

CITY OF TALLAHASSEE

**greenprint** 

A Roadmap to a More  
Sustainable Future



Tallahassee GreenPrint is the City of Tallahassee's strategic sustainability plan. The plan is a broad, inclusive, and community-responsive strategic sustainability plan that was developed to advance the City's goal of creating a more sustainable and livable community. The GreenPrint complements existing planning efforts and seeks to leverage and enhance current programs. It also seeks to lay out a framework to support and further the City's plans for economic resiliency, environmental protection and social equity. The GreenPrint is a non-regulatory plan.

The GreenPrint addresses sustainability across eight broad target areas: Leadership, Education and Community Outreach, Health, Economics, Natural Resources, Energy, Solid Waste and Land Development and Mobility.



# A LONGSTANDING HISTORY OF SUSTAINABILITY:

The City of Tallahassee has a longstanding history of implementing innovative, cutting-edge initiatives and programs that foster the development of a more sustainable community. Over the years, these efforts have enhanced our residents' quality of life, saved money, protected our natural environments and garnered the City state, national and international recognition as a leader in the field of sustainability. Whether it's the Smart Metering System, the City's award-winning park system, the Neighborhood Leadership Academy, the Think About Personal Pollution (TAPP) program, the Community Human Services Partnership, or the Mayor's Local Business Saturday Campaign...all of these initiatives share a common core, sustainability.

Sustainability is a community's ability to thrive over the long term while meeting the needs of today without compromising its ability to meet the needs of the future through the proper stewardship of its environmental, economic, and social resources. The Tallahassee GreenPrint lays out a strategic pathway for the City to become more sustainable.

## CORE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY:



Environmental



Economic



Social



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The process used to develop a community's sustainability plan plays an important role in determining the validity and appropriateness of the plan for that community and the community's support for the plan.

# DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREENPRINT:

## Citizen Leadership and Involvement

The Tallahassee GreenPrint was developed under the guidance of the City Manager-appointed citizen advisory board, the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB). Members of the EAB represented various community interests and stakeholder groups. Throughout the plan development process, various community stakeholder groups and individual citizens provided input and commented on the draft plan. The final plan reflects the collaborative efforts of our residents, City staff and our elected officials.

## Framework

The EAB and City staff used the American Planning Association's (APA) Sustainability Framework to guide their work in developing the GreenPrint. This framework advocates four basic objectives.



## Objectives:

- Reduce dependence upon fossil fuels, extracted underground metals and minerals.
- Reduce dependence on chemicals / manufactured substances that can accumulate in nature.
- Reduce dependence on activities that harm life-sustaining ecosystems.
- Meet the hierarchy of present and future human needs fairly and efficiently.



# TARGET AREAS

The GreenPrint addresses sustainability across eight target areas and identifies strategies that the City and its community partners can pursue to create a more sustainable and livable community. The GreenPrint is a non-regulatory strategic plan that provides a framework to advance sustainable practices within City government and throughout the community. The plan will be implemented through the adoption of subsequent implementation plans that will identify specific programs, policies and initiatives to further the goals of the plan.



**LEADERSHIP:**

The organizational and community leadership necessary to advance the principles and practices of sustainability.



**EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH:**

Greater understanding and awareness of sustainability issues and the community partnerships necessary to promote environmental stewardship.



**HEALTH:**

Access to health, recreation, and wellness infrastructure and programs, and locally sourced food.



**ECONOMICS:**

Support for the expansion of the City's emerging green sector economy and the use of the City's fiscal resources to further sustainable principles and practices.



**NATURAL RESOURCES:**

The conservation and protection of the area's natural resources.



**ENERGY:**

Energy efficiency and conservation, alternative energy, and alternative-fuel vehicles, all aimed at reducing energy consumption and demand.



**SOLID WASTE:**

Reducing waste generation through source reduction, reuse and recycling.



**LAND DEVELOPMENT AND MOBILITY:**

Sustainable community design, land development practices, and transportation systems.



# LEADERSHIP

TARGET AREA GOAL: Foster a culture of sustainability in the greater Tallahassee community, and enhance the City's role as a regional, national and international leader in sustainability.



## Objective L1:

Create within City government the leadership capacity to develop and maintain a culture of sustainability.

### STRATEGY L 1.1:

Establish sustainability as an organizational strategic priority for City government and create a shared understanding of sustainability that is integrated into all aspects of City government.

### STRATEGY L 1.2:

Facilitate opportunities and incentivize City employees' participation in the generation of ideas and innovations that incorporate sustainability into the City's work processes.

### STRATEGY L 1.3:

Create a metric/performance evaluation system to benchmark and track sustainability progress and achievements.

