

777 North Capitol Street, NE Suite 500 Washington, DC 20002-4201

Local Government Sustainability Practices-2015

April 2015

Dear Chief Administrative Officer:

This survey of local government sustainability practices is a joint project of ICMA, the Sustainable Communities and Small Town and Rural Planning Divisions of the American Planning Association, Binghamton University, Cornell University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We seek to understand how local governments engage issues of sustainability. Aggregate results will be available on ICMA's website (http://icma.org). You may also complete the survey online at: http://icma.org/sustainability2015

Thank you in advance for your time.

Robert J. O'Neill, Jr.
Executive Director, ICMA

. Indicate which of the followi	ng are a priority in your jurisdicti	ion. (Check all that apply.)	
☐ a. Environmental protec		c. Economic development	d. Other:
·	. ,	·	
. Has your jurisdiction adopte	d a sustainability plan? 🔻 🗆 Ye	s \square No	
2a. If yes, please indicate if	the plan contains goals or strategi	es for any of the following. (Che	ck all that apply.)
☐ 1. Social equity	☐ 4. Economic development	☐ 7. Community resiliency	
☐ 2. Energy conservation	☐ 5. Disaster mitigation	☐ 8. Green energy production	n
☐ 3. Climate change	☐ 6. Public health	☐ 9. Other:	
	bility plan include performance m		2. No at apply.)
a. Dedicated a budget line it	em specifically for sustainability o	or environmental protection	
b. Adopted a climate mitigat	ion plan		
c. Adopted a climate adapta	tion plan		
d. Conducted a greenhouse	gas inventory of local governmen	t operations	
e. Conducted a greenhouse	gas inventory of the community		
f. Set greenhouse gas reduct	tion targets for local government	operations	
g. Set greenhouse gas reduc	tion targets for the community		

4. Has your local government had to response	ond to a major disaster in	the past 15 year	rs? 🗆 1. Yes 🗆 2	2. No
•	3. Tornado 🗆 5. Floo	od 🗆 7. Bli	zzard or ice storm \square 8.	Toxic spill
type? \square 2. Earthquake \square	4. Wildfire \Box 6. Dro	ught 🗌 9. Ot	her:	
5. Do you have a hazard mitigation plan or	an emergency evacuation	/relocation nlan	? □ 1. Yes □ 2. I	No
5a. If yes, does either plan specifically a	· .	•		_
sain yes, aces enner plan specimeany an	auress issues or at risk (low	moonie, semors,	21.10	25 = 2.110
6. Do the departments in your jurisdiction	coordinate on the followir	ng programs or po	olicies?	
	Yes	No	No program or policy	
a. Economic development				
b. Land use planning / permitting				
c. Environmental protection				
d. Seeking funding and grants				
e. Storm water management				
f. Energy planning				
g. Provision of affordable housing				
h. Hazard mitigation / evacuation plann	ing \square			
i. Climate change mitigation				
j. Climate change adaptation				
k. Open space / farmland preservation				
7. Do <u>localities in your region</u> coordinate		-	1	
	Ye.		No program or po	olicy
a. Economic development			Ш	
b. Land use planning and permitting				
c. Environmental protection				
d. Seeking funding and grants				
e. Storm water management				
f. Provision of affordable housing		_		
f. Provision of affordable housing g. Hazard mitigation / evacuation plann				
_	ing \Box			
g. Hazard mitigation / evacuation planni	ing \Box			
g. Hazard mitigation / evacuation planni h. Open space protection / farmland pre	ing eservation			
g. Hazard mitigation / evacuation planning. h. Open space protection / farmland presidential. Climate change mitigation	ing eservation			
g. Hazard mitigation / evacuation planning. h. Open space protection / farmland presi. Climate change mitigation j. Climate change adaptation	ing eservation			
g. Hazard mitigation / evacuation plannsh. Open space protection / farmland presi. Climate change mitigation j. Climate change adaptation k. Open space / farmland preservation	ing eservation			
g. Hazard mitigation / evacuation planning. h. Open space protection / farmland presist. Climate change mitigation j. Climate change adaptation k. Open space / farmland preservation l. Watershed management	ing eservation			
g. Hazard mitigation / evacuation planning. h. Open space protection / farmland presist. Climate change mitigation j. Climate change adaptation k. Open space / farmland preservation l. Watershed management	ing eservation destrian systems			
g. Hazard mitigation / evacuation planning. h. Open space protection / farmland presist. Climate change mitigation j. Climate change adaptation k. Open space / farmland preservation l. Watershed management m. Roads, public transit and/or bike-pect 8. Does your local government own any or a. Electric utility	destrian systems	utilities? (Check	all that apply).	•
g. Hazard mitigation / evacuation planning. h. Open space protection / farmland presidents. Climate change mitigation j. Climate change adaptation k. Open space / farmland preservation l. Watershed management m. Roads, public transit and/or bike-pect 8. Does your local government own any or a. Electric utility	destrian systems	utilities? (Check	all that apply).	•

