



Sustainable Lawrence Creating an Eco-Municipality

What is Sustainable Lawrence?

Mission - To encourage the people and institutions of Lawrence Township to cooperatively adopt fundamental principles of sustainability and to develop policies and practices that fulfill those principles.

How did Sustainable Lawrence get started?

Sustainable Lawrence is an outgrowth of community conversations initiated and sponsored by **The Lawrence Township Community Foundation** in 2005. By following the principles of **the Natural Step** and working with other organizations and institutions in the township, Sustainable Lawrence aims to create an eco-municipality.

What is the Natural Step?

The Natural Step takes an upstream approach to sustainability and addresses problems at the source. The process begins by understanding the broader system within which problems occur and develop effective, durable solutions to the environmental and social issues of the new century.

The Natural Step Framework

Forming the criteria for the conference's choice of agenda items was the Natural Step framework. It poses four "system conditions" that serve as the basis for a community's choices:

- Eliminate the contribution to fossil fuel dependence and to wasteful use of scarce metals and minerals;
- Eliminate the contribution to dependence on persistent chemicals and wasteful use of synthetic substances (made by humans);
- Eliminate the contribution to encroachment upon nature (e.g., land, water, wildlife, forests, soil, ecosystems); and,
- Meet everyone's human needs fairly and efficiently.

Lawrence Township Community Foundation - www.ltcfnj.org/

Lawrence Township - www.lawrencetwp.com/

Sustainable Lawrence - www.sustainablelawrence.org/

The Natural Step - www.naturalstep.org/com/What_is_sustainability/

Future Search Conference - www.futuresearch.net/

Township Statistics

Population - 29,159

Land Area - 22.2 square miles

Common Ground Agenda - Natural Steps for a Sustainable Lawrence

Starting on March 30, 2006, more than one hundred people gathered for three days to plan an ecologically sustainable future for Lawrence Township, New Jersey. They represented every significant institution in the Township: business, education, faith, families, farming, government, neighborhoods, and activists of many stripes. The age range spanned seven decades. This **Future Search Conference** produced a comprehensive, long-term agenda, a set of 10 task forces to tackle key items on the agenda, and a series of action plans put forth by the various task forces.

Creation of a 10-year Agenda - Targeted Outcomes for 2016

The following topic areas were identified for action with a close eye on the four Natural Step "system conditions".

Automobiles - Reduce auto emissions in Township fleets, create additional mass transit options and encourage bicycling, walking. Promote use of alternative transportation.

Clean Air, Water, Soil

Education/Communication - Develop Environmental Education campaigns.

Energy - Identify options for a more community-wide approach to alternative energy and promote conservation.

Food/Farming - Community awareness; promote consumption of locally-grown, sustainably-produced food; encouragement of alternative energy for farm production; IPM.

Green Building - Develop a program for township certification; create financial incentives; every home an environmentally sustainable system.

Inclusion - Ensure access and promote involvement of all groups in process.

Inter-connected Bicycle/Pedestrian Path - Linking all neighborhoods (geographic, ethnic, and religious) to each other; create opportunities for cultural and biological diversity

Multiple Town Centers - Create multiple town centers, each with its unique combination of offices, homes, stores, and civic entertainment functions.

Open Space - Preservation and stewardship of natural lands and farms; contiguous greenways offering natural habitats for plants and animals.

Recycling - Reduction of waste through effective recycling; operation of convenient centers for exchange of commonly used items.

Transportation - Increased public transportation; systematic, integrated local and regional services connecting town centers, employment centers, neighborhoods, schools.

For more information contact:

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