City of Walla Walla
Operations Sustainability Plan

For Year: 2012-2013

History:

- 4/3/12 approved by Sustainability Advisory Committee to begin discussions with City Staff for their input
- 5/1/12 updated 5/1/12 to incorporate City GHG policies
- 5/29/12 met with City Manager to discuss
- 6/21/12 revised with suggestions from City Manager and submitted to Sustainability Advisory Committee for review
- 7/3/12 revised version approved by Sustainability Advisory Committee for resubmission to City Manager
- 7/9/12 revised version submitted to City Manager for review
- 8/14/12 met with City Manager to discuss and revise based on discussion
- 9/4/12 submitted by City Manager to Directors for their input
- 9/20/12 input received from Ki Bealey
- 10/15/12 meeting with Ki Bealey and plan revised accordingly
- 10/25/12 meeting with Jim Dumont and plan revised accordingly
- 10/30/12 forwarded to Sustainability Committee for review
- 11/6/12 version 4 approved by Sustainability Committee
- 11/7/12 reviewed by City Manager and forwarded to Directors
- 11/20/12 discussed with Directors
- 11/29/12 updated per discussion (rev 5) and sent to Bealey and Dumont
- 12/17/12 update (rev 6) per comments received from Bealey
- 12/20/12 met with Melissa Warner to identify sources for gathering data
- 1/3/13 submitted updated plan (rev 7) to Bealey, Dumont, and Shawa for review
- 1/28/13 submitted updated plan to Sustainability Committee for review
- 2/5/13 Sustainability Committee will finalize plan to submit to Council
- 2/11/13 introduce topic for discussion with City Council
- 3/27/13 Submitted to City Council for adoption per Resolution

Managing and balancing our social, economic, and environmental resources to meet current needs without sacrificing the needs of future generations.

Final Draft – February 5, 2013

City of Walla Walla
Operations Sustainability Plan

Purpose

The purpose of this Sustainability Plan for City Operations is to

- Help fulfill the City's commitment to sustainability: managing and balancing environmental, economic, and social resources in its daily operations to meet current needs without sacrificing the needs of future generations

- Systematize and prioritize the process of implementing the sustainability elements of the City Comprehensive Plan while aligning with the City Strategic Plan and providing some of the elements required by the Baldridge project

- Return value to the citizens by demonstrating in a visible way (via the web and other communications) that City Operations work to make best use of their tax dollars with operations that are economical, ecological, and socially equitable

- Help fulfill the City's Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Policy adopted April 25, 2012

The City has already adopted many practices and programs consistent with a commitment to sustainability (listed in Appendix A). With this Plan, the City recognizes the achievements made to date, demonstrates its commitment to being sustainable, and sets an example for the public, businesses, and community organizations.

Process

The City of Walla Walla Operations Sustainability Plan is a living document. The Sustainability Advisory Committee in conjunction with City Staff will recommend to the City Council the goals to be met for each coming year. Annually City Staff and the Sustainability Advisory Committee will review progress and identify next steps.

As a first step toward developing this plan, the Sustainability Advisory Committee developed a matrix to use in evaluating the sustainability of projects and practices. The Committee then submitted a list of specific potential projects to Department Directors for review and input. Following that, the Committee has prepared a draft of this plan for consideration, revision, and discussion with general administrators, department directors, and City Council. Finally, the Plan will be submitted to City Council for approval.

Long-Term Sustainability Goals

This plan identifies six long-term goals, based on projects listed in the Walla Walla Urban Area Comprehensive Plan and generally accepted practice in the private and public sectors. See some of the potential sustainability projects listed in the Comprehensive Plan in Appendix B. The long-term goals are not listed here in any order of priority, though the work plan itself proposes varying timelines for undertaking specific projects and policies.

