

## Recent Initiatives

The City of Ann Arbor is a leader in community sustainability, developing progressive policies and implementing measures to protect our natural environment's air, land, water and people. The following examples highlight some of the City's recent environmental milestones. With your help, we can protect our spot on the big blue dot!

### Energy

- Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program
- Green Energy Challenge to increase city-wide renewable energy use
- Residential solar potential mapping
- Department of Energy Solar City
- 5,000 Solar Roofs Initiative
- Washtenaw County Wind Project LED Street Light Conversion Program
- ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection
- Green Energy Map

### Water

- Drinking water exceeds federal standards
- Huron River and Impoundment Management Plan
- A2H2O - Only Tap Water Delivers - reusable bottles
- Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens
- Phosphorus-free Fertilizer Ordinance
- Footing Drain Disconnect Program

### Parks and Recreation

- Parks, Recreation and Open Space plan
- Adopt-a-Park program established
- Frog, salamander and toad survey

### Transportation

- Non-motorized Transportation Plan
- Ann Arbor to Detroit Rapid Transit Study with SEMCOG
- Updating Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Model for Mobility - regional alternative transportation vision

### Recycling, Reuse, and Solid Waste

- RecycleBank
- Single stream recycling
- Recycling plant nearly doubles capacity
- New curbside compost carts

### Green Infrastructure

- Sustainability Framework
- Urban and Community Forest Management Plan
- Street and Park Tree Inventory Completed
- A2D2: Ann Arbor Discovers Downtown development recommendations
- Detention Pond Survey

### You Can Make A Difference

The actions you take each and every day can make a positive difference. The following simple steps add up in a big way.

#### To Keep Our Air Clean

- Save electricity. Adjust the air conditioner temperature a few degrees higher. Turn off appliances & lights when not in use. Purchase energy efficient appliances and products.
- Limit engine idling.
- Choose cleaner 4-stroke engines.

#### To Keep Our Water Clean

- Dispose of products safely. Don't pour household toxics such as oil, paint and pesticides down the drain.
- Do not flush unused medications. Over the counter and prescription medicines have been found in rivers.

#### To Encourage Efficient Mobility

- Use alternative modes of transportation. Try the bus, dust off your bike or walk to work.

#### To Sustain a Health-Promoting Urban Environment

- Get involved in public planning workshops.
- Support Smart Growth.

#### To Encourage Local Food Sufficiency

- Visit the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market.
- Become a shareholder in a community supported agriculture movement.

#### To Use Resources Responsibly

- Reduce! Be selective about your purchases.
- Reuse! Check Washtenaw County's online guide *Turning Trash into Treasure*
- Recycle! Use new single-stream carts.
- Compost! Start a home compost pile or use new compost carts.

#### To Maintain a Safe Community

- Dispose of products safely. Store household toxics such as oil, paint and pesticides out of flood areas.

#### To Stabilize the Climate

- Reduce your carbon footprint. Use an online greenhouse gas emissions calculator to identify ways you can cut your emissions.

#### To Encourage Sustainable Energy

- Conduct a home energy audit.
- Use the Sun. Visit the City's Web site to assess the solar potential of each Ann Arbor property.

#### To Foster Viable Ecosystems

- Volunteer with Natural Area Preservation or with the Adopt-A-Park program.
- Landscape with native plants.

*More tips, links and updates on City initiatives online at [www.a2gov.org/soe](http://www.a2gov.org/soe)*



# State Of Our Environment

[www.a2gov.org/soe/](http://www.a2gov.org/soe/)

2011 Green Fair

*Stable Climate is just one of the ten city environmental goals, but the potential impacts from a changing climate threaten our ability to reach many of our other goals. Many local projects are expected to help mitigate our greenhouse gas emissions. Even though there are large structural changes necessary at the national and state level, there are many things we can do at the local level to make Ann Arbor a leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.*

### Ann Arbor leads in environmental protection

The state of our local environment is relatively encouraging. Ann Arbor is at the forefront of numerous areas of environmental protection, including sustainable energy use, and protection of public health. **While there have been areas of improvement, there's no ignoring the potential of climate change to negate our local progress.** Without diligence on our part to anticipate and mitigate those threats, our future quality of life is at risk. For its part, the City of Ann Arbor is taking proactive steps to address those broader threats to our environment. And, fortunately, we have a great deal of influence over many environmental factors that impact our quality of life. This report addresses those components within the context of the city's recently adopted environmental action plan principles and goals.



