



## National League of Cities 2010 Sustainability Survey

Information collected through this survey will contribute to a national understanding of the steps cities are taking to promote sustainability across the country and will help guide the development of resources to support and strengthen locally-led sustainability efforts. To complete this survey online please use this URL [http://nlc.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV\\_1AdFMRRnx5qUKoY](http://nlc.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV_1AdFMRRnx5qUKoY). Please complete and submit your response by **Friday, August 13, 2010**.

If you have any questions about the survey, email [mcgahan@nlc.org](mailto:mcgahan@nlc.org) or call (202) 626-3027.

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1. Please provide the contact information for the individual who completed or who can answer questions about this questionnaire.

a. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ b. Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
d. City: \_\_\_\_\_ e. State: \_\_\_\_\_ f. Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
g. Phone number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ h. E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

If this is not the city's lead contact on sustainability issues, please provide the contact information for that person.

a. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ b. Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Email: \_\_\_\_\_ d. Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Select which statement comes closest to your city's position on sustainability?

- a) Sustainability is a leading priority throughout all city activities
- b) Sustainability is an important factor in developing our city's long-term goals
- c) Sustainability is one of many goals for the city but not a separate priority
- d) We have not addressed sustainability but are interested in pursuing this
- e) We have not addressed sustainability, this has not been a priority
- f) Don't Know

3. What components are included within your city's definition of or approach to sustainability? (select all that apply)

- a) Environmental protection
- b) Energy
- c) Climate protection
- d) Economic growth
- e) Social equity
- f) Public health
- g) Our city has not defined sustainability
- h) Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- i) Don't Know

If your city has a working definition of sustainability, please provide it here:

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4. Which statement best summarizes the current status of your city’s planning efforts related to sustainability:

- a) We have an adopted city sustainability plan
- b) We don’t have an adopted plan, but we do have substantial sustainability-related goals and initiatives
- c) We don’t have an adopted plan, and there are only a few scattered efforts
- d) We are just beginning to address sustainability
- e) Not applicable, we have not addressed sustainability
- f) Don’t Know

5. Rate how significant the following factors have been in prompting your city’s work in sustainability:

	Extremely Significant	Very Significant	Significant	Limited Significance	No Significance
Potential for long-term financial savings (in 5 years or more)	1	2	3	4	5
Potential for short-term financial savings (within 5 years)	1	2	3	4	5
Potential to attract outside investment	1	2	3	4	5
Concern for the environment	1	2	3	4	5
Concern for climate change	1	2	3	4	5
External pressure from public	1	2	3	4	5
Internal pressure from municipal staff	1	2	3	4	5
Recommendations from other municipalities	1	2	3	4	5
Potential to attract new residents	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

6. Rate how significant the following barriers have been in deterring your city’s work in sustainability.

	Extremely Significant	Very Significant	Significant	Limited Significance	No Significance
Lack of community support and awareness	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of leadership or support from elected officials	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of funding	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of staff capacity	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of information needed to get started	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of support from private sector	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of support from nonprofit sector	1	2	3	4	5
Opposition from community based groups or organizations	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

7. Which scenario best describes your city’s staffing on sustainability?

- a) Dedicated staffing in the city manager’s office or equivalent
- b) Dedicated staffing in the mayor’s or council office
- c) Dedicated staffing within a single department
- d) Dedicated staffing spread across multiple departments
- e) No dedicated staffing but a citywide task force, committee, or commission
- f) No dedicated staffing but goals recognized throughout departments
- g) No staffing

7a. If you answered a.-d., Which scenario best describes the involvement of your city’s sustainability staff within other city departments and goals?

- a) Highly involved in setting goals and developing strategies throughout all city departments and overall municipal operations
- b) Moderately involved in setting goals and developing strategies with other city departments
- c) Limited influence and input into citywide strategies and goals
- d) No involvement with other departments

8. Does your city have a dedicated budget for sustainability work?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Don't Know

9. Choose the option below which best describes the impact that the recent economic recession has had on your city's willingness to financially invest in sustainability work:

- a) Significantly increased
- b) Increased
- c) No impact
- d) Decreased
- e) Significantly decreased
- f) Don't Know

9a. If you answered a.-c., has this been as a result of:

- a) Funding received through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- b) Potential for financial savings
- c) Potential to attract outside investment
- d) Concern for the environment
- e) Concern for climate change
- f) External pressure from public
- g) Internal pressure from municipal staff
- h) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

10. How closely does the city work with the following stakeholders to develop and/or implement sustainability programs?

	Close Partnership/Regular Involvement	Semi-Regular Involvement/Advisory role	Limited Involvement as Appropriate	No Involvement	Don't Know
Neighboring municipalities	1	2	3	4	5
County officials	1	2	3	4	5
Regional partners or organizations	1	2	3	4	5
State agencies	1	2	3	4	5
Community-based organizations	1	2	3	4	5
National non-profits	1	2	3	4	5
Colleges/universities/academic community	1	2	3	4	5
Hospitals/public health care providers	1	2	3	4	5
Business community	1	2	3	4	5
Public (i.e. town meetings; focus groups)	1	2	3	4	5

11. Which of the following performance-related tools does your city produce to evaluate progress toward sustainability goals?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Publicly available progress report	1	2	3
Metrics to regularly measure impacts and effectiveness of specific initiatives	1	2	3
Metrics tied to goals for one or more employees	1	2	3
Tracking of financial savings attributable to sustainability work	1	2	3
Tracking of jobs created associated with sustainability work	1	2	3
Other: _____	1	2	3

**INITIATIVES**

12. Please rate the level of priority your city places on the following in regard to your sustainability goals/initiatives.

