

Sustainability Plan Implementation (10/15/2024)

Goal	Recommended Actions	Status	Actions Taken	Future Actions
Increased Efficiency	Regularly review and adopt building codes	In progress	Farmers Branch adopts building codes every other cycle. Currently the city has adopted the 2018 codes.	Community Services Department is reviewing 2024 ICC Building Codes as they are being released.
	Assist residents with utility conservation incentives and rebates	Partially completed	City has included resources to access third party (Oncor, Atmos, Dallas County, and Federal government) rebates and tax incentives on the website.	Host a workshop to educate residents on how to utilize utility rebates. Monitor the status of rebates facilitated by the State Energy Conservation Office as a result of the Inflation Reduction Act. Staff will review actions from other cities. Identify ways to consolidate information from various programs (Oncor, County, etc.).
	Provide education and resources for homeowners to save energy and water	Partially completed	City website has been updated to include energy and water conservation resources. Tree giveaway program includes information on the energy saving of proper tree planting location. Education has been included in various city communications and events.	Continue to provide education and outreach through city channels and events.
	Explore the feasibility of creating a residential rebate program for energy and/or water savings	In progress	Toilet replacement and irrigation check-up rebate programs have been created. Provides financial incentive for homeowners to reduce both indoor and outdoor water usage.	Monitor rebate programs and consider other additions.
	Continue to update building stock through demo/rebuild and PACE programs	In progress	Programs are ongoing.	Continue to promote demo/rebuild and PACE programs through the Economic Development department.
	Reduce energy use at city facilities through cost effective building upgrades	Multiple projects completed	Expansion of solar installation at Library. (August 2022) Solar installation at Natatorium. (September 2022) LED Retrofit at Justice Center - \$75k grant received. (October 2022) LED Retrofit at Rec Center Parking lot. (July 2024) Various building and lighting updates coordinated by Facilities and Parks.	Continue to work with Facilities and Parks to identify future building and lighting upgrades.
Increased Renewable Energy	Pursue a 100% renewable electricity contract for city operations	On hold	The city entered a contract with a developer to build a solar farm at the Valley View landfill site in March of 2022. After permits and designs were completed in February 2024, the developer terminated the contract.	An updated RFP for the development of a solar farm on the site has been created, but is on hold pending other uses for the landfill site. If the site is no longer available, the city can pursue a 100% renewable electricity contract through a power purchase agreement with an off-site renewable energy producer or by including renewable energy certificates in an upcoming electricity contract.
	Adopt a Solar Ready building code	On hold	Sustainability and Community Services drafted the ordinance and met with local homebuilders to receive feedback. Ordinances were presented to City Council in June 2023, but no action was taken by the Council.	Identify changes in the 2024 ICC Building Codes to see if solar ready will be included by the Regional Codes Coordinating Committee. Receive feedback by City Council on future implementation.
	Adopt an electric vehicle (EV) ready building code	On hold	Sustainability and Community Services drafted the ordinance and met with local homebuilders to receive feedback. Ordinances were presented to City Council in June 2023, but no action was taken by the Council.	Identify changes in the 2024 ICC Building Codes to see if EV ready will be included by the Regional Codes Coordinating Committee. Receive feedback by City Council on future implementation.
	Reduce barriers to solar energy - Pursue SolSmart designation	Partially completed	City Council approved the Solar Switch program. Solar Switch provides a group buying experience which identifies an approved installer and provides residents with a discount for installing solar. Staff participated in a cohort of local governments in Texas facilitated by NCTCOG and World Resources institute to begin the process of SolSmart Designation. Staff are reviewing changes to the code of ordinances to meet requirements and remove barriers to adopting solar.	Continue to work with Planning & Zoning on ordinance changes needed to reach SolSmart Gold designation.
	Increase the number of households on 100% renewable electricity plans through the Texas Power Switch program	Programs completed Additional programs planned	The city has continued its contract with the Power Switch program and conducting 15 program auctions.	Two Power Switch programs are planned annually to assist residents with finding a low cost, 100% renewable electricity contract.

Sustainability Plan Implementation

(10/15/2024)

