

Village of Spencerport



**New York
USA**

2009

GREEN

**Sustainability
Plan**



**VILLAGE of SPENCERPORT, NEW YORK, USA
GREEN Sustainability Plan**

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*Created by:
Owen McIntee, Spencerport Municipal Electric Superintendent
& Carol J. Nellis-Ewell, Trustee
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BACKGROUND
(not by priority):

GREENNESS and SUSTAINABILITY

It's IN!

It is considered an amenity

Incentives! OPPORTUNITY exists to obtain economic stimulus money; EECBG (Energy & Conservation Block Grants amount announced end of May 2009)

Greening of Main Street USA

3 P's:

Planet (Ecology & Environment) – People (Social Equity) – Prosperity (Economics)

“It's the Right Thing to Do!”... Owen McIntee, SME Superintendent

Fact: With greenness and global warming, etc., people either love it or hate it; believe it or disbelieve it (no in-between); it is a passionate topic

Recognized Barriers:

Expertise (growing), Funding, Political Will (shared), Staff (unfamiliar) – work to change

Science & Stats: HUMAN ACTIVITIES CAUSING EXCESS GREENHOUSE GASSES

Government Messages:

- ***Federal: Reduce GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions by 80% from 1990 levels – by 2050***
- ***New York State: Reduce energy consumption 15% by 2015***
- ***City of Rochester: Reduce CO2 emissions by 1 BILLION pounds over 3 years (2009-12): Cool Rochester Program; each household 10,000 pounds***

“The communities that quickly adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge demonstrate how committed our local leaders are to decreasing energy use and waste, increasing recycling and supporting a green economy.

By doing so, they are working to improve our natural environment and to ensure a sustainable future for New York.”... DEC Web Site

Governor David Paterson

Resources: Everywhere and Endless

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INTRODUCTION

OBJECTIVE:

To develop, encourage, promote and support **GREEN/SUSTAINABLE Initiatives** in the Village of Spencerport (VOS), Town of Ogden, community following an affordable, factual, manageable, measurable, and PHASED PLAN with specific goals and actions.

PHASE I:	Immediate	Range – Now to 6 months
PHASE II:	Short-Term	Range – 6 months to 1 year
PHASE III:	Intermediate	Range – 1 to 3 years
PHASE IV:	Long-Term	Range – 3 to 5 years
PHASE V:	Future	Range – Beyond

PLAN Components: Create, collaborate, communicate, contribute, celebrate

PURPOSE: This **VOS GREEN Sustainability PLAN** creates a basic strategy, to serve as a reference with specific items that may be addressed by suggested actions.

***Note:** To make our **VOS GREEN Sustainability PLAN** easier, this is a beginning document, focused on PHASES I & II, with some overlap of phases because of implementation cost, labor availability and time constraint.*

Such efforts are to be accomplished using best practices in compliance with, and conformance to, established and required Energy and Environmental standards in accordance with the laws and governments of: the County of Monroe, the State of New York and the United States of America.

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VISION

To be known as “**The Emerald Village**” (Dorothy)

Village of Spencerport referred to as “**a jewel in the crown of the Erie Canal**”

- **Syracuse has become the Emerald City** after implementation of significant green/sustainable projects with measurable, tangible and visible results
- Buffalo, infamous “Snow Capital” of Western New York and the Northeast, USA, hosted the International Solar Conference. It can be done!
- Town of Henrietta perceived as all built up, too much commercial, asphalt and parking lots; actually, only 12% of its area is commercial. Development is clustered, not sprawled!

Municipalities and their Boards should (strive to) become Change Agents

It does not have to be economy vs. environment; it does not have to be a choice.
It is do-able.

If we plan better, we can build better. Begin with an effective, meaningful Comprehensive Plan

Example: Vacancies vs. reuse/re-purpose...

Consider historical preservation; consult with an historian and/or landmark society.

Can you save it and/or re-purpose/reuse it?

COMMUNITY is local and global

Citizens/Residents/Taxpayers, Businesses, Industries, Municipalities, Organizations, Schools, Visitors; All Creatures on Earth and Our Environment

GREEN BENEFITS:

1. **GREEN** Advocates and Leaders enjoy positive PR/Publicity
They get noticed!
2. **GREEN** Projects promote employee and community spirit and teamwork
3. **GREEN** Economic Developments and Business Environments bring revenue
4. **GREEN** Practices can reduce consumption, operating costs and waste
Who doesn't want to save Effort, Time and Money \$\$?
5. **GREEN** Job Growth: **GREEN** workers seek/settle in/support **GREEN** communities
6. **GREEN** Communities tend to be healthier: Alternative transportation and walkability support energy and oil independence

