

THE “ALREADY GREEN” LIST

The City of Spokane has already instituted many programs, regulations, and policies that take a “green” or “sustainable” approach.

Chances are good that the list below is not complete, because we’re constantly adopting new, more environmentally sustainable practices!

PROGRAMS RELATED TO:

Air Quality

- City of Spokane’s CTR (Commute Trip Reduction) Program
- In April 2007, the City received a grant from the state Department of Ecology to retrofit 120 City diesel vehicles with pollution-control devices, part of \$2 million in these grants that were awarded to various agencies in the state.
- In February 2008, Mayor Verner issued an executive order to reduce idling of City vehicles, improving air quality and reducing fuel consumption.
- Fleet Services converted 99 trucks from “R-12” to “HFC 134” refrigerant for air conditioning in 1997.
- Spokane Fire Department installed catalytic converters on generators on 18 trucks.
- City of Spokane joined Spokane County for implementation of a Growth and Transportation Efficiency Centers Plan (GTEC). This encourages employees with less than 100 employers to find alternative routes to work other than a single occupancy vehicle.

Climate Change

- The City passed a resolution in 2001 to participate in ICLEI’s Cities for Climate Protection initiative.
- Mayor Hession signed the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement in 2007.
- An inventory of greenhouse gas emissions is nearly completed for both the City of Spokane government and the general Spokane community, and mitigation planning is underway to identify how to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012.
- Funded by a CTED sustainability grant for 2008, the City of Spokane has embarked on a planning process to identify mitigation and adaptation strategies that will guide city government in doing our part to respond to the impacts of climate change and rising energy prices as they relate to the city operations and services, as well as internally and externally focused programs and policies. This Sustainability Initiative is limited to what city *government* can accomplish: leading by example, and helping the community to “go green”.

Energy

- City Fleet: 2 hybrid electric cars, 6 hybrid cars that use compressed natural gas and another 10 that can use 85% ethanol blend (E-85).
- LED traffic lights were installed in all “red” and “green” traffic control lights in the City of Spokane.
- Since 2000, the City has implemented about 130 energy efficiency measures, which will save the City about \$1.8 million in energy costs annually. We've also received about \$1.35 million in incentives from Avista Corp. for these projects.
 - One of these measures was to change out all the ceiling lights in City Hall to more efficient florescent bulbs & ballasts a few years back
- Methane from digesters provides heat at the wastewater treatment plant.
- Waste-to-Energy Plant: Provides electrical energy which otherwise would have been generated by burning fossil fuels, while recycling ferrous metals and reducing landfilling of raw waste. A rigorous examination of waste to energy as a method of disposal for non-recycled waste, and comparing it to landfilling, reveals that waste to energy actually reduces total global greenhouse gas emissions.
- The City has embarked on a \$3.5 million energy-savings project in City Hall that includes retrofitting the building's HVAC system. “The project is projected to save 10,663 therms per year of natural gas, 729,159 kWh...which equates to over \$72,294 annual energy savings.” (per the Executive Summary of McKinstry Energy Services Proposal Phase 1.1, prepared by Mike Fuentes on August 29, 2007)
- The City’s Water Department has begun to replace pumps and motors in four of their pump stations with highly-efficient equipment. The new pumps and motors will reduce energy consumption while providing reliable water service.
- LED lamps have been installed as emergency flashing lights on all Fire Department trucks.
- Energy curtains are installed in Parks Department Manito Greenhouse.

General

- On February 19, 2007, the City Council passed Res. 2007-0009, which documents their support for actions by the Mayor and city programs described in the City of Spokane’s Near-Nature Quality of Life Initiative.

Green Building

- City became a member of the U.S. Green Building Council (May 2007).
- Historic Preservation Office: Historic preservation is about conservation of resources and compact urban form: improving what you already have instead of tearing it down and building something else.
- City Libraries have worked closely with Avista Utilities and Control Solutions to install centralized controls for heating and cooling at the Downtown and all Branch library buildings. This has mitigated Carbon Dioxide equivalent emissions by saving energy.
- Variable-drive motors have been installed at Fire Station One.

