NEMSN Sustainability Profile: Portland, ME

Community Profile
Area (sq. Miles): 21.5
Population: 66,872
Population Density: 3,103.8
Households: 30,427
Median Age: 40.3
Median Household Income: $52,139
Poverty Rate: 15%

City Department:
Title: City of Portland Sustainability Office
Staff: Sustainability Coordinator, Troy Moon
Responsibilities: Collaborate with all city departments to increase the efficiency of City operations and seek innovative approaches to improve municipal services.
Programs/Policies: Support any initiatives designed to make Portland a sustainable and environmentally friendly community. (e.g. Resiliency Planning, Solar Power).

Interview:
What have been your biggest successes in the past 2-3 years?

Given the range of your priorities, which do you consider to be your top priorities?

Please explain why you have chosen these priorities?

How important are the metrics to identifying progress in the programs and policies?
Report to CDP.

What resources are needed to complete your strategies and priorities? Are they currently available to you? If not, do you know where/how to obtain them?

How has the local community promoted its sustainability efforts to members in the community?

What are your top 3 barriers that you consider to be beyond the control of the municipality, which have limited your ability to implement sustainability initiatives?
Sustainable Profile²

Overview

1. Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling
2. Food & Agriculture
3. Transportation
4. Storm Water
5. Energy
6. Development
7. Green House Gas Reduction
8. Climate Preparedness
9. Equity & Economics
10. Community Engagement

Sustainable Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Targets/Goals</th>
<th>Published Plan</th>
<th>Metrics/Reporting</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Community Engagement</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Totals                        | 4             | 4              | 2                 |

Data Source: University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute: Program Implementation Survey 2017

Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling

Top Priorities

• Continue to reduce the City’s waste by further establishing recycling programs.

Strategies

• Use City purchasing to support local, green and recycled products.
• Adopt a City policy of pollution prevention as a guiding principle in City decision-making.
• Adopt a citywide net zero waste goal for solid and hazardous waste.

Food & Agriculture

Top Priorities

Transportation
Top Priorities

- Update policies guiding use of city owned vehicles- target reduction.
- Purchase and use route optimization software.
- Enforce Anti-Idling Regulations.
- Transportation demand management for employee commuting.

Strategies

- Review policies regarding the use of City owned vehicles and amend them to minimize the use of fuel.
- City operations that regularly use vehicles should develop plans and policies for shared tips, car-pooling and trip avoidance.

Storm Water

Top Priorities

- Upgrade the pumps and pump station buildings.

Strategies

- Replace existing pumps with energy efficient variable flow drive technology.

Energy

Top Priorities

- Commission comprehensive energy audits for all cities and school department buildings.
- Explore Performance Contracting to Act on Recommendations from Energy Audits.
- Upgrade Lighting, HVAC and water systems in existing buildings.
- Adopt a comprehensive energy policy for city.
- Adopt green building standards for municipal buildings.
- Purchase renewable energy.
- Explore small-scale energy generation project.
- Retrofit mercury streetlamps to more efficient model.

Strategies

- Reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions.
- Use performance based contracting with Energy Service Companies to fund building upgrades.
- Adopt proven, verifiable performance standards to ensure that our buildings are designed and built to use resources efficiently.
- Include a certain percentage of green power in its energy portfolio.
- Explore cost effective small-scale energy generation demonstration projects on City facilities.
- Create new building codes to focus on energy conservation.
- Undertake an on-site renewable energy generation demonstration project.
- Actively promote the use of alternative sources of energy supply.
- Prioritize City energy conservation efforts.
Development

Top Priorities

• Strategies
  • Require all city funded new construction projects receive LEED certification.
  • Create new building codes to focus on energy conservation.
  • Undertake an on-site renewable energy generation demonstration project.
  • Actively promote the use of alternative sources of energy supply.
  • Prioritize City energy conservation efforts.

Green House Gas Reduction

Top Priorities

• Strategies
  • Reduce the City’s CO2 emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020.
  • Update City’s emissions inventory.

Climate Preparedness

Top Priorities

• Strategies
  • Commit to updating the emissions inventory every five years at a minimum.

Equity & Economics

Top Priorities

• Strategies
  • Address the basic needs of all members of the community.
  • Attend to problems associated with mental illness, homelessness, drug addiction, education and vocational deficiencies and racism.
  • In order to be a sustainable community Portland must provide services to break patterns of social injustice, systemic poverty and disempowerment of minorities.

Community Engagement:

Top Priorities

• Strategies
  • Create a “Green Team” made up of representatives from all departments to assist with the implementation and adoption of Action Plan items.
  • Develop a Behavior Change Program for Employees.
  • Develop an Environmental Preferable Procurement Policy.
  • Participate in Educational and Informational Partnerships and Events.
• The team should take primary responsibility for several recommended action items including peer education and behavior modification efforts and coordination with environmental groups outside the City.

• The City should make conscious efforts to reduce the amount of energy they consume during the course of their work.

• Participate in a climate change initiatives including Governor’s Carbon Challenge, Cities for Climate Protection and partner with Clean Air Cool Planet.

• Ensure that City purchasing policies include green standards such as mandate for recycled content and a local vendor/provider preference.

Initiative Implementation

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Totals                                           | 1                  | 4        | 13          |                   |

Data Source: University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute: Program Implementation Survey 2017

Sources:
