



Town of Brighton

MONROE COUNTY, NEW YORK

SUSTAINABILITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, SOC

2300 ELMWOOD AVE. * ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14618 * PHONE (585) 784-5250 * FAX (585) 784-5368

Sustainability Oversight Committee 2011 Year-End Report

The Sustainability Oversight Committee (SOC) held its first meeting in May 2010 and has met monthly since that time. Copies of the meeting minutes for 2011 are attached. The SOC worked on the following initiatives over the past year, many of which will require continued effort into 2012. Under each heading is a brief description and a statement of action to date.

1. Guidelines for new development and redevelopment

Description: Develop a list of sustainability principles and actions to be incorporated in the Town's planning process.

Action to date: The SOC working with the Energy Management Consultant, reviewed the site planning requirements for sustainable site designs (generally described in LEED guidelines), and compared them to the existing Town code and policies. This comparison was completed in July. The Town code fared well in many areas, but the Committee identified some deficiencies and recommended action on some of the most important. Those recommendations were sent to the Town Board in August, 2011. A copy is attached.

2. Mechanisms to support green technologies

Description: Investigate alternative-energy and enhanced-efficiency technologies, develop protocols to encourage their use, and establish a system for monitoring new technological developments.

Action to date: Background research on these areas has been ongoing in 2011, in collaboration with the Planning Department and Energy Management Consultant.

- a. Proposed regulations for solar power systems have been drafted, and were forwarded to the Town Board on September 28th.
- b. Proposed regulations for small wind energy systems are in the early stages of drafting, but a draft should be ready for the Town Board in the first quarter of 2012.
- c. The SOC in February reviewed the report on the possible conversion of the residential street lighting system to decorative yet more-efficient fixtures while the existing poles and harps. The consultant found that



energy consumption can be significantly reduced, and with it the carbon generated and the costs to operate and maintain a new system. However, the costs to acquire and (especially) to rehabilitate the system would be significant and does not seem to be financial feasible at this time. The Committee concluded by recommending that significant cost sharing by RG&E and/or NYSERDA should be pursued.

- d. The Committee reviewed the issue of noise in the environment, and particularly the matter of leaf blowers, and concluded that the burden of the enforcement effort outweighed the benefits of regulation at this time.
- e. The Committee wished to consider alternative leaf collection technologies to determine if fuel usage can be reduced. The Energy Management Consultant has completed a time study of the alternatives, and is reviewing them with staff. The results will be presented to the Committee in the first quarter of 2012.

3. Recycling in Town Parks

Description: Provide an opportunity to park users to recycle beverage containers and other products that may be used in the parks. Use this effort as an educational opportunity as well.

Action to date: Members of the SOC have spoken with staff of the Parks Department and members of its Advisory Board. Both have been supportive. Representatives of the SOC will attend a February, 2012 meeting with the youth sports leagues to explain the program.

4 Expand refuse districts to cover the entire Town

Description: Many neighborhoods receive such services through the Town from a single waste hauler, reducing the number of trucks on the road for collection. The SOC has investigated and quantified the environmental benefits of such an expansion to cover all neighborhoods.

Action to date: The SOC sent a letter to the Town Supervisor in September recommending this be pursued further. A copy of this letter is attached.

5 Possible revolving loan fund for sustainable improvements

Description: A Property Assessed Clean Energy ("PACE") program is one under which residential and commercial energy efficiency projects could be financed through taxes levied by the Town on the benefitted properties.



Action to date: The Committee reviewed the possibility. There are legal obstacles at the state and national level, but they may be removed by pending legislation. The Committee also noted the heavy administrative burden that such a program may bring. The SOC will continue to monitor this.

6 Capital Improvement Program

Description: The SOC is required to review and to comment upon the Town's Capital Improvement Program annually.

Action: This review was completed in an October and recommendations were documented in a letter to the Town Supervisor. This letter is also attached.

7 Transportation alternatives

Description: Identify ways to promote alternative transportation within the community.

Action to date: The SOC encouraged the Town Supervisor to follow up on the letter that was sent to the President of the U of R regarding alternatives to the use of single occupancy vehicles. The SOC intends to meet with Reconnect Rochester, as well as review the progress of Brighton's Bicycle Master Plan in 2012

8 Guidelines for remodeling projects

Description: Develop a list with ideas for environmentally responsible remodeling of Town facilities.

Action to date: Final draft for Town use in preparation.

9 Cooperation with the Brighton School District

Description: The SOC can act as a resource for the BCSD on sustainability issues in both its curriculum and its operations.

Action to date: A member of the SOC has opened discussions with Board members, administration and staff.

10. Noise

Description: Noise can present harmful impacts to humans and their environment.

Action to date: The Committee reviewed the issue of noise in the environment, and particularly the matter of leaf blowers, and concluded that the burden of the enforcement effort outweighed the benefits of regulation at this time.



11. Town Operations and Facilities

Description: Investigate alternative-energy and enhanced-efficiency technologies for Town operations and facilities; encourage their use.

Action to date: The Committee wished to consider alternative leaf collection technologies to determine if fuel usage can be reduced. The Energy Management Consultant has completed a time study of the alternatives, and is reviewing the preliminary results with staff. The draft study will be presented to the Committee in the first quarter of 2012.

12 Hydraulic Fracturing Moratorium

Description: The Town of Brighton established the SOC to advise the Town Board on public and private matters that involve sustainability issues.

Action to date: The SOC prepared and submitted a letter to the Town Board supporting the Town's proposed moratorium on high-volume hydraulic fracturing to extract gas from the Marcellus and Utica shale, as well as issues related to this activity including, but not limited to, the transportation, storage and disposal of waste products though and within the Town. A copy of this letter is attached. In addition, SOC members attended the Public Hearing as spoke in support of the moratorium.

Committee members:

Karen Berger, Chair (*resigned 8/2011*)
Paul Tankel, Vice-Chair (*Chair, eff.9/28/2011*)
Steve Kittelberger
Peter DeBaal
Ron Wexler
Paul Gardner
Erinn Ryen
Michael Guyon, Town Engineer