

Strategy for a Sustainable Lake County

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Introduction

The purpose of this document is to present a comprehensive strategy that will, over the next three to five years and beyond, make Lake County more sustainable and environmentally-sensitive. While this strategy primarily targets county activities and actions, Lake County intends to promote and encourage similar actions by municipalities, individual businesses, and residents. Together, we can make a difference that will assure Lake County residents enjoy a community that is environmentally sustainable and a high quality of life well into the future.

Lake County's Environmentally Sustainable Vision

Lake County is a leader in environmentally sustainable development that protects and enhances our community's quality of life, and will continue to do so for future generations. Lake County residents, its local government, and the business community foster and apply sound environmental practices. Advanced technology, energy conservation and recycling are employed appropriately at every opportunity.

Background

A combination of forces, including population growth, economic expansion, and increasing energy prices are stressing the earth's resources and society's economic ability to maintain its current standard of living. Further, it has become increasingly clear that many of these challenges are falling to local government to solve. Local governments that have the foresight to act with innovation and creativity to successfully address these challenges, will likely enjoy economic advantages and lead the way for others to follow.

In February and May 2007, the County Board passed resolutions committing to make Lake County a leader in environmental stewardship and sustainability. Since that time, the staff has been working to fulfill this ambitious vision for the county. As a first step, the county formed the Lake County Green Team with broad representation from Lake County elected officials, departments, and agencies. The Team identified a few key areas to focus their attention for 2007, including: Current Green Practices, Green Facilities and Construction, Green Measures and Benchmarking, and Green Policies. Significant progress has been made in just one year. Each day, Lake County elected officials, staff, residents, and businesses make thousands of small decisions that relate to the overall sustainability of the County. Consequently, no single department or division can achieve this vision alone. Rather, the vision requires a coordinated and strategic examination of current practices and procedures across the county. Quick reviews of the County's past accomplishments in the area of environmental stewardship and sustainability have been posted to the Lake County website. The lengthy report demonstrates that Lake County has already made substantial progress toward achieving this vision. To a large extent, the County's programs and activities to date have already resulted in major progress toward transforming Lake County into an environmentally sensitive and sustainable community.

However, much more can be done and the County wishes to be a leader. Lake County recognizes that to succeed, the approach must be comprehensive and coordinated across the County's own activities and behaviors, and in time, must reach out to individual residents and businesses.

What is Environmental Stewardship?

If you read or watch the news there are reports daily on how we all need to be better stewards of our planet earth. What does being a better steward mean to the Lake County Green Team? The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines *stewardship* as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care". The care of our environment is the responsibility of all of living occupants; and therefore, the Lake County Green Team, a cross departmental team comprised of representatives from the departments and elected offices, will focus on encouraging the careful consideration of the environment impacts of Lake County's decision making. The Green team will focus on answering the question of, "what can we do today to heighten awareness for the environmental considerations involved in daily operational decisions?" This will help Lake County strive to carefully manage the natural resources within our control and encourage others to do what they can to preserve a healthy environment in Lake County.

To that end, the Lake County Green Team has focused its energy and time on answering the question of what can Lake County, with the help of our partners, do today to better care for and preserve the environment for future generations. The Green Team recognizes that environmental stewardship is a moving target. What we could do to support and preserve our environment 10 years ago is not the same as what we can do today. Fortunately, we are an ingenious species and we keep developing better more cost effective ways of living, while taking care of our environment. In the spirit of progress and advancement, the Lake County Green Team is committed to encouraging and challenging Lake County departments and elected officials to consider the environmental impacts of the decisions that must be made daily. Of course, environmental stewardship does not trump all other important County goals or interests, but environmental considerations should be viewed in conjunction with or as equally important as other factors. The Green Team will serve to consistently raise the important questions and seek to research the impacts of the county decisions on the environment; and further, to provide an accurate and balanced report to the Lake County Board on the possible options, related cost, and environmental impact of the decisions they must consider.

What is a Sustainable Lake County?

