



***SUSTAINABILITY
OFFICE***

JULIE A. ROSENBACH
Sustainability Director

**SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT
Priorities for 2019-2020**

MISSION

The mission of South Portland's Office of Sustainability is to guide the development of policies and practices that simultaneously promote economic well-being, strong community connections, and a healthy environment. The primary focus of this office is to implement the City's Climate Action Plan and related initiatives to help municipal departments, schools, and the community become more sustainable.

The Sustainability Office works directly with all municipal departments, the City's Energy and Recycling Committee, the Pest Management Advisory Committee, and numerous community partners to achieve its mission.

Five strategic goals guide the work of this office. These goals are presented below along with priorities, which have been identified for 2019-2020. Each priority is framed as an action item with steps to support implementation.

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. **WASTE REDUCTION-** to increase South Portland's recycling rate to 40% by 2020 through purposeful purchasing, reuse, recycling, and composting.
2. **ENERGY & CLIMATE-** to use 100% clean renewable energy for municipal operations by 2040, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions citywide 80% by 2050 through energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy initiatives, and plan for resiliency and adaptation.
3. **SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION-** to reduce the environmental impact of vehicles in South Portland, and create a welcoming and safe environment for all transportation options.
4. **HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT-** to make South Portland a healthy community by reducing the use of pesticides and promoting a transition to organic land care practices.
5. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT-** to develop collaborative partnerships that build support for community initiatives and increase awareness about sustainable programs, policies and practices.

PRIORITIES

WASTE REDUCTION

Action item 1: Take meaningful steps to increase the City's recycling rate to 40% by 2020.

- Develop and deliver education and outreach to City residents about how and why to reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Conduct E-waste collection event for City residents annually.
- Explore options for expanding and improving citywide food waste program.
- Continue to pursue opportunities to reduce the use of single use plastics and minimize the impact of marine debris.
- Review other communities' practices and develop a program to improve recycling at multi-family units and businesses.
- Begin to develop a strategy that will move South Portland toward Zero Waste.

CLIMATE ACTION

Action item 2: Develop a Climate Action and Adaption plan that will move the City toward its goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions citywide 80% by 2050 and becoming a more resilient community in the face of a changing climate.

- Complete a community-level GHG emissions inventory and work with partners to explore options for more detailed energy mapping of the city.
- Engage a wide range of community voices to inform the plan, including low-income, immigrant, youth, and other non-traditional populations to ensure equity.
- Work with partners and experts to weigh in on and advise plan elements so that action items are practical, robust and have a regional impact.
- Begin to address adaptation and resiliency by completing a vulnerability assessment and using it to inform planning decisions.
- Explore additional options for increasing the City's and residents' understanding of the impact climate change is likely to have on our community.

Action item 3: Integrate climate planning efforts with development of Waterfront Master Plan.

- Work with City staff to integrate adaptation and resiliency in the Waterfront Mast Plan.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT & RENEWABLE ENERGY

Action item 4: Develop a strategy to move the City toward its goal of using 100% clean renewable energy for municipal operations by 2040.

- Convene a Municipal Energy Group (MEG) comprised of City staff to develop a policy for ensuring that new buildings are designed to high performing energy standards.
- Work with the MEG to develop strategies for improving the energy efficiency of existing municipal buildings, focusing on deferred maintenance and building audits to identify opportunities for financial savings, efficiency upgrades, and renewable energy.
- Continue to pursue opportunities to site solar arrays on City property including the City's capped landfill.
- Actively advocate for policy changes at the state level to make municipal energy projects more feasible.
- Explore options to support residential and commercial solar projects.
- Explore the potential to use battery storage at the Municipal Services Facility to understand the impact of solar on demand charges and the impact of reduced demand on the grid.

Action item 5: Use benchmarking to increase energy efficiency in City, commercial and multi-family buildings.

- Benchmark and track the energy performance of City buildings, and use this information to inform planning decisions.
- Explore ways to improve energy data and tracking for municipal operations.
- Assist covered commercial and multi-family building owners in implementing the City's Benchmarking Ordinance and explore opportunities to improve and expand the scope of this ordinance.
- Work with CMP and other partners to improve access to relevant energy data.
- Continue to explore opportunities to use economic development programs to support energy efficiency.

TRANSPORTATION

Action item 6: Explore ways to accelerate the transition of City fleet vehicles and equipment to alternative fuels.

- Work with Public Works to use biodiesel in select in municipal vehicles.
- Work with the MEG to develop a purchasing policy that mandates electric vehicles for all new City vehicles focusing on cars, transit, and school buses *as proven technologies become available.

Action item 7: Explore ways to support community transition to sustainable transportation.

- Explore ways to support broader community adoption of electric vehicles and expand charging infrastructure.
- Explore the potential of bringing a bike share program to South Portland.

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

Action item 8: Reduce toxics in our community by restricting the use of pesticides and promoting a transition to organic land care practices.

- Continue to do education and outreach to promote and encourage organic landcare practices for lawns, including a demonstration project at Bug light Park.
- Promote organic landcare using goats and sheep by supporting projects such as the Yerxa Park rehab, and developing a Prescribed Grazing Ordinance.
- Conduct a review of the Pesticide Use ordinance and recommend revisions to City Council.
- Develop an ordinance to limit the impact of fertilizers on land and to the bay.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Action item 9: Initiate broad community outreach programs to educate residents and businesses about South Portland's sustainability policies, practices and programs.

- Utilize the City's website, community newsletter, newspapers, and social media to educate community members about sustainability programs and practices including

energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste reduction and recycling, and organic land management.

- Organize events such as workshops and forums to engage community members on specific issues.
- Partner with schools and ecomaine to do a waste reduction workshop for all 2nd graders annually.
- Attend/participate in trainings, forums and workshops to keep South Portland up to date with leadership on sustainability issues.
- Give presentations and guest lectures at conferences and colleges as asked.
- Collaborate and interact with community groups and organizations to build support for and increase awareness about South Portland's initiatives.
- Work with the ERC to develop and promote energy and waste reduction programs.

Action item 10: Incorporate equity into sustainability messaging and programming.

- Participate in trainings to learn more about incorporating equity into messaging and programming.
- Include equity requirements in requests for proposals, grant applications, position descriptions, etc.
- Incorporate inclusiveness strategy in engagement and program/policy development processes.
- Ensure that resources and benefits/burdens of policies and programs are distributed fairly.