	High Priority	Priority	Of interest but not a priority at this time	Not a Priority	Don't Know
Energy efficiency and conservation	1	2	3	4	5
Environmental stewardship	1	2	3	4	5
Climate change mitigation	1	2	3	4	5
Climate change adaptation	1	2	3	4	5
Renewable energy sources	1	2	3	4	5
Transportation options (public and/or non-motorized)	1	2	3	4	5
Green building	1	2	3	4	5
Brownfield site repurposing	1	2	3	4	5
Waste reduction and recycling	1	2	3	4	5
Water infrastructure	1	2	3	4	5
Water conservation	1	2	3	4	5
Environmental equity	1	2	3	4	5
Access to healthy foods/locally grown foods	1	2	3	4	5
Open/green space and urban forestry	1	2	3	4	5
Green economic development	1	2	3	4	5
Green jobs/workforce development	1	2	3	4	5
Regional development/planning	1	2	3	4	5
Affordable housing	1	2	3	4	5
Land use	1	2	3	4	5
Social equity	1	2	3	4	5
Public health	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

13. Which of the following waste and recycling programs are currently available for residents in your city?

	Available	Not Available	Don't Know
Curb-side recycling pick-up	1	2	3
Public drop-off recycling facilities	1	2	3
Single-stream (commingled) recycling	1	2	3
Electronic waste program	1	2	3
Hazardous waste program	1	2	3
Pay-as-you-throw policy	1	2	3
Other: _____	1	2	3

14. Which of the following water programs or initiatives are available in your city?

	Available	Not Available	Don't Know
Rebates and incentives to help residents conserve water (i.e. rebates for low-flow toilets and showerheads, faucet aerators, rain barrels)	1	2	3
Public education campaigns to promote water conservation and reduce pollutants	1	2	3
Green infrastructure (i.e. permeable pavement, rain gardens, green roofs) policies, programs, or incentives	1	2	3
Water reclamation and/or gray water re-use programs	1	2	3
Land-use and building requirements to minimize runoff and promote water conservation	1	2	3
Combined sewer overflows	1	2	3
Sewer separation	1	2	3
Seasonal water rates	1	2	3
Volume-based pricing of water	1	2	3
Other: _____	1	2	3

15. In terms of energy conservation and efficiency, does the city offer any of the following?

RESIDENTIAL	Available	Not Available	Don't Know
Financing programs or incentives to promote and/or facilitate energy efficiency and conservation upgrades/ retrofits	1	2	3
Energy audit	1	2	3
Financial incentives to promote and/or facilitate renewable energy installation	1	2	3
Education and awareness campaigns to promote energy conservation and efficiency	1	2	3
Green or white (reflective) roofing policies or incentives	1	2	3
Green building code requirements	1	2	3
COMMERCIAL	Available	Not Available	Don't Know
Financing programs or incentives to promote and/or facilitate energy efficiency and conservation upgrades/ retrofits	1	2	3
Financial incentives to promote and/or facilitate renewable energy installation	1	2	3
Green or white (reflective) roofing policies or incentives	1	2	3
Green building code requirements	1	2	3

16. Does your city currently purchase from a utility or produce energy from non-fossil fuel energy sources?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) No, but interested in pursuing renewable options
- d) Don't Know

16a. If yes, which of the following sources does your city produce or purchase energy from? (select all that apply)

- a) Solar
- b) Wind
- c) Landfill gas-to-energy programs
- d) Biomass
- e) Geothermal
- f) Hydrokinetic
- g) Don't Know

17. Has your city received funding (formula or competitive) through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Don't Know

17a. If no, please select the response that describes best why your city did not receive these funds:

- a) Did not apply even though we were aware of program
- b) Did not apply; were not aware of the program
- c) Was not eligible to receive funds
- d) Applied but was not awarded funding
- e) Applied and awarded funds; currently awaiting funds
- f) Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Don't Know

17b. If yes, select the statement(s) that best describes the impact these funds have had on your community:

- a) Allowed the city to develop and implement new energy efficiency and conservation programs/strategies that would probably not have happened otherwise
- b) Helped to support and maintain existing energy efficiency and conservation initiatives
- c) Helped to expand existing energy efficiency and conservation initiatives
- d) Too soon to determine impact
- e) No impact
- f) Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Don't Know

If funding for the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant were to be continued, what impact would these funds have on your city's efforts to promote energy efficiency and conservation?

