

Task Force Scope and Process

Task Force Scope and Objectives

In April 2009, the Wake County Board of Commissioners identified three major goals for the year. One of the goals is to update and enhance the County's Environmental Stewardship Agenda to incorporate strategies for sustainability and "green" initiatives. As part of the goal, the Board specified five elements:

1. Expanding the use of alternative fuel vehicles
2. Pursuing LEED certification for large capital projects
3. Continuing to make energy efficient improvements and upgrades in buildings
4. Expanding partnerships in reuse and recycling
5. Establishing a Citizens' Task Force to evaluate current strategies and recommend changes and new strategies

Consistent with the Board of Commissioner's goal, the Task Force discussions will focus on the following focus areas:

- **Water Resources Conservation and Management** – including topics such as demand management, reclaimed water, surface water and groundwater management, drought response, etc.
- **Solid Waste Reduction and Management** – including topics such as recycling, waste reduction, waste diversion, etc.
- **Energy Conservation and Management** – including topics such as electricity and natural gas consumption, energy efficient building design, vehicle fuel efficiency, etc.

The objectives of the Sustainability Task Force will be to (a) develop recommendations that are environmentally and financially sustainable for each of the three focus areas, and (b) develop performance measures by which the County, and the community as a whole, can measure progress toward the achievement of sustainability targets in the areas of water, waste and energy.

Task Force Schedule and Process

The Task Force is scheduled to meet on the third Thursday of every month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The Task Force will meet for 12-14 months and the meetings will be open to the public. In addition to attending the meetings, interested parties will be able to follow the progress of the

group and provide feedback meetings discussions through a website managed by NCSU facilitators.

The Task Force will use a consensus-based decision making process rather than a majority voting process. Group decisions will be made with the concurrence of all members represented at the meeting and it will be the facilitator's responsibility to assist the group in reaching consensus. In any instances when the group cannot reach a consensus, the points of disagreement will be noted in the Task Force reports.

The Task Force will discuss sustainability measures for water, waste and energy using a two step process. During the Phase I process (six to seven months), the Task Force members will work together to (a) review, discuss and evaluate the effectiveness and performance of the existing sustainability measures for water, waste and energy that are being utilized by public and private sector entities in Wake County, and (b) identify, research and evaluate new and emerging sustainability measures for water, waste and energy that are being used by other public and private entities in other geographic areas. At the conclusion of Phase I process, the Task Force will summarize their findings and recommendations of sustainability measures for water, waste and energy that should be considered for more detailed study as part of the Phase II process. This interim report will be submitted to the Wake County Board of Commissioners as an update of the Task Force process.

During the Phase II process (six to seven months), the Task Force members will work together to identify, review and evaluate the technical, regulatory, financial, and institutional requirements necessary to implement the sustainability measures identified during the Phase I process. In addition, the Task Force members will work to develop performance measures by which the County, and the community as a whole, can measure progress toward the achievement of sustainability targets in the areas of water, waste and energy. At the conclusion of Phase II process, the Task Force will summarize their findings and recommendations in the form of a report that will be titled, "Wake County Environmental Stewardship Agenda", and submitted to the Wake County Board of Commissioners for consideration.