10. Does your community have a plan or program to extend intern	et access to all? □1. Yes □2. No	
11. Which scenario best describes your jurisdiction's staffing on s	sustainability?	
\square a. Dedicated staffing in chief elected/appointed official's office	☐ d. Dedicated staffing within a single depa	artment
☐ b. Dedicated staffing across multiple departments	\square e. No dedicated staffing, but a task for	ce / committee
☐ c. No dedicated staffing, but goals recognized across departments	s f. No staffing, goal recognition, or task	force / committee
12. How much impact has public participation had in shaping sust		
\square a. A lot of impact \square b. Some impact \square	c. A little impact	t
13. Please indicate how residents participate in planning strategies for	for sustainability? (Check all that apply)	
☐ a. Resident committees, commissions, and/or task forces	☐ d. Community surveys	
	·	hlogs)
□ b. Formal public hearings□	e. Social media (e.g., Facebook, texting	, biogs)
☐ c. Public workshops or design charrettes	☐ f. Other:	-
14. Which of the following angular estimation to your invitediation to be	on in the last five years? (Cheek all that anni-)
14. Which of the following energy actions has your jurisdiction take		y.)
a. Established a fuel efficiency target for the government fleet		
b. Increased the purchase of hybrid, plug-in hybrid, electric, or	other fuel efficient vehicles	Ш
c. Installed charging stations for electric vehicles		
d. Conducted energy audits of government buildings		
e. Established a policy to only purchase energy star equipment	when available	
f. Upgraded or retrofitted government facilities to higher energ	gy efficiency of office lighting	
g. Upgraded or retrofitted traffic signals to increase efficiency		
h. Upgraded or retrofitted streetlights or other exterior lighting	g to improve efficiency	
i. Upgraded or retrofitted government facilities to more energy ef	· · ·	
j. Upgraded or retrofitted facilities to higher efficiency pumps in		П
k. Installed solar panels on a government facility	in the water of sever systems	
I. Installed a geo-thermal system in a government facility		
	washing at a landfill an austinus	
m. Generated electricity through refuse disposal, wastewater t	•	
n. Required all new government construction projects be certif		
o. Required all government renovation projects be certified gre	een (e.g., LEED, Energy Star, etc.)	Ш
15. Do you track the impact of conservation programs on energy us	sage by your government3	□ 2. No
15a. If yes, have the programs reduced energy usage in governm		
13a. If yes, have the programs reduced energy usage in governing	ient operations: 🗆 1. res 🗀 2. N	o .
16. Does your government provide or support any of the followin	ng programs to the community? (Check all t	hat apply.)
a. Energy audits for individual residences		
b. Weatherization for individual residences		
c. Heating/ air conditioning upgrades for individual residence	es \square	
d. Purchase of energy efficient appliances in individual resid	lences \square	
e. Installation of solar equipment on individual residences		
f. Energy audits for businesses		
g. Weatherization for businesses		
h. Heating/air conditioning upgrades for businesses		
i. Purchase of energy efficient appliances for businesses		
j. Installation of solar equipment on businesses		

