



ENDERLY PARK Sustainable Vision Plan

Prepared by the Enderly Park Community In Partnership with:





Neighbors and Friends,

In 2010 eight neighborhoods set out to improve their communities and simultaneously made a commitment to lessen their impact on the environment through the Neighborhood Energy Challenge. Shortly thereafter, 11 additional neighborhoods made a similar commitment through Power2 Live Green. This unprecedented partnership allowed us all an opportunity to explore the communities we live in through a new lens called "sustainability."

Together we evaluated tree cover, parks, open spaces and natural elements in our neighborhoods. You and your neighbors considered access to local and healthy food and the transportation options that accommodate travel to the places where you live, work, and play. We learned about ourselves and each other by understanding how we live, how much water and energy we use at home, how we manage the waste products that result from our choices and how our actions compare to the actions of others.

With these factors in mind, each of your communities' implemented projects that made our homes more efficient, shared knowledge, expanded transportation options or made our streets safer at night. You did this in ways that were creative, encouraged neighbors to work together, developed partnerships and made your neighborhoods even better places to live. Lastly, you worked together to set a solid foundation for the future.

The community goals established within this Sustainable Vision Plan are YOURS. They represent your ideas, concerns, opportunities and dreams for a different and better tomorrow. We hope that this plan will become a living document within your community, one that you will reference to remember the goals your community established and the commitments you made. We also hope that you gained something in the process of rolling up your sleeves and working side by side with your friends and neighbors. I can assure you that we did.

Its neighbors like you that inspire others and continue to improve the quality of life for all of us. We look forward to seeing you continue this journey!

Nicole R. Storey, AICP
City of Charlotte
Neighborhood & Business Services



Table of Contents

I. Primary Community Sustainability Goals:

1. Increase the Number of Sidewalks and Increase the Use of Alternative Transportation.
Target: Define location schedule for current sidewalk implementation projects, evaluate need for additional sidewalks.
2. Reduce Waste
Target: Organize a community Shred-It Event by September, 2013.
3. Expand the Community Garden and Eat More Locally Grown Food
Target: Define an expansion schedule by September, 2013.

II. Additional Sustainability Goals:

1. Reduce Water Consumption and Water Pollution
2. Reduce Energy Usage
3. Beautify the Neighborhood and Park Areas and Increase the Amount of Park Space

III. Additional Sustainability Resources

IV. Blank Page for Your Notes and Ideas

Appendix: Sustainable Vision Plan Visioning Notes

Key Words:

Primary Community Sustainability Goals- The goals that were selected by participants as the communities' highest priorities during the Sustainable vision Plan Process.

Additional Sustainability Goals- Goals that were established, but identified as secondary to the Primary Community Sustainability Goals.

Each Goal will contain the following:

Target- A metric that allows the community to measure progress toward achieving their goals.

Ideas to Help You Get Started- Suggested actions to initiate movement towards achieving community goals. Strategies and related resources have also been provided to assist with these activities and others

Strategies- Additional ideas for your community to consider as you move toward achieving your goals.

Related Resources- Organizations, people, and websites to aid in fulfilling the community's Sustainability Goals



Primary Community Sustainability Goal # 1: Increase the Number of Sidewalks to Encourage the Use of Alternative Transportation

Target: Define location schedule for current sidewalk implementation projects, evaluate need for additional sidewalks

Ideas to Get You Started

- Complete a sidewalk inventory to see which streets need sidewalk maintenance and which streets need a sidewalks to be installed.
- Walk the community to identify hazards or obstacles that may make it difficult to walk the sidewalks to access bus stops. Work with the City to remove those obstacles.
- Once sidewalk strategies have been established, use the resources below to encourage alternative transportation in your community.
- Survey residents about carpooling to see if there is enough interest and enough common destinations to make carpooling effective.
- Plan a group transit ride to an uptown event or the grocery store, to show neighbors how easy public transit can be.
- Compile and distribute a contact sheet of families, organized by schools their children attend, to help facilitate the creation of carpools. Have children ride the bus instead of driving them independently.
- Talk to nearby businesses about installing bike racks to encourage people to bike. **FREE** bike racks are available to eligible businesses by calling Ken Tippette at 704-336-2278 or ktippette@ci.charlotte.nc.us.
- Form a community walking or running group with set times .
- Talk to nearby restaurants about offering alternative transportation discounts.
- Organize a bike event to educate residents about bike safety and the best bike routes. Include a group bike-ride.
- Distribute information about current transit routes.
- Challenge neighbors to have an alternative transportation day. Show them how easy and safe it is to ride the bus or light-rail, walk, or bike. Use bus passes as a reward for the competition.
- Assign bike mentors to help neighbors plan safe and efficient routes to services or select locations. Share these notes with the neighborhood.

