

Village of Farport

Sustainability Plan





Background

In July 2009, Deputy Mayor Kevin Clark, with the support of Mayor Fritz May and the Village Board, initiated a planning process with a sustainability focus. A steering committee, consisting of representatives from Village staff, Village boards and the community, was established to oversee and guide the development of a Fairport Sustainability Plan. The plan offers practical ideas and strategies for Village government and the community to maximize our many resources and increase the quality of our lives.



As part of the planning process, the steering committee conducted research and obtained public input on key areas of concern around sustainability. The committee also identified the characteristics and community values that guided the development of a plan. The steering committee, elected officials and other Village residents and stakeholders recognized that finite resources, coupled with a significant desire to better support a sustainable community, require the Village to make choices about how best to use its natural, social, economic, and human resources. These choices are local decisions that impact the environment, the community, and quality of life.

Based on their study and deliberation, the steering committee crafted a vision statement that expresses the Village's commitment to sustainability:

The Village of Fairport will address issues that impact the social, economic, and environmental well-being at a local level, and fulfill its mission to protect, maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents.

To help realize this vision, the steering committee identified 10 priority goal areas of sustainability:

- Energy
- Procurement
- Green Cleaning
- Sustainable Building / Development
- Land Management
- Water Conservation
- Transportation
- Recycling
- Environmental Toxins
- Communications

In spring 2010, the steering committee used the assistance of Ingalls Planning & Design to facilitate the process, add action steps and measurements of progress to the vision and goals, and to prepare the final plan for presentation to the Village Board and the community.



Fairport Sustainability Steering Committee

- Lauren Britton, Youth Resident
- Kevin Clark, Deputy Mayor, Committee Chair
- Bill Fritsch, Chair of Fairport Municipal Commission
- Heidi Grenek, Resident/Business Owner
- John Himmelberg, Zoning Board
- Fritz May, Mayor
- Ken Moore, Village Administrator
- Nick Pittinano, Department of Public Works
- Sue Steele, Planning Board
- Kal Wysokowski, Director of Community and Economic Development

What is Sustainability?

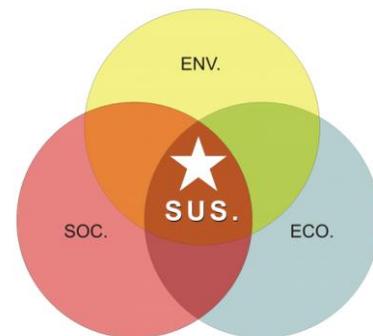
Sustainability and sustainable development are concepts that are widely discussed in today's society. There is, however, no single definition of sustainability that everyone agrees on. For the purposes of this plan, sustainability is viewed as a process which:

Meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Throughout this document, the term sustainability is used in its most welcoming meaning -- one which encourages those dedicated to sustainability to pursue actions which strengthen the Village of Fairport.

In arriving at a concept of sustainability that works for Fairport, the steering committee established several criteria to serve as a foundation for the recommendations in this plan and their implementation:

- Ensure appropriate appreciation and restoration of our natural and built resources.
- Integrate environmental, social and economic goals in Village policies and activities.
- A commitment to community participation.
- A commitment to best practice.
- The principle of continuous improvement.
- The need for good governance.
- Ensure today's decisions consider future generations.
- Deal cautiously with risk, uncertainty and irreversibility.



The ultimate goal of sustainability is to find balance between the social, economic, and environmental characteristics of the community.



Fairport residents may recognize that these criteria, or values, have always been important in shaping our community. They have informed the choices made by our leaders and citizens in years past – conscious decisions about when to invest in infrastructure, where to encourage commerce, how to harness and protect natural resources, how to create opportunity, and how to provide for community enrichment. Long-term reliance on these criteria goes a long way to explaining why the Village of Fairport remains one of the most desirable communities in the region.

Developing a more sustainable Village should be based on our values. This plan provides an opportunity to reflect on our values as standards by which to critically examine what works about Fairport and what could be improved in regards to the social, economic and environmental qualities of the community.

How This Plan Is Organized

Each of the ten strategic goals is followed by a brief narrative to give background information on key points that may be unfamiliar. Selected Village accomplishments in each goal area are then listed to provide a context for the discussion of sustainability. Steps for future action are next recommended. Measurements of overall progress to help determine how well the Village succeeds in implementing this plan appear at the end of the document.



Goal 1 - Energy

Reduce our use of non-renewable energy sources through conservation and utilize renewable energy sources when practical.

Energy comes in various forms from wind and sun, which are freely-given, to fossil fuels that need to be extracted from the earth. Every day the citizens of this community rely on energy for lighting, heating, cooling, travel, entertainment, and so on. Fairport is fortunate to have a municipal-owned electric company which provides electricity at about one-third the price of neighboring utilities. However, electric usage accounts for less than one-quarter of the average family’s monthly energy costs according to the US Environmental Protection Agency. As demand for energy continues to rise due to an ever-growing world consumption rate so does the price of energy and associated environmental and social issues. Air pollution and acid rain linked with power plants burning coal to make energy, dependence on unreliable foreign oil supplies, and rising and unpredictable fuel costs are a few of the factors prompting a greater emphasis on conservation and the use of alternative forms of energy.