Goal	Recommended Actions	Status	Actions Taken	Future Actions
Harmony Between the Built and Natural Environment	Implement strategies to reduce the urban heat island effect	Projects completed. Other items under evaluation	The city created the Tree Giveaway program which gives 200 trees annually to residents to plant on their property. The program assists with combatting urban heat island and increases tree canopy coverage on private properties. The Parks and Recreation department planted 137 trees last year on city properties. GIS has compiled maps identifying tree canopy and impervious surface coverage throughout the city.	Assist Planning & Zoning on the updates to the landscape ordinance and the development of a tree preservation ordinance. Research other urban cooling mechanisms such as reflective pavements. Work with Oncor to determine the feasibility of a rebate program to install cool/reflective roofs.
	Consider adopting a cool roof ordinance	Complete	Commercial cool roof is included in building code. IECC 2018 Chapter 4 Section C402.3 Roof Solar Reflectance and Thermal Emittance.	Determine the feasibility of providing resources to install cool roofs on residential properties.
	Identify practical pathways to reduce light pollution based on recommendations from the International Dark-Sky Association and U.S. Green Building Council	In progress	The City has partnered with Lights Out, Texas to increase awareness of light pollution and encourage residents/businesses to turn off non-essential lighting during periods of peak bird migration. Joya Park's lighting specifications meet International Dark Sky and National Audubon Society Guidelines.	Continue to educate residents/businesses on proper lighting techniques. Work with Parks and Facilities to install Dark Sky compliant lighting during retrofits.
	Establish grow zones around creeks and educate about their importance to water quality	In progress	Public Works and Parks are working on a grow zone strategy surrounding Rawhide Creek to limit erosion and damage to gabions.	Continue to identify sites and provide educational signage on grow zones to inform residents of their intended purpose and cost savings.
	Identify opportunities to install green infrastructure and other low impact development features alongside capital improvement projects	In progress	Permeable pavements included zoning ordinance.	Continue working with Planning & Zoning on the landscape ordinance amendments. Work with Public Works on opportunities to improve stormwater management.
	Reduced Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) Trips	Increase DART ridership	In progress	City staff participated in DART bus system route evaluation. Routes have been altered and GoLink zone has been increased. GoLink ridership increased significantly after the changes were implemented.
Increase the mileage of trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes		In progress	Public Works is currently underway with installation and design on the Westside Art Trail and Rawhide Creek Trail. Sharrows have been added along Valley View Lane. Active Transportation Plan in progress.	Active Transportation Plan will identify future locations for trails, sidewalk, and bike lane connections.
Adopt a complete streets policy		In progress	Complete Street Policy is a deliverable for the consultant upon completion of the Active Transportation Plan.	Bring the draft policy to City Council for consideration once created by the consultant.
Reduce employee commuting through remote working and flexible schedules		Complete	4x10 working schedules have been implemented for applicable staff. Applicable Fire Department staff have been moved to a 48x96 schedule. Both schedule updates reduce scope 3 emissions (employee commute).	None
Increase convenient access to transit		In progress	GoLink area has been expanded. Active Transportation Plan is considering trail, sidewalk, and bike lane connections that can provide more accessible access to transit stations.	Identify population areas not within walking distance from a DART station/GoLink zone to identify areas for improved access.
Reduced Vehicle Emissions	Increase the number of electric vehicles in Farmers Branch	In progress	City has installed 13 publicly available charging ports to encourage EV adoption. City has utilized Department of Energy funding to purchase the 2nd EV for the city fleet. Community ownership of EVs has increased from 90 in August 2021 to 589 in September 2024.	Evaluate upcoming fleet vehicles that are ready for replacement to identify electric alternatives or opportunities for "right sizing".
	Increase the amount of publicly available charging stations	Projects completed Other items under evaluation	The city has installed 13 publicly available charging ports.	Identify grant opportunities for additional EV chargers at City properties. Educate businesses on upcoming grant funding for EV chargers sited on private properties.
	Collaborate with vehicle operators to reduce emissions from large trucks and buses	In progress	City contracted services for public transportation (DART) and solid waste (CWD) utilize compressed natural gas for their vehicle fleet.	Support large fleet operators to switch to less polluting fuels or electric vehicles.

Sustainability Plan Implementation (10/15/2024)

