



2016 SUSTAINABLE PROVIDENCE UPDATE

WASTE

COMPLETED

Incorporate lessons into the school curriculum about waste diversion.	Recycling and composting has been integrated into the new Next Generation Science Standards. Grades K-2 create and monitor recycling in their classrooms throughout the year. Grades 3 - 5 implement composting in the classrooms.
Establish a permanent drop-off location for electronic waste.	In October 2014, the City established a more secure and well-maintained e-waste site at DPW – open on Saturdays from 7 am - 1 pm.
Implement a pilot project to encourage public events to incorporate waste reduction, recycling and sustainability strategies.	Green Event Guidelines checklist incorporated into online event permit application; Implemented Zero Waste Stations at PVD Fest 2016 that resulted in a 80% diversion rate

IN PROGRESS

Implement Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) purchasing ordinance to favor vendors with responsible recycling and diversion programs.	IT department currently donates and recycles e-waste; Need to find out about light bulbs, paint
Reduce use of disposable service ware in school cafeterias.	Installed dishwashers in 12 schools to eliminate use of Styrofoam trays
Develop a plan to implement a Pay-As-You-Throw waste management program.	Explored an "overflow" program that would make special bags available for purchase for trash that doesn't fit in city-issued bin.
Develop a cross-departmental plan to repurpose waste wood from Forestry Division operations.	Working on identifying suitable site; Incorporate into Urban Forest Master Plan.
Conduct a waste audit of materials disposed and recycled from City properties to identify priority items for waste reduction or diversion strategies.	
Explore strategies to reduce usage of single-use items that are difficult to recycle	The Office of Sustainability is working with UpStream and a number of other NGOs and North American cities to create policy solutions to address certain plastics and other hard-to-recycle materials.

ON GOING

Promote development of businesses which will assist in implementation of waste diversion goals including mattress recycling operations and composting.	City participating in statewide mattress recycling program; statewide composting legislation passed
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ON HOLD

Expand the Big Green Can for Business recycling program.	Roughly 50 businesses are currently participating. Expansion is on hold until we have cleaner routes so we can ensure that participants recyclables are not going to landfill
Expand the Providence Composts! pilot project to additional locations to serve more households.	After expanded in 2015 to 7 sites, the program is on hold because the funding source is no longer available. Furthermore, after speaking with program contractors and other stakeholders, it was determined that the model was not scalable.

NEW

Increase recycling in the public realm	New recycling bins being installed on Admiral Street
Add composting services to municipal buildings, including schools	Composting program piloted in Charles Fortes Elementary School
Create requirements for sustainable waste management at public events	Incorporated recycling and composting at the 2016 Providence International Arts Festival and diverted 80% of festival waste.

ENERGY

COMPLETED

Develop an energy use baseline for all City-owned properties	Published report that encompasses baseline data.
Identify all programs available to Providence property owners and gather data on use of programs by Providence property owners to establish a baseline of program utilization.	Program data has been collected and a baseline has been established.
Complete the renewable energy feasibility study of City property.	Study completed in May 2015.
Launch Solarize campaign for Providence residents	Promote WBNA's Solarize Programs and launched a municipal Solarize program with RI Office of Energy Resources. This program resulted in over 30 contracts signed that will increase installed capacity in Providence by 200 kW.

IN PROGRESS

Convert streetlights to energy efficient technology	Under contract with PRISM to purchase and convert all streetlights to LEDs with dimmable controls. Expected cost savings: \$3.3 million; Expected KWH savings: 13.7 kWh; Expected CO ₂ savings: 8,500-9,400 metric tons of CO ₂
Install renewable energy on city-owned properties	Released RFP for solar development on city buildings and selected solar installer.
Establish tax assessment policies that encourage renewable energy development	Solar panels on residential properties are not currently taxed. The state recently passes legislation allowing municipalities to charge solar energy producers \$5.75/kw produced. The City has not implemented this charge.
Implement deep-energy retrofits on municipal buildings	Using the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank's (RIIB) Efficient Building Fund (EBF) to invest \$1 million in 5 buildings for deep energy retrofits that will result in energy savings of over 40%.
Encourage large businesses and property owners to measurement and disclosure energy and GHG emissions	Held workshop in the spring of 2016 with over 40 property owners and managers in attendance. Selected for City Energy Project

ON GOING

Complete audits on City-owned buildings to identify energy efficiency opportunities	23 IGA completed to date; All schools audited through RI Dept. of Education
Implement an employee education campaign to engage City employees in achieving energy conservation goals	Conducted Energy Challenges in 9 City buildings; Integrated sustainability intro into new employee onboarding training

Promote participation in energy reduction programs available to City property owners.