Village Accomplishments

- Inventoried buildings and began assessment of energy use.
- Performed a variety of structure energy audits and improvements to reduce energy use.
- Project examples include CFL retrofit at the Village Landing underground garage, lighting upgrades in the Museum, instantaneous demand hot water heater and natural gas furnace in Potter.
- Benefit from a renewable geothermal HVAC system at the FMC Operations Center.
- Established practice is to use synthetic base (renewable) oil rather than petroleum base oil in vehicle lubrication and other applications.
- Generally use life-cycle cost criteria to maximize service life and minimize replacements.
- Emphasize energy economy in vehicle fleet purchases. For example, the fleet includes hybrid vehicles, purchases are made of the smallest suitable vehicle etc.

Action Steps

- 1.1 Work with NYSERDA to perform energy audits of Village buildings, explore integrated energy management systems and alternative energy upgrades/retrofits, and identify funding sources for any recommended improvements.
- 1.2 Evaluate changes in Village building operations and housekeeping that would lead to energy conservation, such as setting workday thermostats to 68° in winter and 74° in summer (adjust 8-15° when facilities are closed); replacing incandescent "Exit" signs with LED signs when they need replacing; installing 'low flow' plumbing fixtures in Village facilities.
- 1.3 Institute a policy of reporting fuel consumption from all Village government sources as well as expenditures to accounts payable.
- 1.4 Consider developing a strategy to reduce green house gas emissions.
- 1.5 Consider developing a Buy Local First campaign, as one means of reducing the Village's ecological footprint.
- 1.6 Gradually move to using natural gas in Village facilities.
- 1.7 Continue the purchase and use of hybrid technologies, especially plug-in hybrids when replacing fleet vehicles.
- 1.8 Minimize unnecessary idling of Village owned vehicles.
- 1.9 When upgrading or renovating buildings consider energy efficient practices.



- 1.10 Conduct energy audits on a periodically basis.
- 1.11 Continue to utilize and/or move to more efficient street lamps as technology changes.
- 1.12 Partner/collaborate with other organizations and agencies that own or operate large facilities to help become more energy efficient.
- 1.13 Monitor and upgrade lighting fixtures and controls in Village facilities.
- 1.14 Consider daylight harvesting in public facilities.
- 1.15 Consider renewable energy sources such as wind and solar as technology changes and evolves.
- 1.16 Update heating controls.
- 1.17 Eliminate “wall warts” or inefficient AC adaptors in public facilities (some AC Adapters have low efficiency, wasting electrical energy).
- 1.18 Purchase Energy Star or other energy efficient appliances and hardware.



Goal 2 -- Procurement

Seek to purchase goods or services that reduce the use of energy and pollution in their manufacture, use and disposal; have lower transportation costs; contain sustainable and/or bio-based ingredients; do not contain ingredients known to be harmful to humans; and that are shipped in biodegradable or recyclable packaging.

Small changes in Village procurement practices can contribute to big, positive changes in our economy and environment. The cumulative effect of local governments around the world modifying their purchasing decisions is the creation of new markets for environmentally-safe products and services. This fosters private sector innovation toward sustainable production. It also drives down the costs and increases the availability of these green products and services for government, businesses and average consumers. Through training and support of staff that make purchasing decisions, as well as the use of environmental criteria for procurement, the Village can make a major advance towards reducing energy use, preserving the environment, and supporting the new economy.

Village Accomplishments

- The Village of Fairport is generally constrained to purchase goods at the lowest price established by bid or comparison. Within this constraint, purchases are made in as sustainable manner as possible, such as by using life cycle cost, specifying recycled content where practical and other means.



Action Steps

- 2.1. Increase purchasing of items that require less packaging or equipment that uses less energy and has a longer lifespan, according to the following minimum guidelines:
 - a. Purchase recycled and regional content and low emitting products wherever viable.
 - b. Minimize the waste and maximize the recycling from all Village services and operations.
 - c. Utilize green cleaning practices and products in Village facilities.
 - d. Purchase vehicles which are the most efficient in their class and which use alternate fuels to the maximum extent viable.
 - e. Purchase electric powered equipment such as mowers whenever possible.
- 2.2. Develop a list of environmentally preferred local vendors; share with public via website.
- 2.3. Annually train Village staff responsible for purchasing on current best sustainability practices, products, and services.
- 2.4. Purchase Energy Star-rated (EPEAT or comparable) computers and office equipment.
- 2.5. Develop a cost/benefits purchasing process that evaluates and balances the fiscal/economic and environmental characteristics.
- 2.6. Develop and utilize bid specifications that require disclosure of sustainable practices by manufacturers and suppliers.
- 2.7. Consider duplexers on printers and copiers.
- 2.8. Utilize New York State bid list to consider energy efficient purchases.



Goal 3 – Green Cleaning

Clean and maintain Village facilities with products that are free from known or suspected toxins.

