include bike and pedestrian use*
 - Greenspace Plan (Community)
 - *Creating a plan for future parks, trails, and open space*
 - Nontraditional Recycling Program (Government)
 - *Establish a program for recycling batteries, ink toner...*



Sustainability Commission Needs Your Help!

- Many of the 2010 measures will require community involvement and input
- We need your help to raise awareness and get people involved
- To help understand why we're asking for help,
- We asked the Sustainability Commission

Why are you helping create a more sustainable City?



Because our new city has the freedom to explore many possibilities and we need to protect and conserve our resources for ourselves and our children.

--Bobbi Sedam



I'm involved to help create positive influences for our children, our health, our natural resources, our neighborhoods, and the quality of our local lifestyles.

--Connie Morelle



Because my idea of
“hometown” is walking
and bike-riding safely in
Dunwoody while visiting
friends, shopping, working
and playing.

--Lisa Macy

To identify policies for
smart growth, while
fiercely protecting our
natural resources. To
significantly enhance our
quality of life and
strengthen our property
values.

--Paul Lowry

The PCIDs share a
sustainable communities
philosophy with
Dunwoody and we are
continuing to evolve
Perimeter as even more
sustainably-sensitive.

--Yvonne Williams



Because my kids
are watching. And
because this makes
sense.

--Pattie Baker

When I was a child,
“outside” was my world.
I am doing what I can so
future generations will
have the same “outside”
world that I had.

--Debbie Smith

Why not? Why wouldn't I
help plan for the near and
distant future to make our
city a better place to
live? If I can facilitate a
change which will improve
our city, I will do it.

--Stacey Harris.



I want to help create a community where children can walk safely to school, where riding a bike is a viable alternative to driving a car and where we can all breathe cleaner air, today and tomorrow.

--Tom Lambert

We have been loaned this earth by our children. Nothing else matters if we can't take care of it for them. I don't want to sit this one out—I want to do something.

--Ashley Doolittle

When I have the ability to make a difference, I have a responsibility to do so.

--John Heneghan



Dunwoody Sustainability Commission believes together with your help

2010 will be the
year to attain



certification