Helpful Strategies and Resources

Strategies	Related Resources
Promote walking and pedestrian safety.	<p>Request a Traffic Calming Remedy- Remedies include multi-way stops, speed limit reduction, speed humps, and traffic circles. Contact CharMeck at 311 or fill out the form at www.tinyurl.com/d232ydf or</p> <p>CharMeck Neighborhood Traffic Management- Addresses residential traffic concerns http://tinyurl.com/chidjyw</p> <p>Request Sidewalks- Charlotte’s Department of Transportation’s sidewalk program accepts requests for sidewalks on city streets http://tinyurl.com/d4kvcm or http://tinyurl.com/bt9hqun</p> <p>Request Sidewalk Repair- Contact the City by calling 311 or visiting http://tinyurl.com/c28szjq</p> <p>Request Streetlight Repair- Contact the City by calling 311 or visiting http://tinyurl.com/cegldmf</p> <p>Request an Upgrade of Street Lighting- Request brighter or different color lights. To request the form, call (704) 336-3893 or (704) 336-4119</p>
Request a bus stop.	CATS- Call customer service at (704) 336-7433 or email telltransit@charlottenc.gov with the proposed location of the stop and your contact information.
Provide information on public transit at neighborhood meetings.	<p>Find out if your Employer Offers Discount Transit Passes for CATS- http://tinyurl.com/brkxevo</p> <p>CATS iPhone App- bus routes, schedules, etc. http://tinyurl.com/7pjklbq</p> <p>CATS and LYNX Transit Schedules- Bus and train routes, also has information on carpools http://tinyurl.com/85o384d</p>
Encourage biking and walking and research installing bike racks/bike sharing at common destinations.	<p>Charlotte Department of Transportation Resources for Pedestrians and Bicyclists- Find existing routes and other important information http://tinyurl.com/7lqm975</p> <p>CATS Bicycling Tips- http://tinyurl.com/7r3ggku</p> <p>Charlotte B-Cycle™- Charlotte's new bike sharing system with numerous stations located throughout Uptown Charlotte. Talk to them about installing a station near your neighborhood www.charlottebicycle.com</p> <p>Charlotte Neighborhood Matching Grants- fund eligible neighborhood improvements such as signage, cleanups, landscape projects, and more http://tinyurl.com/c2vglj</p>
Establish a carpool system.	<p>Charlotte Area Transit Center (CATS) Carpool Connections- Find other riders with similar commutes interested in carpooling http://tinyurl.com/7tk2pzs</p> <p>CMS Carpool Advice- http://tinyurl.com/ch44ldg</p>