## Objective L2:

Facilitate, with community partners, the leadership necessary to create a shared understanding of sustainability and foster a culture of sustainability throughout the community.

### STRATEGY L 2.1:

Create partnerships with community stakeholders to develop plans, projects, activities and events that foster a shared understanding of sustainability and promote the development of a sustainable community.





# EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**TARGET AREA GOAL:** Educate the community on the issues and practices of sustainability to facilitate and promote greater environmental and economic stewardship, as well as social equity.

## Objective ED1:

Increase City employee awareness and understanding of sustainability issues.

### STRATEGY ED 1.1:

Develop and implement training programs to increase City employees' understanding and awareness of the issues of sustainability, particularly those sustainability issues directly related to their job functions.

### STRATEGY ED 1.2:

Develop and implement an internal network to distribute and promote information about sustainability practices, programs and policies to City staff.

## Objective ED2:

Increase community awareness and knowledge of sustainability practices.

### STRATEGY ED 2.1:

Incentivize and encourage residents' participation in sustainability practices through challenges and campaigns.

### STRATEGY ED 2.2:

Make informational resources on sustainability more accessible to the community.

### STRATEGY ED 2.3:

Collaborate with area schools, colleges and universities to promote sustainability programs.





# HEALTH

**TARGET AREA GOAL:** Improve overall health and wellness in the community.

**Objective H1:**

Improve access to health, recreation and wellness infrastructure and programs.

**STRATEGY H 1.1:**

Leverage City and community resources to provide residents opportunities to access a wide array of recreational facilities and programs throughout the community.

**STRATEGY H 1.2:**

Determine the community's wellness-related infrastructure and program needs and expectations.

## Objective H2:

Educate the community on wellness and environmental health issues.

### STRATEGY H 2.1:

Increase community awareness about the availability of recreational facilities and programs, and the benefits of recreation and physical activity.

### STRATEGY H 2.2:

Provide information to the public to increase awareness about environmental health issues.

### STRATEGY H 2.3:

Cultivate and support community partnerships to further the implementation of wellness programs.

## Objective H3:

Maximize the practices of growing and obtaining locally-produced food.

**STRATEGY H 3.1:** Facilitate opportunities for the public to establish community gardens.





# ECONOMICS

**TARGET AREA GOAL:** Develop a robust green-sector economy.

**Objective EC1:**

Use the City's economic resources in a manner that furthers its environmental and social goals.

**STRATEGY EC 1.1:**

Promote environmentally preferable purchasing within City government.

**STRATEGY EC 1.2:**

Identify and link the economic, environmental, and social benefits associated with proposed publicly-financed capital investments and financial incentive packages.

## Objective EC2:

Create a local economic climate that is supportive of local business.

### STRATEGY EC 2.1:

Expand City government's support of local businesses.



## Objective EC3:

Position the City of Tallahassee to compete successfully in the emerging green-sector economy.

### STRATEGY EC 3.1:

Develop, as a part of the community's economic development planning efforts, a green economic development plan/subsection.

### STRATEGY EC 3.2:

Support local green-sector businesses through financial incentives and promotional assistance.

### STRATEGY EC 3.3:

Foster the development of an educated and trained workforce that is prepared for the emerging green economy.

### STRATEGY EC 3.4:

Market the Tallahassee-Leon County community as a "green" community, capitalizing on existing green infrastructure, green businesses, and the City's current sustainability initiatives.



# NATURAL RESOURCES

**TARGET AREA GOAL:** Preserve, conserve, protect and manage the area's natural resources in a manner that promotes the sustainability of these resources and the community's economic and social vitality.



## Objective NR1:

Protect the groundwater resources of the City of Tallahassee.



### STRATEGY NR 1.1:

Address contaminants to the City's groundwater resources.

### STRATEGY NR 1.2:

Conserve the City's groundwater resources.

## Objective NR2:

Protect the surface water resources of the City of Tallahassee.

### STRATEGY NR 2.1:

Strengthen and continue City education programs that address surface water quality.

### STRATEGY NR 2.2:

Promote rainwater recovery for direct reuse and/or onsite groundwater recharge.

### STRATEGY NR 2.3:

Decrease the use of harmful chemicals that affect surface water quality.



## Objective NR3:

Improve Tallahassee's air quality.



### STRATEGY NR 3.1:

Decrease the transportation sector's impact on air quality.



### STRATEGY NR 3.2:

Address the impact of facilities, such as power generating plants and incinerators, on air quality.



### STRATEGY NR 3.3:

Educate residents about air quality issues and the potential impact on public health.



### STRATEGY NR 3.4:

Develop a plan to address air pollutants and climate change.

## Objective NR4:

Address nontraditional pollution.