Local Food

- Community garden at NE Community Center; assisted by SRSW’s Master Composters.

- Agricultural lands have been designated in the Latah Valley on the land use plan map, but no incentives are in place to encourage this land to remain in agricultural use, such as a conservation easement or a TDR (Transfer of Development Rights) program.
- Planning Department has applied for two farmland grants for a total of 19.5 acres of prime agriculture farming lands to purchase the development rights to permanently farm those areas in Latah Creek.
- City staff have worked with the community to explore the option of a farmers market at Veterans Park.

Recycling/Waste Reduction

- Spokane's Solid Waste Management Dept's curbside recycling & "clean green" collection programs (residential and commercial), <http://www.spokanecitysolidwaste.com/>
- Use of 30% recycled paper in all copiers and printers
- The City uses the final processed solids from its water reclamation plant as fertilizer that is spread on farmers' fields.
- City Hall and other remote site departments have internal recycling programs collecting cardboard, mixed office paper, cans, and bottles.
- Spokane Regional Solid Waste System (SRSWS) is a City of Spokane Department that provides services for all Spokane County residents:
 - Refrigerant (ozone depleting substances) recovery program operating since 1992 (operated by City Solid Waste Management Dept.)
 - Household hazardous waste reuse/recycling program that diverts reusable paints and other types of chemicals from the waste stream (operated by City Solid Waste Management Dept.)
 - SRSWS maintains records of Recycling options in Spokane County: <http://www.spokanesolidwaste.com/spokanesolidwaste/sub.aspx?id=5102>
 - SRSWS maintains participation in "2Good2Toss" reusable materials exchange http://www.2good2toss.com/spokane/?site_id=spokane_county
 - SRSWS's Free Business Waste Reduction Assessment Program, <http://www.spokanesolidwaste.org/spokanesolidwaste/sub.aspx?id=5217>
 - SRSWS's posted list of Recycling and Reuse Opportunities, <http://www.spokanesolidwaste.com/spokanesolidwaste/sub.aspx?id=5339>
 - Recycling Hotline: 625-6800 (Recycling and disposal information throughout County)
- The Fuel and Wash facility located on E. Broadway uses recycled water to wash City of Spokane vehicles. This facility was opened in 2006.

Smart Growth, Transportation & Land Use

- The City's Comprehensive Plan relies on the focused growth strategy to guide future land use and development, thus reducing sprawl, conserving resources and making the most of infrastructure investments.
- Unified Development Code provides various options that reduce the impact of development.
- New Parks are being designed as "natural" instead of using turf and trees. An example is Ben Burr Park, near 37th Avenue and Glenrose.

Stormwater Management

- New stormwater manual will list Emerging Technologies and how to get them approved as a BMP.
- The City is of creating a Stormwater Atlas to educate citizens about stormwater and the water quality problems created by urban stormwater. Patterned after the highly-successful Aquifer Atlas, the Stormwater Atlas will encourage individual actions and community support to improve our water quality. The Stormwater Atlas is one way the City is earnestly striving to manage stormwater and comply with the requirement of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Phase II stormwater permit.
- Since the 1980s, the City has spent over \$50 million dollars to construct separate stormwater systems and eliminate the combined sewers in most of north Spokane. This effort eliminated approximately 85% of the volume of combined sewer overflows to the Spokane River during rainfall events.
- The City's Wastewater Department has constructed two storage facilities to improve the water quality in the Spokane River as part of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) reduction program. A third CSO storage facility will be constructed this year. The Wastewater Department currently has 10 more facilities programmed for construction over the next six years.
- The Wastewater Department is currently engaged in two innovative stormwater projects that may reduce stormwater into the combined sewer system and improve the urban stormwater quality. The Spokane Urban Runoff Greenways Experiment, or SURGE project, is a demonstration project to determine the suitability of retrofitting our existing curb and gutter systems to plant-based stormwater treatment systems in Spokane's urban environment. The greenways pilot will account for Spokane's climate and will consider snow plowing, frozen ground, native plant varieties and summer watering needs.
- Another innovative plant-based stormwater project by the Wastewater Department is the Cannon-Lincoln Alternative Stormwater Solutions (CLASS) project. In conjunction with the Lincoln Street bond project, CLASS is exploring ways to treat and use stormwater from Lincoln Street. Current alternatives under consideration include extended curb planters, and reuse for irrigation or pond refill in Cannon Hill Park.
- The Wastewater Department has been developing the Hazels Creeks Regional Drainage and Conservation Area over the past five years. At present, the Hazels Creek site is used to improve stormwater disposal and quality on the Moran Prairie. Current studies underway are investigating the best use of the site for stormwater management as well as native plant and wildlife conservation, recreation and education. The City is exploring shared interest with others in the drainage area to develop a regional drainage system and green belt.

