

Introduction

As The Tomorrow Plan moves forward with its assessment of existing conditions in Greater Des Moines, we would like to learn more about plans and initiatives in your community that focus on some of the many aspects of sustainability. Please take a moment to fill out this questionnaire and tell us more about the current sustainability initiatives in the community you serve or group you represent. All results will be aggregated. We will contact you for approval before attributing any comments. Thank you!

What is Sustainability?

The term "sustainability" expresses the idea of the need to live in the present in ways that do not jeopardize the future. A sustainable process or way of life means that it can be carried out over and over without reducing environmental resiliency or imposing inequitable economic burdens on anyone. We are interested to hear about all ongoing programs, initiatives, and policies that touch on sustainability in your community or organization. Our goal is to get a comprehensive picture of the state of sustainability initiatives in the Greater Des Moines region, and to understand key opportunities and obstacles facing implementation.

1. Name

2. Organization

3. Title

4. Community or organization size

5. Number of staff dedicated to sustainability

- Fewer than 1
- 1
- 2
- 3+
- A number of staff work part-time on sustainability

Natural Environment

What programs, initiatives, and policies has your organization initiated? Please indicate whether you are implementing, considering, or not doing the following practices.

6. Natural Environment: Hydrology

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Water use restrictions and water conservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Watershed planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Natural water filtration/holding system protection, enhancement, or installation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flood plain development prohibitions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rivers, marshes and stream buffers and ordinances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water pollution reduction and water improvement plans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

7. Natural Environment: Landscape and Ecology

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Habitat protection, restoration and management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Species protection plans and projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Invasive species removal and prevention	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compact building development ordinances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental education and technical assistance programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

8. Natural Environment: Climate Change

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Climate change action plans (CAP)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Policies or incentives to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate mitigation programs- lessening climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate adaptation programs- adapting to climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Natural disaster response plans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carbon footprint monitoring and reporting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fertilizer and pesticide reductions policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

Built Environment

What programs, initiatives, and policies has your organization initiated? Please indicate whether you are implementing, considering, or not doing the following practices.

9. Built Environment: Land Use

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Incentives for mixed use development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Incentives for higher density town and neighborhood centers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Incentives for growth tied to existing or proposed public transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conservation easements and land trusts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transfer of development rights (TDR)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Incentives for infill development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Brownfield rehabilitation and development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Greenfield development restrictions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urban Growth boundary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Siting municipal offices along existing transit routes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

10. Built Environment: Infrastructure

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Policies or incentives to reduce stormwater runoff, like downspout disconnection, permeable paving, or green streets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Complete streets policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tree planting programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Policies or incentives for green or cool roofs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Policies or incentives for local materials sourcing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycled water for irrigation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Incentives for infrastructure departments, like public works, utilities, and transportation, to coordinate efforts, standards and resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

11. Built Environment: Transportation

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Transit oriented development (TOD)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation Demand Management (TDM)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking pricing policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Decreasing parking requirements for development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public transit provision and improvements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoting bicycling through facilities and services, including bike share, lanes, racks on busses, etc	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoting pedestrian travel through connected path networks, pleasant sidewalks, public transportation access, and active street levels in buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Low-emission vehicle benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Policies to convert travel lanes to high capacity use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

12. Built Environment: Air Quality

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Air quality monitoring and reporting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Proactive management of projected future pollution sources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
'Spare the Air' programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restrictions on wood-burning fireplaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education programs for air quality and public health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

13. Built Environment: Water Quality

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Policies requiring water storage and infiltration for development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wastewater monitoring and quality enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Natural waterway water quality improvement programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Municipal water system infrastructure metering and loss control	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

14. Built Environment: Public Health

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Access to healthy, fresh foods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provision of recreation space and community facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental health education programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Separation from sources of pollution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support for aging populations to stay engaged and living in the community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

Economy

What programs, initiatives, and policies has your organization initiated? Please indicate whether you are implementing, considering, or not doing the following practices.