Primary Community Sustainability Goal # 2: Reduce Waste

Target: Organize a Community Shred-It Event by September, 2013

Ideas to Get You Started

- Contact Shred-It® at 1-877-601-4199 or visit <http://www.shredit.com/Shredding-Services/Community-Shred-it%E2%84%A2-Event.aspx> to organize a Community Shred-It event.
- Start a neighborhood initiative to clean up trash and recyclables around each resident’s home the day before trash and recycling collection occurs in order to eliminate litter.
- Hold a community “Swap Shop” event where people exchange reusable items that they no longer need or want. Suggested items: building materials, blankets, pet carriers, bikes and bike parts and tools, books, furniture, clothing, art, office, and school supplies, bags, backpacks, etc.
- Encourage neighbors to buy products with less packaging, buy in bulk, use reusable shopping bags, don’t bag produce in individual plastic bags—simply put it with your other groceries.
- Host a composting workshop at a neighborhood meeting or at a resident’s house on a Saturday. Call (704) 336-4304 to schedule a workshop.
- Plan one or more “Recycling Day” celebrations each year. Suggested Dates: America Recycles Day (November 15 <http://americarecyclesday.org/>), Earth Day (April 22, 2013).
- Encourage neighbors to dispose of yard waste separately from garbage.
- Request for volunteers to be “Recycling Captains” to send out a reminder each week on the day before recycling collection will occur. Call 311 or (704) 336-7600 or see the calendar at <http://tinyurl.com/bnncgyb> to find out which weeks recycling collection occurs. Enderly Park’s recycling collection occurs on Thursdays on GREEN weeks.
- Invite a county recycling representative to give a presentation at a neighborhood association meeting. Contact Erica Robinson at (704) 432-4225 or e-mail curbit@charlottenc.gov.
- Start a “Craigslist” section in the newsletter or in e-mails for community members to notify neighbors of used items in good condition that they are giving away instead of throwing away.
- Plan a composting event and have volunteers teach residents how to compost and how to build a compost bin.
- Have residents bring batteries, CFLs and plastic bags to community events for collection. Have a volunteer to take these items to Lowe’s or other businesses that properly dispose of the items gathered.
- Contact Salvation Army or Goodwill to schedule a community-wide donation pick up day (Salvation Army 704-716-2769 and Goodwill 704-916-1655).

Helpful Strategies and Resources

Strategies	Related Resources
Increase recycling and reduce waste.	<p>CharMeck Solid Waste Services- Important information and resources about recycling and reducing waste in Charlotte www.curbit.charmeck.org</p> <p>CharMeck’s Wipe Out Waste! Guide Book- Information ranging from composting to recycling to disposing of hazardous waste http://tinyurl.com/bqrs02r</p> <p>North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources- Several pages of resources for reducing waste and recycling http://www.p2pays.org/citizens.asp</p> <p>100 Ways to Reuse Items- http://www.motherearthnews.com/modern-homesteading/reusing-things-zmaz76mazhar.aspx</p> <p>CharMeck Recycling Fundraising Programs- http://tinyurl.com/7xt25yl</p> <p>Wise Recycling of Charlotte- Purchases several types of scrap metal and recyclable metal with cash. Fundraising options available. http://www.wiserecycling.com/locations/north-carolina/charlotte/</p> <p>Great American Can Roundup- The Can Manufacturers Institute fundraiser http://www.cancentral.com/RoundUp/</p> <p>Mecklenburg County's "Wipe Out Waste" Program- http://www.wipeoutwaste.com</p> <p>Opt Out of Junk Mail and Telemarketers- Call 212-768-7277 Ext. 1500; Call 888-567-8688; Call 800-645-9000; Call 800-243-9000; Call 800-620-3975; Call 1-888-382-1222; visit websites http://www.optoutprescreen.com , http://www.catalochoice.org , http://www.ecologicalmail.org ; http://www.donotcall.gov. Be sure to recycle any junk mail that may continue to come in the mail.</p> <p>Grease Free Charlotte- Never pour grease down the drain or toilet http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/UTILITIES/GREASEFREE/Pages/Home.aspx</p>
Encourage home composting and post links to information on composting to the neighborhood website.	<p>Mecklenburg County Home Composting Program- Purchase compost and mulch, learn about home composting, find information about gardening www.tinyurl.com/84h6j65</p> <p>Mecklenburg County Compost Workshops- (704) 336-4304</p> <p>EPA Compost Advice- http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserves/rrr/composting/by_compost.htm</p> <p>Do-It-Yourself Compost Bins- Different styles of bins, instructions, and materials required to construct them. http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G6957</p> <p>Find Sources of Organic Matter for Compost Bins- Bring in external sources to speed up the composting process http://nccommunitygarden.ncsu.edu/compost.html</p> <p>Mecklenburg County Compost Bin Discount- Receive a discount on compost bins from select vendors simply for being a resident of Mecklenburg County http://tinyurl.com/cs88dpi</p>

Primary Community Sustainability Goal # 3: Expand the Community Garden and Eat more Locally Grown Food