- Increase Organizational Commitment to and Employee Awareness of Sustainability
- Reduce Dependence on Non-Renewable Energy and Fuel Sources
- Reduce Use of Toxic Materials
- Reduce Water Use
- Reduce Waste
- Increase Sustainability of Facilities

Work Plan (Years One and Two)

Measuring, managing, and optimizing both existing sustainability practices and emerging opportunities will accelerate the City's progress toward increased sustainability. Each proposed project in the work plan should contain five elements:

1. Performance Goal: what the desired outcome is
2. Performance Measure: how results will be quantified
3. Completion Date: when the outcome will be achieved
4. Responsible: who is responsible for ensuring goal is met
5. Strategy for Achieving Goal

For 2012-2013, the proposed goal is

1. Goal: Create a Baseline for Measuring Future Progress toward Sustainability. The baseline will be total City operations data and annual measurements will be City operations totals. Achieving individual department goals will contribute to the long-term goals but will probably not be measurable at the department level.
2. Measure: Baseline with data for all components
3. Completion Date: December 31, 2013
4. Responsible: The Sustainability Coordinator will gather data for electric use from Pacific Power and Columbia REA, for natural gas use from Cascade Natural Gas, for fuel from the Fleet Services Manager, for waste and water from the City Finance Department
5. Strategy for Achieving Goal (Activities presently measurable for which a dashboard can be established by the completion date):
    a. Identify 2012 existing facilities, activities, and programs moving City toward sustainability (see Appendix A)
    b. Identify baselines for:
        I. 2012 purchase (quantity) of electricity, natural gas, vehicle and equipment fuel (diesel and petroleum)
        II. 2012 purchase (quantity) of water for City operations
        III. 2012 volume of waste (amount paid for) from City operations

IV. 2012 Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions generated by City operations (Scope 1 GHGs are all direct emissions from city operation's sources, such as emissions from City vehicles, landfill, and wastewater treatment).

6. Strategy for Achieving Goal (Activities not presently measurable for which we need to identify potential ways of measuring by the completion date):
   a. Identify organizational commitment and employee awareness of sustainability)
   b. Identify purchase (quantity) of sustainable materials (less toxic, contain renewable resources such as biobased and recycled content)

Scenario Planning

Scenario planning is widely used in the private sector to anticipate and plan adaptation to external changes that can affect a business profoundly. In the case of a local government, it is important for scenario planning to consider the impact of such external changes on the community as well as on the City and plan for adaptation to them. The community expects leadership from local government in responding to major natural, economic, and societal changes.

Some external changes with the potential to affect essential components of the City and the community are energy, climate, and economic uncertainties, significant population growth or loss, and technological revolution. Each of these might be expected to affect food security, housing quality and availability, strength and diversity of the local economy, functioning and cost of transportation and communication systems, public and social services, and land-use planning.

Because of the intrinsic interdependence of the City and the community, scenario planning may result in amendments to provisions and priorities in this Sustainability Plan.

Appendix A

City of Walla Walla sustainability activities already completed.

Sustainable Management

- City embedded sustainability in the Comprehensive Plan
- City of Walla Walla created a Sustainability Coordinator position in July 2008; hired in October 2008.
- Citizens requested Council to create a Sustainability Advisory Committee in August 2008.
- 'Ad Hoc' Sustainability Committee approved in October 2008; active January to June of 2009.
- Permanent Sustainability Committee created by Ordinance in February 2010; began meeting in July 2010
  - Scenario planning for future events and conditions
  - Help implement projects to meet Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives
  - Evaluate projects for sustainability components

Sustainable Activities Accomplished to Date

Sustainable Construction

- Green building initiatives in Police Station (2012)

Sustainable Energy

- Micro hydro electricity generation plant at water intake on Mill Creek (1986); $1M+ annual, nearly 600 homes
- Purchase of hybrid/flex fuel vehicles where economically and operationally feasible (2008)
- 'Alternative' vehicles at wastewater plant, Water Division (2009)
- Anti-idling policy
- Building energy audits; HVAC upgrades; conservation effort (2005)
- Methane gas recovery at wastewater treatment plant
- Methane gas recovery and elimination at Sudbury Landfill (2011)
- LED traffic light conversion
- Induction lighting retrofits for street lights (2010)
- Purchase of 'green energy' with Pacific Power's Blue Sky program to support renewable energy development
- Automatic HVAC controls for all city buildings

Sustainable Materials (Conservation, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Lower Toxicity,)