15. Economy: Economic Development

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Business recruitment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing business support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Workforce development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Investment in public amenities and attractions, like civic activities, recreation facilities, and parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 70px; width: 100%;"></div>			

16. Economy: Governance

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Agency policy requiring sustainable building practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agency policy requiring low-impact purchasing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agency policy facilitating low-impact building uses and energy savings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff education programs on sustainability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Incentives to install energy efficient building systems (lighting, smart meters, sensors)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Policies requiring the use of energy efficient infrastructure (street lights, water pumps, traffic lights, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Multi-jurisdictional planning for sustainability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Incentives for city departments to work together, share expertise, and combine resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dedicated staff mandated to promote sustainable development and operations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Municipal bans on non-biodegradable containers (plastic bags, plastic bottles, Styrofoam, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 70px; width: 100%;"></div>			

17. Economy: Education

Doing it now Thinking about it Not doing it

Continuing education availability

Workforce training and re-training

Other (please specify)

Community

What programs, initiatives, and policies has your organization initiated? Please indicate whether you are implementing, considering, or not doing the following practices.

18. Community: Placemaking

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Community or neighborhood branding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public art programs and installations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
"Main Street" preservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historical district or building identification and protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civic engagement programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

19. Community: Building Community

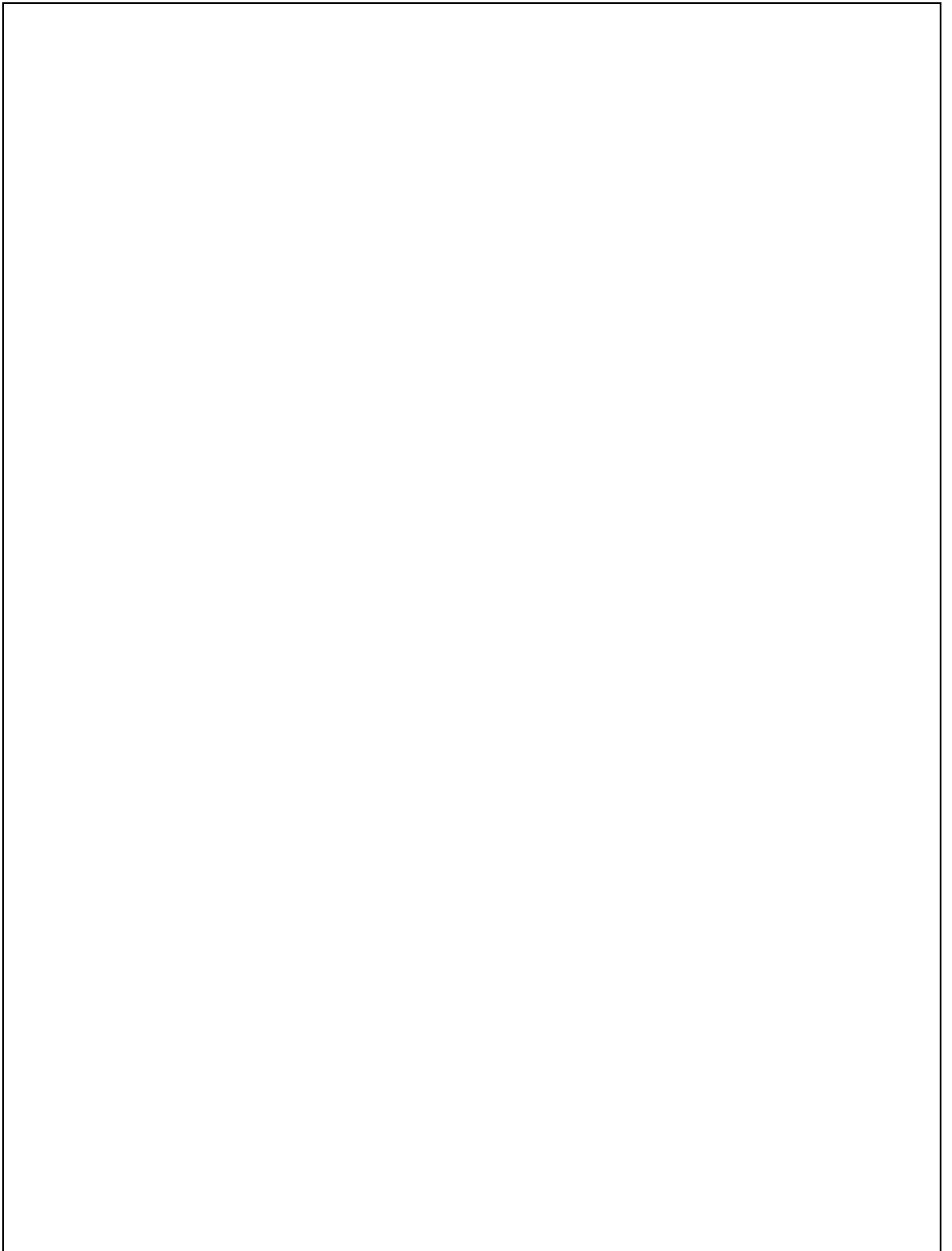
	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Providing equitable access to space for community interaction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promotion of civic pride	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inter-generational connection promotion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighborhood association support and integration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

20. Community: Housing

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Affordable housing requirements for developments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Affordable housing protections for existing number of units	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Siting housing near amenities and transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Homeless services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing mix (income, unit sizes) requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)



Resource Flows

What programs, initiatives, and policies has your organization initiated? Please indicate whether you are implementing, considering, or not doing the following practices.

