



Sustainability: What Makes Us Viable Why Is This Important For Sartell: Be Healthy



Sustainability is a broad concept that involves all aspects of city operations, business decisions, and daily life. It can be described as ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially just and humane. We live in a time in which increased population growth, high levels of consumption and the desire to feed growing economies have created escalating demands on our resources - natural, human and social. These demands can negatively impact the natural environment, our communities and the quality of our lives. In the face of these challenges, people have begun to develop a growing desire to live sustainably. It is important to be cognizant of the decisions and developments that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

GOAL 1: PROMOTE A WISE USE OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Forward-thinking cities across the country are seeking ways to limit their impact on the environment. Reducing waste, conserving water, recycling and reusing materials are not only good for the local environment but also, a way to save money. Sartell has already emerged as a leader in sustainability by promoting rain gardens, rain barrels, compost bins, and by becoming a Greenstep City to not only continue those sustainable practices already in place but to expand those.

Potential Strategies May Include These And Other Future Cool Ideas:

1.1 Promote Citywide Recycling

Encourage all residents and businesses to recycle by launching a public education campaign designed to raise awareness about local recycling programs. Make it easier for residents and businesses to recycle by providing recycling bins in local parks and shops across the City. Consider partnering with national programs like RecycleBank, which offers incentives for recycling.

1.2 Use Recycled Materials For Trail Improvements And Other Public Improvements

There are a variety of materials that could potentially be used for trails and public spaces. Instead of using pavers or asphalt, seek to use recycled materials like recycled tires, where appropriate. These materials are attractive, durable provide environmental benefits, and reduce the burden on landfills.

1.3 Investigate Alternative Energy Production Methods

Some cities have saved money over the long-term by investing in alternative energy to power their facilities. Methods like solar power generation, solar hot water heaters, and waste-to-energy plants can provide local power that is less costly for users than traditional utilities. A waste-to-energy plant would require significant discussion and study to test the feasibility locally.

Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting City facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money. Install LED's when replacing city lighting.



Adopt an environmentally preferable purchasing policy to only purchase Energy Star equipment and appliance for City use.

Promote community and business energy conservation, including adopting ordinances and policies to provide incentives for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and reductions in greenhouse gasses.

Adopt purchasing guidelines for the City of Sartell that include renewable energy sources.

Promote the use of active and passive solar energy for heating, lighting, and other aspects of design, construction, remodeling and operation of City buildings.

Leverage the Solar and Wind Access Law to establish policies that restrict development for protecting solar access to light.

Create benchmarks of current energy use in all public facilities and set a goal to reduce energy use and costs according to the ICLEI milestones and the Minnesota Global Warming Mitigation Act of 2007.

1.4 Promote A Healthy Urban Forest And Healthy Air

Promote tree planting through programs to annually increase tree canopy throughout the city, including but not limited to parks, schools, neighborhoods and private commercial developments. Require the planting of native trees for city projects and multi-family and commercial development. Encourage native landscaping where practical.

Cooperate with enforcement of the Clean Air Act and other laws and regulations relating to air quality including Minnesota's Freedom to Breathe Act.

GOAL 2: REEVALUATE ORDERLY ANNEXATION AGREEMENTS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES AND RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS

This goal describes the preservation and management of natural resources, including, but not limited to air, water, green spaces, natural areas and farmlands, through sustainable land use practices.

Potential Strategies May Include These And Other Future Cool Ideas:

2.1 Reevaluate Orderly Annexation Agreements to Ensure Sustainable Development Practices and Resource Allocations

2.2 Create Development Patterns That Support Walking and Biking and Enhance Community Health

Require bike parking for residential apartments and commercial developments. Ensure new developments are developed with connections to existing trails and sidewalks.

2.3 Expand and Enhance Green Corridors As New Development and Redevelopment Occurs

2.4 Create Low-Impact Development Guidelines

Integrate guidelines into the codes that reduce the impact of new residential and commercial development. This may include provisions for reduced road widths (to slow traffic) in neighborhoods, sidewalks, tree plantings, recycled materials, Energy Star compliance and strategies to help manage and store stormwater for gardening and other uses.



2.5 Encourage Infill Development and Redevelopment within the Primary Growth Area

“Smart growth” can help create more walkable environments and less dependence on motor vehicles. Encourage development and redevelopment of core areas to create a more compact and walkable environment. Look at incentives to help offset the costs of redevelopment.