Green cleaning is simply cleaning to protect health without harming the environment. Basically, green cleaning involves replacing ordinary household and commercial cleaning products, which can be chemically-reactive and toxic, with materials that are found in nature. Many traditional cleaning chemicals emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which cause respiratory and dermatological problems. They also have a huge, negative impact on the environment. According to chemical industry data, traditional cleaning of non-residential buildings in the US annually consumes 8 billion pounds of petroleum-



based cleaning chemicals that can be hazardous to your health; 4.5 billion pounds of janitorial paper products (mostly paper towels and bathroom tissue), requiring the annual cutting of about 30 million trees; and the disposal of over 1 billion pounds of mop buckets, vacuum cleaners, and other cleaning equipment waste, the equivalent of 40,000 garbage trucks headed to landfills. Green cleaning also involves the manufacture, distribution and disposal of cleaning products in an environmentally-safe manner.

Village Accomplishments

- Sustainability and green concerns are considered when making cleaning and maintenance decisions. For example, low volatility organic paint was used in the recent Village Hall interior paint project.

Action Steps

- 3.1. Discourage the use of disposable plastic water bottles in Village facilities.
- 3.2. Require use of environmentally-friendly cleaning materials in all Village facilities.
- 3.3. Use low volatile organic paints in Village facilities.
- 3.4. Eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers containing phosphates or other harmful chemicals on Village property.
- 3.5. Integrate outdoor and indoor pest control.
- 3.6. Consider an alternative to salt (sodium chloride) for the treatment/prevention of ice on sidewalks and entry ways to Village facilities.



Goal 4 – Sustainable Building and Development

Encourage the preservation of open space, the renovation of existing structures over virgin development, and the construction of residential, commercial and institutional structures which reduce their impact on the environment.

“Nature is more than a bank of resources to draw on: it is the best model we have for all the design problems we face,” wrote Sim Van der Ryn and Stuart Cowan in their groundbreaking book *Ecological Design*. The book argues that sustainable development – architectural and site design, building construction, and municipal planning -- should follow five essential principles:

1. *Solutions Grow from Place*, or that a development takes cues from its unique surrounding physical, natural and cultural characteristics
2. *Ecological Accounting*, or that a development accounts for its full environmental and social impacts.



3. *Design with Nature*, or that a development uses nature as design metaphor, model and measure.
4. *Everyone is a Designer*, or that the development design process collaborates with all stakeholders (i.e. including the eventual building users, neighbors and general community).
5. *Make Nature Visible*, or that a development features nature for adults and youth to learn and experience natural living systems.

Since Fairport is an historic, pedestrian-friendly community, the action steps for this goal are intended to address not only the micro view of sustainable sites and buildings, but also a macro view of planning with nature in mind for the whole Village.

Village Accomplishments

- The Village uses the principles contained in the Comprehensive Plan and Board-adopted Code to regulate development, including encouraging re-use of structures.
- Village road maintenance and planning has included elements to improve the quality of stormwater, for example.

Action Steps

- 4.1. Make sure changes and improvements to land use are in accordance with the Future Land Use Map in the Comprehensive Plan.
- 4.2. Establish a policy to evaluate all Village building renovation and street projects for sustainable opportunities.
- 4.3. Develop and implement a community sustainable land use awards program.
- 4.4. Work towards ensuring that Village facilities provide a model example of how to use land in a sustainable manner.
- 4.5. Consider consolidation of Village facilities where practical.
- 4.6. Maintain sustainable stormwater practices.
- 4.7. Utilize stormwater best practices when practical including rain gardens, bio-swales, etc.
- 4.8. Minimize site disturbances during redevelopment and construction.
- 4.9. Consider “green” building practices for new or renovated facilities.
- 4.10. Consider the historic significance of sites and buildings when evaluating development and/or redevelopment.



- 4.11. Consider reuse, recycling, and repurposing in Village construction, deconstruction and demolition practices (e.g., street work).
- 4.12. When updating or preparing planning documents or the zoning code, consider sustainable practices including but not limited to:
 - a. Incentives to encourage green building (i.e., incentive zoning, fast-track permitting, etc.).
 - b. Aging-in-Place, housing diversity, health.
 - c. Protocols related to land use decisions. (For example, encourage mixed-use development in both residential and commercial areas; locate housing within walking distances along safe paths, or with bicycle access, to and from neighborhood commercial areas, parks and recreation, schools; etc.).
 - d. Consider eliminating zoning or code barriers to sustainable practices (e.g., laws which prohibit accessory units for family, mixed-use, permeable pavement, backyard composting, rain barrels, clotheslines, etc.).
 - e. Evaluate and mitigate potential impacts of lot coverage, buildings massing, architectural design, site design, etc. on Village character.



Goal 5 – Land Management

Manage Village-owned land so as to maximize the natural recycling of materials and minimize environmental pollution.

Thanks to the awareness, foresight and previous efforts of this community, Fairport’s “green infrastructure” remains a valuable asset. The community’s ecological components perform a variety of necessary functions. Parks and open spaces provide places for ground water recharge and purification of nonpoint pollutants such as leaked vehicle fluids and chemical lawn fertilizers. Fairport’s public trees remove by absorption other pollutants such as carbon and sulfur dioxide, ozone, nitrogen oxides and fine particulates from the burning of fossil fuels in buildings and vehicles. The canal provides needed respite, relaxation, recreation and beauty in a stressful world. These are a few examples of the life- and quality-of-life-sustaining benefits that environmental forces have on our community and why it is so important to safeguard these resources.