Target: Define an expansion schedule by September, 2013

Ideas to Get You Started

- Start an inventory of tools throughout the community and create a community tool-share for use in the community garden and elsewhere.
- Establish a weekly walking group, carpool or vanpool to a farmers market; ask for volunteers with large capacity vehicles to be the drivers.
- Distribute contact information for local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs on the neighborhood website, in the newsletter and/or on door-to-door flyers.
- Host an event that shares community knowledge about gardening and canning, freezing or preserving seasonal fruits and vegetables.
- For more community garden space, ask businesses, churches or neighbors to allow access to land that isn't currently being used.
- Host a community potluck or use e-mail to share recipes that feature seasonal foods and ingredients.
- Start container gardens on porches or patios. Tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, squash, herbs, etc. can all be grown easily in pots, gutter installations or pallet gardens or other vertical gardening methods. Be creative.
- Label plants in gardens to help children identify what can be grown locally.

Helpful Strategies and Resources

Strategies	Related Resources
Locate farmer's markets and other sources of local food.	<p>Mecklenburg County's List of Farmers Markets- http://tinyurl.com/cl2jvdf</p> <p>Local Farmer's Markets: http://tinyurl.com/6o2zsjx</p> <p>Sow Much Good- Helps provide organic foods to all populations at below market value and creates opportunities for individuals to take part in the development of local, sustainable food source creation www.sowmuchgood.org/</p> <p>Eat Well Guide- Check out Charlotte's guide and use the search function to find restaurants and stores nearby http://www.eatwellguide.org/localguide/</p>
Improve the community garden and home gardens.	<p>Mecklenburg Master Gardener- Classes, resources, demonstration gardens, and more http://www.mastergardenersmecklenburg.org/resource--reference-links.html</p> <p>Friendship Gardens- information and classes about gardening and food preservation http://www.friendship-gardens.org/</p> <p>The Historic Northwest Community Toolshed- Free tools available for a small application fee of \$5 for individuals and \$15 for groups http://tinyurl.com/cukkgq5</p> <p>Mecklenburg County Fruit and Vegetable Coalition- Community Garden Listings and more http://tinyurl.com/cew3w6e</p> <p>NC State's Community Garden Advice- www.nccommunitygarden.ncsu.edu</p> <p>Pallet Gardens- http://lifeonthebalcony.com/how-to-turn-a-pallet-into-a-garden/</p> <p>University of Illinois Container Gardening Tips- http://urbanext.illinois.edu/containergardening/</p> <p>NC Department of Agriculture Seasonal Food Guide- http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/chart.htm</p> <p>Charlotte Green- Assists interested and well-organized community groups to beautify their neighborhoods by planting on vacant lots, on curbs, at private residences, and more www.charlottegreen.org</p> <p>CharMeck Park and Rec Community Gardens- Apply to lease a plot in one of Charlotte's park's community gardens http://tinyurl.com/bwoueq8</p> <p>Microfarm Organic Gardens- Devoted to the art of edible organic gardening. Organic garden design, maintenance, and other gardening services to the Charlotte area www.microfarmgardens.com/</p> <p>Instant Organic Garden- Garden planning, installation, and support www.instantorganicgarden.com or call Don Rosenberg at (704) 910-6498</p> <p>CharMeck Park Services- Includes construction and maintenance of community gardens. Contact Tim Turton at Timothy.Turton@Mecklenburgcountync.gov or visit www.tinyurl.com/d5yo3ns</p>
Join a Community Sponsored Agriculture program (CSA).	<p>Local Harvest- find CSAs, Farmer's markets, and grocery stores nearby http://www.localharvest.org/</p> <p>Mecklenburg County's List of CSAs- http://tinyurl.com/c837qpx</p>