**Recent Awards:** Ann Arbor has been recognized as a leader in environmental sustainability by a number of organizations. The following awards were presented by external organizations:

- 2011 Walk Friendly Community (Gold-level) by Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center
- 2010 Governmental Award of Excellences in Urban Forestry, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Council.
- Tree City USA (designated since 1980)
- Winner of the international Energy Globe Award for Sustainability at the 2010 World Environment Day (Rwanda) on June 3rd for LED lighting initiatives
- Top 20 On-site Green Power Generation, #13, (2010), EPA
- Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community, (2009), League of American Bicyclists
- Twelfth-ranked medium-sized Smarter City, (2009), Natural Resources Defense Council
- Outstanding Compost Operation Award, (2008), Michigan Recycling Coalition
- America's Healthiest Hometowns for Retirement, 1st Place (2008), AARP
- America's 50 Greenest Cities, (2008), Popular Science
- Best Walking Cities, 3rd place (2008), Prevention Magazine and the American Podiatric Medical Association
- Climate Innovation Invitational Award, (2007), ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability
- Promoting Active Communities Gold Award, (2006), The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports
- Top 21 Cities for Cyclists, (2006), Bicycling Magazine
- Outstanding Planning Project Award to the City of Ann Arbor's 2006 Northeast Area Plan (2006), Michigan Association of Planning
- Model Waste Reduction Program of North America, (1999), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Tree City USA, (member since 1982), National Arbor Day Foundation

# Measuring Progress Toward Our Environmental Goals

Each environmental goal has one or more primary indicators that we use to measure progress. We recognize that each indicator may support several of the City's environmental goals, but we have chosen to show each indicator only once on this matrix and associate each goal with its primary indicators.

There are many different ways to measure our progress. These indicators have been chosen because they demonstrate our:

\* regulatory compliance (e.g., National Ambient Air Quality Standards);

\* use of a resource (e.g., water and energy use); or

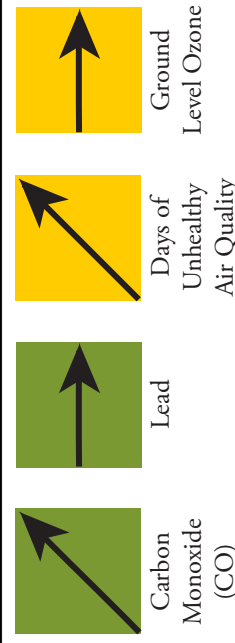
\* community choices (e.g., recycling, greenbelt purchases)



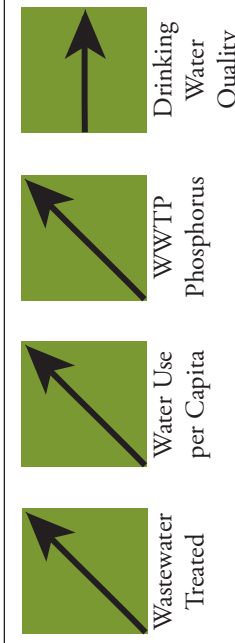
Data supporting each indicator's status and trend can be found online in the full report.

## Environmental Goals

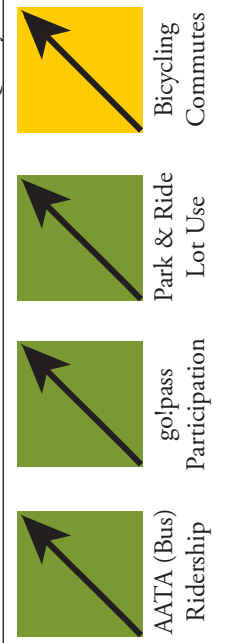
**Clean Air** - Eliminate air toxics, criteria pollutants, and persistent bioaccumulative toxins (PBT)



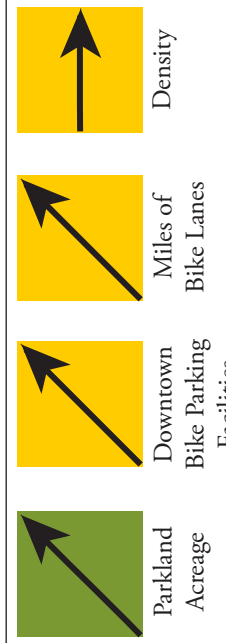
**Clean Water** - Ensure safe water for drinking, recreation, other uses, and other species



