



## U.S. EPA'S GREEN COMMUNITIES TOOL KIT CRITERIA

### GREEN & SUSTAINABLE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are part of the U.S. EPA's Green Communities Tool Kit, used by cities seeking the U.S. EPA's Green Communities Certification ([www.epa.gov/greenkit/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/index.htm)). This tool kit is used as a planning guide to becoming a sustainable community. The following tools would be implemented by various groups within the community.

#### 1. Community Assessment

- Where are we now?
- Use SustainLane criteria to guide this assessment.
- Assess economic vitality, social health/quality of life and environmental health.
- Ensure the community is actively involved in the process.

#### 2. Trends Analysis

- Where are we going?
- Use SustainLane criteria to guide this analysis.
- Determine trends and predict the future based on those trends. (What will happen if there's no intervention? Are these trends sustainable?)
- Present these possible scenarios to the community to gather support.
- Use indicators to measure/guide the community. Help interpret information collected for trends, growth rates, problem areas and available resources.

#### 3. Vision Statement

- Where do we want to be?
- Quantitative data is not always required – sometimes qualitative data meets the need.
- Focus on issues in which the community is interested.

#### 4. Sustainable Action Plan

- How do we get there?
- Involve the community through neighborhoods, universities, citizen groups, etc.
- Develop a visioning process that suits the community.
- Create visual representations of alternative futures.
- Develop indicators/benchmarks to monitor progress.
- Develop action plans.

#### 5. Implementation

- Let's go!
- Action plans have been developed.
- Specific projects have been identified for quick implementation, as early success will bring long-term community commitment and participation.