Additional Sustainability Goal: Reduce Water Consumption and Pollution

Ideas to Get You Started

- Distribute a water use reduction checklist and challenge the community to complete one section (laundry, kitchen, landscaping, etc.) each week.
- Organize a neighborhood water-saving competition. Distribute water saving tips, direct residents on how to track usage, and decide on a prize. Suggested prizes: rain barrel, low-flow or dual-flush toilet modifications.
- Volunteer with Storm Water Services. For all programs, Contact Deania Russo at deania.russo@mecklenburgcountync.gov or (980) 722-8881 and visit <http://tinyurl.com/cpulm3x>.
 - Join the ADOPT-A-STREAM program. Irwin Creek, which runs through the golf course, is available.
 - Participate in Storm Water Services' "Big Sweep 2012" on Saturday, September 29, 2012.
 - Volunteer as a community to mark storm drains with "Do Not Dump" signs throughout the neighborhood.
 - Participate in the Storm Water Services' Creek Releaf Program by helping to plant trees at the Creek Releaf event on November 17, 2012. To sign up, visit http://www.charlottetreefund.org/?page_id=6%29.
- Adopt an agreement to only allow watering of lawns and plants in the mornings.
- Plan a community showerhead swap day through CharMeck Utilities' showerhead swap program. To receive free low-flow showerheads, Contact Maeneen Klein at 704-336-7600 or mklein@ci.charlotte.nc.us.
- Ask for neighbors with any plumbing or repair experience to volunteer to help with water efficiency repairs.
- Use "My Charlotte" smart phone application or call 311 to report odors, discoloration, or large debris in creeks (you can also call: **704-336-7600**).

Helpful Strategies and Resources

Strategies	Related Resources
Reduce household water use.	Household Water Conservation Checklist- http://tinyurl.com/cd6nba6 . CharMeck Home Water Use Audit Guide- Complete the audit and send it in to receive a free water conservation kit http://tinyurl.com/cpnsgpw Indoor Water Conservation Ideas from the City- http://tinyurl.com/c7eny53 H₂ouse- Interactive tips and ideas for saving water at home www.h2ouse.org Free Low-Flow Shower Heads from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities- Contact Maeneen Klein at 704-336-7600 or mklein@ci.charlotte.nc.us EPA Water-Sense- Tips for saving water and information on water-efficient products http://www.epa.gov/watersense/ Do-It-Yourself Toilet Water Conservation- http://frugalliving.about.com/od/householdsavings/ht/Low_Flow.htm
Reduce irrigation and storm-water runoff.	Do-It-Yourself Rainbarrels- http://www.gardensimply.com/how-to-guides/build-rain-barrel.php Tips from CharMeck Utilities- http://tinyurl.com/c3huynb H₂ouse- Interactive tips and ideas for saving water at home, including landscaping information http://www.h2ouse.org/tour/landscaping.cfm U.S. Department of Energy Water Efficient Landscaping- Water in the mornings, plus more advice http://tinyurl.com/6rwc4mq National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB) Xeriscaping Information- http://www.toolbase.org/Technology-Inventory/Sitework/xeriscaping Colorado State University Xeriscaping- http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/garden/07228.html Resource Efficient Landscaping- incorporate tips with regard to your climate, microclimate, shading, windbreaks, and water use http://tinyurl.com/28mnxyh Mecklenburg County Rain Barrel Sale- 60 or 80 Gallon Rain Barrels at a reduced cost http://tinyurl.com/bnzin5n
Report water pollution to the City.	Report Blockage in a City Drainage System- To report blockage in storm drains or creeks, Call 311 or (704) 336-7246 or visit http://tinyurl.com/cknoawo Report Pollution in a Creek, Stream, or Lake- To report foul-smells, fertilizer, paint, motor oil, or other toxic substances being dumped into storm drains or into creeks, call 311 or visit www.tinyurl.com/cvifle Report Erosion from Construction Sites or on Stream banks- If you see muddy water or banks caving in, Call 311 or (704) 336-7246 or visit http://tinyurl.com/d5agcfa Mecklenburg County Water Quality Program- Report sewage overflow, broken pipes, sewer odor, discoloration of creeks or streams, or stressed aquatic life to 311 or (704) 336-5500
Prevent water pollution.	Tips from CharMeck on Keeping Storm Drains Clear- http://charmeck.org/stormwater/DrainageandFlooding/Pages/MaintainyourDrain.aspx CharMeck Pollution Prevention Brochure- http://charmeck.org/stormwater/videospublications/Documents/Brochures/PollutionPreventionGuide.pdf Grease Free Charlotte- Never pour grease down the drain or toilet http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/UTILITIES/GREASEFREE/Pages/Home.aspx Storm Water Services Pollution Prevention Pages- Advice and rules related to chemicals, pet waste, car washing, etc. www.tinyurl.com/dy7jerx Used Oil Recycling Facilities- Some also accept other automobile waste http://charmeck.org/stormwater/PollutionPrevention/Documents/UsedOilRecycling0709.pdf

