



# Rapid City Sustainability Committee 2022-2023 Work Plan

Adopted 11.28.22

## Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Rapid City Standing Committee on Sustainability is to encourage education, stewardship, and policy leadership that will make our community a leader in economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

## Purpose:

The Standing Committee on Sustainability (also known as the Rapid City Sustainability Committee, or RCSC for short) serves the City of Rapid City in several capacities, including educating citizens about sustainability through social media, hosting events, and working directly with City employees. It acts as a sounding board for citizens or groups who propose sustainable efforts or practices, often encouraging them for further consideration. It consults with and assists City departments, including Public Works, Community Development, and Parks and Recreation, while also serving as a resource to the Rapid City Common Council. Committee members represent the City as ambassadors at local/national events and recognize sustainable efforts in the community through its awards program.

RCSC has established three (3) working Subcommittees to pursue its mission and achieve the goals included in this adopted annual work plan: *Education/Events/Outreach*, *City Facilities*, and *Sustainable Development*.

## Work Plan Goals & Action Items listed by Subcommittee:

### Education/Events/Outreach (EEO)

1. Continue work toward having a large regional presence for events (digital, physical or combination of both) for Earth Day, Sustainability Fair, City-Wide Cleanup Week, Climate Day, SD Arbor Day, etc. to raise awareness about sustainability, climate change.
  - a. Set up and maintain a comprehensive and interactive environmental calendar that includes not only our events but others around the region and world - such as Overshoot Day, Earth

Hour, Earth Day, Arbor Day and many more, to promote awareness and keep issues in front of people. This will also help with finding and posting content to social media.

2. Continue work as a committee and with partners toward general education and awareness (not necessarily event-based) using multiple platforms (social media, the local news stations, physical signs, public speaking, etc.).
  - a. Maintain and grow social media presence.
  - b. Establish contact points in schools for teachers or activity directors interested in sustainability and support educational initiatives that support environmental stewardship.
3. Continue work on PBR (Plastic Bag Reduction), single-use plastic reduction (SUPR).
  - a. Rebrand PBR as a single use plastics reduction initiative; encourage businesses/consumers to move away from single use plastics (while treading carefully with the ban on banning plastic bags/containers – 2020 Senate Bill 54).
  - b. Check into the start-up "Deliver Zero" to help reduce take-out waste.
4. Begin work on other ideas, namely an eco-tourism conference, LOOP-type shopping service, etc.
  - a. Set up an interest meeting for an eco-tourism conference to assess whether that is a feasible option.
5. Work closely with the members of this committee and others as they arise (sustainability coordinator, city staff, business owners) to promote sustainability awareness.

## City Facilities (CF)

1. The City hires a Sustainability Coordinator by the end of 2022, as part of the 2023 budget.
  - a. Present a power-point to City Council prior to finalization of the budget.
  - b. Follow up with city leadership to continue to justify, define, and advocate for this position.
2. Encourage the City to prioritize energy efficiency in all new construction and renovations of city facilities.
3. The City supports the transition to electric vehicles by installing electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS) and purchasing electric vehicles.
  - a. Install at least four EVCS on city land by the end of 2023.
  - b. Encourage the city to begin electrifying its fleet by purchasing at least one electric vehicle in 2023.
  - c. Follow the Federal Infrastructure Bill funding to help the city install EVCS and buy electric vehicles.

4. City Council, planning, and engineering departments prioritize inclusion of Dark Skies best practices in early design phases of all exterior lighting projects that the city has any control over.
  - a. Work with the IDA and others to draft an ordinance to propose to the city by the end of 2023.
  - b. Meet with engineering and/or planning staff.
  - c. Find a city project to use to demonstrate good outdoor lighting.
5. City demonstrates support for renewable energy.
  - a. Write a renewable energy resolution stating city support of renewable energy and provide it to the City Council for consideration by December 2023.
  - b. Gather commitments to install a solar array on a city facility.
6. Draft a Sustainability Plan by the end of 2023.