Sustainable Businesses and Economy

- Mayor's Affordable Housing Task Force, Summer 2007.
- SLIP (Sustainable Local Investment Project): City became formally engaged in this initiative 12/07

Water Conservation

- The Water Stewardship Program was approved by City Council on September 26, 2005.
- Water rates on city utility bills now vary depending on how much water the customer uses, with rates increasing once the consumer uses over a certain amount of water.

- Waste-to-Energy Plant: Uses an air-cooled condenser, rather than a wet cooling tower, which minimizes water usage.
- Waste-to-Energy Plant: drought tolerant landscaping demonstration garden
- Efficiency studies being done for City Hall, an apartment building, and a school
- The City has launched a pilot project to irrigate portions of the Downriver Golf Course using “purple pipe” treated wastewater from the City's water reclamation plant. Reclaimed water is also being used at Qualchan Golf Course.
- The Water Department in conjunction with the Water Stewardship program commissioned a “Water Stewardship Trailer” to provide tap water from the City of Spokane Water system at special outdoor events and meetings to promote the operational efficiency our water system while minimizing environmental impacts.

Water Quality

- In compliance with state and federal regulations, the City of Spokane conducts a regular drinking water monitoring program to ensure the safety and health of our citizens.
- Mayor Mary Verner and Mayor Clay Larkin of Post Falls have convened a bi-state leadership group of elected officials to address water quality issues. A subcommittee of this group is looking at water quantity concerns.
- City was instrumental in limiting phosphorus in dishwasher detergent sold in Washington State to 0.5 percent by weight, down from 8 to 9 percent. The rules take effect on July 1, 2008, in Spokane, Clark, and Whatcom counties, and in the rest of the state on July 1, 2010.
- Waste-to-Energy Plant: Zero-discharge facility. All process wastewater is reused, so that none is discharged to the sewer.
- Planning Services Department has applied for funding to purchase a strip of riparian habitat along Latah Creek for rehabilitation and restoration for those shorelines of state wide significance.

INCENTIVES:

- MFTE and Historic Special Valuation tax exemption programs both promote compact urban development and conservation of materials through renovation of existing buildings.
- Center and Corridor incentives,
<http://www.spokaneplanning.org/Documents/C&C%20Dev%20Incentives.pdf>
- Brownfields Assessment Grants
- Water Stewardship program
- Green Incentives featured on incentives website:
http://www.developingspokane.org/04_incentives/property.01.green.htm

EDUCATION:

- Ann Murphy, Education Coordinator for SRSWS, provides programs and works in partnership with numerous environmental agencies.

PARTNERSHIPS:

- City Council members sit on the boards of STA and SRTC.

