

Sustainable Communities Uniqueness

What makes a sustainable approach to community development unique:

- ◇ A balanced, inter-connected approach to economic, ecological and social equity
- ◇ Thinking long-term, perhaps fifty years
- ◇ Inclusionary, not representative, involvement of residents
- ◇ Multidimensional indicators of progress



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Salem Area Sustainable Comprehensive Plan



Sustainable Communities Program

Sponsored by: Salem Area Chamber of
Commerce, Salem Utilities Commission
and the City of Salem

Developed/Facilitated by: OSU Extension
Sustainable Development Center

What is Sustainability?

Sustainability is about assuring that the decisions we make today will not jeopardize the ability of future generations to prosper. Sustainability seeks to bring long-term balance between the economic, social and environmental components of life.

Communities have traditionally strived to enhance the quality of life of their residents. Local community development efforts though have not always been able to give equal priority to the local economy, the natural environment and the social well-being of its citizens.

Communities also use a participatory approach to reach a consensus about design. Finally, they create diverse partnerships to promote total community development.

Steps in the Process & Accomplishments

The Sustainable Comprehensive Planning Process has 5 steps. These steps, with Salem Area's accomplishments to date, include:

Step 1:

- ◇ Develop a governance body for the process

Accomplishment:

- ◇ Broadly Representative Steering Committee created to provide guidance for process

Step 2:

- ◇ Create a shared community vision

Accomplishment:

- ◇ Vision process has been accomplished. Community residents were asked what they value about the Salem Area and what they hope for the future. Also, community leaders were interviewed. Over 4,096 responses were received from 1,084 adults & youth. Results of vision process will be shared with the community and additional input will be sought.

Steps 3, 4 & 5:

- ◇ Set goals and objectives with appropriate indicators of success
- ◇ Choose and implement activities
- ◇ Evaluate progress, celebrate success and revise activities where appropriate

To Be Accomplished:

- ◇ Launch of work groups who will develop the Sustainable Development Comprehensive Plan, based on the community vision, will take place on July 27, 2006.

To assist sustainable community development, Ohio State University Extension, Sustainable Development Center has created a program to implement a community-wide process.

Known as the Sustainable Communities Program, a team of Extension professionals is committed to facilitate a two-year sustainable development process in collaboration with the Salem community.

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