- Adoption of City Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Policies (April 2012)
- Recycled content purchasing policy
- Recycled content in all curbside recycling containers (2010)
- Recycle and reuse of street asphalt grindings and street sweepings for patching and backfill
- Curbside recycling (1996)
- Household Hazardous Waste collection facility (1994)

- Composting facility for green waste at landfill (2007)
- Composting of leaves from annual leaf pickup (2006)
- Curbside green waste collection service (2007)
- Land application of biosolids on area farmland
- Mulching mowers used on all City property
- Compactor extends landfill space
- City documents scanned and available electronically (2006)

Sustainable Water

- Aquifer storage and recovery for water storage
- Class A water reclamation at wastewater treatment plant
- Stormwater pollution prevention programs and policies (2009)
- Use of low water and native plants in parks and public spaces
- Upgrade of irrigation systems for conservation and efficiency (2010)
- IRRP program to address water loss (2010)

Sustainable Community

- Low impact development projects
- Extensive tree planting and protection program; Tree City USA designation; tree mapping project
- Creation of 'pocket parks' and green spaces
- Crime prevention programs, community policing, neighborhood relationships, sponsoring national night out
- Socio-economic attention with IRRP projects (2010)

Appendix B

The City of Walla Walla Comprehensive Plan implementation matrix (pp. 3-7 through 3-22) contains over 100 goals and projects. Those listed below are particularly pertinent to sustainability. They are listed in order of their identifying numbers in the Comprehensive Plan for ready reference. Each year the activities would be prioritized to identify which to tackle in any given year. In fact, many of them are already underway.

Com Plan #	Activity
3.	Foster a collaborative relationship with advisory boards, community groups and other local entities such as the school board
11.	Establish and enforce standards for streambed preservation in residential neighborhoods
12.	Preserve and enhance the City's tree canopy through implementation of the City's Urban Forestry Management Plan
14.	Develop and enforce development height restrictions to preserve important viewsheds
16.	Develop regional approaches to natural resources protection and revitalization
18.	Link roads, trails, open spaces, and parks with neighboring communities
21.	Explore options to improve air quality in WW County
24.	Initiate efforts to protect habitat while enhancing flood and water supply protection
28.	Update and revise the City's Zoning and Development Codes to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and assemble in a single useable documents
31.	Adopt "green" standards to enhance the sustainability of Walla Walla
34.	Adopt energy efficient subdivision regulations maximizing green space within developments
35.	Provide incentives for reuse of vacant and industrial lands
36.	Prepare vacant land and brownfields for reuse and redevelopment
37.	Incorporate more mixed-use and higher density housing provisions in the zoning code
38.	Promote xeriscaping in public and private landscapes and provide guidelines to assist in material selection, etc.

40+52	Address the causes of homelessness and substandard housing in WW through provision of a diverse array of affordable housing units including those for sale and for rent
	Ensure housing developed for low- and moderate-income households is integrated into the community
42.	Encourage development of energy efficient homes and affordable retrofits for existing homes
44.	Provide incentives for implementation of residential maintenance codes and design standards
49.	Adopt subdivision regulations requiring the maximum possible sensitivity to site, scale and density and minimizing impacts on views and view sheds
51.	Explore inclusionary housing measures including establishing a community land trust, set asides, increasing density, pre-purchase and re-sale of affordable units and incentives, grants and affordability programs
57.	Assist and support local entrepreneurs
58.	Concentrate on the creation and maintenance of family wage jobs
71.	Develop commercial nodes to be accessible to multi-modal travel
76.	Adequately fund the maintenance and rehabilitation of the City's utility infrastructure
79.	To protect Mill Creek watershed, develop and implement measures to minimize impacts from wildfires
83	Maintain and operate hydroelectric facility and explore other renewable energy options
84	Initiate a multi-modal transportation, circulation, and parking study for the city including road hierarchies and design standard and incorporating the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, TIP, Airport Plan, Downtown and Master Plan, this Plan and other pertinent studies
86.	Where feasible, bike lanes should be added to existing arterial streets and included in new street construction
88.	Initiate a comprehensive community facilities study to adequately plan for population growth and change
89.	Initiate a Tausick Way Landfill Redevelopment Feasibility Study