21. Resource Flows: Energy

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Energy efficiency incentives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Solar installation incentives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Available and/or subsidized energy audits and retrofits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Smart grid and smart meter utilization programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

22. Resource Flows: Waste and Recycling

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Waste reduction programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycling programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agency policy requiring recycling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Municipal composting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hazardous waste collection and treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pay-as-you-throw waste or recycling programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

23. Resource Flows: Food Systems

	Doing it now	Thinking about it	Not doing it
Policies or initiatives to promote food security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protection of agricultural lands and production	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local farmer's market support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Policies or initiatives to promote crop diversification	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community garden establishment and support programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establishment of a food policy council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Requirements that food chains prominently post caloric counts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Requirements that grocery chains post food production locations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

The Benefits and Challenges of Sustainability

24. What are the greatest benefits to your organization or community in addressing sustainability? Please select up to three benefits.

	1	2	3
Improved reputation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased competitive advantage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved regional security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduced risk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved resilience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved quality of the natural environment and community amenities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduced costs due to efficiency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduced costs due to materials or waste efficiency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduced costs due to shared or complementary investments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved ability to attract and retain talent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhanced community relations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved perception of how well organization or community is managed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved regulatory compliance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better innovation of operations and services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are no benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

25. What are the greatest challenges to your organization or community in addressing sustainability? Please select up to three challenges.

	1	2	3
Difficulty quantifying and valuing effects of sustainability programs on the organization or community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulty of considering sustainability at all, given competing priorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulty predicting value of community response to sustainability-related strategies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of organizational model for incorporating sustainability-related strategies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulty incorporating sustainability-related strategies under existing funding conditions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of incentives that would prompt managers to consider new sustainability strategies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opposition from leadership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Political obstacles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial obstacles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inadequate staff capacity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

Engagement with Sustainability

26. What benefits has your community seen from planning for sustainability? Please describe a few examples.

27. To what extent is your organization engaged in each of the following activities? (Rate on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being lowest)

	1 No engagement	2	3	4	5 Significant Focus
Identifying opportunities to enhance or differentiate image through sustainability strategies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building awareness of sustainability in the organization	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Identifying potential for cooperation between departments and synergies between goals and funding streams through sustainability-related programs, initiatives, and policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Analyzing risks associated with not fully addressing sustainability issues (e.g., environmental, economic, social, legal, competitive, resource risks, security, or political risks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Identifying opportunities to build a culture of innovation by pursuing sustainability strategies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Including sustainability in scenario planning or strategic analysis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Analyzing community and stakeholder expectations related to sustainability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing or eliminating carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gas emissions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Benchmarking sustainability practices of competitors and sustainability leaders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment

28. How has your community's or organization's commitment to sustainability—in terms of management attention and investment—changed in the past two years?

- Significantly increased sustainability commitments
- Somewhat increased sustainability commitments
- Business as usual—no changes to sustainability commitments
- Somewhat decreased sustainability commitments
- Significantly decreased sustainability commitments
- Do not know

29. How do you expect your organization's commitment to sustainability – in terms of management attention and investment – to change in the year ahead?

- Will significantly increase sustainability commitments
- Will somewhat increase sustainability commitments
- Will continue business as usual – no changes to sustainability commitments
- Will somewhat decrease sustainability commitments
- Will significantly decrease sustainability commitments
- Do not know

Best Practices and Comments

30. What two or three of your organization's initiatives or projects do you believe could serve as best practices for other communities? Why?

31. What other cities, communities, or organizations do you look to as leaders in addressing sustainability? Why?

32. Is there anything else you'd like to us about sustainability initiatives in your organization or community, your experience implementing them, or what you foresee as next steps?

Thank you for your time! Your responses are an important contribution to what we learn from this study. We may follow up with you after all the responses are collected.