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RECOMMENDATIONS: IMMEDIATE

1. SIGN ON TO NYS CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy>

Saving Energy and Helping the Climate ~ a partnership of state and local governments

Collaboration of state agencies including:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

New York State Energy Records and Development Authority

New York Department of State

New York State Public Service Commission

Climate Smart Communities Pledge – Act Locally to Protect our Climate:

- 1. Pledge to Combat Climate Change by Becoming a Climate Smart Community**
- 2. Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Move to Action**
- 3. Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations**
- 4. Encourage Renewable Energy for Local Government Operations**
- 5. Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate Smart Solid Waste Management Practices**
- 6. Promotion Climate Protection Through Community Land Use Tools**
- 7. Plan for Adaptation to Unavoidable Climate Change**
- 8. Support a Green Innovation Economy**
- 9. Inform and Inspire (*and Involve*) the Public**
- 10. Commit to an Evolving Process**



2. PARTICIPATE IN COOL ROCHESTER PROGRAM

www.CoolRochester.org

Introduced/launched by Mayor Robert J. Duffy, City of Rochester, September 15, 2009

CoolRochester is dedicated to making this planet a healthier, more sustainable environment to pass on to our children and grandchildren.

To accomplish this, we need to make changes now – and we need to start at home.

Fact: 50% of energy consumption is linked to residences.

Cool Rochester has programs for municipalities to lead by example, plus businesses and residences

Cool Rochester offers the tools to:

- 1. Understand our carbon footprint**
- 2. Reduce our energy consumption and emissions**
- 3. Help create and implement organizational policies and practices**
- 4. Realize the future environmental benefits of making lifestyle changes now**
- 5. Appreciate immediate benefits, including lower energy bills, a cleaner environment, and improved physical health**

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SME Practices

Lighting Systems Short-Term Goals (0-1 year)

Goal #1: Convert SME street lighting system to environmentally friendly, Dark Sky street, building and area light fixtures.

Action Item #1: Replace existing cobra head street lights with new environmentally friendly, Dark Sky “flat glass” cobra head street light fixtures when SME crews replace utility poles.

Action Item #2: Replace existing cobra head street lights with new environmentally friendly, Dark Sky “flat glass” cobra head street light fixtures when “old” existing light fails.

Action Item #3: Install new environmentally friendly, Dark Sky “flat glass” cobra head street light fixtures on all new installations.

Barriers: *Presently no additional costs for overhead cobra head fixtures, potential of additional costs with purchase of some Dark Sky friendly post top fixtures.*

Lighting Systems Long-Term Goals (1-5 years)

Goal #2: Convert SME lighting systems to energy efficient “LED” street, building and area lighting fixtures.

Action Item #1: Develop “LED” standard street, building and area light fixtures for VOS.

Action Item #2: Identify projects where “LED” street, building and area lighting fixtures can be installed.

Barriers: *Potential of additional costs with purchase of “LED” light fixtures.*

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Energy & Facilities Practices

REDUCE Monthly Energy Costs Short-Term Goals (0-1 year)

- Goal #1: Reduce Annual Baseline of Total Electricity use by 5%:
Electricity use per square foot for each VOS facility.
- Action Item #1: Develop baseline – historical 12-month electric usage per square foot for each electric metered VOS facility.
- Action Item #2: Monitor monthly consumption for each account.
- Action Item #3: Communicate to employees to reduce energy consumption at each building.
- Barriers: Need to enhance entire employee culture to conserve energy daily.*

Operate Appliances and Rooms MORE EFFICIENTLY Short-Term Goals (0-1 year)

- Goal #2: Operate appliances and VOS facilities more efficiently.
- Action Item #1: Conduct mini-audit review of all VOS facilities.
- Action Item #2: Adjust all VOS refrigerators to operate at 40 degrees.
- Action Item #3: Replace manual thermostats with programmable thermostats in VOS facilities.
- Action Item #4: Review all interior lighting fixtures for most efficient operation, (i.e.: motion sensors).
- Barriers: Need to enhance entire employee culture to conserve energy daily.*

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General Office & Administration Practices Cont'd...

Environmental Awareness

Short-Term Goals (0-1 year)



Goal #3

Increase Employee Overall Awareness

- Action Item #1: Post reminder signs for reducing copies at all VOS copier locations.
- Action Item #2: When necessary, make 2-sided copies.
- Action Item #3: Require all employees to include a < recycling footer note > on email profiles.
- Action Item #4: Require all employees to separate recyclables verses trash.
- Action Item #5: Recycle all used ink cartridges.

Barriers: Potential of additional costs and enhancing employee culture.

