

City of Dallas Environmental Initiatives

Air Quality and Transportation

Alternative Fuels: Convert fleet to run on alternative/cleaner fuels – 41% of the City's fleet is now alternative-fueled or hybrid. This includes natural gas, Bio-diesel and hybrid vehicles. All go a long way in reducing emissions of Nitrogen Oxide (NOx).

Idling Ordinance – In May 2007, the City Council passed a City Ordinance prohibiting vehicle operators with a gross weight over 14,000 pounds to idle for more than 5 minutes. Enforcement ordinance began in April 2008.

Cement Purchasing Strategy - The City Council adopted a purchasing policy in May of 2007 in an attempt to encourage kilns to reduce their contribution on the Dallas-Fort Worth ozone problem. The policy included a base bid for dry kiln cement only, an alternative bid from cement from any source, and a preference from dry kilns with a NOx emission level less than 1.7 tons of NOx per clinker produced.

Dallas Sustainable Skylines Initiative - Pilot program with the Environmental Protection Agency and the North Central Texas Council of Governments to focus on seven environmental initiatives:

1. Urban Heat Island/Stormwater Mitigation
2. Green Taxis
3. Green Buildings
4. Greenhouse Gas Strategy
5. Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Outreach
6. Site Assistance Visit Program
7. Small Off-Road Equipment Replacement/Retrofit

Air Quality Outreach - In May 2007, the City Council voted to hire an air quality outreach coordinator to provide assistance to citizens, private companies and city contractors on obtaining State-funding for the repair and replacement of high-emitting vehicles or equipment. (State programs include the Texas Emissions Reduction Program (TERP) and the Low Income Vehicle Repair and Assistance Program (LIRAP). The outreach coordinator will also work on educating businesses on commute solutions and ways that employees can seek alternatives to driving alone to work.

Emissions Inventory – In 2005, the City completed an emissions inventory to better understand the source and location of its emissions. A Clean Air Plan was developed to direct and guide our emission reduction efforts.

City of Dallas Ozone Action Plan - The City of Dallas implements a City Wide Ozone Action Plan each year from May 1st through October 31st. The City of Dallas is a proud member of the EPA's Best Workplaces for Commuters. By offering flex schedules when applicable and providing DART passes to employees at a reduced price, the City

has reduced vehicle miles traveled in the DFW region. This has helped to improve traffic congestion and reduce emissions associated with the formation of ozone.

Redesign Communities to Encourage Walking, Biking, and Mass Transit - The City of Dallas Trail Master Plan calls for 230 miles of multi-use hike and bike trails at full build out. The trail system will link into the DART light rail stations, green belts, schools, business centers, and parks. Additionally, the City currently has 1,000 lane miles on our street bicycle commuter system which local bicycle groups helped design.

Climate Change and Sustainability

In 2005, the Mayor of Dallas signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Change Agreement which is a commitment by Mayors around the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their own cities and communities to 7% below 1990 levels by the year 2012. The Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) is currently working on a Sustainability Plan with several other City Departments.

Environmental Management System (EMS)

The City of Dallas is the first U.S. City to implement an EMS across 14 City departments. The City is using its EMS based on the International Organization Standard (ISO) to promote and manage its sustainability programs and to exceed environmental legal requirements.

Facilities and Infrastructure

Renewable Energy - In September 2007, the City Council authorized the largest procurement of renewable energy in the City's history. As of January 1, 2008, 40 % of the City's power will come from renewable energy, primarily from wind power.

Green Buildings - In 2003, The City Council passed an ordinance that all facilities over 10,000 square feet must be designed and built to meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver standards. Of the 38 LEED buildings in the Dallas area, 16 of them are at City of Dallas facilities. These buildings include sustainability components such as geothermal wells at a Police Substation and a cistern installed at a Library to collect rainwater for irrigation.

Green Buildings - Green Buildings have structures and surrounding landscapes designed, constructed, and maintained to decrease energy and water usage and costs, and to decrease the burden imposed on the environment and public health

In April 2008, City Council adopted an ordinance establishing a green building program, regulating new construction work in the city for all residential and commercial projects:

- Phase 1 effective Oct 2009

- Projects less than 50,000 sq ft should include requirements for energy efficiency, water conservation, and cool roofs.
- Projects over 50,000 sq ft must meet requirements of the Dallas Building code
- Phase 2 effective Oct 2011
 - Applies to all proposed projects
 - Must be LEED certifiable, Green Built North Texas certifiable, or certifiable under an equivalent green building standard

Energy Efficiency

The City has reduced energy usage at its existing facilities by almost 5% per year over the past five years, through such means as the purchase of energy efficient lighting and the installation of solar panels.

Change Traffic Lights to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) Fixtures - LED lights have been installed in approximately 1,100 intersections saving 14.5 million kilowatt hours per year and 9,341.6 tons of CO2 reductions per year.

