

**Sustainability Master Plan Public Feedback
Summary and Staff Responses**

Focus Area	Common Themes	Concerns	Number of Unique Comments Received	Responses	Plan Changes
Waste Minimization	Curbside Waste Collection	Wind may knock over cans and spread garbage.	12	The City of Sioux Falls Environmental Division is not currently pursuing the recommendation of mandating curbside collection. Refuse should be bagged inside the containers to preclude any potential for littering. Other communities that have implemented curbside collection specify the type of and set-out location for the containers to minimize the "blowing over" of the containers and potential visual impacts on neighborhoods. If the City evaluates curbside collection in the future, then the City will consider these concerns and other sustainability concerns.	
		Garbage cans along the curb are unsightly.	8		
		There is not adequate room on curb for waste containers, especially with snow accumulation.	1		
		Elderly and disabled residents are not able to bring containers down to the curb.	5		
		Curbside collection is not convenient for residents; residents may forget to take garbage to the curb.	8		
		Curbside collection will reduce truck idling and be safer for waste haulers, thereby reducing costs for the consumer, but should be an option, not a mandate.	1		
Waste Hauler License Caps / License Fees		Ordinance language should consider historic neighborhoods with alleys, multi-housing and other special cases.	2	The City of Sioux Falls Environmental Division is not currently pursuing the recommendation of mandating curbside collection. However, in other communities where curbside collection is offered, the costs of curbside collection compared to house-side costs are less because of reduced labor costs. These savings could be passed on to the customers. If the City evaluates curbside collection in the future, then the City will consider these concerns and other sustainability concerns.	City staff and the Solid Waste Planning Board carefully consider the many different living situations of Sioux Falls residents in drafting residential waste collection ordinances. Language specifying circumstances requiring exceptions and/or waivers where necessary may be included in ordinances.
		Capping the number of haulers counters free enterprise and consumer choice.	3		
		Large companies with large trucks are responsible for wear and tear on roads and nuisance, not the number of haulers.	3		
		The barriers to starting a new hauling business are so inconsequential that it enables small start-ups to undercut established hauling businesses without providing required services or having a viable business model.	1		
Waste Collection Franchising/zoning		There are too many garbage trucks using residential streets; this creates a nuisance for residents.	3	The City of Sioux Falls is entrusted with protecting and maintaining the landfill as a common resource and promoting recycling to improve our environment and stimulate our local economy. Our region has a unique waste collection system that fosters free enterprise. However, some restrictions may be imposed on waste hauling companies in order to protect the best interests of all our residents and businesses and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community as specified by state law.	
		City government should not interfere in the free enterprise system of waste collection.	7		
Recycling		Franchising with select haulers limits consumer choice.	4	The City of Sioux Falls Environmental Division is not currently pursuing the recommendation of franchising or zoning. However, establishing collection zones provides the opportunity to ensure program consistency for customers and potentially reduce greenhouse gas emissions. If the City evaluates implementing zones in the future, then the City will consider efficiency and customer benefit, as well as other sustainability concerns.	
		Resident was in favor of single-stream recycling.	1		