At the outset, Lake County acknowledges that we are a part of a greater community comprised of cities, citizens and corporations and that our actions interrelate with, and to a large degree, depend on the rest of the region. Lake County can not accomplish sustainability alone and in a vacuum. We will need to partner and work with other public, private, and not-for-profit community members. Lake County wishes to identify those services and programs as well as decisions and actions over which it has either direct control or significant influence and move them in a sustainable direction.

So what does a sustainable Lake County look like? Merriam-Webster dictionary defines *sustainable* as “capable of being [sustained](#); 2 a: of, relating to, or being a method of harvesting or using a resource so that the resource is not depleted or permanently damaged; b: of or relating to a lifestyle involving the use of sustainable methods”. The term “sustainable communities” is an outgrowth of the natural resources conservation movement where water, air, soil and wildlife resources were used, harvested and managed for multiple and sometimes competing purposes (food, fiber, recreation, aesthetics); at a rate that could be naturally replenished and “sustained” over many generations. This contrasts with some farming and business practices around the globe that are using resources at a faster pace than the planet can naturally replenish.

Therefore, being “sustainable” means the County is achieving economic prosperity while protecting the planet’s natural systems; and meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainability becomes a way of organizing and managing a County to create a healthy environment, vigorous economy and vibrant community. Sustainability encourages both public and private organizations to be better stewards of the environment, and in turn glean positive economic benefits for residents. In other words, pursuing sustainability will stimulate technological innovation, advance Lake County’s attractiveness and competitiveness, and improve our overall quality of life.

Why do We Want to be Environmental Stewards and Sustainable?

As a sustainable community, Lake County residents will enjoy a variety of benefits including:

- The County will continue to enjoy an adequate supply of clean drinking water available to residents at a reasonable price.
- Residents and businesses pay no more for energy than necessary. This will become increasingly important as the price of natural gas, electricity and other fuels continue to climb during the next decade.
- New investments in technology and process efficiencies create more jobs and sales revenues for area green merchants.
- A variety of transit options ease resident and commuter congestion.
- Solid waste recycling and disposal programs that are reasonable and affordable for residents and businesses.
- Recycled products and materials are less expensive as the volume of recycled materials rises.
- Pollutants are reduced in the air and water.
- The County’s potential regulatory liability for environmental violations will be reduced.
- More trees and vegetation enhances the County’s attractiveness to residents and visitors will have a cooling effect on the County and reduce stormwater runoff.
- Public health threats from vermin, bacteria and toxic pollutants are reduced.

- Lake County’s flood risk is reduced through routine maintenance and enhancement of the County’s storm water management systems. Wherever possible, storm water is redirected to pervious areas that allow percolation to the water table.
- Lake County enjoys an enhanced reputation as a sustainability leader.

Goals for Environmental Stewardship and a Sustainable Lake County

For Lake County to realize its vision, the County must identify a set of attainable, measurable goals or targets and an action plan to follow, that ensures steady progress toward meeting the environmental stewardship and sustainability goals. To succeed, this approach must be comprehensive and coordinated across the County’s own activities and behaviors, and eventually reach out to individual homes and businesses. As noted above, each incremental decision from designing new or renovated buildings, to purchasing copy paper, to buying fuel for County vehicles - should be viewed through a “sustainability lens” or guiding principles - before committing resources to a particular course of action. Of course, sustainability considerations do not take precedence over all other important County goals or interests. However, sustainability should be viewed in conjunction with or as equally important as other factors. In other words, everyone who works for or volunteers with the County, from the Sheriff’s deputies, to land use planners, to purchasing agent, has an important role to play.

Lake County’s Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Goals are summarized in the following table:

Topic	Goal
Air	Maintain clean, healthy air and contribute to regional air pollution solutions.
Ecosystems	Protect and restore ecosystems and their functions.
Energy	Maximize energy efficiency and purchase renewable sources of energy where practical. Generate energy as opportunities present themselves.
Land	Maintain and enhance open space as we continue to develop, redevelop and grow the community. Support ecologically-sensitive land use and management practices.
Materials	Use and reuse raw and purchased materials carefully and responsively. Shift to environmentally-friendly (biodegradable or recyclable) materials wherever feasible.
Water Supply	Ensure availability of adequate water supplies for all desired uses, including fire suppression and commercial uses.
Water Quality	Restore and maintain high-quality water resources in the County’s watersheds. Fully implement effective and efficient water quality practices and storm water management controls.
Economy	Support and Promote private green business growth and economic development.

The Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Goals listed above provide Lake County with targets to measure our sustainability success. The goals communicate that there is interest and support from the elected officials to consider sustainable products and practices. The guidelines direct staff to invest time in researching and thoroughly reviewing alternative sustainable solutions, along side the historical or typical approaches. Many sustainable products and practices are cost effective solutions today. Lake County's Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Goals recognize that the market is constantly improving the effectiveness and affordability of green alternatives. Lake County will have a continued focus on reviewing and considering sustainable alternatives. Moreover, as sustainable practices or products become possible, appropriate, and financially feasible, Lake County should select and promote these sustainability goals to residents and businesses within the community. As with all Lake County goals and policies, the Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Goals must be considered within the framework of the County's overall financial policies and practices. Lake County wishes to continue its long standing reputation for making strong, financially responsible decisions. Based on these goals, the County has developed a set of guiding principles outlined in the next section.

Guiding Principles for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

In striving for sustainability, Lake County intends to incorporate the following guiding principles when carrying out its standard processes and activities:

1. Public Dialogue, Education and Outreach

Engage residents and businesses in an ongoing dialogue. This includes continuous outreach and awareness events and activities designed to communicate that individual actions made everyday can make a difference. Explore sustainable opportunities and encourage residents to maintain a more sustainable lifestyle at home and at work.

2. Natural Resource Stewardship

Use no more water, fossil fuels, electricity, natural gas, minerals, wood fiber, paper products, plastics, pesticides, herbicides, chemicals or other resources than needed, in order to accomplish the mission of delivering excellent customer service to residents and visitors.

3. Reduce Pollution

Use a combination of technology and eco-friendly products and processes to rework County activities to release as little pollution into the air, water, and land as is economically and technologically feasible.

4. Avoid Adverse Environmental Consequences

Protect wildlife habitat and the physical environment in Lake County by examining the delivery of County services and activities holistically to avoid adverse environmental consequences. Anticipate, prevent, or minimize, pollution and waste *before* it occurs.

5. Evaluate the True Cost of Goods and Services

Before committing resources for major purchases, consider the cost of keeping products by factoring the product's useful life, any operation and maintenance costs over time, and the potential disposal costs in the cost comparison. Review and consider policies and procedures that evaluate contractors and vendors that use or offer energy-efficient, reused or recycled products and materials and those manufacturers or vendors that run their activities in a sustainable manner despite not offering sustainable products. Where all other considerations are equal, support vendors that minimize transportation costs, environmental pollution, and energy consumption.

6. Waste Minimization, Reuse and Recycle

Keep unused, unneeded, or waste materials out of landfills and incinerators by reusing and recycling as much of the County's waste stream where it is technically and economically feasible. Support green industries and help create a market for County recyclables by purchasing recycled products for County use where feasible. Improve residential and commercial recycling rates by making continuous efforts to improve the public's understanding of the importance of recycling, as well as the benefit and ease of recycling their own unused, unneeded or waste materials. Make it easy for residents and businesses to recycle and reuse; and challenge them to ratchet up their own level of recycling to reflect the highest residential and commercial recycling rates that are economically achievable. Continuously reset the bar over time as technology and recycling processes are improved.

7. Environmentally Sustainable Land Use and Development

Incorporate energy savings and environmental protection principles into planning and regulatory processes. Formulate clear expectations for energy use, green building and landscape design, and environmental effects, in new development, redevelopment, and renovations.

8. Sustainable Transportation Patterns and Alternative Transit

Reduce automobile dependence and traffic congestion. Continue to build and enhance alternative transit options into all new or redevelopment plans. Encourage residents to avail themselves of walkways, bike paths and mass transit options.

9. Network With Others: Interdepartmental and Interagency Collaboration

Share the County's experiences and expertise with other communities and be open to the wisdom gained by others. Lake County aspires to be a leader in this area and leadership means sharing knowledge and successful practices we have acquired.

