



The Mayor's Call to Action for a Sustainable Riverside

Clean & Green Task Force

Co-Chairs:

Jane Block

Riverside Land Conservancy

Bill Warkentin

Warkentin Architects

Members:

Nathan Brown

Sandals Church

James Bryant

Riverside Metropolitan Museum

Nita Bullock

UC Riverside

Patricia Byrd

American Lung Association

Wendell Clark

Diffenbaugh Construction

Virginia Field

Clean Air Now

Jesse Hairston

Riverside Unified School District

Jennifer Humphreys

Victoria Avenue Forever

Shelli Lamb

Riverside-Corona Conservation District

Tim Maloney

Community Works Design Group

Mike McCoy

Riverside Transit Agency

Nancy Melendez

Keep Riverside Clean & Beautiful

Atoya Mendez

Riverside Public Utilities

D.P. Myers

The Wildlands Conservancy

Ralph Perez

Riverside City College

John Perumal

La Sierra University

Dave Roger

California Urban Forest Council

Phil Rosentrater

Western Municipal Water District

Pete Staylor

Riverside Bike Club

Steve Smith

California Baptist University

Josiah Trenham

Saint Andrews Orthodox Church

Jeffrey Weinstein

Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Terry Wold

Sierra Club San Geronio Chapter

The Clean & Green Task Force recommends that the City of Riverside adopt a **Sustainable Riverside Policy Statement** that will guide Riverside in becoming a Clean and Green city.

The Policy Statement includes six basic framing concepts.

- Sustainability is a vital and necessary civic goal.
- City resources will be made available to explore each key area of interest.
- Current capabilities and policy status must be assessed as a baseline for progress.
- New policies, guidelines and codes/regulations should be developed using sustainable building design such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and California Green Builder standards.
- Implementation programs should be facilitated.
- Progress toward a Sustainable Riverside should be monitored and measured.

"A Sustainable Riverside exemplifies the spirit of the American Institute of Architects 150th Anniversary Initiative to provide a Blueprint for America. The Mayor's Call to Action is an awakening to the issues holding Riverside's environmental future in a delicate balance between nature and its built environment."

*Robert J. Kain, AIA + ACHA
Past President, AIA Inland*

Background

In the summer of 2005, Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge appointed a Clean & Green Task Force to look into ways for the City to make residents' lives better by improving the City's appearance, making City practices more sustainable, and improving air quality.

Headed by Bill Warkentin and Jane Block, the Task Force included people from a wide range of civic organizations, professions and academic institutions. They formed themselves into subcommittees. They took trips to gather information and expand their internal discussions.

They recognized that their work has plenty to build on. The City's Public Utilities Department has introduced numerous conservation programs and made a commitment to drawing 20% of its power from renewable sources. The Chamber of Commerce has capably run its Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful program. The City has purchased over 200 alternative fuel vehicles.

Context

It is vital to recognize our role as stewards of our world. Rather than consume the globe's resources, we must use them wisely. We have an obligation to ensure that our grandchildren can live at least as well as we do. Riverside may only represent 300,000 of the world's 6.65 billion people, but it is the area where we can make an immediate impact and set an example for other communities.

We can do that by taking steps to protect our environment and our economy. The evidence of global warming continues to increase. Scientific research has tracked rising temperatures and begun to identify the greenhouse gases that are causing this increase.

For 20 years, the world has used more oil than we have discovered. The trend extended to natural gas 15 years ago. It also illustrates another trend. There is more oil out there – but such sources will be increasingly expensive to tap. In our globalized economies, lasting peace is unlikely without energy security.

The bulk of our current and future sources of oil are located in politically unstable areas, creating national security concerns. Not only are we dependent on this oil, but we are sending billions of dollars to these countries from our treasury.

California is the sixth largest economy in the world. Our economic health is tied to our ability to get to work, to run our computers and to move our products around the country and the world. The efficient use of energy is central to that health.

Vision

Sustainable Riverside maximizes energy efficiency and makes the most efficient use of resources, and minimizes negative environmental consequences. Above all, it means meeting the needs of its citizens while not degrading or destroying the natural and constructed systems that will sustain future generations.