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		Standardized recycling will increase recycling rates and improve the City's ability to educate the public about recycling.	1	recycling for residents. Single stream recycling offers a more convenient method for residents to recycle.	
		City government should pay more attention to business recycling.	2	The City of Sioux Falls Environmental Division will continue to work with businesses to improve recycling. Anyone noticing a business that does not recycle as required by city ordinance should notify Environmental Division staff. In the near future, city staff will also be implementing a recycling outreach program for local businesses and institutions. The Waste Minimization Tactics on page 3-8 will be amended to include additional strategies to foster business recycling such as improved reporting and targeted incentives.	The Waste Minimization Tactics on page 3-8 will be amended to include additional strategies to foster business recycling such as improved reporting and targeted incentives.
		The Sustainability Master Plan should have more aggressive goals for residential recycling participation.	1	Once current recycling participation rates are identified, the recycling participation goal may be adjusted toward a higher percentage in conjunction with the annual waste hauler recycling goal. The recycling participation goal in the plan has been changed to a target of 75% by 2016.	The recycling participation goal on page 3-6 will be increased from 70% in 2015 to 75% in 2016.
	Other	City ordinances should require residents to keep garbage containers indoors on non-collection days.	1	This option is not viable for many residents, especially those who live in smaller homes and multi-housing properties.	
Transportation	Public Transportation	Sioux Area Metro should increase the number, availability and efficiency of routes.	3	This issue is addressed in the Transportation Goals on page 3-15. However, specific tactics are not included.	Additional tactics will be included on page 3-16 recommending that SAM benchmark its route framework and customer usage with communities of similar size to assess overall program effectiveness. Second, a tactic will be added specifying that transit ridership will be increased through X to promote reduction in overall vehicle miles.
	City-owned Fleet	All transit and City fleet routes should be optimized for efficiency.	1	This issue is presently addressed the Goals and Tactics on page 3-15.	
		Retired city vehicles should be replaced with more efficient models.	1	The purchasing of new efficient vehicles and retrofitting of existing vehicles is included in the Tactics of the Transportation focus area on page 3-16.	
Energy	Energy management	Sioux Falls should improve energy management by hiring an Energy Manager (not contracting those services), creating a live energy consumption dashboard and performing energy self-audits on City buildings. As buildings are rehabilitated, they should be upgraded to meet LEED energy standards.	2	These are all activities that would be undertaken by an Energy Manager. Though it would be ideal to have a full-time Energy Manager for the City, the City may need to contract for services if creating a new position is not considered feasible.	The Plan will be revised to include as part of the Energy Focus area a tactic assessing the adoption of LEED energy standards for the renovation of existing City buildings.
	Alternative/Renewable energy	The City of Sioux Falls should help promote alternative energy options for local residents and businesses.	1	This issue is not currently addressed in the Energy focus area goals and tactics.	The Plan will be revised to include a recommendation for an evaluation of local ordinances to identify barriers to the implementation of residential wind and solar energy options.
		The Sustainability Master Plan should focus on energy efficiency in addition to alternative energy procurement.	2	Energy efficiency is addressed in the Tactics under the Energy focus area on page 3-14.	
Built and Natural	Built and Natural Environment	The City should use and promote Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and other sustainable building standards.	5	The Steering and Implementation Team agreed that the best step in promoting sustainable building standards would be to undertake at least three sustainable development pilot projects in	

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Environment				coming years (see Built and Natural Environment Goal #4 on page 3-18.) This will not only serve as a public demonstration of the economics and feasibility of smart design, but it will also help to build knowledge and expertise of sustainable design among local contractors and developers. Moreover, the Plan recommends incorporating LEED as part of sustainable design standards to the zoning ordinance [see tactics page 3-19]. The city's new Event Center will be LEED certified, offering an opportunity for the City to promote sustainable building design.	
		The Sustainability Master Plan should include a strategy for maintaining natural topsoils in development and mitigating topsoil removal and degradation from construction. The importance of topsoil in stormwater mitigation, as well as water and energy conservation, should be explicitly stated in the Sustainability Master Plan.	1	Topsoil preservation is included as a Tactic in the Water focus area on page 3-11 and Built and Natural Environment area on page 3-19.	
		The City should revise current zoning and building codes to allow for mixed development, encourage alternative modes of travel and promote infill.	2	Goals #1 and #2 under the Built and Natural Environment focus area on page 3-17 directly address these issues.	
		The Sustainability Master Plan should emphasize energy efficiency measures for existing City-owned buildings.	1	Energy efficiency is addressed in the Tactics under the Energy focus area on page 3-14. The Built and Natural Environment tactics on page 3-19 will be amended to include strategies to improve energy efficiency for existing City buildings.	The Built and Natural Environment tactics on page 3-19 will be amended to include strategies to improve energy efficiency for existing City buildings.
General	Agenda 21/United Nations	Sustainability initiatives are part of a United Nations agenda to undermine local governance.	2	The City of Sioux Falls Environmental Division and Sustainability Program have no connection to the United Nations, nor has the City of Sioux Falls obligated its actions to any international sustainability or environmental agreements. The City of Sioux Falls is committed to sustainable programs that maximize our local benefits, improve our local economy, help our residents obtain a better quality of life, and protect our common resources. The City of Sioux Falls' sustainable policies and programs are, and have always been, created by our city's staff, approved by boards made up of local stakeholders, and enacted by our local representatives. The Sustainability Master Plan was developed using this fundamental philosophy with a Steering and Implementation Team (SIT), composed of various City staff, and the Core Sustainability Team (CST), composed of various community stakeholders, shaping the plan and its contents.	A clarification will be added to the Plan introduction to emphasize how the local planning approach shaped the plan outcomes.
	Green Jobs	Sioux Falls should leverage its green credentials to attract jobs and businesses to the area.	1	The City of Sioux Falls Environmental Division and Sustainability Program regularly apply for sustainability awards and grants that will help improve Sioux Falls' image as a 'green' city and attract new businesses and residents. Recently, Sioux Falls received the National Environmental Health Association's (NEHA) 2010 Excellence in Sustainability Award. In addition, the Plan includes a goal on page 3-20 to develop a sustainable certification and business recognition program to engage the business community in fostering the triple bottom line.	