Village Accomplishments

- The Village maintains Tree City status and has an active inventory, maintenance and planting program for Village-owned trees.
- The Village recycles woody waste into chips which are used in the Village.



Action Steps

- 5.1. Incorporate a vision for sustainability into the next update of the Comprehensive Plan.
- 5.2. Maintain pedestrian and bicycle links to parks and the canal.
- 5.3. Replace trees removed from public property on a minimum 1.5:1 annual basis.
- 5.4. Use grass mulching mowers (mowers that leave the clippings in place) on all Village property.
- 5.5. Utilize integrated pest management strategies for all Village owned open space to minimize the use of toxic chemicals.
- 5.6. Construct a permanent farmer's market structure.
- 5.7. Add regular funding to the capital budget for more public benches, cigarette disposal receptacles, trash cans, and garden spaces in Village center. Ask for the participation/ sponsorship of merchants and residents in maintaining/purchasing these facilities.
- 5.8. Create a sidewalk management program that inventories sidewalks, sidewalk conditions, sidewalk usage, and identifies priorities for new or restored sidewalks.
- 5.9. Maintain the urban forest (e.g. street trees, park trees, etc.).
- 5.10. Work with county, town, state and others to plant more native species and remove invasive species in right- of-ways, parks and open spaces.
- 5.11. Evaluate existing mowing and landscape maintenance practices and consider low-mow and no-mow areas.
- 5.12. Continue to recycle wood chips, etc.



Goal 6 – Water Conservation

Encourage the careful conservation and protection of our waterways and water supply.

The quality of surface water and groundwater is important to Fairport. The canal, streams, nearby lakes, and other water resources – all of which are fed by the same watershed -- increase property values, increase recreational uses, improve quality of life, and support diverse ecosystems. One of the best ways to conserve and protect our water supply is by promoting low-impact practices, such as directing drainage from impervious areas, especially roofs, driveways and parking lots, to vegetated areas; directing sump pump outlets to vegetated areas; planting and preserving trees; utilizing rain barrels for irrigation water; installing rain gardens as functional landscaping



features; and using porous pavement for frequent use parking lots and reinforced turf products for less frequent or overflow parking areas. Such practices enhance water quality in multiple ways, including filtering stormwater through the soil; limiting the excess volume of runoff entering water bodies; and reducing the transport of pollutants into water bodies through conduits such as storm sewers. It should be noted that most of these low-impact stormwater management practices are cheaper to build and maintain than the traditional methods of piping and paving. The action steps for this goal will help the Village protect and improve water quality, replenish groundwater supplies, and sustain water dependent natural and recreational resources.

Village Accomplishments

- The Village of Fairport is an active participant in the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition, whose goal is to improve stormwater quality in Monroe County, and minimize impacts on water bodies.
- The Village DPW has marked some stormwater drains.
- The Village has digitally mapped all storm outfalls and structures, improved maintenance procedures, installed sedimentation basins at the DPW and has a program for upgrading unsumpted storm inlets where possible.
- The Village uses low flow fixtures when making purchases.
- The Village owns and has restricted development in a significant wetland area, operated as Thomas Creek Wetland Park.

Action Steps

- 6.1. Utilize and promote Low Impact Stormwater Management practices by the Village and developers (also see Action Step 4.6 and 4.7).
- 6.2. Work with county and Genesee Land Trust to develop a Sustainability water-themed trail.
- 6.3. Work with volunteers and the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition to install storm drain markers at Village catch basins.
- 6.4. Develop strategies to minimize surface parking lots.
- 6.5. Inventory / replace fixtures with low-flow fixtures.
- 6.6. Limit outside use of potable water. Utilize rain barrels when possible.



Goal 7 – Transportation

Seek ways to minimize the environmental impact of our transportation system, encourage the use of alternative transportation modes and sustainable fuels, reduce or eliminate pollution from Village owned vehicles and reduce idling of all motor vehicles.



Transportation is the second largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. Most of these emissions come from the use of gasoline-powered automobiles. These vehicles have made Americans heavily dependent on foreign oil. There are signs, however, that the car and the road will have less impact on American society in the future than they did in the last half century. Personal automobile travel will remain the dominant mode of transportation for some time to come, but communities are placing greater emphasis on providing more transportation choices. Bike ways, multi-use trails, and improved pedestrian connections are quickly being developed around the country with the support of increased federal and state funding and a public that demands healthier, cheaper, and more relaxed ways of getting from place to place. Simultaneously, improvements in vehicle fuel-economy, electric hybrid technologies, and alternative fuels are changing the face of the auto industry. Transportation will remain an important issue for communities, and, as this goal demonstrates, the Village of Fairport recognizes its role in facilitating more efficient forms of travel.

Village Accomplishments

- The Village maintains a network of streets, sidewalks, trails and parks to accommodate the transportation needs of its residents and others.
- The Village, at a minimum, complies with laws related to access for persons with disabilities, crosswalks and other transportation elements.
- The Village has installed and acquired high visibility crosswalk markings and above grade signage at some crosswalks.
- The Village has acquired and installed a number of bicycle racks in its central business district.
- The Village completed the 2010 Circulation, Accessibility and Parking study sponsored by the Genesee Transportation Council and will be implementing a number of recommendations outlined in the study.