10. Facilitate the "Green" Economy

Seek out opportunities to support the market's local and regional "green" economy through the County's own business practices and through public outreach. Lake County recognizes the significant untapped potential of this market sector and strives to support and promote environmental industries, products and services in support of the County's broader economic development goals.

TTracking Our Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Progress

Lake County has identified a number of potential short and long-term actions in direct support of these guiding principles that the County intends to take, to move our community closer to sustainability. We intend to track our progress in achieving these actions over time.

Performance measures will be adopted and monitored to inform the public, the County Board, and department directors of progress, across the initiatives identified below. Information to measure progress will be obtained through internal statistics, gathered and analyzed by County staff. In addition, the County will periodically benchmark itself against the sustainability initiatives of like sized communities.

Conclusions

As illustrated in the Green Lake County Video and the report posted to the Lake County website, Lake County is well on its way to becoming a leader in local government sustainability. Making significant additional progress will require determination, commitment, and resources, by elected officials, senior county management, and all staff. Residents and businesses also will need to support this initiative by actively participating and engaging with staff, and identifying creative solutions. Success will require selective investments along the way. However, we are confident that we will succeed and that Lake County will be an even more desirable place to live, work, and raise a family.

Lake County's Proposed Short-Term Initiatives

This section describes a significant number of additional actions Lake County intends to take, in the next 1-3 years, to move us closer to sustainability. For the reader's convenience, we have identified the lead County department(s) for each initiative. The short term actions are:

1. Public Dialogue, Education and Outreach

- 1.1 Lake County should take a prominent role in sponsoring and facilitating community dialogue and discussion on sustainability and environmental issues (Communications).
- 1.2 Establish "green building features" recognition to highlight architects and developers who voluntarily incorporate green features into Lake County's residential and commercial buildings (PBD).
- 1.3 Work with local partners to develop and promote a sustainable, environmentally-friendly set of outreach information and education materials for residents (all county departments).
- 1.4 Use Lake County Cable Channel and the County's Web site to showcase outreach materials on sustainability (Communications).

- 1.5 Approach the Lake County Forest Preserve about developing and/or expanding presenting a community lecture series on recycling, installing rain barrels and gardens, building backyard habitats, sustainability at home and work, and other related topics (Communications).
- 1.6 Promote and encourage public participation in the County's planning, water quantity/quality, stormwater, and energy-efficiency programs (PW, PBD, and SMC).
- 1.7 Develop effective, comprehensive "green" messages, tips and advisories to the public including recycling opportunities, water conservation measures, and steps to curb energy use at home and at work (Communications and PW).

2. Natural Resource Stewardship

County Fleet

- 2.1 Work through the Lake County Vehicle Standards Committee to ensure that fleet vehicle class choices and replacement decisions place an increased emphasis on the intended use of vehicle, clean fuel technologies, alternative fuels and fuel efficiency (DOT).
- 2.2 Encourage the Lake County Vehicle Standards Committee and individual user departments to consider downsizing current fleet vehicles from 8 to 6 or 6 to 4 cylinder engines when practical and consistent with the needs of users, thereby increasing fuel efficiencies (All departments).
- 2.3 Consider moving more vehicles into department pool systems for shared use by employees and increased utilization (DOT).

County Facilities

- 2.4 Where appropriate, promote the use of water efficient technology through the installation of "electric eye" type devices on lavatories, toilets and urinals in new County Facilities. When performing substantial infrastructure remodeling, electric saving technology shall be considered on fixture replacement in existing facilities as may be practical based on the existing conditions (Facilities).
- 2.5 Where appropriate, promote water efficiency through the installation of low consumption plumbing fixtures in new County Facilities. New lavatories, toilets and urinals shall be low consumption fixture defined as follows; lavatories shall not exceed 0.5 GPM, toilets shall not exceed 1.6 GPF and urinals shall not exceed 1.0 GPF. When performing substantial infrastructure remodeling, low consumption fixtures shall be considered on fixture replacement in existing facilities as may be practical based on the existing conditions (Facilities).