Additional Sustainability Goal: Reduce Energy Usage

Ideas to Get You Started

- Distribute the Department of Energy home energy reduction checklist to the community, challenge to accomplish at least three (3) items each month (see resource link below).
- Organize a neighborhood household energy-saving competition. Distribute energy saving tips, have residents track their usage over a set period of time, compare savings, and decide on a prize.
- Organize a community weatherization team- have participants volunteer to install low cost improvements such as caulking, weather-stripping, insulating window film, etc.
- Distribute information for Duke Energy’s free CFL Light bulb and Home Energy House Call. Fill out a form at <http://www.duke-energy.com/north-carolina/savings/home-energy-house-call.asp> or call 1-877-388-7676 to sign up.
- Challenge children to be energy ambassadors. Reward them for ensuring that lights are turned off at home. Make t-shirts, hats, stickers, or something else for them to identify themselves.

Helpful Strategies and Resources

Strategies	Related Resources
Evaluate home energy use and research ways to reduce usage through small changes in behavior.	<p>U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Home Energy Reduction Checklist- http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/energy_aware_hec.html</p> <p>Save Energy and Money- Information from Duke-Energy on how to save money on your next energy bill. Check out the Power Manager® program to receive \$32 in bill credits each year. www.tinyurl.com/d8lgxbs</p> <p>Power2Charlotte- resources and tips from the City http://www.power2charlotte.com/</p> <p>Piedmont Natural Gas Tips and Rebates- http://tinyurl.com/7ty8zjf</p> <p>US Department of Energy- Learn about saving energy at home. Check out the rest of the DOE website as well http://tinyurl.com/bggzjng</p> <p>Energy Star Kids- http://tinyurl.com/ch9kg8f</p> <p>U.S. DOE EnergySavers- Tips on reducing home energy use- http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/electricity/index.cfm/mytopic=11140</p> <p>NC Green Power- Tips for adults and kids http://www.ncgreenpower.org/conservation/</p> <p>Duke Energy Youtility Program- provides tips for saving energy: http://www.duke-energy.com/youtility/</p> <p>My Energy™- Website that gives you an easy way to understand, manage, and save home energy. http://www.myenergy.com</p>
Track energy usage.	<p>Duke Energy Online Services- Create an online account and track your energy use by month, compare your usage to the average home, and see energy usage by category. www.duke-energy.com/residential.asp</p> <p>The Energy Detective ® (TED®)- Monitor home-energy usage in more detail and in real time, save money on your bill. www.theenergydetective.com/store.html</p>
Residential energy audits.	<p>Home Energy Assessment- Learn how to do your own assessment to see how much energy your home uses and how much it wastes. www.tinyurl.com/bqf926s</p> <p>Duke-Energy Home Energy House Call- Free in-home energy assessment designed to help see how your home uses energy and how to save on bills. Not available for rental properties www.tinyurl.com/blt9tge</p>
Improve home energy efficiency through weatherization and energy retrofitting (i.e. replace incandescent light bulbs with CFLs or LEDs, install an attic door insulator cover).	<p>Free Efficient Light Bulbs- Eligible Duke Energy customers can request Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) (while supplies last) http://www.duke-energy.com/freecfls/</p> <p>Energy Star Appliances and Advice for Home Weatherization- Energy Star appliances are highly efficient. Tips on air sealing and insulating your home http://www.energystar.gov/</p> <p>U.S. DOE Information on Insulation and Air Sealing- http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/insulation_airsealing/index.cfm/mytopic=11280</p> <p>NC Weatherization Program- Energy savings through insulation and energy efficiency services to income eligible households. http://tinyurl.com/3sldl4</p> <p>Residential Energy Services Network- Search for Certified RESNET Home Energy Professionals in your area www.resnet.us/directory/search</p> <p>Building Performance Institute (BPI)- Locate companies with BPI certified professionals on staff and BPI accredited contractors http://tinyurl.com/c6v5cjc</p>
Research installing photovoltaic electric systems on homes and streetlights.	<p>US Department of Energy- Information and Resources about solar heating and power. http://tinyurl.com/cnhekjo</p> <p>Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE)- Comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility and federal incentives and policies that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency http://www.dsireusa.org/</p> <p>North Carolina Energy Discounts- Information and links to discounts for renewable energy in North Carolina. http://tinyurl.com/6ud45s8</p> <p>Local Solar PV and Solar Thermal Certified Professionals- http://tinyurl.com/7vcelmj</p> <p>Charlotte Neighborhood Matching Grants- Fund eligible neighborhood improvements such as signage, cleanups, landscape projects, and more www.tinyurl.com/c2vglj</p>