Extremely significant 1	Significant 2	Limited significance 3	No significance 4	Don't Know 5
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18. Does your city have land use programs or policies that encourage:

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Transit-oriented development (TOD)	1	2	3
Mixed-use development	1	2	3
Infill development	1	2	3
Greenspace or openspace preservation	1	2	3
Access to parks and open space	1	2	3
Brownfield site repurposing	1	2	3
Utilizing existing and/or vacant land	1	2	3
Urban forestry to reduce heat island effect	1	2	3
Protection of environmentally-sensitive or vulnerable areas	1	2	3
Other land use policies or programs: _____	1	2	3

19. Which of the following steps are your city taking to support/prepare for green economic and/or workforce development?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Identifying existing assets and opportunities to transition into a green economy	1	2	3
Working with existing businesses, employers, or business associations to identify strategies to "green" operations or services	1	2	3
Working with existing businesses, employers, or business associations to identify opportunities for green job creation	1	2	3
Working with workforce investment boards (or equivalent) to recruit and prepare workforce for careers in green industries	1	2	3
Partnering with local colleges and universities to provide training for careers in green jobs/industries	1	2	3
Developing a business retention and attraction strategy to promote green business development	1	2	3
Other: _____	1	2	3

20. Which of the following transportation modes/initiatives are currently available in your city?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Bus service	1	2	3
Bus rapid transit (BRT)	1	2	3
Streetcar	1	2	3
Subway	1	2	3
Commuter rail	1	2	3
Electric vehicle charging stations	1	2	3
Ride-share/carpool program	1	2	3
Car-share programs	1	2	3
Dedicated bike lanes	1	2	3
Bike-share program	1	2	3
Complete Streets policy to ensure safe access to all modes of transportation for all users	1	2	3
Programs, policies or incentives to support fuel efficient, hybrid, and/or electric vehicles within taxi fleets	1	2	3
Free or reduced-rate city parking for alternatively-fueled vehicles	1	2	3
Other: _____	1	2	3

21. Does your city sponsor or support any of the following food-related programs?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Farmers' market(s)	1	2	3
Community garden(s) or urban agriculture	1	2	3
Farm-to-school program	1	2	3
Food policy and/or security council	1	2	3
Healthy corner store initiatives and/or programs to increase access to supermarkets	1	2	3
Other: _____	1	2	3

22. Which of the following climate change-related initiatives has your city pursued?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Greenhouse gas emissions inventory	1	2	3
Greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan	1	2	3
Climate adaptation/preparation planning	1	2	3
Other: _____	1	2	3

23. Which of the following initiatives are present in your city's operations?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Environmentally-preferred purchasing program or equivalent	1	2	3
"Buy local" policy or incentives	1	2	3
Energy conservation strategy for municipal buildings	1	2	3
Street or traffic light program for replacement with LEDs or equivalent	1	2	3
Traffic light synchronization	1	2	3
Green fleet or car-sharing program to reduce miles travelled or fuel usage	1	2	3
Bio-fuels production program	1	2	3
Anti-idling policy for municipal vehicles	1	2	3
Waste reduction and recycling policies or programs in municipally-owned facilities	1	2	3
Other: _____	1	2	3

24. Which of the following programs are available to your city's municipal staff?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Telework	1	2	3
Flextime	1	2	3
Incentives to carpool, walk, bike, or use public transit	1	2	3
Wellness program	1	2	3
Other: _____	1	2	3



25. Select up to five the top places or resources your city currently uses to access information to help guide the development and implementation of sustainability programs in your city.

- a) Recommendations from city-facilitated task forces
- b) Local elected officials (mayor, city council, etc.)
- c) City staff
- d) Neighboring cities, towns or counties
- e) Regional organizations
- f) State resources
- g) Federal resources (i.e. EPA, HUD, DOT, DOE, USDA)
- h) National nonprofits
- i) Local sustainability/ environmental non-profits
- j) Community groups; CBO's
- k) Colleges/ universities
- l) Private consultants
- m) Private sector/ business community
- n) Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- o) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

26. Indicate how useful the following resources would be in assisting your city's efforts around sustainability.

	Extremely useful	Moderately useful	Limited usefulness	Not useful	Don't know
Best practices/case studies	1	2	3	4	5
In-depth briefs on relevant topics	1	2	3	4	5
Peer network of municipal sustainability staff	1	2	3	4	5
A national conference	1	2	3	4	5
A regional conference	1	2	3	4	5
Consensus-based metrics to evaluate sustainability initiatives	1	2	3	4	5
Webinar series on sustainability topics	1	2	3	4	5
E-newsletters	1	2	3	4	5
Online, searchable database of city sustainability practices	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

27. We want to know about the programs that you think could be models for other cities. Thinking about your city's initiatives related to sustainability, which innovative program or policy do you want to share? Feel free to mention as many as you wish and to provide links to further details.

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28. Are we authorized to publicly release the information provided in this survey?

- a) Yes
- b) No

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION!!!**

Please return this survey to the National League of Cities, Center for Research and Innovation, 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 550 Washington, D.C. 20004; or fax to (202) 626-3113.