

# National Survey of Sustainability Management in U.S. Cities

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**Instruction:** Please place a ✓ next to each action your city has taken. Check all that apply.

## **Question 1: To practice environmental sustainability, our city has...**

- Purchased alternative fuel vehicles for city business
- Implemented a program that systematically conserves or plants trees
- Constructed new building based on LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) or other environmentally friendly standards.
- Utilized LEED or Commercial Interiors (CI) specifications to renovate existing buildings
- Adopted green cleaning and maintenance procedures
- Adopted a green standard as official minimum criteria for new government buildings
- Adopted green landscaping ordinance for local government buildings
- Operated a website dedicated to green city programs
- Posted air quality index or/and water quality testing results on city website
- Used renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal heat etc.) in city departments' operations
- Developed an environmentally preferable purchasing program
- Offered energy audits to citizens, business, and community stakeholders
- Offered renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal heat etc.) to citizens or customers
- Purchased and protected environmentally sensitive lands
- Offered green technology education classes or workshops to employees
- Offered green technology education classes or workshops to the community
- Become a member of a sustainability group (e.g., US Green Building Council—USGBC, or Local Government for Sustainability—ICLEI, etc)

## **Question 2: To practice economic sustainability, our city has...**

- Linked environmental goals to publicly-financed incentive packages
- Developed policies to create and strengthen markets for green goods and services
- Built partnerships with the business community to achieve sustainability goals
- Created a Green Economic Development Plan document
- Created demand for green products through public procurement policies
- Provided a green-collar workforce training assistance
- Built capacity to “green” existing business processes
- Implemented “Buy Local” campaigns
- Promoted greening location decisions
- Established a brownfields redevelopment fund
- Publicly committed to a green-collar jobs strategy
- Created a green-collar jobs taskforce
- Identified green-collar goals and assessed existing local opportunities
- Density bonus for buildings achieving LEED certification
- Property tax credit to any commercial building that achieves LEED certification
- Priority permitting and fee waivers for installation of green technologies
- Fee reductions to cover the cost of LEED certification
- Residential green building checklist
- Provide low interest loans for energy efficiency measures and building materials
- Designated locations for alternative energy generation, R&D, or manufacturing
- Expedited application and permit process for alternative energy facilities
- Incentives that lower financial barriers to energy efficiency gains by businesses
- Zoning or regulations that allow for onsite renewable energy systems for businesses

**Question 3: To practice social sustainability, our city has...**

- Offered incentives for construction of green affordable housing
- Offered incentives for location efficient affordable housing
- Offered orientation classes for residents of affordable housing
- Promoted and accommodated bicycle use (e.g., bike lanes)
- Installed appropriate bicycle security at public amenities
- Arranged carpool/vanpool assistance
- Promoted and educated the public on water conservation
- Monitored water quality
- Maintained an on-call water quality program
- Maintained organic community gardens
- Offered education on organic farming

**Question 4: To develop and achieve goals for sustainability, our city has...**

- Designated an office to coordinate city's sustainability initiatives
- Designated individual(s) (but not an office) to coordinate city's sustainability initiatives
- Convened city-wide meetings to discuss commitments for sustainability for past 12 months
- Included commitments for sustainability in the city's goal or mission statement
- Incorporated sustainability principles into city government's strategic plan
- Incorporated sustainability principles into city government's comprehensive plan
- Incorporated sustainability principles in city departments' operations
- Developed a city-wide sustainability plan
- Developed performance measures (indicators) to evaluate city's sustainability initiatives
- Monitored and tracked the performances of city's sustainability initiatives
- Evaluated the performances of city's sustainability initiatives
- Improved performances of city's sustainability initiatives based on performance evaluation

**Question 5: To finance sustainability, our city has...**

- Budgeted for the city government's sustainability initiatives
- Issued debts to finance sustainability initiatives
- Applied grants to finance sustainability initiatives
- Maintained the funding level for the city's sustainability activities
- Offered tax (or financial) incentives for the residential or commercial use of carbon-reducing technologies
- Offered tax (or financial) incentives for developing or redeveloping green properties
- Funded capital projects related to sustainability initiatives