Additional Sustainability Goal: Beautify the Neighborhood and Park Areas and Increase the Amount of Park Space

Ideas to Get You Started

- Organize a monthly or quarterly neighborhood cleanup. Suggested date: Great American Cleanup (Last weekend in April). To reserve a cleanup packet (gloves, pickers, etc.), contact Cheryl Rance with Keep Charlotte Beautiful: crance@charlottenc.gov or (704) 353-1235. Contact local service organizations and ask them to participate in cleanup events. Many are required to complete community service hours. Suggested groups: Boys and Girls Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Local School Groups, Local Church Youth Groups, etc.
- Volunteer with Mecklenburg County Park and Rec. Visit <http://charmec.org/mecklenburg/county/ParkandRec/Pages/Volunteer.aspx> or email Lori Saylor at lori.saylor@mecklenburgcountync.gov.
 - Current Volunteer Opportunities- <http://charmec.org/mecklenburg/county/ParkandRec/Documents/Current%20Volunteer%20Opportunities.pdf>
- Host regular community and park clean up events.
- Host an event or community challenge in the park to remind residents of the facilities that exist. Don't forget to include activities for the children.
- Plan a community tree-planting event in the park. Suggested dates: Earth Day (April 22, 2013), Arbor Day (the first Friday after March 15).
- Plan a community landscaping day. Contact hardware stores to see if discounts are offered to Neighborhood Associations.
- Create a contact list of neighbors with pickup trucks to volunteer to help dispose of bulky items or recyclable metal scraps.
- Start an inventory of tools throughout the community and begin a community tool-share.

Helpful Strategies and Resources

Strategies	Related Resources
Take advantage of parks and greenways.	CharMeck Parks and Recreation- www.parkandrec.com CharMeck Parks and Rec Events and Activities Schedule and Registration- Learn about camps, after school programs, sports, fitness, arts, and more that goes on at parks and rec http://tinyurl.com/ckodgo4 Mecklenburg County Park Services- Responsible for greenway repairs and maintenance www.tinyurl.com/d5yo3ns , Contact Tim Turton with comments and questions at timothy.turton@mecklenburgcountync.gov Greenway Maintenance- Contact Bob Rearden at 704-432-1980 Greenway Planning Questions- Contact Gwen Cook at 704-432-1570
Increase the amount of plants and landscaping in public areas.	Keep Charlotte Beautiful- Maintain and improve the cleanliness and beauty of the city through garden grants, adopt-a-street and adopt-a-neighborhood programs, and more http://tinyurl.com/ccx4jg2 Charlotte Green- Assists interested and well-organized community groups to beautify their neighborhoods by planting on vacant lots, on curbs, at private residences, and more www.charlottegreen.org Charlotte Neighborhood Matching Grants- fund eligible neighborhood improvements such as signage, cleanups, landscape projects, and more http://tinyurl.com/c2vglsj Mecklenburg County Annual Tree Seedling Sale- by planting trees, save energy, reduce noise, increase property values, and improve appearance http://tinyurl.com/cqfxll2 Cooperative Tree Planting Program- offers neighborhoods the opportunity to partner with the City to plant trees in Charlotte neighborhoods. For more information, call 704-336-4262. City of Charlotte Landscape Management- information on roadside appearance and neighborhood improvement http://tinyurl.com/csa88yu The Historic Northwest Community Toolshed- Free tools available for a small application fee http://tinyurl.com/cukkgg5
Improve parks and park equipment.	CharMeck Park Planning and Construction: Contact Lee Jones Lee.Jones@mecklenburgcountync.gov phone: 704-336-8466 Charlotte Neighborhood Matching Grants- fund eligible neighborhood improvements such as signage, cleanups, landscape projects, and more http://tinyurl.com/c2vglsj The Project for Public Spaces- experts on creating vibrant public spaces, training opportunities, and other great resources www.pps.org/

