



**FARMERS  
BRANCH**

# Sustainability Plan 6 Month Update

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# Sustainability Plan Background

- Creating the plan was the first task of the reformed Sustainability Committee
- Sustainability Plan – Adopted by Council 2/1/22
- Members formed subcommittees to assist in plan implementation and sustainability awareness

## 6 Key Focus Areas



**Built Environment**



**Transportation**



**Natural Resources**



**Zero Waste**



**Economic Wellness  
and Resilience**



**Community Vitality**



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# Committee Recommendations to Council

- Sustainability Plan
  - Approved
- Solar Switch (Solar group purchase program)
  - Approved
- Landfill solar Farm
  - Approved
- Water Rebate Pilot
  - Pending: Included in 22-23 budget
- Tree Giveaway Pilot
  - Pending: Included in 22-23 budget

# Built Environment



Goal	Recommended Actions
<b>Increased Efficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regularly review and adopt building codes</li><li>• Assist residents with utility conservation incentives and rebates</li><li>• Provide education and resources for homeowners to save energy and water<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Explore the feasibility of creating a residential rebate program for energy and/or water savings</u></li></ul></li><li>• Continue to update building stock through Demo/Rebuild and PACE programs</li><li>• <u>Reduce energy use at City facilities through cost effective building upgrades</u></li></ul>
<b>Increased Renewable Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Pursue a 100% renewable electricity contract for City operations</u></li><li>• Adopt a Solar Ready building code</li><li>• Adopt an electric vehicle (EV) ready building code</li><li>• <u>Reduce barriers to solar energy</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pursue SolSmart designation</li></ul></li><li>• <u>Increase the number of households on 100% renewable electricity plans through the Texas Power Switch Program</u></li></ul>
<b>Harmony Between the Built and Natural Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Implement strategies to reduce the urban heat island effect</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider adopting a cool roof ordinance</li></ul></li><li>• Identify practical pathways to reduce light pollution based on recommendations from the International Dark-Sky Association and U.S. Green Building Council</li><li>• Establish grow zones around creeks and educate about their importance to water quality</li><li>• Identify opportunities to install green infrastructure and other low impact development features alongside capital improvement projects</li></ul>

# Transportation



Goal	Recommended Actions
<b>Reduced Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) Trips</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase DART ridership</li><li>• Increase the mileage of trails, sidewalks and bike lanes</li><li>• Adopt a complete streets policy</li><li>• Reduce employee commuting through remote work and flexible schedules</li><li>• Increase convenient access to transit</li></ul>
<b>Reduced Vehicle Emissions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the number of electric vehicles in Farmers Branch</li><li>• <u>Increase the amount of publicly available charging stations</u></li><li>• Collaborate with vehicle operators to reduce emissions from large trucks and buses</li></ul>

# Natural Resources



Goal	Recommended Actions
<b>Improved Air Quality and Reduced Emissions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement air pollution reduction strategies to reduce ozone levels</li><li>• <u>Increase the tree canopy</u></li><li>• <u>Conduct a baseline greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and create a science based target for reduction</u></li><li>• <u>Undertake actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions</u></li></ul>
<b>Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce water use at City facilities</li><li>• Reduce per capita water usage</li><li>• <u>Accelerate the replacement of water meters with advanced metering infrastructure for enhanced billing accuracy and conservation</u></li><li>• Plant species of trees and vegetation that are native and drought tolerant</li></ul>
<b>Pollution Prevention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Decrease the amount of litter</li><li>• Reduce pollution from entering creeks</li><li>• Decrease the amount of fats, oils and grease entering sewer pipes</li></ul>

# Zero Waste



Goal	Recommended Actions
<b>Waste Reduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the residential diversion rate</li><li>• Create a City environmental purchasing policy for municipal operations</li><li>• Promote the "Reduce" and "Reuse" attributes of the waste hierarchy</li><li>• Undertake waste characterization and contamination audits to prioritize new recycling and construction &amp; demolition recycling<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify strategies to increase waste diversion in these sectors</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Access to Recycling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase access to recycling at multi-family and commercial properties</li><li>• Increase the number of residential recycling participants</li><li>• Update outreach to make recycling simple and consistent</li><li>• Provide additional opportunities to divert organic waste</li><li>• Identify opportunities to increase waste diversion at City buildings and facilities</li></ul>

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# Questions