- City of Spokane is a member of the Spokane County Active Living Task Force (bicycle and pedestrian advocacy).
- City of Spokane is supporting a study to consider a downtown street car in partnership with SRTC, STA, Downtown Spokane Partnership, and Parks Department.
- Planning and Streets Departments are working with the Bicycle Advisory Board to update the Regional Bike/Ped Plan.
- Affiliate member of Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) which partners with manufacturers, retailers, environmental groups, federal agencies, and other key stakeholders to reduce the health and environmental impacts of consumer products.
- Member of the Northwest Product Stewardship Council (NWSPSC) working with businesses and nonprofit groups to integrate product stewardship principles into the policy and economic structures of the Pacific Northwest.
- Member Northwest Hazardous Materials Management Association Steering Committee dedicated to sustainability, product stewardship and green chemistry.

REGULATIONS

Air Quality

Climate Change

Title 11 Regulation of Building and Land Use

Chapter 11.19 Zoning Code

Article II: Zones and Uses

Section 11.19.197 CBD Building and Streetscape Features.

F. Landscaping.

4. **In order to improve aesthetics and reduce the heat island effect**, all paved parking lots shall have planted areas that satisfy the following requirements, which are in addition to any required perimeter landscaping:

All parking stalls shall be within sixty feet of a planted area. Trees shall be planted in order that the tree canopies cover a minimum of sixty percent of the entire paved surface of the parking lot within fifteen years of project completion. Coverage shall be measured in plan view and be based on projected mature canopy size of the selected tree species. The species of trees shall be selected from a list prepared by the city's urban forester. All of the individual planted areas within parking lots shall be a minimum of eight feet in width, be at least one hundred fifty square feet in size, and in addition to the required trees, shall be planted with a living groundcover.

G. Street Trees. Street trees must be installed and properly maintained in all streets bordering development. The trees shall be no more than twenty-five feet apart except when driveways prohibit this spacing. If existing development prevents this form of planting, trees shall be planted in tubs equipped with irrigation. All trees shall have a minimum caliper of two and one-half inches at time of planting. The species of trees shall be selected from a list prepared by the city's urban forester.

Title 17C Land Use Standards

Chapter 17C.200 Landscaping and Screening

Section 17C.200.040 Site Planting Standards

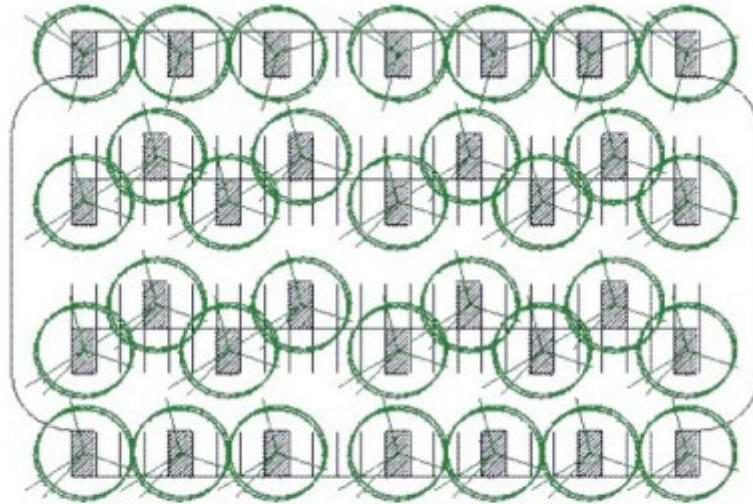
F. Parking, Outdoor Sales and Outdoor Display Areas.

3. In commercial and center and corridor zones all paved parking areas with more than fifty parking spaces shall have plantings that satisfies one of the following options:

Option 1: Interior landscaping consisting of L3 open area landscaping, including trees amounting to at least ten percent of the total area of the paved parking area, excluding required perimeter and street frontage strips.

Option 2: Tree plantings shall be spaced in order that tree canopies cover a minimum of seventy percent of the entire paved area of the parking lot within fifteen years of project completion. Canopy coverage shall be measured in plan view, and be based on projected mature size of the selected tree species. All individual planting areas within parking lots shall be a minimum of eight feet in width, be at least one hundred fifty square feet in size, and in addition to the required trees, shall be planted with a living groundcover. See the

“Landscape Plants for the Inland Northwest” issued by the Washington State University Cooperative Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, available from the City planning services department, for acceptable mature tree size to be used when calculating canopy size.



