

Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

53

Date March 26, 2007

A RESOLUTION RECEIVING, FILING, AND REFERRING TO THE CITY MANAGER A RECOMMENDED ENERGY CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT POLICY FROM THE MAYOR’S TASK FORCE ON ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Des Moines established the Mayor’s Task Force on Energy and the Environment; and,

WHEREAS, the Mission of the Task Force is, “The City of Des Moines will lead the greater metropolitan community by example through energy and environmental practices, policies, and ordinances that encourage the use of sustainable energy, and protect and preserve the area’s natural resources for the benefit of future generations.”; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Des Moines resolved that the Mayor’s Task Force on Energy and the Environment shall make recommendations to the City Council that will effect changes leading to energy conservation and environmental sustainability; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Task Force on Energy and the Environment proposed a policy regarding energy conservation and environmental enhancement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa that the proposed policy is hereby received, filed, and referred to the City Manager for review.

Moved by _____ to adopt

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Bruce Bergman
City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
HENSLEY				
KIERNAN				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
VLASSIS				
TOTAL				

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

City Clerk

CITY OF DES MOINES

ENERGY CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT POLICY

WHEREAS, the Des Moines City Council adopted Resolution Number 58, on August 21, 2006, establishing the mission of the Mayor’s Task Force on Energy Conservation and Environmental Enhancement; and,

WHEREAS, this mission directs that the City of Des Moines will lead the greater metropolitan community by example through implementation of energy and environmental policies, practices, and ordinances that encourage the use of sustainable energy, and protect and preserve the area’s natural resources for the benefit of future generations.; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines recognizes that local government actions to reduce energy consumption, increase energy efficiency, promote the use of renewable energy resources, and protect and enhance the natural environment can result in savings to the community and enhance the quality of life of its citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the following policy has been designed and developed to assist the City in fulfilling its commitment to environmental, economic and social stewardship; and, shall include:

- Section 1 - GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THIS POLICY
- Section 2 - STEWARDSHIP: A DEFINITION
- Section 3 - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: A DEFINITION
- Section 4 - SUSTAINABLE BUILDING: A DEFINITION
- Section 5 - THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
- Section 6 - THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
- Section 7 - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL
 - 1) MANAGING MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES
 - 2) DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY
 - 3) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY
- Section 8 - MODIFICATION OF THIS POLICY
- Appendix A - GLOSSARY

FURTHER, be it resolved that above referenced policy has been established for implementation as the **CITY OF DES MOINES’ ENERGY CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT POLICY**

CITY OF DES MOINES' ENERGY CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT POLICY

SECTION 1

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THIS POLICY

The following sections of this policy serve to define the stewardship decision-making process in specific stages of the ongoing management function. This section serves to establish guiding principles regarding stewardship on all properties managed by the City of Des Moines.

The City of Des Moines believes:

1. The health and well-being of people and their cultures; of other species; and of natural ecosystems are interconnected, vulnerable and dependent on each other.
2. Future generations have a right to an environment with at least the same qualities and quantities of environmental assets as present generations.
3. Long-term economic progress and the need for environmental protection must be seen as mutually interdependent.
4. Development must maintain environmental and cultural integrity.
5. Our community shall minimize its contribution to fossil fuel dependence and global warming by promoting energy efficiency programs, reducing energy use and using renewable energy resources.
6. Sustainable design and management practices shall be fully considered and implemented on all facilities, grounds and lands.
7. It is vital to enhance Des Moines' watershed by managing all natural areas in a way that preserves the highest natural ecological value both upstream and downstream from the City. The City will work to integrate its watershed protection efforts into efforts throughout central Iowa.