### STRATEGY NR 4.1:

Minimize light pollution in Tallahassee.

### STRATEGY NR 4.2:

Decrease heat island effects in the City.



## Objective NR5:

Enhance the protection of Tallahassee's ecosystems.

### STRATEGY NR 5.1:

Promote the expansion, preservation and conservation of natural areas.

### STRATEGY NR 5.2:

Enhance Tallahassee's urban tree canopy and ground cover.

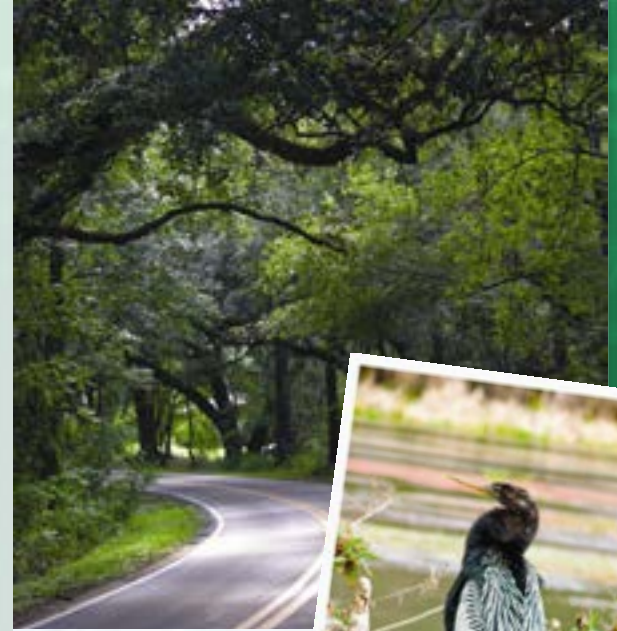
### STRATEGY NR 5.3:

Promote a shared responsibility for the community's environmental resources.

## Objective NR6:

Enhance existing land development and management practices to provide greater protection of the area's natural resources and to promote sustainable development design elements.

**STRATEGY NR 6.1:** Promote the use of sustainable site development and land management principles.





# ENERGY

**TARGET AREA GOAL:** Provide a safe, reliable, and cost effective energy system that maximizes energy efficiency, decreases electric consumption and demand, and increases reliance on energy generated from renewable energy resources.

## **Objective EN1:**

Decrease electric demand by 50 MW and electric consumption by 146,000 MWh, consistent with the City's Demand Side Management goals.

### **STRATEGY EN 1.1:**

Increase customers' awareness of their electric consumption.

### **STRATEGY EN 1.2:**

Reduce City government electric consumption by 10% by 2016.

### **STRATEGY EN 1.3:**

Reduce residential and business customers' electric demand and energy consumption.

## Objective EN2:

Maximize energy efficiencies related to the use of electricity and natural gas.

### STRATEGY EN 2.1:

Improve efficiencies in new and existing structures.

### STRATEGY EN 2.2:

Maximize use of energy efficient equipment, appliances, and lighting.

### STRATEGY EN 2.3:

Promote fuel switching from electric/propane to natural gas.

## Objective EN3:

Maximize renewable electric generation.

### STRATEGY EN 3.1:

Increase the use of alternative energy technology in public buildings.

### STRATEGY EN 3.2:

Increase the percentage of electricity generated from alternative energy.

## Objective EN4:

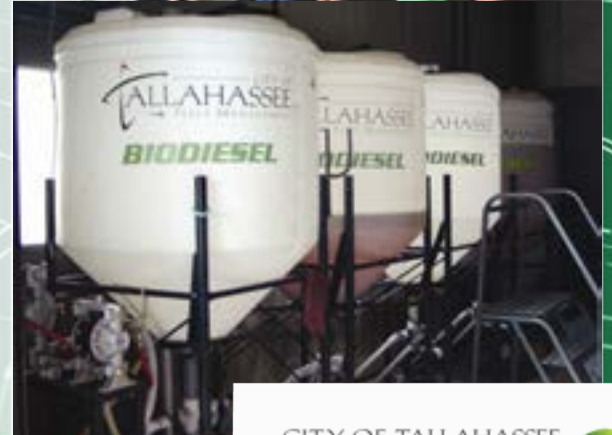
Maximize the use of alternative-fuel vehicles and equipment.

### STRATEGY EN 4.1:

Expand the use of alternative-fuel vehicles in City fleet.

### STRATEGY EN 4.2:

Explore and develop the infrastructure necessary to support and expand the use of non-petroleum vehicles.





# SOLID WASTE

**TARGET AREA GOAL:** Decrease the amount of solid waste generated within the City's solid waste service area.

**Objective SW1:**

Educate and raise awareness about the costs and impacts to natural resources that are associated with solid waste generation, collection, and disposal.