Action Steps

- 7.1. Ensure public open spaces are accessible to those with disabilities.
- 7.2. Provide facilities for bike parking and storage.
- 7.3. Consider instituting policies to reduce trips generated by Village employees (i.e., flex time, four-day work week, etc.).
- 7.4. Examine opportunities for Safe Routes to School.
- 7.5. Promote carpooling, bicycling, and walking.
- 7.6. Complete a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (including trails) as part of the next update of the Comprehensive Master Plan.
- 7.7. Adopt a program to limit Village and commercial vehicle idling time (also see Action Step 1.8).



- 7.8. Adopt Aging-in-Place strategies to help ensure the mobility of the elderly.
- 7.9. Create Safe Pedestrian cross walks.
- 7.10. Support home occupations (i.e., live/work and studio space) with appropriate ordinance.
- 7.11. Communicate and coordinate with RGRTA on optimum transit service throughout Village.
- 7.12. Continue to purchase alternative fuel vehicles (also see Action Step 1.7).
- 7.13. Provide electric “plug-in” stations in strategic locations within the business district for electric cars and electric mobility scooters.
- 7.14. Provide priority parking for fuel efficient and low emitting vehicles and identify with signs.
- 7.15. Implement the recommendations as outlined in the 2010 Village of Fairport Circulation, Accessibility, and Parking Study.



Goal 8 – Recycling

Seek to encourage and support recycling of materials at Village facilities and among our residents.

The traditional method for waste management has been to dump unwanted materials someplace away from people and then cover them with earth. Landfills eventually become contaminated places because of toxic materials. The results are polluted soil, ground water and air, which have the greatest effect on those who live near the landfill. These factors along with ever growing consumption rates make it difficult to zone for new landfills as older ones become obsolete. Recycling helps dramatically reduce the amount of waste going into landfills. Other solutions include using products which biodegrade naturally or can be reused, such as plates and utensils that are washed and reused instead of paper plates and plastic forks and spoons that are thrown in the trash. By increasing recycling and reuse in municipal operations and at public events, the Village of Fairport can lead by example in reducing the amount of waste going to landfills.

Village Accomplishments

- The Village has contracted to provide recycling for mandated items for residential and commercial properties.
- The Village chips and reuses as much woody waste material generated by itself and residents as possible.
- The Village culls metal and other separable material from DPW collections and recycles it.



- The Village promotes and otherwise encourages residents to use the household hazardous waste facility and programs of Monroe County.
- The Village separates compostable organic material and transports it to a compost site.

Action Steps

- 8.1. Consider developing an annual community award program for recycling and reduction of waste.
- 8.2. Improve public space recycling, especially in Kennelly Park and near docking areas along the Erie Canal.
- 8.3. Establish/continue volunteer programs to pick up litter in public places, parks, along canal, during special events, and in the general community.
- 8.4. Recycle asphalt from Village paving and roadway projects.
- 8.5. As part of the approval process, require special events to recycle.
- 8.6. Evaluate and modify recycling practices as to maximize opportunities and participation to recycle at all village owned facilities.



Goal 9 – Environmental Toxins

Reduce exposure to environmental toxins through the collection and proper disposal of hazardous material, and through similar measures.

The typical home, business, or public facility uses a vast array of toxic products for cleaning, painting, beautifying, lubricating and disinfecting. These include bug sprays and fertilizers; paint and paint removers; used motor oil and batteries; medicines and alcohol-based lotions; floor, window, furniture and bath cleaners; and florescent light bulbs and swimming pool chemicals. Even cell phones and computers contain highly toxic substances. The disposal of these products requires special care. When thrown in the garbage, sink or storm drain, these toxins can contaminate our air, water, and possibly the food we eat. Proper disposal is crucial; an even better solution is to substitute environmentally-safe products for traditional chemical-based products.

Village Accomplishments

- The Village Police Department is the local pharmaceutical location for a County-wide drug drop-off program. A recent monthly event collected 107 pounds of prescription drugs from 58 people.
- The Village promotes and otherwise encourages residents to use the household hazardous waste facility and programs of Monroe County.



Action Steps

- 9.1. Work with county to educate the public about pharmaceuticals in the drinking water.
- 9.2. Partner with county to hold a household hazardous waste collection in the Village.
- 9.3. Phase out appliances/devices that use chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) based refrigerant.
- 9.4. Partner with local recyclers to hold a community document shredding/electronics recycling day.



Goal 10 – Communications

Inform our residents of the sustainability plan and other environmental policies and programs through written and electronic communications.

An essential step in Fairport's move towards sustainability is communications. We all need to have an understanding of sustainability and its implications for local government policy. Issues that face our community, such as jobs, business development, crime, public participation and the natural environment, are complex, difficult to isolate, and costly. The emerging concept of sustainability can provide direction. Sustainability calls upon us to invest our time and energy in efforts which simultaneously strengthen the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of any issue. Working in partnership with informed and educated residents, businesses, schools, nonprofits, and other governmental entities, the Village of Fairport can meet our current needs in ways that will ensure that future generations of residents can also enjoy an outstanding quality of life.