- 2.6 As appropriate based on the use of the facility, promote energy efficiency by incorporating lighting controls that provide building occupants the opportunity to affect energy savings through varied lighting levels. This practice may include dual switching, occupancy sensors, or dimming systems, in significant portions of new County facilities. When performing substantial infrastructure remodeling, lighting controls shall be included as may be practical based on the existing conditions (Facilities).
- 2.7 Develop an energy reporting system to track historical energy usage and cost trends in all County buildings. Provide benchmarking analysis of County buildings versus similar facilities. Measurement shall be based on nationally recognized standards and practices. Use benchmarking, historical energy usage, and cost trends, to develop maintenance and operational procedures that will lead to energy use reductions at County facilities (Facilities).
- 2.8 Develop a master plan to reduce energy usage in existing County facilities and identify potential energy conservation projects. Each project studied shall identify projected savings, cost for implementation, and payback analysis. In coordination with the annual Capital Improvement Program, develop a prioritized list of projects to implement. Identify potential sources of outside funding where available, to augment County funding (Facilities).

Information Technologies

- 2.9 Purchase energy efficient blade servers to run the County's computer networks and data systems. Save energy by using storage area networks (SANs) to consolidate servers (IT).
- 2.10 Expand the County's document management system and production document scanners. Promoting digitizing documents and sharing of electronic documents reducing the need for printing and storing paper (IT).
- 2.11 Expand usage of Desktop Faxing Software from your computer reducing the need to print and fax documents (IT).
- 2.12 Implement applicant tracking software package, allowing submittal of employment applications and the routing of electronic files, to eliminate the need to print and distribute paper copies to departments (HR and IT).
- 2.13 Continue to lease and/or purchase copiers that have scanning capabilities (FAS).
- 2.14 Continue to provide GIS maps online, reducing the need to print paper copies for customers (IT).
- 2.15 Continue making environmental GIS data available, helping in the preservation and restoration of natural resources, like: wetlands, forest preserves, rivers, etc (GIS).
- 2.16 Explore the use of Video Conferencing (IT).

- 2.17 Continue to purchase LCD monitors and Energy Star compliant computers, to reduce power consumption and heat generation (IT).
- 2.18 Initiate an energy efficiency campaign that encourages employees to turn off computers, monitors, and other office equipment, during evenings and weekends. Unless, the system is compiling data or installing an overnight software upgrade (Communications and IT).

Regulations, BMPs and Incentives

- 2.19 Install new “radio read” water meters for approximately 24,000 residential properties in 2009-2014. These meters will more accurately report water usage and, therefore, lead to water conservation measures. Offer “on-line” bill paying to customers that will reduce the amount of paper involved in the program (PW).

3. Reduce Pollution

County Fleet

- 3.1 Identify priority County vehicles that could be retrofitted with pollution control technology to reduce air pollutants during operation (DOT).
- 3.2 Implement pollution-reduction practices in County fleet decisions per Section 2.1 (DOT).

County Infrastructure

- 3.3 Incorporate best management practices for the treatment of storm water runoff created by new County Facilities. Practices incorporated shall be evaluated on a project specific basis but may include bioinfiltration swales, vegetative swales, naturalized detention bottoms, permeable pavements/pavers, storm water filtration systems, green roof systems, areas of native plantings including rain gardens and other recognized practices (SMC, PHD, and PBD).
- 3.4 Continue to expand the County’s network of pollution-filtering natural drainage systems in order to capture released pollutants (PHD, SMC, and PBD).

Regulations, BMPs and Incentives

- 3.5 Adopt water quality protection standards that reduce the level of pollutants released into streams, groundwater, sanitary sewers and drains (PHD, PW, SMC, and PBD).
- 3.6 Implement and enforce the water quality protection ordinance to minimize or eliminate the discharge of grease, paints, oils, and other incompatible substances into streams, groundwater, sanitary sewers, and drains (PW).

- 3.7 Reduce light pollution from street, parking, and park lighting in appropriate locations around the County (PBD).