**Example of 70% shade cover option.
(8.4% interior space used)**

4. Where parking lots are located between the building and a street, the amount of required interior landscaped area shall be increased by fifty percent and the minimum amount of tree shade cover shall increase to eighty percent. Where parking lots are behind buildings, the amount of interior landscaping may be decreased by fifty percent of what the code requires and the minimum amount of tree shade cover shall decrease to fifty percent.

Drinking Water Quality and Conservation

Title 17C Land Use Standards

Chapter 17C.200 Landscaping and Screening

Section 17C.200.110 Water Conservation Measures

- A. Landscape areas that are irrigated should be designed so that plants are grouped according to distinct hydrozones for irrigation of plants with similar water needs at good efficiency.
- B. Newly landscaped areas should have soils be amended with either four inches of appropriate organic material with the first two-inch layer tilled into existing soils, or as called for in a soil amendment plan for the landscape prepared by a state registered landscape architect or a professional agronomist.

- C. Newly landscaped areas, except turf, should be covered and maintained with at least two inches of organic mulch to minimize evaporation.
- D. Irrigated turf strips that are less than five feet in width are discouraged.
- E. Irrigated turf on slopes with finished grades in excess of thirty-three percent is discouraged.
- F. Retention of existing trees and associated understory vegetation is encouraged to reduce impacts to the stormwater system and to reduce water use.

Energy

Green Building

Local Food

Recycling

Smart Growth, Transportation & Land Use

Stormwater Management

Title 17C Land Use Standards

Chapter 17C.200 Landscaping and Screening

Section 17C.200.060 Stormwater Drainage

“Infiltration” or “bio-infiltration” swales, as defined by the State of Washington Department of Ecology’s “best management practices,” required for the handling of storm water drainage may be incorporated into the required landscape areas, provided neither the drainage functionality nor the landscape requirements are compromised.

Sustainable Businesses and Economy

POLICIES

City of Spokane Comprehensive Plan

Air Quality

NE 5 CLEAN AIR

Goal: Work consistently for cleaner air that nurtures the health of children and future generations.

Policies

NE 5.1 Clean Heating Sources

Encourage the use of heating sources that do not negatively affect Spokane's air quality.

Discussion: As a member of the Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority (SCAPCA), the city should support SCAPCA's efforts to maintain clean air for Spokane's residents.

NE 5.4 Alternative Powered Buses

Support alternatives to diesel powered buses that reduce noise and air pollution while conserving fuel.

Climate Change

Drinking Water Quality and Conservation

NE 2 SUSTAINABLE WATER QUALITY

Goal: Ensure all aquifers and water sources are not depleted below sustainable, recharge, or flow levels.

Policies

NE 2.1 Water Conservation

Begin a water conservation program that decreases household, commercial, industrial, and agricultural water use.

NE 2.2 Landscaping Requirements

Use incentives in landscape requirements that encourage application of drought tolerant native trees and plants.

NE 2.3 Native Tree and Plant Protection

Preserve native vegetation in parks and other publicly owned lands in the design and construction of new facilities.

Energy

Green Building

Local Food

Recycling

Policies

NE 5.8 Solid Waste Disposal

Maintain a solid waste system that bases its primary means of solid waste disposal on the principles of reduction, reuse, and recycling.

NE 5.9 Packaging Reduction

Create and support legislation, education, and other means that reduce product packaging so that waste disposal is decreased.

Smart Growth, Transportation & Land Use

TR 1 OVERALL TRANSPORTATION

Goal: Develop and implement a transportation system and a healthy balance of transportation choices that improve the mobility and quality of life of all residents.

Policies

TR 1.1 Transportation Priorities

Make transportation decisions based upon prioritizing the needs of people as follows:

- *Design transportation systems that protect and serve the pedestrian first;*
- *Next, consider the needs of those who use public transportation and non-motorized transportation modes;*
- *Then consider the needs of automobile users after the two groups above.*

TR 6 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Goal: Minimize the impacts of the transportation system on the environment, including the region's air quality and environmental features, such as nature corridors.

