

Salt Lake City Sustainability – March 2009

Preparing a Sustainable City Development Code

What is Sustainability?

Sustainability consists in an affirmative and organized effort to improve quality of life for present and future citizens, while living within the social, economic, and environmental means of the community. As articulated by the Brundtland Commission in 1987: *Sustainable communities meet the needs of the present, while ensuring that future generations have the same or better opportunities.*

What is the SLC Sustainability Code Development Project?

Salt Lake City, under the direction of Mayor Ralph Becker and the City Council, has undertaken an effort to incorporate sustainability provisions into Salt Lake City's zoning and subdivision ordinances. The city retained a consulting team to assist in the sustainability code work. The team is led by Colorado-based Clarion Associates, and also employs the local expertise of Bear West Company and Fehr & Peers.

The project is being conducted in three phases. During the first phase, sustainability goals, policies, and initiatives in key areas were identified. This was accomplished through a comprehensive review of current plans and documents, as well as conducting interviews with community leaders in various sustainability fields. An inventory summarizing goals in the following 10 key areas has been prepared and is available for review:

1. Climate Change and Air Pollution
2. Water Quality and Conservation
3. Alternative Energy Production and Conservation
4. Mobility and Transportation
5. Urban Forestry
6. Housing Accessibility and Diversity
7. Community Health and Safety
8. Food Production and Nutrition
9. Recycling, Re-use, and Waste Reduction
10. Open Space, Parks, and Trails

We are now nearing the conclusion of the second phase of study, during which the city's sustainability goals and policies have been compared with the current zoning and subdivision ordinances to identify gaps, weaknesses, and opportunities. Results have been summarized in a written diagnosis that is ready for presentation to the Mayor, City Council, and the general public, to seek final direction regarding appropriate code revisions. When the diagnosis is done, the third phase will begin. During the third phase, targeted zoning and subdivision ordinance revisions will be developed to integrate appropriate sustainability concepts and provisions. This final phase will be completed in the next few months.

How Can I Participate?

A public meeting has been scheduled from 5:30-7:30 pm on Thursday, March 12, 2009. The meeting will be at Meeting Room B in the lower level of the Main Library at 210 East 400 South in Salt Lake City, Utah. All comments and suggestions regarding this project are welcome and may be sent to the city's project manager and Director of Sustainability, Ms. Vicki Bennett (vicki.bennett@slcgov.com or 801-535-6540). Results of the project's first-phase inventory and second-phase diagnosis are available to review upon request.