Village Accomplishments

- The Village has completed a sustainability plan.
- The Village maintains a website to foster communications with residents.

Action Steps

- 10.1. Join and support appropriate local, state and national sustainability-related organizations and partnerships.
- 10.2. Create strategic partnerships with businesses to educate owners on the benefits of energy efficiency and conservation.
- 10.3. Use current community events to promote sustainability messages.



- 10.4. Enhance local reports to the community such as "State of the Village", "State of the Chamber", "IDA Annual Report", or similar by adding a sustainable development component.
- 10.5. Tie sustainability efforts into any Village marketing and branding programs.
- 10.6. Sponsor a contest to develop a Village sustainability logo.
- 10.7. Maximize opportunities for online payments for Village services.
- 10.8. Add a page on the Village web site regarding sustainability. Include the Sustainability Plan and other links/information for residents that want to get more involved in sustainability.

Community Action Steps

The primary objective of this sustainability plan is to outline goals and actions regarding municipal practices and procedures that, when implemented, will make the Village a more sustainable government entity. While developing the action steps outlined above, the Committee identified and discussed several actions that are not necessarily the responsibility of the Village government but are actions that can be implemented by local residents, property owners, and merchants. The actions listed below are just a few things local stakeholders can do to help make the Village a more sustainable community.

- Utilize rain barrels and rain gardens at homes and businesses.
- Limit the use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers containing phosphates or other harmful chemicals. Consider natural versions instead.
- Maintain and improve health through walking, biking, recreation, healthy eating, and other similar activities.
- Limit one-use bottles, bags, cups, etc.
- Consider composting leaves and yard waste.
- Consider ways to reduce carbon footprints.
- Discuss sustainability with groups or organizations (e.g. churches, schools, etc.)
- Celebrate a community-wide Arbor Day (2nd Friday in April): Plant a tree or shrub on your property with the caveat that it be the "right plant in the right spot".



Measurements of Progress

The Sustainability Committee had several discussions regarding the development and use of benchmarks and metrics as a means to measure progress and success of the sustainability plan. It came to the conclusion that although they are important, with many of the action items outlined above, the Village is not equipped and/or staffed at this time to effectively develop detailed benchmarks and metrics without additional time and resources. In some cases it might not make sense from a cost/benefit standpoint to do so. Therefore, rather than attempting to develop a metric for every action step outlined above it was decided by the Committee that more general “Measurements of Progress” is the most pragmatic approach, at least in the short term. Currently, the Village can track kilowatts and gallons of use in Village facilities for electric and water consumption. It also can track the number of therms of natural gas used and the number of gallons of fuel used by Village fleet vehicles. The Committee recommends that the Village continue to collect and analyze data for benchmarking and look for additional opportunities to measure success.

- Village Board accepts Fairport Sustainability Plan by September 2010.
- Fifty percent of action steps are completed or started in first year after plan adoption.
- Mayor provides annual status report on plan implementation to Village Board and residents; first mayoral report is due September 2011.
- Sustainability Plan is reviewed and revised annually; first review and revision process begins September 2011.

Inter-related Actions

The concept of sustainability is to bring together and strike a balance between the social, economic, and environmental characteristics of the Village. The action steps, as described above, are often inter-related. Many achieve multiple ends. The implementation of some actions can bring benefits in multiple goal areas. The tables below are intended to illustrate this relationship and emphasize that even the smallest achievement can often make great progress in developing a more sustainable Village.



ACTION STEP	ENERGY	PROCUREMENT	CLEANING	DEVELOPMENT	LAND	WATER	TRANSPORTATION	RECYCLING	TOXINS	COMMUNICATIONS
Energy - Reduce our use of non-renewable energy sources through conservation and utilize renewable energy sources when practical.										
1.1 Work with NYSERDA to perform energy audits	◆			◆						
1.2 Evaluate changes in Village building operations and housekeeping that would lead to energy conservation	◆		◆			◆				
1.3 Institute a policy of reporting fuel consumption	◆						◆			
1.4 Reduce green house gas emissions	◆						◆		◆	
1.5 Local First campaign	◆						◆			
1.6 Gradually move to using natural gas	◆						◆			
1.7 Purchase and use of hybrid technologies	◆						◆			
1.8 Minimize unnecessary idling of Village owned vehicles	◆						◆			
1.9 When upgrading or renovating buildings consider energy efficient practices	◆	◆		◆		◆				
1.10 Conduct energy audits on a periodically basis	◆	◆								
1.11 Utilize and/or move to more efficient street lamps as technology changes	◆									
1.12 Partner/collaborate with other organizations and agencies	◆				◆				◆	
1.13 Monitor and upgrade lighting fixtures and controls	◆	◆								
1.14 Consider daylight harvesting	◆									
1.15 Consider renewable energy sources such as wind and solar	◆			◆						
1.16 Update heating controls	◆	◆								
1.17 Eliminate "wall warts" or inefficient AC adaptors	◆									
1.18 Purchase Energy Star or other energy efficient appliances and hardware.	◆		◆							