## Sustainable Development (SD)

1. Expand alternative transportation infrastructure in Rapid City in order to improve the connectivity, safety, and affordability of the community.
  - a. Support the expansion of Rapid Ride's public transit routes.
  - b. Promote City plans and policies which will expand and create more pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, particularly in growing areas of the community.
  - c. Help to implement the key steps identified by The League of American Bicyclists Report Card (2021) in order to make Rapid City a more bicycle-friendly community.
2. Maintain and expand pollinator habitat and promote the importance of pollinators through education and awareness in Rapid City.
  - a. Work with the Parks & Recreation Department to host Pollinator Week and other pollinator advocacy activities and to fulfill Rapid City's annual Bee City USA commitments and Mayor's Monarch Pledge action items.
  - b. Maintain a demonstration pollinator garden at City Hall.
  - c. Incorporate pollinator education into committee outreach events, such as Earth Day, and on social media.
  - d. Create a native plant list and sourcing information for distribution to local greenhouses and residents.
  - e. Collaborate with the Community Development Department on updating the city's landscape regulations.
3. Incorporate Low Impact Design (LID) and Green Infrastructure (GI) principles into City stormwater practices and local development.
  - a. Work with City staff to incorporate LID and GI into planned landscaped ordinance revisions and 6th Street Corridor plans.

- b. Continue public outreach/education and research work, including LID and GI components, for Stevens and Central High Schools' new Environmental Science programs.
  - c. Host a GI/LID and sustainable landscape practices tour in conjunction with pollinator advocacy.
4. Promote and encourage water conservation practices throughout the city.
- a. Obtain most recent study on water use and demands by category for Rapid City.
  - b. Obtain information on conservation practices currently being used by Rapid City.
  - c. Identify potential for implementation of sustainable water use/demand actions in the Rapid City service area.
5. Support quality growth policies that encourage in-fill development that limit sprawl and reduce vehicle dependency.
- a. Work with City Staff to review local development policies, requirements, and incentives.
  - b. Collaborate with the Community Development Department on updating the City's Tax Increment Financing policy.
  - c. Support projects and public improvements that increase urban residential density and improve access to affordable housing.

## **Evaluation:**

Each subcommittee will annually review their goals at the second January and June meetings to assess their progress and make recommendations for any changes or updates needed to the committee at large for consideration of incorporation into this work plan.

## **Events:**

Earth Day

Sustainability Award Presentations

Dark Sky Week

Clean-Up Week

Pollinator Week

## **Partners:**

Rapid City Youth City Council – Environmental Committee

SD School of Mines

Western Dakota Tech

Dakota Rural Action

International Dark-Sky Association – South Dakota Chapter

Rapid Creek Watershed Action

Visit Rapid City

## **Budget:**

The RCSC works on \$2,000 per year funded by the City.

## **Current Meetings & Members:**

Meetings are held every second and fourth Monday of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m., either in person at City Hall (Second Floor Community Room) or via Zoom. The first meeting each month is dedicated to regular business, while the second meeting is intended for subcommittee work sessions.

Membership consists of 12 voting and 2 alternate members recommended by the Chair and appointed by the Mayor.

Applicants from the fields of commerce, education, energy, local government, alternative transportation, planning, recycling, green building, and the community at large are encouraged to apply.

### **Members:**

Alan Anderson – *Chair*

Dr. Scott Kenner – *Vice-Chair*

Ria Harper – *Secretary*

Patricia Scarborough – *Treasurer*

Cathy Thrash – *Social Media Coordinator*

Dr. Ilke Celik

Stacie Granum

David Holland

Kelli Juhl

Jason Phillips

Garth Wadsworth

Lysann Zeller

Olivia Boerger – *Alternate*

Nicole Uhre-Balk – *Alternate*

### **City Liaisons:**

Pat Roseland (City Council – Ward 5)

Calli Pearson (Mayor's Office)

## Connect with Us:

City Website: [www.rcgov.org/public-meetings/city-committees/standing-committee-on-sustainability-497.html](http://www.rcgov.org/public-meetings/city-committees/standing-committee-on-sustainability-497.html)

Web: [www.rapidcitysustainability.com](http://www.rapidcitysustainability.com)

Email: [rapidcitysustainability@gmail.com](mailto:rapidcitysustainability@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RapidCitySustainability](http://www.facebook.com/RapidCitySustainability)

Instagram: [@RapidCitySustainability](https://www.instagram.com/RapidCitySustainability)