Policies

TR 6.1 Pollution

Design, build, and operate transportation improvements to minimize air, water, and noise pollution and the disruption of natural surface water drainage and natural areas.

TR 6.3 Transportation Alternatives and the Environment

Promote the use of alternatives to driving alone to reduce transportation impacts on the environment.

TR 6.6 Vehicle-Related Air Pollution

Develop transportation control measures to reduce vehicle-related air pollution.

TR 6.8 City Hall Goes Green

Conduct City of Spokane business in a way that reduces the environmental impacts resulting from its transportation-related decisions.

Discussion: The City of Spokane should provide leadership and demonstrate to the community the environmental responsibility it expects from others. It should do this with the decisions it makes as to how it conducts its business. For true success and viability, a community's practices must be sustainable.

TR 10 THE FUTURE

Policies

TR 10.2 Innovation to Meet Spirit

Review proposals for development projects in a way that allows innovative design and for solutions that meet the spirit and intent of the law, if not the letter of the law.

Stormwater Management

NE 1 WATER QUALITY

Goal: Protect the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and other water sources so they provide clean, pure water.

Policies

NE 1.2 Stormwater Techniques

Identify innovative stormwater techniques that protect ground and surface water from contamination and pollution.

Discussion: It is uncertain whether swales and dry wells have been applied correctly or properly to mitigate stormwater runoff in Spokane. The point of this policy is to find techniques that insure that stormwater runoff is not negatively impacting surface and ground water sources. Ensure that identified techniques do not negatively impact adjacent properties, considers homeowner protections, and are coordinated regionally.

NE 4 SURFACE WATER

Goal: Provide for clean rivers that support native fish and aquatic life and that are healthy for human recreation.

Policies

NE 4.3 Impervious Surface Reduction

Continue efforts to reduce the rate of impervious surface expansion in the community.

Discussion: Impervious surfaces do not allow stormwater to naturally percolate into the soil and recharge ground and surface waters, and cause an increased amount of stormwater runoff that can affect adjacent properties or water bodies. Mitigating the negative effects of increased stormwater often requires expensive engineered solutions. Some impervious surfaces are contaminated with substances that are carried with stormwater to ground and surface waters. Increases in impervious surface area do not need to accompany all growth; the alternative is to grow more efficiently and effectively. This can be accomplished by maintaining natural drainage patterns, increased vertical development and higher housing densities (which decreases the amount of impervious surfaces per person).

Sustainable Businesses and Economy

ED 8 QUALITY OF LIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Goal: Improve and protect the natural and built environment as assets that attract economic development opportunities and enhance the City of Spokane's quality of life.

Policies

ED 8.5 Environmental Protection Business Opportunities

Support businesses that specialize in environmental protection.

Discussion: As environmental concerns continue to emerge, business opportunities in the environmental protection industry increase. Examples of new industries include paper and plastic recycling and the conversion of industrial byproducts into useful materials.

NE 9 SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Goal: Enhance the natural environment to support a thriving sustainable economy.

Policies

ED 9.1 Environment and the Economy

Identify, preserve, and enhance the natural environment elements that define Spokane's quality of life and help sustain the economy.

Discussion: High environmental quality is one of the area's assets and reasons for business to locate or expand in Spokane. For many people, the area's natural setting and environmental resources are their primary reason to live here.

NE 10 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

Goal: Create employment that enhances the natural environment.

Policies

NE 10.1 Environment Supporting Businesses

Provide incentives for businesses that restore and benefit the natural environment while providing jobs for local residents.

NE 10.2 Local Business Support

Support and provide incentives for business that employ local people, use local materials, and sell their products/services locally.

Discussion: Using local resources and selling products/services locally preserves existing businesses and saves in transportation costs and impacts.

NE 10.3 Economic Activity Incentives

Identify and provide incentives for economic activities that combine the goals and principles of economy, ecology, and social equity.