ACTION STEP	ENERGY	PROCUREMENT	CLEANING	DEVELOPMENT	LAND	WATER	TRANSPORTATION	RECYCLING	TOXINS	COMMUNICATIONS
Procurement - Seek to purchase goods or services that reduce the use of energy and pollution in their manufacture, use and disposal; have lower transportation costs; contain sustainable and/or bio-based ingredients; do not contain ingredients known to be harmful to humans; and that are shipped in biodegradable or recyclable packaging.										
2.1. Increase purchasing of items that require less packaging or equipment that uses less energy and has a longer lifespan	◆	◆				◆	◆	◆		
2.2. Develop a list of environmentally preferred local vendors;		◆	◆			◆				◆
2.3. Annually train Village staff responsible for purchasing on current best sustainability practices, products, and services.		◆								
2.4. Purchase Energy Star-rated (EPEAT or comparable) computers and office equipment.	◆	◆								
2.5. Develop a cost/benefits purchasing process that evaluates and balances the fiscal/economic and environmental characteristics.		◆								
2.6. Develop and utilize bid specifications that require disclosure of sustainable practices by manufacturers and suppliers.		◆								
2.7. Consider duplexers on printers and copiers.	◆	◆								
2.8. Utilize New York State bid list to consider energy efficient purchases.		◆								



ACTION STEP	ENERGY	PROCUREMENT	CLEANING	DEVELOPMENT	LAND	WATER	TRANSPORTATION	RECYCLING	TOXINS	COMMUNICATIONS
Green Cleaning - Clean and maintain Village facilities with products that are free from known or suspected toxins.										
3.1. Discourage the use of disposable plastic water bottles in Village facilities.			◆					◆	◆	
3.2. Require use of environmentally-friendly cleaning materials in all Village facilities.		◆	◆						◆	
3.3. Use low volatile organic paints in Village facilities.		◆	◆						◆	
3.4. Eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers containing phosphates or other harmful chemicals on Village property.		◆	◆						◆	
3.5. Integrate outdoor and indoor pest control.			◆							
3.6. Consider an alternative to salt (sodium chloride) for the treatment/prevention of ice on sidewalks and entry ways to Village facilities.		◆	◆						◆	



ACTION STEP	ENERGY	PROCUREMENT	CLEANING	DEVELOPMENT	LAND	WATER	TRANSPORTATION	RECYCLING	TOXINS	COMMUNICATIONS
Sustainable Building and Development - Encourage the preservation of open space, the renovation of existing structures over virgin development, and the construction of residential, commercial and institutional structures which reduce their impact on the environment.										
4.1. Make sure changes and improvements to land use are in accordance with the Future Land Use Map in the Comprehensive Plan.				◆	◆					
4.2. Establish a policy to evaluate all Village building renovation and street projects for sustainable opportunities.	◆			◆	◆			◆		
4.3. Develop and implement a community sustainable land use awards program.				◆	◆					◆
4.4. Work towards ensuring that Village facilities provide a model example of how to use land in a sustainable manner.				◆	◆					
4.5. Consider consolidation of Village facilities where practical.				◆	◆					
4.6. Maintain sustainable stormwater practices.				◆		◆	◆			
4.7. Utilize stormwater best practices when practical including rain gardens, bio-swales, etc.				◆	◆	◆				
4.8. Minimize site disturbances during redevelopment and construction.	◆			◆	◆	◆				
4.9. Consider “green” building practices for new or renovated facilities.	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
4.10. Consider the historic significance of sites and buildings when evaluating development and/or redevelopment.				◆	◆					
4.11. Consider reuse, recycling, and repurposing in Village construction, deconstruction and demolition practices (e.g., street work).	◆			◆	◆			◆		
4.12. When updating or preparing planning documents or the zoning code, consider sustainable practices				◆	◆					



ACTION STEP	ENERGY	PROCUREMENT	CLEANING	DEVELOPMENT	LAND	WATER	TRANSPORTATION	RECYCLING	TOXINS	COMMUNICATIONS
Land Management - Manage Village-owned land so as to maximize the natural recycling of materials and minimize environmental pollution.										
5.1. Incorporate a vision for sustainability into the next update of the Comprehensive Plan.					◆					
5.2. Maintain pedestrian and bicycle links to parks and the canal.	◆				◆		◆			
5.3. Replace trees removed from public property on a minimum 1.5:1 annual basis.					◆					
5.4. Use grass mulching mowers					◆			◆		
5.5. Utilize integrated pest management strategies for all Village owned open space					◆				◆	
5.6. Construct a permanent farmer's market structure.					◆					
5.7. Add regular funding to the capital budget for more public benches, cigarette disposal receptacles, trash cans, and garden spaces in Village center					◆		◆			
5.8. Create a sidewalk management program that inventories sidewalks, sidewalk conditions, sidewalk usage, and identifies priorities for new or restored sidewalks.	◆				◆		◆			
5.9. Maintain the urban forest (e.g. street trees, park trees, etc.).					◆		◆			
5.10. Work with county, town, state and others to plant more native species and remove invasive species					◆					
5.11. Evaluate existing mowing and landscape maintenance practices and consider low-mow and no-mow areas.	◆				◆	◆				
5.12. Continue to recycle wood chips, etc.					◆	◆		◆		



