



CITY OF
TOPEKA



Sustainability Advisory Board annual report

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 | Topeka City Council

| Sustainability Advisory Board annual report

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Resident Representatives

- Michaela Saunders, Co-Chair, 4th term
- Lindsay Freeman, Co-Chair, 1st term
- Adebanke L. Adebayo, 1st term
- Justine Greve, 2nd term
- Leilani Grey, 3rd term
- Kelly Magerkurth, 2nd term
- Mary Monzyk, 2nd term
- **Two vacancies**

City staff support

- Sylvan Coles, Utilities, Water Pollution Control

Topeka Zoo representative

- Dennis Dinwiddie

The TSAB operates with the authority of 2.240.030 of the Topeka Municipal Code.



Our charge

Advocate for policies supporting **Sustainability**, and enhancing the **quality of life** in Topeka by focusing on areas including but not limited to:

- *Environmental assessment, waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation and natural resource conservation in the City of Topeka*
- *Monitor and review, establish priorities, serve as an information source for city staff*





The Sustainability Advisory Board would like to thank the following City of Topeka departments for providing us information about their sustainability efforts:

- Public Works
- Forestry
- Utilities
- Shawnee County Waste Management

Our primary recommendation continues to be the hiring of a full-time Sustainability Coordinator. After meeting this year with sustainability coordinators from Lawrence, Salina, and the Kansas City area, we are convinced that a paid coordinator would be very effective at bringing together government agencies, stakeholders, and community partners to formulate a unified sustainability policy.



Indeed, hiring a Sustainability Coordinator is one of the top measures identified in the City of Topeka's 2010 Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategy (EECS). ...

Without more coordination and collaboration between departments, the City will continue to lose out on funding opportunities and fail to make progress toward its energy efficiency and conservation goals.

Without progress in these areas, the City will become a less desirable place to live and do business for individuals and companies who expect environmentally friendly infrastructure and City services.



Recommendations

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While hiring a Sustainability Coordinator is the best way to ensure citywide coordination on environmental efforts, ***the City should also encourage interdepartmental collaboration by re-establishing regular sustainability meetings with representatives from each department.*** This Sustainability Committee would share ideas, discuss funding opportunities, and identify ways to move forward on the goals of the EECS — or establish new goals and priorities.





This year's report focuses on the information we believe will help you make sustainably-minded decisions as you govern. The report is researched and prepared by the all-volunteer board. We are eager to collaborate on solutions that move our City forward.

Report sections: water, food, shelter, energy, waste management, transportation, green space, & quality of life

Recommendations

1. Hire or appoint a City Sustainability Coordinator. This is one of the top recommendations in the city's 2010 Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategy and the first step recommended by the International Council for Local Environmental Activities for communities that wish to become more sustainable.
2. Hold monthly interdepartmental Sustainability Committee meetings with representatives of each city department.
3. Encourage the interdepartmental Sustainability Committee to formulate a plan for reengaging with the goals set in the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategy and set new realistic targets.



Questions?

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JOIN US!
First Fridays @ 4 p.m.
Holliday Building
First Floor Conference Room



Photos contributed by TSAB member Kelly Magerkurth