Mayors from more than 300 U.S. cities representing more than 45 million people have endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement of 2005, a statement which reflects a commitment to creating a Clean and Green Sustainable City (see appendix). That Agreement recognizes the need to enact policies and programs to reduce U.S. dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies. The City of Riverside should also encourage change by finding ways to reward good behavior rather than simply penalize the bad.

The City's policies should support good practices. Incentives can be created and modified as we learn more about how to create a sustainable community. It is important to remember how these

programs are interconnected. An example: planting trees to encourage walking is presented here as a way to reduce fuel consumption. But, trees will also reduce greenhouse gases, mitigate the heat-island effect and, by encouraging walking, improve health. The benefits of these ideas are not confined to the categories in which they have been placed.



Solutions:

- **Save Water: Water Access & Efficiency**
We must use water wisely and find effective ways to maintain water quality.
- **Keep It Clean: Beautification & Waste Reduction**
Public and private organizations must take an active role in litter prevention, waste reduction, and beautification.
- **Make It Solar: Renewable & Efficient Energy**
We must continue to conserve energy and aggressively pursue the use of solar power.
- **Make It Shady: Trees & Landscaping**
We must create a larger canopy of trees and water efficient landscaping to generate oxygen and consume carbon dioxide.
- **Clean the Air: Keep Working for Cleaner Air**
The City should continue to move its fleet of vehicles to alternative energy including electric, natural gas, hybrid and hydrogen with the goal of limiting the use of gasoline powered vehicles.
- **Save Fuel: Public Transport, Clean Vehicles, Less Congestion**
The City must explore feasible ways to encourage public transit and to promote the use of such alternatives as bicycling and walking.
- **Make It Smart: Urban Functions & Planning**
The City should create the Office of Sustainable Action incorporated in a City department which would coordinate the City's efforts of becoming a more sustainable community.
- **Build Green: Urban Design**
The City must be a leader in expanding green building efforts to meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards and the California Green Builder program.

Conclusion:

These suggestions are merely an illustration of what can be (the full Task Force report contains more detail on these suggestions as well as additional ideas).

The creation of a policy statement for a Sustainable Riverside requires the recognition of six general procedural goals.

- Recognize that rewards for innovation, conservation and good practices are likely to be more effective than another layer of restrictions and punishments.
- Provide useful and timely data to help residents with resources available for living sustainably and keeping our City clean.
- Adopt General Plan policies that integrate land use, circulation, open space, design elements, energy use and conservation practices. These elements should make a Sustainable Riverside the natural and inevitable consequence of their proper application.
- Ensure policy follow-through, by facilitating implementation plans, updated programs and revised regulations.
- Recognize the City needs to lead by example. The policy should commit the City to developing pilot projects that explore cutting edge ideas for sustainable action.
- Ensure that the City works with regional agencies and adjacent cities and counties to design and implement region-wide sustainability programs, particularly in the areas of clean air, clean water and traffic congestion.

We are confident that such a commitment will be beneficial to the City, and build on our traditions and current institutions.

Note: The Clean & Green Task Force produced a 69-page report full of practical suggestions for how the City might implement cleaner, greener and more sustainable policies. (For a full copy of task force report, contact Brenda Flowers at 826-5813 or go to www.riversideca.gov/mayor/pdf/clean-green-task-force.pdf). It contains numerous specific recommendations, including references to model ordinances, documents and websites for further research.

The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

- A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels;
- B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan Climate Stewardship Act sponsored by Senators McCain and Lieberman and Representatives Gilchrist and Olver, which would create a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and
- C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:
 - 1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan.
 - 2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space and create compact, walkable urban communities;
 - 3. Promotes transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
 - 4. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, or example, investing in "green tags", advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, and recovering landfill methane for energy production;
 - 5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
 - 6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;
 - 7. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system;
 - 8. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
 - 9. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;
 - 10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;
 - 11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂; and
 - 12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and urges mayors from around the nation to join this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors will establish a formal relationship with International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Cities for Climate Protection Program to track progress and implementation of the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