Goal	Recommended Actions	Status	Actions Taken	Future Actions
Improved Air Quality and Reduced Emissions	Implement air pollution reduction strategies to reduce ozone levels	Projects completed Additional programs under evaluation	Addition of electric vehicles to City fleet. Installation of solar panels and energy efficiency upgrades. Reduced employee vehicle commutes. Tree plantings.	Continue to promote practices such as electric vehicle adoption and energy efficiency upgrades that reduce burning of fossil fuels. Implement recommendations from Active Transportation Plan that reduce vehicle trips and increase connection to public transit.
	Increase the tree canopy	Programs completed Additional programs planned	The city created the Tree Giveaway program which gives 200 trees annually to residents to plant on their property. The program assists with combatting urban heat island and increases tree canopy coverage on private properties. The Parks and Recreation department planted 137 trees last year on city properties.	Continue Tree Giveaway program and planting of trees in public spaces.
	Conduct a baseline greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and create a science based target for reduction	Project completed Additional project in progress	2019 GHG Inventory completed. 2023 GHG inventory in progress.	Complete 2023 inventory Provide City Council with 4 year update on emissions and current science based targets at time of completions.
	Undertake actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Projects completed Additional programs under evaluation	Purchase and support of electric vehicles. Installation of solar panels and energy efficiency upgrades. Reduced employee vehicle commutes. Promotion of alternative transportation options.	Continue to promote practices such as electric vehicle adoption and energy efficiency upgrades that reduce burning of fossil fuels. Implement recommendations from Active Transportation Plan that reduce vehicle trips and increase connection to public transit.
Water Conservation	Reduce water use at city facilities	In progress	Updates and annual inspections to municipal irrigation systems. Installation of water fixtures that meet current building codes during building renovations.	Continue to upgrade fixtures to WaterSense certified models.
	Reduce per capita water usage	In progress	Water rates are designed to be conservation oriented with an increasing block rate water pricing structure. Creation of water rebate programs for indoor and outdoor conservation. Council adoption of the 2024 Water Conservation Plan. Leak detection and repair in water delivery system.	Continue and potentially expand water rebate program for residents. Continue leak detection and pipe replacements to reduce water loss during delivery.
	Accelerate the replacement of water meters with advanced metering infrastructure for enhanced billing accuracy and conservation	In progress	98% of residential meters have been upgraded. Citywide 84% of meters have been upgraded to smart meters.	Public Works to finish residential meter installation by end of 2024. Continue to upgrade and replace large meters.
	Plant species of trees and vegetation that are native and drought tolerant	In progress	Tree Giveaway program has prioritized native or adapted tree species. Parks department plants native and drought tolerant plants when applicable.	Continue to provide residents with native tree species during giveaway programs. Expand education to residents on drought tolerant landscapes.
Pollution Prevention	Decrease the amount of litter	In progress	Transitioned to enclosed garbage carts to reduce litter from broken bags. City has contracted services to clean up known locations of homelessness. Parks staff continually remove litter during park maintenance.	Continue litter removal services and support education on litter prevention.
	Reduce pollution from entering creeks	In progress	Fire department provides spill response from incidents and city has contracted services for large spills to prevent pollution from entering waterways.	Continue litter removal services and identify opportunities for grow zones along creeks to prevent litter from flowing into waterways. Work with stormwater engineer to identify best practices to prevent contaminants from entering storm drains and creeks.
	Decrease the amount of fats, oils, and grease entering sewer pipes	In progress	City amended the Code of Ordinances to adopt a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) ordinance to reduce the amount of these substances in the sewer system. Used cooking oil and grease was previously collected for recycling at the Citizen's Collection Center. City provides outreach for "Cease the Grease" regional campaign.	Identify a new location for grease dropoff, especially during holiday season. Continue to educate residents on proper disposal for fats, oils, and grease to prevent damage and blockage to sewer lines.

Sustainability Plan Implementation (10/15/2024)

Goal	Recommended Actions	Status	Actions Taken	Future Actions
Waste Reduction	Increase the residential diversion rate	In progress	Website and promotional materials have been updated/created to make information easier for residents to understand. ReCollect software allows residents to "search" items to identify proper disposal.	Identify additional waste streams and provide outreach to prevent recycling contamination.
	Create a city environmental purchasing policy for municipal operations	Complete	Policy approved by City Management in January 2023.	Continue to monitor purchases from city vendors that meet criteria in Sustainable Procurement Policy and identify areas for improvement.
	Promote the "Reduce" and "Reuse" attributes of the waste hierarchy	Projects completed Other items under evaluation	Installation of hand dyers and water bottle filling stations to reduce waste created at city buildings. Education to residents during city events.	Continue to promote and provide resources to residents to adopt sustainable behaviors.
	Undertake waste characterization and contamination audits to prioritize new recycling streams	On hold	None	The Citizen Collection Center had added textile, grease, concrete, and lumber recycling since the Sustainability Plan was created. Staff will need to identify ways to recycle these materials with the closure of the site. Staff will plan to undertake contamination audits in the coming FY to identify primary contaminants in the residential waste and recycling streams.
	Assess the current status of commercial recycling and construction & demolition recycling - Identify strategies to increase waste diversion in these sectors	Not started	None	Undertake a study to identify what construction and demolition materials are being recycled. Identify resources or potential ordinances to divert this material from the Camelot Landfill.
Access to Recycling	Increase access to recycling at multi-family and commercial properties	Not started	None	With closure of Citizen's Collection Center, staff will need to identify ways to provide recycling services to residents of multi-family buildings who do not currently have recycling collection at their unit. Draft a multi-family recycling ordinance for Council consideration.
	Increase the number of residential recycling participants	In progress	Website and promotional materials have been updated/created to make information easier for residents to understand.	Track set-out rates of recycling and target outreach to non-participants.
	Update outreach to make recycling simple and consistent	In progress	Website and promotional materials have been updated/created to make information easier for residents to understand. ReCollect software allows residents to "search" items to identify proper disposal.	Continue to update website and promotional materials as needed.
	Provide additional opportunities to divert organic waste	On hold	City previously hosted food waste collection at Citizen's Collection Center. Promotion and education on backyard composting.	Identify potential drop-off sites or organizations that can provide food waste composting. Continue to educate residents on backyard composting and utilizing brush pickup for landfill diversion.
	Identify opportunities to increase waste diversion at City buildings and facilities	Projects completed Additional programs under evaluation	Installation of hand dyers and water bottle filling stations to reduce waste created at city buildings. Education to residents during city events	Identify additional waste streams created by municipal operations and find cost-effective disposal methods.