

# Louisville Sustainability Summit Notes

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## Green Building and Green Infrastructure

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### Challenge

- How can you inspire and increase green building and green infrastructure practices?

### Sustain Louisville Goals

- Goal 1: Decrease energy use citywide per capita by 25%.
- Goal 17: Expand green infrastructure incentives citywide.

### Thought Topics

- Promote green building construction, renovation and demolition practices
  - Louisville needs more cool and green roofs
  - Leverage MSD's green storm water management program to a citywide platform
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## Notes

### Process

Blue – Immediate, pull the trigger type items

Yellow – Issues, how can we make that idea happen?

Green – Dreams, should's

### Initial Introductions and Presentations

Mark Fischer

- Demographics for the future of the plans made today are important. Bringing up the urban core to relate it to them.
- Message and tone: it's about making it matter to people: money, travel time, etc. we have to break the "but we've always done it this or that way"

Wes Sydnor - MSD

- Combined sewers rain is overflowing the sewer system and flooding bear grass creek
  - Major projects to build basins to store rainwater, and the treat them
  - Building green infrastructure would help relieve the stress on this system, reduce water
  - Concerned to runoff, and the pollution that comes with it
  - Outside of the combined sewer, there are separate lines
  - Offering incentives to redevelop more sustainable projects
  - 1800 homes paying home owners to disconnect downspouts for \$100: about 20% of the 1800 participated
  - Looking to go BIGGER!
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## Green Building and Green Infrastructure

Jim Mims- Director of codes and regulations, Louisville Metro

- The most inefficient properties are the older buildings
- 7-11k vacant properties in the area's that are also in the hottest zones and worst for MSD
- The most sustainable thing that we can do related to new structures is not have new ones and to leave the property and take care of it.
- Bringing the big ideas down to the operational level will be interesting
- There is a lot of capital in place, how do we use that to move forward/reinvent.
- Use the internet to obtain permits instead of the drive, park and waste of time/resources
- Go beyond the international code
- Change the atmosphere

Team Leader – Wes from MSD

### **Small Groups After Lunch**

The Highlighted points are the immediate ACTIONS that each group came up with and would like to continue to work on, so that they can become a reality in the city of Louisville.

Planning – Report Lead – Jim Mims, Metro Government

1. Making sure that building code revisions place sustainability on the forefront
  - a. Change legislature → laws regarding plumbing
  - b. Incentives: credits, plan reviews, waived fees
2. Big planning authority, bringing together a board of the utilities etc.
3. Changing the culture, to change codes, incentivize by credits and expediting permits and decreasing fees
4. Creating a knowledge base for green building practices with a green rating
5. Have an evaluation on construction materials and methods (ratings)
6. Rewarding long term durability of green decisions

Green Building – Report Lead - Nancy Church, Kentucky USGBC

1. Expedited permits, new and old to improve sustainability (DSIRE.org)
2. 2030 Challenge – make the district a net zero by 2030
  - Model after 2030 projects by Denver & Pittsburg
    - Funding for Pittsburg provided by USGBC ← look for similar funding
    - Creates a model district in Louisville (Perhaps start with metro)
3. Continue beyond the LEED gold certification

Community – Report Lead – Gretchen Milliken, Metro Government

1. Sustainability is preserving what's there, educate lower income housing to fix what's broken
2. Neighborhood rewards for green actions
3. PSA to reduce water usage during rain
  - Support MSD's rainwater programs
  - Schools utilize rain gardens
  - Commercial like the "Indian"
4. Pushing education to spiritual centers and schools
5. Sister cities to learn about building green infrastructure
6. Create a Home owners Institute as a resource

## Green Building and Green Infrastructure

- a. Tool library, model it after Asheville
  - b. Provide basic education about building and tools (Have Energy Star representatives teach classes)
  - c. Provide people with those free resources they may not know about
  - d. Neighborhood awards/ recognition for having sustainable homes
7. Educating the professionals and the labor force in the world incorporating sustainability into continuing education

### Energy – Report Lead - Wallace McMullen, Sierra Club

1. Changing energy sources to more renewable
2. Change the LGNE public service case
3. Implement solar with incentives
4. Demand landlord to disclose energy costs of their property so renters choose more energy efficient places
5. Set up database to show the difference in the renewable energy in properties and those without
6. Neighborhood bulk buy into sustainable products/projects
7. GIS Map energy in monthly time and run analysis and identify the highest users
  - a. Incentives to knock the biggest users energy consumption down
  - b. Can use these maps and identified communities to do future 2030 projects

### Storm Water – Report Lead - Wes Sydnor, MSD

1. We want clean, accessible waterways for people to encounter water
2. Educating on disconnecting downspouts
  - a. Create PSAs or education programs (Combined with community aspects)
  - b. With financial incentives
3. Green roofs

### Closing Comments

1. Changing the culture
2. Public education outreach to schools, spiritual centers, and professionals in the infrastructure field
  - a. Message campaigns, through social media/TV