17. Please indicate if your local government has any energy cor ☐ a. Low-income residents ☐ b. Seniors ☐ c. Small but		rams targo . Non-profi			owing: e. None	
18. Do you track the impact of conservation programs on energy	usage in the co	mmunity?	D 1	. Yes \square	2. No	
18a. If yes, have the programs reduced energy usage in the co	_	☐ 1. Yes		2. No		
19. Does poor air quality disproportionately impact minority or lo ☐ 1. Yes ☐ 2. No ☐ 3. Don't know	ow-income area	as of your	commun	ity?		
20. Do you have local air pollution measures to reduce dust and/	or particulate r	natter?	□ 1. Ye	s 🗆 2.1	No	
21. Do you have any incentives in your zoning (e.g., expedited review, density bonus, tax reductions, etc.) for developers to provide community benefits (e.g., open space conservation, affordable housing, etc.)? 1. Yes 2.No						
22. Do your regulations require, allow, or incentivize the follow				-		
		Require	Allow	Incentivize	Not applicable	
a. Higher density development near public transit nodes						
b. Higher density development in areas with existing infrastru	ucture					
c. Accessory dwelling units, such as granny flats, basement u	nits, etc.					
d. Mixed use development						
e. Sidewalks in new developments						
f. Clustered (conservation) subdivision design						
g. Low-impact design/green infrastructure (e.g., bioswales, rain ga	ardens, etc.)					
h. Sustainable or green residential or commercial building sta	andards					
23. If you have sustainable building policies, have they resulted in m24. Do you levy developer impact fees on any projects in your juit	_				3. No policy Yes □2. No	
${\bf 25.}\ Which\ of\ the\ following\ actions\ has\ your\ government\ taken$	to reduce or m	anage wat	er usage	? (Check all	that apply.)	
a. Reuse of grey or reclaimed water in government buildings,	, public parks o	public fac	cilities			
b. Provide for the reuse of grey water or reclaimed water on	the landscaping	g of private	e homes	or businesse	s \square	
c. Use water price structure to encourage water conservation	า					
d. Other incentives for water conservation behaviors by city,	residents, and	businesses	5			
e. Protect low-income households from water service shut of	ff					
26. Do you track the impact of water conservation programs or 26a. If yes, have the programs reduced water usage in the con	nmunity?	☐ 1.Yes		2.No 2. No		
27. Do you track quality of life indicators, such as education, cult	_				es 🗌 2. No	
28. Which of the following programs does your local governme	nt provide? (Ch	eck all tha	at apply.)			
$\hfill \square$ a. Financial support/incentives for affordable housing	☐ d. Housing			•	eless persons	
☐ b. Supportive housing for people with disabilities	☐ e. Housing		-			
$\ \square$ c. Funding for early child care and education	☐ f. After sch	nool progra	ams for c	hildren		

29. Does your government provide direct support	(e.g., land	, water, oi	otner serv	vices) to co	mmunity	gardens? L	11. Yes ∟2. No
30. Has your government added or adopted any	of the fol	llowing in	the past f	ive years?	(Check al	l that apply	.)
\square a. Expanded public transit	□ e.	Charging s	stations fo	r electric v	ehicles		
☐ b. Widened sidewalks	☐ f. E	Expanded	dedicated	bike lanes	on street	S	
\square c. Walking or biking trails	□ g. I	Bike shari	ng progran	n			
☐ d. Car sharing program	☐ h.	Public tran	sportation _l	programs to	assist low	-income resid	dents
31. Please indicate which actions your governm	ent has ta	ken to re	duce or ma	anage was	te. (Check	call that ap	ply.)
a. Implemented an internal recycling program	n in your lo	ocal gover	nment				
b. Require minimum of 30% post-consumer r	ecycled co	ontent for	office pap	er use in g	overnmer	nt 🗆	
c. Community-wide, curbside recycling collec	tion progr	am for ho	mes				
d. Community-wide, curbside recycling collec	tion progr	ram for co	mmercial	properties			
e. Recycling of household hazardous waste							
f. Recycling of household electronic equipme	nt (e-wast	te)					
g. Community-wide collection of yard waste	material fo	or compos	ting				
h. Community-wide collection of food waste	for compo	sting					
i. Pay-As-You-Throw program with charges b	ased on th	e amount	of waste	discarded			
j. Restrictions or bans on the use of plastic gr	ocery bags	s					
32. Do you track the impact of recycling program	s on recyc	ling rates	? □ 1.	Voc	□ 2. No		
32a. If yes, have the programs increased recycles and the state of the	cling?	☐ 1. Yes	of the foli	2. No lowing as	sources of	omewhat	Not
32a. If yes, have the programs increased recycles and the second	cling?	☐ 1. Yes	of the foll Very importan	2. No lowing as	sources of tant ir	omewhat mportant	Not important
32a. If yes, have the programs increased recycles 33. In developing sustainability strategies, how a. Federal government	cling?	☐ 1. Yes	of the foli	2. No lowing as	sources of tant ir	omewhat mportant	Not
32a. If yes, have the programs increased recycles as a second of the sec	important	☐ 1. Yes	of the foll Very importan	2. No lowing as something the second	sources of	omewhat mportant	Not important
32a. If yes, have the programs increased recycles 33. In developing sustainability strategies, how a. Federal government b. State government c. Local, regional, or national environmental	important	□ 1. Yes	of the foll Very importan	2. No lowing as	sources of Strant in	omewhat mportant	Not important
32a. If yes, have the programs increased recycles 33. In developing sustainability strategies, how a. Federal government b. State government c. Local, regional, or national environmental d. Appointed resident commissions or advisor	important	□ 1. Yes	of the folion very important	2. No lowing as	sources of rtant sir]]	omewhat mportant	Not important
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32a. If yes, have the programs increased recycles 33. In developing sustainability strategies, how a. Federal government b. State government c. Local, regional, or national environmental d. Appointed resident commissions or advisor e. Examples of other municipalities f. National or state local government organizations.	important groups ry boards	□ 1. Yes t are each	of the foll Very importan	2. No lowing as a limport	sources of rtant I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	omewhat mportant	Not important
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32a. If yes, have the programs increased recycles 33. In developing sustainability strategies, how a. Federal government b. State government c. Local, regional, or national environmental d. Appointed resident commissions or adviso e. Examples of other municipalities f. National or state local government organiza g. Regional governmental organizations (e.g., Coun	groups ry boards tions (e.g.,	□ 1. Yes t are each	of the folion very important	2. No lowing as a limport	sources of tant Sir I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	omewhat mportant	Not important
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32a. If yes, have the programs increased recycles 33. In developing sustainability strategies, how a. Federal government b. State government c. Local, regional, or national environmental d. Appointed resident commissions or adviso e. Examples of other municipalities f. National or state local government organiza g. Regional governmental organizations (e.g., Coun h. Articles in professional magazines and web i. Other:	groups ry boards tions (e.g., cil of Gover	., ICMA) rnments)	of the followed govt	2. No lowing as a limport Import cy or progr	sources of tant sir	omewhat mportant	Not important
32a. If yes, have the programs increased recycles 33. In developing sustainability strategies, how a. Federal government b. State government c. Local, regional, or national environmental d. Appointed resident commissions or adviso e. Examples of other municipalities f. National or state local government organiza g. Regional governmental organizations (e.g., Coun h. Articles in professional magazines and web i. Other: 34. Please indicate the sources of funding for each a. Reduction of energy use in govt. operations	groups ry boards tions (e.g., cil of Gover	. ICMA) . Toments)	of the foll Very importan	2. No lowing as a limport Import cy or progr Utility Pr	sources of rtant sir	omewhat mportant	Not important

35. How significant are the following factors in	motivating sust	ainability effo	orts by your local gover	nment?
	Very significant	Significant	Limited significance	Not significant
a. Federal or state policies				
b. Federal or state funding opportunities				
c. Leadership of regional / state officials				
d. Leadership of local elected officials				
e. Potential for fiscal savings				
f. Potential to attract development projects				
g. Concern over the environment				
h. Desire to promote social equity				
i. Pressure from residents				
j. Pressure from advocacy groups				
k. Pressure from business / industry				
I. Desire / expertise of municipal staff				
m. Threat of lawsuits				
n. Other:				
36. How significant are the following factors in	hindering sustai	inability effor	ts by your local govern	ment?
	Very significant	Significant	Limited significance	Not significant
a. State or federal government policies				
b. State or federal funding restrictions				
c. Opposition of elected officials				
d. Lack of funding				
e. Lack of information on how to proceed				
f. Opposition of business / industry				
g. Lack of qualified private contractors				
h. Lack of staff capacity / support				
i. Lack of community / resident support				
j. Challenges coordinating across agencies				
k. Challenges coordinating across jurisdictions				
I. Threat of lawsuits				
m. Other:				
37. The highest elected official in my jurisdiction	on is: □1. Repub	olican \square 2.	Democrat \square 3. Other	☐ 4. No party affiliation
38. The highest elected official in my jurisdiction	on is: □1. Ma	le □2. F	emale	
39. The governing body in my jurisdiction is majo	ority: □1. Repub	lican □2. 🏻	Democrat □3. Evenly s	plit \Box 4. No party affiliat
Thank you for completing the survey. Please pr	ovide your contac	ct information	in case we need to foll	owup with you.
First name:		Last name:		
Title:Te	lephone no:		Email:	