SECTION 2

STEWARDSHIP: A DEFINITION

A steward is one charged by another with the safekeeping and sound management of property and resources. The City of Des Moines serves as the public's steward by administering municipal property in a manner that ensures these properties are managed efficiently and will continue to exist as a community resource for the benefit of future generations. In fulfilling its role, the City shall promote energy efficiency programs and the use of renewable energy resources and seek to maximize the value of natural, cultural and recreational resources. A proactive approach to protecting important elements of Des Moines' open space resources serves to provide additional open space as the urban and rural communities of the region continue to grow. Working closely with other municipalities, the federal and state government, public conservation agencies and private protection efforts, the City will work to integrate its efforts into a greater plan to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives, protect the resource base of central Iowa, and

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provide economic and recreational opportunities that will not compromise the quality of the environment.

SECTION 3

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: A DEFINITION

Sustainable communities meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable communities include the simultaneous consideration of economic development, social development, and environmental protection. Generally speaking, sustainable communities meet the following criterion:

1. **Transportation:** compact mixed use development reduces distances, and increases transportation choice (e.g., walking, cycling, transit), for travel to work, education, shopping, recreation, entertainment and services;
2. **Housing choice:** expanding housing choices for different age groups, incomes and household sizes allows people to remain in the same neighborhood through different life stages;
3. **Efficient use of public funds:** mixed use, higher density areas make better use of existing infrastructure and reduce demands for new roads and services;
4. **Protect open space and natural areas:** concentrating growth within existing urban areas minimizes land consumption, infrastructure costs and environmental consequences;
5. **Placemaking:** people want to live in neighborhoods that are lively and attractive urban live/work/play environments, with adequate amenities, and that respect the community character, design and historic features;
6. **Shorter commutes and more transportation choices:** locating jobs in regionally-accessible hubs served by transit and with housing nearby allows people to work closer to home or live closer to work.

SECTION 4

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING: A DEFINITION

Sustainable building integrates building materials and methods that promote environmental quality, economic vitality, and social benefit through the design, construction and operation of the built and natural environment. Sustainable building merges sound, environmentally responsible practices into one discipline that looks at the environmental, economic and social effects of a building or built project as a whole. Sustainable design encompasses the following broad topics: efficient management of energy and water resources, management of material resources and waste, protection of environmental quality, protection of health and indoor environmental quality, reinforcement of natural systems and integrating the design approach.

SECTION 5

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It shall be the policy of the City of Des Moines to finance, plan, design, construct, manage, renovate, maintain, and decommission its facilities and buildings to be sustainable. This sustainability will address but not be limited to the following objectives:

1. New or remodeled buildings must be designed and constructed to be energy-efficient using recognized rating systems as guidelines.
2. Utilize existing buildings and infrastructure instead of developing open space.
3. Design communities to reduce dependence on the automobile and to foster a sense of community.
4. Optimize design to make use of smaller spaces and utilize materials efficiently.
5. Protect and enhance development sites by preserving or restoring local ecosystems and biodiversity.
6. Purchase low-environmental impact and resource-efficient materials.
7. Maximize longevity by designing for durability and adaptability.
8. Design buildings and landscapes that are water-efficient.
9. Build healthy buildings that provide a safe and comfortable indoor environment
10. Minimize construction and demolition waste by reducing, returning, reusing and recycling job-site waste.
11. Reduce heat island effects.

SECTION 6

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

It shall be the policy of the City of Des Moines to identify, plan and manage the natural environment to be sustainable. This shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Recommending low impact sustainable methods of natural areas restoration, habitat management, facility development and resource recovery as a means of conserving financial resources in the development and management of municipal property.
2. Minimize high maintenance vegetation and invasive species while maximizing biodiversity.
3. Respecting the natural topography, hydrology and biodiversity of proposed development sites to indicate where, and to what level, facility development may take place.
4. Protecting the region's water resources by establishing buffer zones and runoff management strategies for agricultural areas, developed sites, rivers, streams and other bodies of water within and outside municipal properties.
5. Manage natural ecosystems using best management practices for the system diversity.
6. Removing, correcting or containing hazardous waste and controlling dumping according to Federal and State laws.

SECTION 7

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL

In the interest of managing all its property in a manner consistent with this policy, the following strategies will be used for managing, disposing of and acquiring property. Such actions will be considered on a case-by-case basis with full attention to present and planned future uses established in accordance with the subsections of this policy.

