

## Sustainable Communities' Uniqueness

**W**hat makes a sustainable approach to community planning unique?

- ♦ It provides a balanced, inter-connected approach to build economic, ecological and social equity
- ♦ It pushes long-term thinking in planning
- ♦ It encourages inclusionary involvement and guidance by residents
- ♦ It provides shared multidimensional indicators to track success toward reaching goals



## Contact Us:

**If your community would be interested in exploring the potential of adopting a sustainable communities approach to their planning and development efforts, please contact Ohio State University Extension Sustainable Development Center:**

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For samples of sustainable communities and comprehensive plans that have been produced already, access the following links:

<http://www.kentohio.org/reports/comprehensive.asp>

<http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~esco/noblefinalreport.pdf>

<http://www.carrollcountyohio.net/planning/index.htm>

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# Sustainable Communities Programs



**Residents building a legacy  
of equity, prosperity and  
quality of life for current and  
future generations**

Ohio State University Extension

Sustainable Development Center

16714 Wolf Run Road

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## *What is Sustainability?*

Sustainability is an approach to community building and development that seeks to bring long-term balance between the economic, social and environmental components of life. Sustainability is about assuring that the decisions we make today will enhance the ability of future generations to prosper.

Communities continually strive to enhance their residents quality of life. A sustainability approach to planning intentionally designs equal priority to the local economy, the natural environment and the social well-being of citizens.

Using the participatory sustainable communities approach, a community establishes a shared vision, establishes goals, set objectives and develops strategies for action. Finally, diverse partnerships are created to implement the plan.

## **Creating Sustainable Communities**

### **Sustainable Community Development**

The Ohio State University Extension Sustainable Development Center has three planning programs offering sustainable development approaches. These programs are all conducted in collaboration with the local community.

#### **1. Sustainable Communities Program:**

A community-wide process to discover shared values, build consensus, identify linkages and create balance among the environmental, economic and social interest of your community. The resulting vision is the guide to produce a community action plan. This process will take 12- 18 months to complete.

#### **2. Sustainable Comprehensive Economic Development Plan:**

This program uses the Sustainable Communities Program as its base to produce an economic development approach for the community. This process will take 18-24 months to complete.

#### **3. Sustainable Comprehensive Land Use Plan:**

This program uses the Sustainable Communities Program as its base to produce a land use plan for the community. This process will take 18-24 months to complete.

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**The Process:** The Sustainable Communities and Comprehensive Planning Process as offered through Extension's Sustainable Development Center are implemented through a series of steps:

#### **1. Sustainable Communities**

- ◆ **Develop a governance body for the process**
- ◆ **Create a shared community vision**
- ◆ **Set goals, objectives and strategies**
- ◆ **Choose and implement chosen activities of the plan**
- ◆ **Evaluate progress, celebrate success and revise activities where appropriate**

#### **2. Sustainable Comprehensive Planning:**

- ◆ **Develop a governance body for the process**
- ◆ **Create a shared community vision**
- ◆ **Create workgroups around themes emerging from vision**
- ◆ **Gather data and research**
- ◆ **Set goals, objectives, strategies and indicators**
- ◆ **Finalize comprehensive plan**
- ◆ **Implement plan and evaluate progress**