Participating in the Georgetown University Energy Prize; Mayor's Home Energy Assessment; Completed Find Your Four! RI Energy Challenge; Hosted energy management educational event with RI OER, National Grid, Emerald Cities and others in the spring of 2016; Awarded City Energy Project grant

ON HOLD

None

NEW

Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy incentive programs to developers, contractors, and homeowners as they interface with City permitting and project approval processes

FOOD

COMPLETED

Align City of Providence planning, zoning, and funding to support healthy food consumption and local food purchases.

Zoning is permissive of urban agriculture; Healthy food access grants created

IN PROGRESS

Support the establishment of indoor farmer market space throughout city neighborhoods

ONGOING

Maximize use of Providence's land for urban agriculture, including vacant City-owned property.

5 Lots of Hope properties, including a new greenhouse. Charles St is in the works; identify new LoH site

Support food processing business development

HCO developed guide for onsite farm sales through LASA grant

ON HOLD

None

NEW

Create a Providence school garden initiative

Assessment of current school garden activities completed, Hired coordinator

Healthy Food Access Grants program

Distribute \$125,000 in healthy food access funds;

Expand PPSD's commitment to purchasing locally-sourced food

PPSD requires that RI-grown products compose at least 15% of all food purchases annually

Expand availability and use of SNAP/WIC enhancement incentives (e.g. Bonus Bucks)

Support outreach and communication regarding utilization of SNAP and WIC at farmers markets, including Bonus Bucks

Expand adoption of season-extension technology in urban agricultural sector

Completion of first Lots of Lope Hope Greenhouse

TRANSPORTATION

COMPLETED

Remove parking minimums and allow shared parking in the City's new zoning ordinances.	Removed parking minimums in downtown and TOD zones; reduced parking mins in other areas of the city; Allowed for shared parking and allowed for other parking flexibilities throughout the city
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IN PROGRESS

Incorporate Complete Streets concepts into all future road construction and repair projects.	US DOT Mayor's Challenge; RIDOT funding to develop complete streets implementation plan and conduct staff training; Empowered BPAC to have a stronger voice in city decisions; Worked with RIDOT to advocate for Complete Streets design concepts in major city projects such as Pleasant valley parkway bridge
Lead the effort to transform Kennedy Plaza into a lively civic center.	First phase completed
Work with RIPTA to implement their five-year strategic plan.	Successfully launched R-line service along Broad and N. Main streets
Advance efforts to introduce a modern streetcar system, beginning with a line connecting College Hill to the Hospital District	Secured federal TIGER funding to advanced bus circulator
Launch a municipal bike-share program.	Continued sponsorship outreach; Secured federal funding through TIGER grant
Oversee the construction of a new pedestrian bridge over the Providence River linking the Jewelry District to Fox Point and develop plans for the extension of this pedestrian and bike-friendly path from India Point Park to Roger Williams Park.	90% design completed; Construction is scheduled to begin in 2016

ONGOING

Be the lead municipal advocate for stable state funding for the Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority (RIPTA)

ON HOLD

None

NEW

<i>Created a 10-year vision for transportation in the City</i>	Seeking funding
<i>Update Bike Plan</i>	Updated existing conditions map; Seeking funding
<i>Support the development of ZEV infrastructure</i>	
<i>Reduce GHG emissions from municipal fleet</i>	Collected data and established baseline
<i>Assess sidewalk conditions and map assets to determine needs</i>	Currently underway as part of the city's streetlight conversion program
<i>Promote incentives for City employees to take alternative transportation to work</i>	New ZipCar Program; Bike to Work Day; EcoPasses available to employees and interns
<i>Create mechanism for businesses to request and install bike parking</i>	
<i>Incorporate bike programming into city schools and recreation centers</i>	Rec. center bike program piloted in 2015. There will be two bike education classes with rec centers this fall. Piloting bike education at Bailey Elementary this spring with Recycle-A-Bike. Parks and HCO are sponsors of Red Shed bike camp this summer.
<i>Invest in modern parking management system, adding more meters and payment methods</i>	The City will be contracting out this year to allow motorists to pay the parking meter by phone; Install meters that accept credit cards