4. Avoid Adverse Environmental Consequences

County Infrastructure

- 4.1 Conduct an infiltration and inflow study of the County sewers. Prioritize and repair any cracks or breaks in the lines that are allowing precipitation or groundwater to enter the sewer system (PW).
- 4.2 Identify and Eliminate illicit dry weather discharges into the County drainageways and storm drain system (SMC, PW, and PHD).
- 4.3 Work with Municipalities and PBD to increase inspections of private stormwater management facilities in the County and ensure compliance with current standards (SMC, PBD, and PHD).
- 4.4 Perform needs assessment and cost of service studies related to water quality improvement projects and services based on the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan (SMC).

Regulations, BMPs, Incentives

- 4.5 Work with streamside property owners to maintain trash-free, vegetated buffer strips along County waterways (PW and SMC).
- 4.6 Evaluate the establishment of a voluntary resident water-quality monitoring program for County streams, and track stream conditions to ensure that environmental activities and programs are having a beneficial effect over time (SMC and PHD).
- 4.7 Further promote the use of rain barrels, rain gardens and other techniques to minimize neighborhood stormwater impacts as much as possible (PHD, SMC, and partner with Forest Preserve).

5. Evaluate the True Cost of Goods and Services

- 5.1 Review and evaluate third party building commissioning programs for new construction, major remodeling, major infrastructure replacement and energy efficiency projects.
- 5.2 Review and consider the life cycle cost of products including the product's useful life, any operation and maintenance costs over time and the ultimate disposal costs, if any, into the cost comparison.

- 5.3 Review and consider policies, procedures and statutory permissibility of specifying energy-efficient, reused or recycled products and materials in sealed bid processes and using those specifications to rank and evaluate bids received.
- 5.4 Consider meaningful distances from supplier dock to the Lake County dock when planning commodity purchases.

6. Waste Minimization, Reuse and Recycle

- 6.1 Continue to promote residential participation in recycling programs (SWALCO).
- 6.2 Conduct a waste audit at a large County facility to determine the effectiveness of the County's current recycling program and to develop recommendations for improving recycling in the facility. This waste audit will act as the model for additional waste audits of each county office facility (SWALCO will assist with initial audit, all county departments).
- 6.3 Conduct outreach to commercial entities, including developers and construction firms, to participate in recycling programs. Promote recycling and reuse opportunities for construction and demolition debris (SWALCO).
- 6.4 Take measures towards the achievement of a 50 percent municipal waste recycling rate (SWALCO, Lake County and municipal partners).
- 6.5 Evaluate whether the County, possibly in conjunction with townships, should franchise the collection of residential and/or commercial waste in the unincorporated areas of the county. Key evaluation factors would include increased access to curbside recycling, lower costs for collection, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions associated with collecting waste in unincorporated areas of the county (SWALCO and CAO).
- 6.6 Distribute recycling collection boxes in high traffic public areas, to generate a significant waste stream that includes paper, bottles, cans, and other recyclable waste products (SWALCO).

7. Environmentally Sustainable Land Use and Development

- 7.1 Further encourage natural swales, rain gardens and other types of visually appealing storm water alternatives (SMC).
- 7.2 Build sustainability, smart growth, and environmental sensitivity into the County's zoning ordinance, comprehensive master plan, and neighborhood redevelopment plans as they come up for renewal or re-issuance. Adopt the American Planning Association recommendations for preserving ecological integrity, land and water conservation,

biodiversity, balanced energy policies, green building design and construction, and protection of water supplies (PBD and PW).

- 7.3 Adopt standards for erecting “green” site plans, buildings and landscaping in Lake County. Research incentives to encourage green design (PBD, PW, and DOT).
- 7.4 Build energy efficiency, waste minimization and sustainability considerations into county-administered codes and zoning review processes (PBD).
- 7.5 Re-examine the (i.e. minimum number of parking space requirements) zoning code to determine if they are an unintended obstacle to smart growth, stormwater controls, and sustainability (PBD).