**STRATEGY SW 1.1:**

Increase awareness among community residents and City employees of ways to reduce solid waste generation, to re-use certain products, and to recycle.

## Objective SW2:

Reduce the amount of solid waste generated by addressing the procurement, use, and eventual disposal of products.

### STRATEGY SW 2.1:

Design City work processes to minimize the generation of solid waste.

### STRATEGY SW 2.2:

Use City purchasing power to ensure that goods and services support waste reduction goals.

### STRATEGY SW 2.3:

Promote composting as an alternative to landfilling.

## Objective SW3:

Maximize product/item reuse versus disposal.

### STRATEGY SW 3.1:

Maximize the reuse of office items within City government.

### STRATEGY SW 3.2:

Promote reusable alternatives in place of single-use items.

## Objective SW4:

Maximize recycling efforts among City government, community residents, local businesses, and organizations.

### STRATEGY SW 4.1:

Continue to promote and expand recycling initiatives throughout City government and the community.

### STRATEGY SW 4.2:

Increase the types of recyclable materials accepted in recycling programs.

### STRATEGY SW 4.3:

Increase construction and demolition recycling.





# LAND DEVELOPMENT & MOBILITY

**TARGET AREA GOAL:** Promote land development patterns, transportation options, and building practices that support the City's sustainability goals.



## Objective LM1:

Maximize development within the Mobility District and other urban areas.

### STRATEGY LM 1.1:

Facilitate redevelopment within the Mobility District.

### STRATEGY LM 1.2:

Address land-use conflicts within the Mobility District and other urban areas.

### STRATEGY LM 1.3:

Promote the redevelopment of underutilized areas in the Mobility District.

### STRATEGY LM 1.4:

Maintain the integrity of the Urban Services Area boundary established in the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan.

### STRATEGY LM 1.5:

Promote the preservation of historic and cultural resources within the Mobility District.



## Objective LM2:

Increase, to fifty percent by 2020, the percentage of newly-built or significantly rehabilitated buildings that meet green standards.



### STRATEGY LM 2.1:

Facilitate the design of communities and neighborhoods that embody the principles and elements of sustainable community development.



### STRATEGY LM 2.2:

Promote green building, remodeling, and rehabilitation practices in residential and commercial sectors.

## Objective LM3:

Provide the policy needed to support green industry, projects, and infrastructure.

### STRATEGY LM 3.1:

Ensure that publicly funded capital projects support and further the principles of sustainability.

### STRATEGY LM 3.2:

Ensure that the current land use plan and land development codes support green development.



## Objective LM4:

Facilitate the use of alternative modes of transportation.

### STRATEGY LM 4.1:

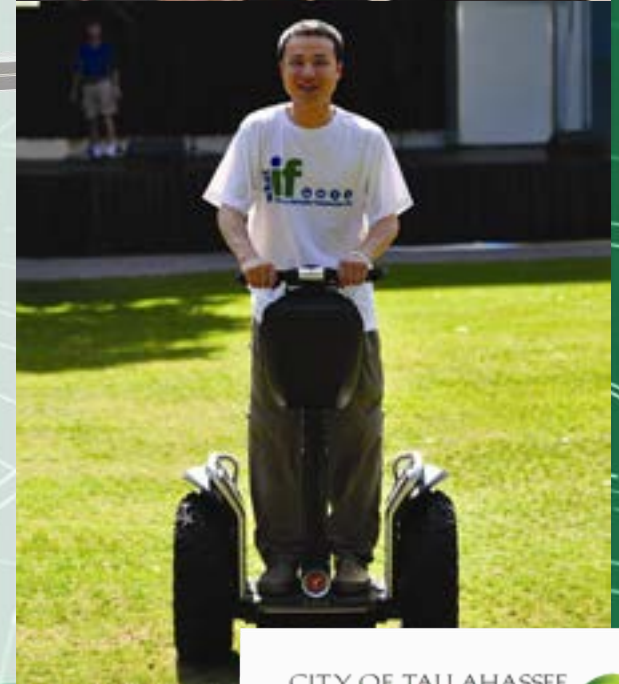
Improve opportunities for bicycling and walking as feasible means of mobility within the community.

### STRATEGY LM 4.2:

Increase the availability and use of public transportation within the Mobility District and into the surrounding counties.

### STRATEGY LM 4.3:

Increase carpooling versus single-occupancy vehicle travel.



## For More Information:

Tallahassee GreenPrint is the City's five-year sustainability plan. The plan coordinates the City's efforts to protect the environment, save money, and make Tallahassee a more livable place to call home.

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