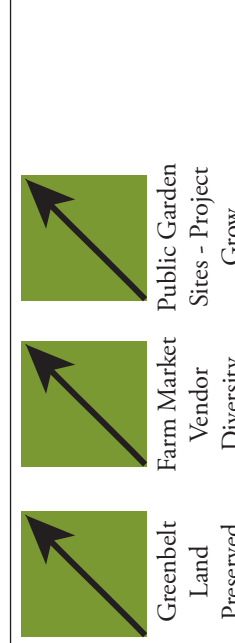
**Efficient Mobility** - Provide infrastructure and policies for efficient modes of transportation



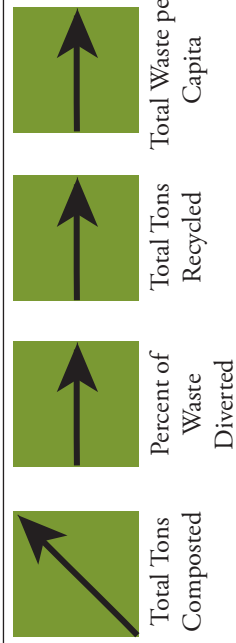
**Health-Promoting Urban Environment** - Ensure that the built environment promotes public health and improvements to the natural environment



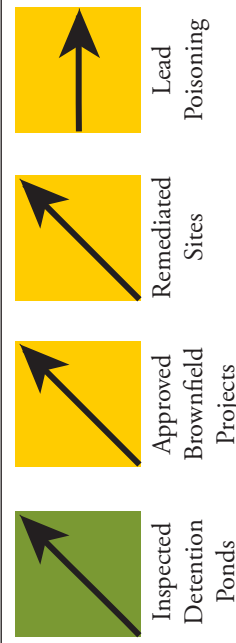
**Local Food Sufficiency** - Conserve, protect, and restore local agriculture and aquaculture resources



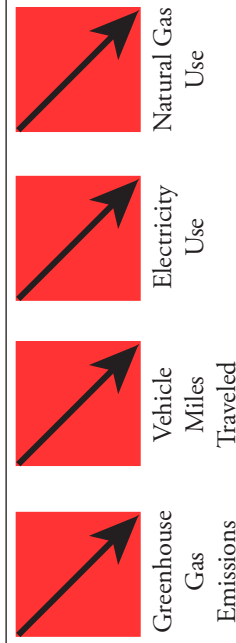
**Responsible Resource Use** - Produce zero waste



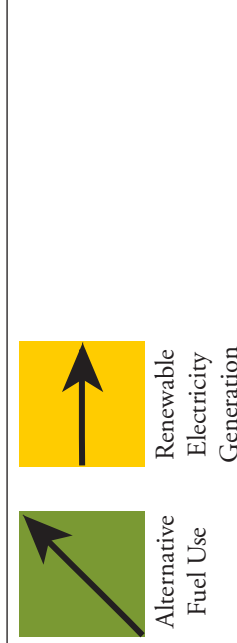
**Safe Community** - Eliminate damage to public health and property from natural and other hazards



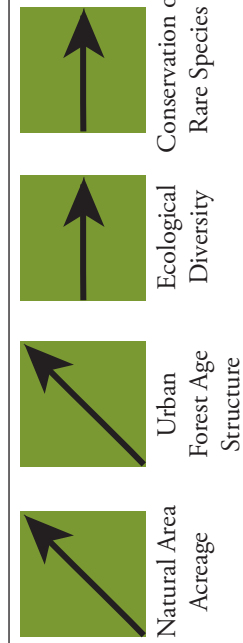
**Stable Climate** - Eliminate net greenhouse gas emissions and other destabilizing climate impacts



**Sustainable Energy** - Use 100% renewable energy



**Viable Ecosystems** - Conserve, protect, & restore aquatic & terrestrial ecosystems



Key

Good

Fair

Poor

Not Assessed

Where are we going?

Getting Better

Stable

Getting Worse

Unknown