WATER

COMPLETED

Adopt a Harbor Management Plan by 2015	<i>The Harbor Management Plan is completed and adopted. The City is awaiting approval from RI DEM.</i>
Complete the Upper Narragansett Bay Regional Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study by 2015	<i>Phase I was completed in 2015; Phase II was completed fall 2016</i>

IN PROGRESS

Continue to repair and update water supply infrastructure	<i>10.44 miles of cast iron water mains replaced/relined in 2015. 556 partial lead service lines replaced in 2015. The Influent Chamber rehabilitation and the Aerator rehabilitation projects at the Treatment Plant Installed 3,000 feet of new 16" Ductile Iron main in Cranston</i>
Implement recommendations of the Providence Water Supply Board expert panel investigating the issue of lead levels in drinking water	<i>Providence Water began to implement expert panel recommendations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued Unidirectional Flushing Program by flushing 105 miles of main • Continued the operation of pipe loops to evaluate/test various treatment options for corrosion control
Clean storm drains regularly to improve water quality	<i>The City typically has two trucks on the road (weather permitting) cleaning catch basins. Recently replaced one truck to expand capacity and now averaging 10-12 tons of material removed per day. Approximately 25% visited each year. Developing program to regularly inspect and clean catch basins</i>
Work toward fulfillment of Total Maximum Daily Load, stormwater management, and wastewater requirements	<i>Measures being taken to address TMDL requirements:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public education and outreach in the watershed of Roger Williams Park Ponds, Mashapaug Pond, and Woony River. • Installation of several stormwater retrofits in the RW Park. • Bio-infiltration Basin in the J.T. Owens Park • Citizen Bank Rain Garden Demo. • Streets are swept 6 to 7 times per year
Develop and implement a comprehensive plan to achieve 30% tree canopy citywide and plan for systematic block pruning to maintain city street trees	<i>i-Tree Eco System Analysis report completed Feb. 2014. Systematic block pruning began. Funded from Helen Walker Raleigh Tree Care Trust with 50% match from City. In the process of developing map and full execution plan. Content for comprehensive tree plan exists</i>

ONGOING

Pursue pavement reduction strategies and implement green infrastructure projects to improve water quality and reduce flooding

Brown TRI-lab work in West End; Various green infrastructure projects at Roger Williams Park; RIPTA parking lot: largest permeable pavement lot in New England; Pleasant Valley Stormwater Improvement Project and others. Visit <http://www.greeninfrastructure.ri.org/> for complete list of projects.

ON HOLD

None

NEW

Explore opportunities to incorporate stormwater management best practices into zoning and other regulations

Working with support from Harvard Law Environmental Policy Initiative to examine all ordinances

Develop and Implement a Citizen Forester Program

Train citizens to do structural pruning and other basic tree maintenance on small trees; Funding from the Raleigh-Providence Young Tree Care Fund

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

COMPLETED

Develop incentive programs and policies that increase the sustainability features and characteristics of existing uses of land, buildings, and other forms of development.

IN PROGRESS

None

ONGOING

None

ON HOLD

Provide training to City employees in using the Sustainability Evaluation Tool for evaluating proposed development projects as well as proposed changes to existing development.

NEW

Incorporate climate and sustainability survey into project review process to create baseline of current practices

Use tax stabilization agreement (TSA), zoning variance requests, and other processes to encourage advanced sustainable design in new development

Emphasize the importance of sustainable design upon initial engagement with developers

Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy incentive programs to developers, contractors, and homeowners as they interface with City permitting and project approval processes

CLIMATE – NEW SECTION!

COMPLETED

<i>Establish a baseline inventory for community-wide greenhouse gas emissions</i>	<i>Completed first citywide GHG inventory</i>
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IN PROGRESS

<i>Lead by example by tracking and disclosing municipal greenhouse gas emissions</i>	<i>Emissions from buildings have been calculated as part of the City's 2015 Municipal Energy Report. Baseline data from municipal fleet has been collected.</i>
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<i>Engage large, long-term property owners to meet climate mitigation and resilience goals</i>	<i>With support from the Climate Center for Energy Solutions, the Office of Sustainability hosted a two-day workshop with key private sector, university, and healthcare stakeholders to evaluate and discuss Providence's long-term climate resilience.</i>
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NEW

<i>Set interim greenhouse gas reduction target</i>	<i>On Earth Day 2016, Mayor Elorza issued an executive order that set a goal for Providence to become a carbon neutral city by 2050.</i>
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<i>Include climate vulnerability assessments in the update of neighborhood plans</i>	
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<i>Assess the vulnerability of the port and the surrounding industrial areas</i>	
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