Additional Sustainability Resources

Center for Science in the Public Interest- Information on chemicals in foods and other products and how best to avoid them <http://www.cspinet.org>

Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) Center for Sustainability- <http://www.cpcc.edu/cfs>

Charlotte Clean and Green Festival- Yearly sustainability festival and more www.charlottecleanandgreen.com

Charlotte Green Team- Improving the environment through sustainable events www.charlottegreanteam.com

Discovery Channel's Planet Green- Advice on sustainable living <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/>

Do Your Part- Tips for everyday green living <http://www.doyourpart.com>

Do Your Part Home Checklist- Ideas for reducing waste, energy, water use, and pollution in every possible area of your home <http://doyourpart.com/green-living/book/room-by-room-checklist/>

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)- Information on topics from water pollution to bed bugs <http://www.epa.gov/>

EPA Design for the Environment (DfE) Program- The EPA's DfE labels on products indicate that its ingredients pose the least concern for human and environmental health www.epa.gov/dfe

EPA Grant Resources- Links, help, and advice on sustainability grants <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/grants.htm>

Environmental Working Group- Find out information on chemicals in consumer products and on which products are good and bad for you and for sustainability <http://www.ewg.org>

Mecklenburg County State of the Environment Report- <http://tinyurl.com/bq58r8c>

Pocket Neighborhoods- Creating small scale community in a large scale world. Tips for creating community <http://www.pocket-neighborhoods.net/blog/>

Practically Green- Measure and track your "green" actions; compete with friends to see who can become the "greenest" www.practicallygreen.com

Soy Products Guide- Soy is a renewable alternative to petroleum <http://www.unitedsoybean.org/resources/tools/soy-products-guide/>

Sustain Charlotte- Helping create a region in which everyone has the knowledge, resources and opportunity to make choices with a clear awareness of their combined social, economic and environmental impacts <http://www.sustaincharlotte.org>

The City's Quality of Life Study- <http://tinyurl.com/34a4cgz>

The Green Living Handbook, by David Gershon, 2008- Do-it-yourself actions for improving household efficiency and reducing consumption. Check out his other books as well, including Livable Neighborhood http://www.empowermentinstitute.net/files/Order_page.html

UNCC's IDEAS Center- <http://ideas.uncc.edu/>

U.S. Green Building Council Green Home Guidelines- http://www.usgbccrc.org/resource/resmgr/docs/green_building_summary_usgbc.pdf

U.S. Green Building Council Resources- <http://www.usgbccrc.org/?page=Links>

A little space for additional goals, thoughts, notes and ideas

Appendix: Sustainable Vision Plan Visioning Notes

Increase the Number of Sidewalks and Increase the Use of Alternative Transportation

- Make bus stops more safe
- Increase the accessibility of bus routes
- Create a survey to collect information in order to create a carpool

Organize a Shred-It® Community Event and Reduce Waste

- Create a community craigslist
- Community collection point and fundraiser
- Encourage Recycling
- Create and distribute alternate uses guide for reusable materials

Expand the Community Garden and Eat more Locally Grown Food

- Create a community food pantry
- Organize a food drive to supply local foods to a food pantry
- Organize regularly scheduled community meals

Water

- Update our water system in Parkview
- Control the pollution entering streambeds
- Use your bath and kitchen sink water to feed your plants
- Collect rainwater with cisterns and rain barrels
- Limit the amount of time you are in the shower to reduce water usage

Energy

- Use more CFL and LED lights
- Street lights and lighting throughout neighborhood
- Have motion activated lights

Parks and open spaces

- Beautify the streets and park areas
- Have more park space that there is no price to use
- More organic parks
- Encourage flower gardens