ACTION STEP	ENERGY	PROCUREMENT	CLEANING	DEVELOPMENT	LAND	WATER	TRANSPORTATION	RECYCLING	TOXINS	COMMUNICATIONS
Water Conservation - Encourage the careful conservation and protection of our waterways and water supply.										
6.1. Utilize and promote Low Impact Stormwater Management practices by the Village and developers (also see Action Step 4.6 and 4.7).				◆		◆			◆	
6.2. Work with county and Genesee Land Trust to develop a Sustainability water-themed trail.						◆	◆			
6.3. Work with volunteers and the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition to install storm drain markers at Village catch basins.						◆			◆	
6.4. Develop strategies to minimize surface parking lots.	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆			
6.5. Inventory / replace fixtures with low-flow fixtures.	◆	◆				◆				
6.6. Limit outside use of potable water. Utilize rain barrels when possible.						◆	◆		◆	



ACTION STEP	ENERGY	PROCUREMENT	CLEANING	DEVELOPMENT	LAND	WATER	TRANSPORTATION	RECYCLING	TOXINS	COMMUNICATIONS
Transportation - Seek ways to minimize the environmental impact of our transportation system, encourage the use of alternative transportation modes and sustainable fuels, reduce or eliminate pollution from Village owned vehicles and reduce idling of all motor vehicles.										
7.1. Ensure public open spaces are accessible to those with disabilities.	◆						◆			
7.2. Provide facilities for bike parking and storage.	◆						◆			
7.3. Consider instituting policies to reduce trips generated by Village employees (i.e., flex time, four-day work week, etc.).	◆						◆			
7.4. Examine opportunities for Safe Routes to School.	◆						◆			
7.5. Promote carpooling, bicycling, and walking.	◆						◆			
7.6. Complete a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan	◆						◆			
7.7. Adopt a program to limit Village and commercial vehicle idling time (also see Action Step 1.8).	◆						◆			
7.8. Adopt Aging-in-Place strategies to help ensure the mobility of the elderly.	◆			◆			◆			
7.9. Create Safe Pedestrian cross walks.	◆						◆			
7.10. Support home occupations (i.e., live/work and studio space) with appropriate ordinance.	◆			◆			◆			
7.11. Communicate and coordinate with RGRTA on optimum transit service throughout Village.	◆						◆			
7.12. Continue to purchase alternative fuel vehicles (also see Action Step 1.7).	◆						◆		◆	
7.13. Provide electric “plug-in” stations in strategic locations within the business district.	◆			◆			◆			◆
7.14. Provide priority parking for fuel efficient and low emitting vehicles and identify with signs.	◆			◆			◆			
7.15. Implement the recommendations as outlined in the 2010 Village of Fairport Circulation, Accessibility, and Parking Study.	◆						◆			



ACTION STEP	ENERGY	PROCUREMENT	CLEANING	DEVELOPMENT	LAND	WATER	TRANSPORTATION	RECYCLING	TOXINS	COMMUNICATIONS
Recycling - Seek to encourage and support recycling of materials at Village facilities and among our residents.										
8.1. Consider developing an annual community award program for recycling and reduction of waste.								◆		◆
8.2. Improve public space recycling, especially in Kennelly Park and near docking areas along the Erie Canal.								◆		
8.3. Establish/continue volunteer programs to pick up litter in public places, parks, along canal, during special events, and in the general community.								◆		
8.4. Recycle asphalt from Village paving and roadway projects.	◆			◆			◆	◆		
8.5. As part of the approval process, require special events to recycle.								◆		◆
8.6. Evaluate and modify recycling practices as to maximize opportunities and participation to recycle at all village owned facilities.								◆		



ACTION STEP	ENERGY	PROCUREMENT	CLEANING	DEVELOPMENT	LAND	WATER	TRANSPORTATION	RECYCLING	TOXINS	COMMUNICATIONS
Environmental Toxins - Reduce exposure to environmental toxins through the collection and proper disposal of hazardous material, and through similar measures.										
9.1. Work with county to educate the public about pharmaceuticals in the drinking water.						◆			◆	◆
9.2. Partner with county to hold a household hazardous waste collection in the Village.							◆		◆	◆
9.3. Phase out appliances/devices that use chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) based refrigerant.	◆								◆	
9.4. Partner with local recyclers to hold a community document shredding/electronics recycling day.	◆						◆		◆	◆



ACTION STEP	ENERGY	PROCUREMENT	CLEANING	DEVELOPMENT	LAND	WATER	TRANSPORTATION	RECYCLING	TOXINS	COMMUNICATIONS
Communications - Inform our residents of the sustainability plan and other environmental policies and programs through written and electronic communications.										
10.1. Join and support appropriate local, state and national sustainability-related organizations and partnerships.	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
10.2. Create strategic partnerships with businesses to educate owners on the benefits of energy efficiency and conservation.	◆									◆
10.3. Use current community events to promote sustainability messages.	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
10.4. Enhance local reports to the community such as "State of the Village", "State of the Chamber", "IDA Annual Report", or similar by adding a sustainable development component.	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
10.5. Tie sustainability efforts into any Village marketing and branding programs.	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
10.6. Sponsor a contest to develop a Village sustainability logo.										◆
10.7. Maximize opportunities for online payments for Village services.	◆									◆
10.8. Add a page on the Village web site regarding sustainability.	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆

