

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

1. Indicate which of the following are a priority in your jurisdiction. (Check all that apply.)

- a. Environmental protection b. Social equity c. Economic development d. Other: _____

2. Has your jurisdiction adopted a sustainability plan? Yes No

2a. If yes, please indicate if the plan contains goals or strategies for any of the following. (Check all that apply.)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Social equity | <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Economic development | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Community resiliency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Energy conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Disaster mitigation | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Green energy production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Climate change | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Public health | <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Other: _____ |

2b. If yes, does the sustainability plan include performance measures? 1. Yes 2. No

3. Which of the following sustainability actions has your government undertaken? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| a. Dedicated a budget line item specifically for sustainability or environmental protection | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Adopted a climate mitigation plan | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Adopted a climate adaptation plan | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Conducted a greenhouse gas inventory of local government operations | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Conducted a greenhouse gas inventory of the community | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Set greenhouse gas reduction targets for local government operations | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Set greenhouse gas reduction targets for the community | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4. Has your local government had to respond to a major disaster in the past 15 years? 1. Yes 2. No

4a. If yes, what type? 1. Hurricane 2. Earthquake 3. Tornado 4. Wildfire 5. Flood 6. Drought 7. Blizzard or ice storm 8. Toxic spill 9. Other: _____

5. Do you have a hazard mitigation plan or an emergency evacuation/relocation plan? 1. Yes 2. No

5a. If yes, does either plan specifically address issues of at-risk (low income, seniors, etc.) residents? 1. Yes 2. No

6. Do the departments in your jurisdiction coordinate on the following programs or policies?

| | Yes | No | No program or policy |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Economic development | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Land use planning / permitting | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Environmental protection | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Seeking funding and grants | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Storm water management | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Energy planning | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Provision of affordable housing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Hazard mitigation / evacuation planning | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Climate change mitigation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. Climate change adaptation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| k. Open space / farmland preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

7. Do localities in your region coordinate on the following programs or policies?

| | Yes | No | No program or policy |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Economic development | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Land use planning and permitting | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Environmental protection | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Seeking funding and grants | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Storm water management | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Provision of affordable housing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Hazard mitigation / evacuation planning | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Open space protection / farmland preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Climate change mitigation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. Climate change adaptation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| k. Open space / farmland preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| l. Watershed management | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| m. Roads, public transit and/or bike-pedestrian systems | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8. Does your local government own any of the following municipal utilities? (Check all that apply).

- a. Electric utility b. Storm water utility c. Gas utility d. Water utility
 e. District heating f. Wastewater utility g. Communications utility (e.g., cable, telephone, internet)

9. Is any part of your community served by an electric cooperative? 1. Yes 2. No

10. Does your community have a plan or program to extend internet access to all? 1. Yes 2. No

11. Which scenario best describes your jurisdiction's staffing on sustainability?

- a. Dedicated staffing in chief elected/appointed official's office
- b. Dedicated staffing across multiple departments
- c. No dedicated staffing, but goals recognized across departments
- d. Dedicated staffing within a single department
- e. No dedicated staffing, but a task force / committee
- f. No staffing, goal recognition, or task force / committee

12. How much impact has public participation had in shaping sustainability plans and strategies in your community?

- a. A lot of impact
- b. Some impact
- c. A little impact
- d. No impact

13. Please indicate how residents participate in planning strategies for sustainability? (Check all that apply.)

- a. Resident committees, commissions, and/or task forces
- b. Formal public hearings
- c. Public workshops or design charrettes
- d. Community surveys
- e. Social media (e.g., Facebook, texting, blogs)
- f. Other: _____

14. Which of the following energy actions has your jurisdiction taken in the last five years? (Check all that apply.)

- a. Established a fuel efficiency target for the government fleet of vehicles
- b. Increased the purchase of hybrid, plug-in hybrid, electric, or other fuel efficient vehicles
- 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 energy efficiency of office lighting
- g. Upgraded or retrofitted traffic signals to increase efficiency
- h. Upgraded or retrofitted streetlights or other exterior lighting to improve efficiency
- i. Upgraded or retrofitted government facilities to more energy efficient heating or air conditioning systems
- j. Upgraded or retrofitted facilities to higher efficiency pumps in the water or sewer systems
- k. Installed solar panels on a government facility
- l. Installed a geo-thermal system in a government facility
- m. Generated electricity through refuse disposal, wastewater treatment or landfill operations
- n. Required all new government construction projects be certified green (e.g., LEED, Energy Star, etc.)
- o. Required all government renovation projects be certified green (e.g., LEED, Energy Star, etc.)

15. Do you track the impact of conservation programs on energy usage by your government? 1. Yes 2. No

15a. If yes, have the programs reduced energy usage in government operations? 1. Yes 2. No

16. Does your government provide or support any of the following programs to the community? (Check all that apply.)

- a. Energy audits for *individual residences*
- b. Weatherization for *individual residences*
- c. Heating/ air conditioning upgrades for *individual residences*
- d. Purchase of energy efficient appliances in *individual residences*
- 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 conservation programs targeted to assist the following:

- a. Low-income residents b. Seniors c. Small businesses d. Non-profit organizations e. None

18. Do you track the impact of conservation programs on energy usage in the community? 1. Yes 2. No

18a. If yes, have the programs reduced energy usage in the community? 1. Yes 2. No

19. Does poor air quality disproportionately impact minority or low-income areas of your community?

1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know

20. Do you have local air pollution measures to reduce dust and/or particulate matter? 1. Yes 2. 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 following in any part of your jurisdiction. (Check all that apply.)

| | Require | Allow | Incentivize | Not applicable |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Higher density development near public transit nodes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Higher density development in areas with existing infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Accessory dwelling units, such as granny flats, basement units, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Mixed use development | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Sidewalks in new developments | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Clustered (conservation) subdivision design | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Low-impact design/green infrastructure (e.g., bioswales, rain gardens, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Sustainable or green residential or commercial building standards | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

23. If you have sustainable building policies, have they resulted in more green buildings? 1. Yes 2. No 3. No policy

24. Do you levy developer impact fees on any projects in your jurisdiction to pay for community benefits? 1. Yes 2. No

25. Which of the following actions has your government taken to reduce or manage water usage? (Check all that apply.)

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| a. Reuse of grey or reclaimed water in government buildings, public parks or public facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Provide for the reuse of grey water or reclaimed water on the landscaping of private homes or businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Use water price structure to encourage water conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Other incentives for water conservation behaviors by city, residents, and businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Protect low-income households from water service shut off | <input type="checkbox"/> |

26. Do you track the impact of water conservation programs on water usage? 1.Yes 2.No

26a. If yes, have the programs reduced water usage in the community? 1. Yes 2. No

27. Do you track quality of life indicators, such as education, cultural, diversity, and social well-being? 1. Yes 2. No

28. Which of the following programs does your local government provide? (Check all that apply.)

- a. Financial support/incentives for affordable housing d. Housing options in community for homeless persons
 b. Supportive housing for people with disabilities e. Housing options for elderly
 c. Funding for early child care and education f. After school programs for children

35. How significant are the following factors in motivating sustainability efforts by your local government?

| | Very significant | Significant | Limited significance | Not significant |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Federal or state policies | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Federal or state funding opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Leadership of regional / state officials | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Leadership of local elected officials | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Potential for fiscal savings | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Potential to attract development projects | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Concern over the environment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Desire to promote social equity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Pressure from residents | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. Pressure from advocacy groups | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| k. Pressure from business / industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| l. Desire / expertise of municipal staff | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| m. Threat of lawsuits | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| n. Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

36. How significant are the following factors in hindering sustainability efforts by your local government?

| | Very significant | Significant | Limited significance | Not significant |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. State or federal government policies | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. State or federal funding restrictions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Opposition of elected officials | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Lack of funding | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Lack of information on how to proceed | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Opposition of business / industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Lack of qualified private contractors | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Lack of staff capacity / support | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Lack of community / resident support | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. Challenges coordinating across agencies | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| k. Challenges coordinating across jurisdictions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| l. Threat of lawsuits | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| m. Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

37. The highest elected official in my jurisdiction is: 1. Republican 2. Democrat 3. Other 4. No party affiliation

38. The highest elected official in my jurisdiction is: 1. Male 2. Female

39. The governing body in my jurisdiction is majority: 1. Republican 2. Democrat 3. Evenly split 4. No party affiliation

Thank you for completing the survey. Please provide your contact information in case we need to followup with you.

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Title: _____ Telephone no: _____ Email: _____