**Question 6: Our sustainability efforts have support from...**

- The Mayor's office
- The City Manager's office
- Most department heads in the city
- Most managers in the city
- Most supervisors in the city
- Most employees in the city
- Most legislators in the city
- Most citizens of the city
- Local business leaders of the city
- Agencies in other governments
- City staff capable of using the green technology
- Universities or research communities specialized in green technologies or strategies

**Question 6 continued: Our sustainability efforts have support from...**

- Private consultants specialized in green technologies or strategies
- Professional institutions of green initiatives such as USGBC and ICLEI
- Others. Please specify:

**Question 7: To implement sustainability initiatives, our city has...**

- Involved city legislators in crafting a sustainable version of the city
- Involved city management in crafting a sustainable version of the city
- Involved city employees in crafting a sustainable version of the city
- Involved business groups in developing a sustainable version of the city
- Focused on getting citizens' support in our sustainability efforts
- Frequently explained the results of sustainability efforts to citizens
- Actively sought technical expertise of universities and research institutions
- Actively sought technical expertise of consulting firms
- Actively sought expertise of professional organizations such as USGBC or ICLEI
- Developed the technical expertise of our own staff in sustainability efforts
- Actively sought best practices information from other governments
- Other strategies. Please specify:

**Question 8: To encourage citizens' involvement in sustainability initiatives, our city has used...**

- Community visioning workshops
- Consensus building workshops
- Citizen surveys
- Conflict resolution techniques and mediation roundtable discussions
- Information provision activities (e.g., newspaper articles, web-based announcements)
- Citizen boards and commissions
- Local neighborhood organizations
- Chambers of commerce
- Other citizen initiatives. Please explain:

**Question 9: The sustainability efforts in our city have resulted in...**

- Monetary savings
- More business relocating to our city
- Increased economic activities
- A transformed local economy with significantly more green businesses
- Saving in natural resources such as water, forest, and open space
- Reduction in pollution (water, air, etc)
- Improvement of the quality of life for citizens
- Increase in awareness of city officials and employees on the need of sustainability
- Increase in public awareness on the need of sustainability
- Improved image of our city among citizens and businesses
- Other sustainability benefits. Please specify:

**Question 10: Check all the following conditions that apply to your city.**

- Over 10 percent of the city's population is in poverty
- Over 20 percent of the city's population is below 18 years old
- The city has a large manufacturing employment force
- Over 80 percent of populations have high school educations or above
- Financial resources are NOT available for new programs and initiatives
- Total revenues in the city have declined more than 10 percent for the past three years

**Question 10 *continued*: Check all the following conditions that apply to your city.**

- The city has experienced a significant loss of employment for past 3 years
- Economic development and growth are our top priority
- Crime is a major concern in our city
- Public safety is our top priority
- Financial incentives from state government influence sustainability actions
- The majority of city residents tend to be politically liberal (progressive)
- The majority of city elected officials tend to be politically liberal (progressive)
- State procedural requirements facilitate the adoption of sustainability initiatives in our community (i.e. state review of local policies/programs, funding linked to local efforts)
- The organization of sustainability initiatives at the state level influences local sustainability actions (i.e. dedicated departments, specialized programs)
- Please list the most useful programs offered by state agencies to support local sustainability efforts:

Which of the following best describes your state's approach to local sustainability?

(Check only one please)

- A "Hands Off" approach
- Coercion via state authority and legislative action
- Incentives and inducements

**Question 11: Your current position (Check one)**

- City Manager, or Chief Executive Officer, or Chief Administration Officer
- Planning Director
- Sustainability Manager
- Other. Please state your position:

**Question 12: How familiar are you with your city's sustainability activities? (Check one)**

- Very familiar
- Familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- Not Familiar

**Question 13: What is your city's form of government? (Check one)**

- Council-manager
- Mayor-council
- Commission
- Township
- Other:

**Question 14: How many city council members represent your city?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 14: How many city council members are elected "at large"?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

Please use the enclosed prepaid envelope to return your survey.