Solar Energy Use - As they need to be replaced, school and warning flashers are being installed with units powered by solar energy.

Performance Management Contracting at City Buildings - The City has conducted four comprehensive energy projects for its major buildings. For example, the contract for City Hall resulted in the replacement and upgrading of chillers, boilers, and lighting, and cooling towers; automated controls for HVAC and lighting and installations of solar panels. This project has resulted in a 5,790,165 kWh and 3,730.3 tons of CO2 reduction. The project for the art museum resulted in a savings of approximately \$800,000 per year.

Energy Star Label - City computers and all new construction contracts have the Energy Star Label to reduce energy usage. This has led to a 577,476 reduction in CO2.

Recycling and Waste Management

Revamped Our Curbside Recycling – In 2007, our recycling program changed from picking up recyclables in blue bags at homes to a single stream of recyclables in blue cans. As a result, the amount of residential waste recycled has increased from 9,000 tons to 304,061 tons.

Recycle in City Offices - From 2003 to 2006, the City of Dallas diverted 3,199 tons of recyclable materials from the Landfill. The program will be greatly expanded to include more City facilities and an internal outreach program.

Establish Composting Programs - The Dallas Zoo composts its clippings from vegetation. This program helps reduce waste and relieves pressure on our landfill.

Capture Methane from Landfill - The McCommas Landfill captures 3-4 million cubic feet/day of methane gas which is converted into energy. Additionally, the City is installing a bio reactor to accelerate the production of methane gas, which has the added benefit of extending the landfill's life.

Capture Methane from Wastewater Treatment Plant - Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant stabilizes and disposes the biosolids generated by both of the City's wastewater treatment plants. During the process of stabilizing the biosolids, methane (biogas) is produced as a by-product. The City of Dallas will supply the facility with approximately 1.5 million ft³ of biogas per day which will be converted by engines into electricity and hot water.

Production of Methane from Wastewater Treatment Plant – This project, currently in the feasibility phase, will involve the injection of grease and other high strength wastes into the wastewater treatment plant's digestion process to increase methane production and convert into electricity.

Planning and Urban Environment

Smart Growth - The City has published a comprehensive land use plan "Forward Dallas". This plan incorporates smart growth policies to protect the environment, enhance transportation systems, and create strong and healthy neighborhoods. The plan specifically outlines initiatives in storm water and air quality.

Urban Trees/Urban Heat Island - In 2005, the Mayor established an Urban Forest Advisory Committee and in 2006 the City of Dallas hired a City forester to develop and promote an urban forestry program.

Use High Reflective Surfacing and Roofing Materials - As the City replaces roofs on its existing buildings, cool roofing technologies are utilized. These roofs substantially reduce the amount of energy needed to cool a City building. The City has completed 5 cool roof projects to date.

Purchasing

Purchase Green Products – The City has a policy which gives preference to the purchase of "green" products over conventional products. Life cycle costs as opposed to only initial purchase price can be used to determine which products should be purchased. 20% of office supplies for the City are made from recyclables. The City has decreased the use of aerosols and certain hazardous chemicals.

Water

Water Conservation - The City's aggressive program includes extensive public education, audits/inspections, retrofits and replacements, and water restrictions. Since 2001, conservation strategies have saved 71 billion gallons.

Water Reuse- Since 2006, the Cedar Crest golf course is being irrigated with treated wastewater effluent totaling 81.7 million gallons. Water reuse conserves potable water use at the golf course, saves energy and associated treatment costs at the wastewater treatment plant.

Storm Water Quality - The City of Dallas maintains a State environmental permit for the collection and maintenance of the storm water system (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit). Participation in household hazardous waste collection sites, enforcement of City ordinances and public education show the City is diligently working to keep our lakes and creeks clean. Internal efforts include implementing mandatory storm water inspections and installing oil/water separators in storm water inlets where appropriate.

Community Gardens

A Community Garden is a piece of land gardened by a group of people that provides access to fresh produce and plants as well as access to satisfying labor, neighborhood improvement, sense of community and connection to the environment. They are publicly functioning in terms of ownership, access and management

. Community gardens encourage an urban community's food security, allowing citizens to grow their own food or for others to donate what they have grown

- First City owned 12,000 square foot organic garden on city property at Lake Highlands
- purpose of raising and harvesting fresh produce for a local food bank.
- a model of water conservation practices throughout the City by implementing drip irrigation and rain water harvesting.

GreenDallas.net

In January, 2008 Dallas officially launched www.GreenDallas.net, a new Web site dedicated exclusively to green initiatives.

Visitors to the site will find tips on how to save energy and water; recycle; clean the air; and have a green home and lawn. City's environmental initiatives, accomplishments and awards are also prominently featured.