8. Sustainable Transportation Patterns and Alternative Transit

- 8.1 Provide for pedestrian and bicycle connections along County ROW’s where appropriate. Promote the use of sidewalks and/or trails to encourage residents to walk or cycle when possible along those routes (DOT).
- 8.2 Promote County employees’ participation in the County’s mass transit pre-tax savings program to increase mass transit ridership. (HR and Communications)
- 8.3 Consider adoption of a carpooling incentive program for employees to reduce traffic congestion (HR and CAO).
- 8.4 Consider incorporating bicycle-related amenities in all new County facilities and existing facilities to encourage bicycling to work (Facilities).
- 8.5 Promote bike ridership activities (“Ride to Work Week”) through employee incentives (HR and CAO).
- 8.6 Encourage the Lake County Vehicle Standards Committee and individual user departments to consider downsizing current fleet vehicles from 8 to 6 or 6 to 4 cylinder engines when practical and consistent with the needs of users, thereby increasing fuel efficiencies (All Departments).

9. Network with Others: Interdepartmental and Interagency Collaboration

- 9.1 Incorporate sustainability measures into the County’s performance measurement system. (Departments partnering with FAS).
- 9.2 Develop effective, comprehensive, “green” messages, tips, and advisories to employees and include recycling opportunities and steps to curb energy use at home and at the office (Communications and PW).

- 9.3 Brief new employees on the County’s sustainability strategy and residential recycling opportunities during the New Employee Orientation Program already provided by Lake County (HR).
- 9.4 Prepare and administer an “Employee Education Campaign and a Voluntary Pledge” for energy savings at County facilities (Communications).
- 9.5 Initiate an energy efficiency campaign that emphasizes or requires employees to turn off computers, monitors and other office equipment during evenings and weekends unless the system is compiling data or installing an overnight software upgrade (Communications and IT).
- 9.6 Issue periodic energy tips to employees similar to those currently issued for customer service. Evaluate opportunities to partner with non-profit organizations to offering free or low-cost residential energy audits using contract support (Communications).
- 9.7 Partner with municipalities to organize an annual stream cleanup event by Village, City, and County employees (PHD, PW, and SMC).
- 9.8 Identify external funding opportunities and discount programs to assist residents in incorporating more sustainable practices at home (Communications).

10. Promote the “Green” Economy

- 10.1 Research opportunities on local sustainable businesses (PBD).
- 10.2 Develop linkages with local chambers of commerce and other member organizations in order to identify and promote local “green” businesses (CAO).

Longer-Term Optional Initiatives

Lake County will remain vigilant in identifying innovative and creative methods to pursue sustainability.

The following ideas represent examples of long-term (3-5 years or longer) options that the County may consider in the future. Those that are not feasible will be reconsidered should economic circumstances and applicable technologies change. For the reader’s convenience, we have identified the lead county department(s) for each initiative.

1. Implement a county wide facilities energy program. The energy program will include standards and practices for operational requirements relating to energy usage in new and existing county facilities. The energy program shall be based on nationally recognized standards and practices and shall include a capital improvement component that provides a consistent plan for investing capital funds in energy improvement projects for County

facilities. This policy would be submitted to the Lake Country Board for adoption or approval. (Facilities)

2. Review the Lake County Purchasing Ordinance and make recommendations for applicable and appropriate sustainable practices. Incorporate approved practices into Lake County Policies and Procedures. Present examples and recommendations to the Lake County Board for consideration.

DRAFT

Appendix A

Awards and Recognition

The actions described in this Appendix have already been completed. For the reader's convenience, we have identified the lead county department(s) for each initiative. We also have described environmental and sustainable awards and recognition the County has received over the past five years.

Awards and Recognition Received

“Green Housing” Grant

Among only 6 jurisdictions nationwide, Lake County was awarded \$250,000 in 2008 for the purpose of creating Energy Efficient and Environmentally-Friendly Housing for Low-Income Families. The Lake County Consortium was represented by the Planning, Building and Development Department, with technical assistance by YouthBuild Lake County and Habitat for Humanity Lake County.

“Sustainable Communities” Award

The National Association of Counties awarded Lake County and its municipal partners – the villages of Old Mill Creek and Wadsworth – a 2007 Center for Sustainable Communities Award for the group's Rt. 173/I-94 Intergovernmental Agreement. The agreement establishes common land use, development, infrastructure and building standards that encourage sustainable economic development while ensuring environmental protection. This bi-annual award program recognizes effective and innovative county-led partnerships that promote the three pillars of sustainable communities – economic enhancement, environmental stewardship, and social well-being.