

# Suggested Revisions to NENH Development Plan for Integrating the Sustainability Goals

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Consider mentioning the new Zoning Code somewhere in the Introduction to the Plan. Take the opportunity to point out that the NENH area will be developed under the new code, and that it will encourage more sustainable development. (In the current draft, the first mention of the applicability of the new code doesn't appear until the Implementation section, on page 71, and then only in a discussion of Design Standards.)

## **II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PLANNING CONTEXT**

### **Section J Sustainability Goals (p. 19ff)**

Consider using language from RFQ for Code Rewrite hiring process to explain TNS: The Natural Step is based on the following principles: a) reducing dependence upon fossil fuels, extracted underground metals and materials; b) reducing dependence on chemicals and other manufactured substances that can accumulate in nature; c) reducing dependence on activities that harm life's ecosystems; and d) reducing dependence on activities that interfere with other people's abilities to meet their basic needs.

Put Background Information/Baseline at the end (c) of each section.  
Begin with a) The Goal, followed by b) Sustainability Benefits of the Goal.

## **III. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It appears that most of these chapters would be included in any neighborhood development plan, but several focus exclusively on sustainability goals adopted by the Common Council for the Northeast Planning Area. To better educate readers of the Plan, and to incorporate sustainability into every aspect of city activity, consider folding the "sustainability goal" into the more general presentation of the standard subject areas. For example:

- The goal of reducing household water use (G) could be the first section of the Public Water Service section (currently K) either as introductory material or the new #1.
- The goal of retaining stormwater on-site (H) could be incorporated into what is currently Section L (Stormwater Management).
- The goal of delivering City services in energy efficient ways (I) could be the first section of Other City of Madison Services (currently M).

The goal of reducing dependence on the automobile is explained well in Transportation Section E, as are the recommendations. Perhaps this section can serve as an example of how to present and explain the sustainability goal, then provide recommendations that will help to accomplish the goal in the other areas identified in the Council's resolution.

The introductory sentence that follows the titles of Sections F, G, and H should be expanded to provide a better framework for what follows. These sections which, in their current form, are simply lists of "practices" would benefit from more narrative.

The goal of reducing household energy consumption (Section F) may have no historic or obvious place in the standard presentation of neighborhood development plans, so for this goal to stand on its own seems appropriate; although it may be time to consider whether a section on Energy (who will provide, from what sources, etc) should be an element of this plan, as well as future plans. In the interest of educating the reader, consider revising Section F to be more narrative, explaining the role of the "practices" listed there (similar to the way in which the transportation options are presented in Section E).

On page 55, the list in #3, the 4<sup>th</sup> bullet point about lighting options is stated in a way that limits the options to CF or LED. There may be other places in the "possible practices" lists, too, where stating the principle and then including a couple of examples might be preferable; someday, hopefully, we will have more than these two low-energy options for lighting. So, for example, "use low-energy sources for indoor and outdoor lighting, e.g. compact fluorescents, light-emitting diodes, and other technologies as they become available"

In Section I, delivery of City services on page 58, consider adding examples for each of the 7 "practices" currently listed, especially when the City is already doing it, e.g. solar hot water heating in Fire Stations, solar electric installations at libraries.

#### **IV. IMPLEMENTATION**

Returning to the Sustainability Goals, and devoting a section to them here works very well. Consider re-stating each goal at the beginning of its section to remind the reader of the language. The Tables and Incentives are very helpful, and the Measures/Monitoring as specific as possible at the present time.