GOAL 3: PROTECT AND IMPROVE SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

Potential Strategies May Include These And Other Future Cool Ideas:

3.1 Update and Revise Storm, Water and Sewer Plans

Provide For The Effective Removal Of Sanitary Sewage.

Continuously monitor sewage flow at principal metering points to ensure capacity of the system.

Continue to upgrade and monitor the local system through both televising lines and electronic utility data collections.



Continue to eliminate private on-site sewage systems.

Continue strict standards and inspections for private sewer line connections to the public sanitary sewer system.

Provide For The Management Of Storm Water.

Modify City review, permitting and enforcement processes for construction activities to ensure water quality goals are met.

Heighten community awareness of water quality management through education and training.

Work with adjacent municipalities to encourage upstream pollutant reduction in areas closer to the source of such pollutants.

Encourage the use of regional detention areas as opposed to individual onsite detention to reduce flooding, control discharge rates and provide for water quality management.

Achieve no net loss of wetlands. Discourage wetland alteration except those approved with a mitigation plan, which does not further degrade the wetland.

Seek to restore and/or enhance wetlands.

Promote A Healthy Water Supply.

Provide the City's water customers with safe, high-quality potable water by continuing to meet or exceed all Federal and State drinking water standards.

Provide sustainability of the city's water system through preservation and conservation. Project the existing sources of supply by the implementation of the Wellhead Protection Plan. Continue to implement a conservation-oriented water rate system that charges increasing fees for increasing use of water. Continue to provide education regarding conservation through the website, newspaper and public involvement.



Provide a reliable water system that can provide a safe supply of water during emergencies. Continue to complete water main looping of dead ends to improve available fire flow to customers. Work with adjacent communities to provide interconnections for emergency needs.

3.2 Encourage Water Conservation

Offer classes on how to conserve water but also on ways to capture storm water using rain barrels and rain gardens. Capturing stormwater on site means less flooding and provides water for gardening.

3.3 Seek Ways to Modify Street Improvement Projects to provide less impervious surface and utilize, porous pavement and other environmentally friendly techniques where possible.

3.4 Require Natural Buffers Along Water Resources

Adopt goals and create a local outreach program with property owners to help restore and revegetate shoreland.

3.5 Encourage Green Roofs

Green roofs can help create greater energy efficiency and prolong the service life of heating, ventilation, and HVAC systems leading to fewer pollutants entering our air. Green roofs also contribute to improvements in air quality and add an amenity to the building (community garden, terraces, playground area,)

GOAL 4: ENCOURAGE HEALTHY CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Potential Strategies May Include These And Other Future Cool Ideas:

4.1 Participate In Regional Communication and Collaboration

Collaborate with adjacent cities, counties, and organizations to help establish new and enhance existing events aimed at healthy living like marathons, fitness festivals, healthy food festivals, and other events that bring awareness and promote the importance of healthy citizens and businesses.

4.2 Promote Healthy Community Programs such as the development of public education programs that endorse healthy activities for residents, and development of infrastructure to enhance walking and biking opportunities.

Incentivize race and other healthy activity organizers to hold more events in Sartell.

4.3 Promote Sustainable Food Systems

Promote sustainable food systems through education to the private and public food service industry; including school cafeteria programs. Areas to be included are farmer's markets, buy locally, community supported agriculture (CSA's), sustainable agriculture practices, and "reduce, reuse, and recycle" practices for restaurant waste.



4.4 Encourage Composting

Composting is the process of transforming food waste and landscape material like leaves into fertilizer and soil. Soil produced from this process is rich in nutrients and excellent for gardening. Reach out to the various neighborhoods to explain the benefits of composting, and work with them to utilize the City's compost site for their neighborhoods. Also, encourage local restaurants to manage a shared composting site for food waste. Composting food waste from restaurants reduces the amount of trash they need to have collected, and the resulting soil could be used for landscaping around those restaurants or in local parks or community gardens.

4.5 Encourage Green Construction

Assist residents and builders on green building techniques and adopt incentives for green building construction i.e. green roofs, rain gardens, geothermal technology, porous concrete, water saving plumbing fixtures.

4.6 Promote Community Gardens

The City of Sartell provides land for two community gardens with over 100 garden plots. Continue to work with neighborhoods, organizations and others to support community gardens.

4.7 Hazardous Waste.

Encourage proper disposal of hazardous and other problem materials such as e-waste through public education. Publicize and promote the facilities residents can bring household hazardous waste like electronics, paint, cosmetics, and batteries to for proper disposal.