1. MANAGING MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES

- A. Consolidating parcels where contiguous municipal properties are an amalgamation of multiple parcels, Des Moines will seek to consolidate these parcels onto new parcels that more correctly define the land management needs of the city.
- B. Promoting restricting deeds in perpetuity on lands of high natural resource value (endangered plants and animals, watershed protection, flood control, historic sites, irreplaceable recreation amenities, etc.) through the use of conservation easements, nature preserve designations and other appropriate instruments.
- C. Splitting out lots where unwanted property can be disposed of at maximized return.
- D. Describing multiple use parcels where city departments have either expressed present need or can demonstrate planned future needs that do not negatively impact Des Moines natural resources.
- E. Granting easements to other organizations, other city departments, private citizens and corporations on a case-by-case basis and keeping the interests of Des Moines in mind at all times.
- F. Remediating and redeveloping environmentally contaminated sites.

2. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

- A. Negotiating exchange or joint management of lands with other city/county departments.
- B. Sale or trade of lands by Des Moines to other public agencies that can demonstrate a need for the property in providing improved services to the public.

3. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

- A. Fee simple acquisition of open space is a last resort when condemnation is the only other recourse to acquire lands essential to Des Moines.
- B. Acquisition through grants and sponsorships by foundations, federal agencies and corporations will be pursued.
- C. Donations by landowners and developers wishing to take advantage of tax incentives under Federal Conservation Purposes tax law will be encouraged.

- D. Condemnation of property essential to Des Moines will be used when no other recourse exists and community need for the property is clearly demonstrated through the public input process.

SECTION 8

MODIFICATION OF THIS POLICY

This policy shall become effective upon its adoption by the Des Moines City Council. As with all other official policies, staff shall endeavor to incorporate the letter and spirit of this policy into the ongoing functions of the departments. This policy serves to support, through planned program implementation, the mission of the City of Des Moines. All future modifications of this policy shall reflect this support by enhancing the City's ability to promote energy efficiency and to improve the environmental quality of Des Moines for the benefit of future generations.

DRAFT

APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY

Cultural Assets - These refer to the customs, traditions, and indigenous knowledge that are specific to the community. Language is a cultural asset, as is indigenous intellectual property. Cultural assets are often "intangible" elements that underpin a community. However, the material expressions of culture can generate income and other assets.

Cultural Integrity – Recognizes and protects the indigenous culture, traditions, institutions, and education systems of a sector of society, and balances those, in this case, with environmental objectives. For example, Iowa has an agrarian culture. It is important to maintain that agrarian culture while we strive to achieve our environmental objectives of clean air and water. One objective can not work against the other.

Ecosystem - The term ecosystem is generally understood as to the entire assemblage of organisms (plant, animal and other living beings—also referred to as a biotic community or biocoenosis) living together in a certain space with their environment (or biotope), functioning as a loose unit. Together, these components and their interactions with and relationships to each other form a dynamic and complex new whole, functioning as an "ecological unit", with additional characteristics that can't be found in the individual components.

Environmental Assets - source of environmental services in the possession of local residents

Greenway - A linear open space; a corridor composed of natural vegetation. Greenways can be used to create connected networks of open space that include traditional parks and natural areas.

Heat Island - Heat islands form as vegetation is replaced by asphalt and concrete for roads, buildings, and other structures necessary to accommodate growing populations. These surfaces absorb - rather than reflect - the sun's heat, causing surface temperatures and overall ambient temperatures to rise.

High Maintenance Vegetation - Is defined as vegetation that requires significant manpower and intervention to maintain over the long-term life of that vegetation. Intervention would include irrigation, herbicides and pesticides.

Open Space - Undeveloped land or common areas in a planned community reserved for parks, walking paths or other natural uses.

Watershed - A watershed is a region of land that is crisscrossed by smaller waterways that drain into a larger body of water.

Waterway - a natural or man-made place for water to run through (such as river, stream, creek, or channel)