Enhance VOS Building Code Process

Short-Term Goal (0-1 year)

Goal #4

Enhance VOS Building Code Process

- Action Item #1: Require Village of Spencerport Engineer to look at/for green/sustainable aspects of projects, and make recommendations for such.
- Action Item #2: Create supportive documents/references incorporating LEED-certified green practices.
(Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)
- Action Item #3: Support by complementary codes and policies and enforcement of same; consult others, including Town of Ogden Conservation Board, on projects.
- Action Item #4: Require code require energy-efficient lighting? HVA/C

Barriers: Potential of additional costs and enhancing employee culture.

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DPW Practices

Plans for Plants and Planting

Short-Term Goals (0-1 year)

Goal #1

Create Methods for Efficient Plantings

Action Item #1:

Use those that require little or no care and eliminate/minimize those difficult to access and maintain areas (canal and steep banks and hillsides).

Action Item #2:

Naturalize with Daylilies (Spencerport official flower) and Wildflowers.

Action Item #3:

Focus on perennials (bulbs), fewer annuals.

Action Item #4:

Plant street trees and shrubs in clusters to create resort-like gardens, an enhancement for residents and attraction for visitors.

Action Item #5:

Create “No Mow” zones - saves mowing = energy and labor.

Action Item #6:

Encourage Riparian Corridors; park-like atmospheres.

Barriers:

Potential of additional cost and need to enhance employee culture

Recycling Practices

Short-Term Goals (0-1 year)

Goal #1

Create Methods for Efficient Recycling Practices

Action Item #1:

Ensure collection of all cardboard by Recycling Truck.

Action Item #2:

Increase volume of garbage pick up at all VOS locations.

Action Item #3:

Ensure garbage collection does not include collecting fluorescent light tubes.

Barriers:

Potential of additional cost and need to enhance employee culture.



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Transportation Practices

REDUCE Fuel Consumption

Short-Term Goals (0-1 year)

Goal #1

Create Methods for Reducing Fuel Consumption

Action Item #1:

Reduce or eliminate vehicle idling whenever possible.

Action Item #2:

Utilize Hybrid vehicle whenever possible.

Action Item #3:

Utilize gator whenever possible.

Action Item #4:

Carpool whenever possible.

Action Item #5:

Research purchasing hybrid and more fuel-efficient vehicles.

Barriers:

Potential of additional cost and need to enhance employee culture.

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Community/Outreach Practices

Increase Communication with VOS Community Short Term Goals (0-1 Years)

Goal #1	Communicate VOS Plan to local residents
Action Item #1:	Enhance VOS website with GREEN/Sustainability Plan
Action Item #2:	Develop quarterly mailings to VOS residents
Action Item #3:	Develop communication plan for VOS customers to increase awareness for recycling
Action Item #4:	Enhance VOS foyer with recycling information.
Action Item #5:	Partner with Sunnking to develop new VOS recycling programs for enhancement of “Power To Save”.
Action Item #6:	Drive the VOS hybrid vehicle in community parades.
Action Item #7:	Encourage GREEN Economic Development: Green Stickers, Green Ribbons, Green Awards.
Action Item # 8:	Use VOS Annual Day of Caring to involve the community
<i>Barriers:</i>	<i>Potential of additional cost and need to enhance employee culture.</i>



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COMMENTS and MESSAGE on ENVIRONMENTALISM

Green is FIRST about living things.

It starts at the smallest example, around you, and us, extending to our world and our future. Many products used are harmful to family, home, workplace and/or community. Going Green changes old, negative practices to new, healthier practices.

Green is ALWAYS tied to health.

When one references Green, one should address a health benefit as well, generally viewed in immediate and long-term health concerns. So, air quality, chemicals, cleaning products, food and water may have Green relevance.

Sustainability ALWAYS refers to resources.

Wood, water, oil and electricity are resources that we use. Example: a gas-saving car should use the word "Sustainable" instead of "Green."

NOTE: GREEN and SUSTAINBLE/SUSTAINABILITY are commonly used interchangeably, yet it is necessary to understand the difference.

Today's generation has been subjected to the greatest quantity of chemicals in history. Concerns about the "Carbon Footprint" as well as "Green Impact" are equally important.

The Iroquois Indians had a great rule "to consider the impact of every decision on the seventh generation."

As Chair of the Village of Spencerport **GREEN Initiatives**, I am committed to enhancing and enriching our community by leading the effort to become greener, for the betterment of our lives and those of future generations – today, tomorrow and beyond.

We invite our neighbors and neighborhoods to join us, your Village of Spencerport officials and employees, to consider, and hopefully practice, recommendations and suggestions, ultimately to reduce energy consumption, cost and dependence over time.

Thank you sincerely, ~Carol J. Nellis-Ewell~, Trustee

