

THE 'GREENING' PROCESS

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INTRODUCTION

Yavapai County is not alone in this transition from conventional regulatory devices to creating new more environmentally responsive regulatory guidelines. Best practices come from locally generated strategies and solutions. It is important to not re-invent what already exists; instead draw upon the tremendous efforts and wisdom available from other jurisdictions and organizations that have preceded you in similar efforts. There is a lot of experience and wisdom to share. Some great resources exist right here in Arizona - such as Anthony Floyd with City of Scottsdale Green Building Program and David Eisenberg, Director of Development Center for Appropriate Technology in Tucson who has made great strides in his work with code officials for the past ten years.

In this meeting and hopefully subsequent meetings, Yavapai County has an opportunity to address complex challenges such as water conservation, economic development, resource and land management; and cultural preservation - issues requiring comprehensive and integrated solutions. A Green Building Program will not only address greening local regulatory devices but will also assist Yavapai County in effectively managing its own financial and environmental resources. By reducing energy and water consumption, reducing waste material, improving indoor air quality, increasing health and safety factors in all new county facilities or renovation projects - Yavapai County will be setting a precedent and taking the lead.

Though, no single measure or single group can fully address the issues inherent in 'greening' our community, we all have a role to play in meeting the challenge. It is this type of collaborative effort that will promote healthy change and long-term results. Every individual leads from where we are - whether as government officials, department heads and staff, or from the private sector or non-profit organizations. Change requires this kind of real leadership. Below is a simplified outline of the 'greening' process and a resource list of some pioneers in green building.

A FEW DEFINITIONS:

Greening Process: The conscious efforts of a community - its citizens and governmental officials - to incorporate environmentally responsible codes and ordinances into their local regulatory systems

Green Development: A development approach that is environmentally responsive, i.e. benefiting the surrounding environment; is resource efficient (using resources in the construction, development, and operations of buildings and/or communities in ways that are not wasteful); and sensitive to existing culture and community.

LEED: The U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC's) nationally accepted rating system: the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability

goals. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

'GREENING' PROCESS:

- Create and hold a vision of an ecologically and economically viable community.
- Initiate the discussion - You are there!! Yavapai County has taken the initial step in developing comprehensive sustainable planning and green building programs by demonstrating its interest in these issues through this interactive public meeting.
- Don't re-invent what already exists - draw upon the tremendous efforts and wisdom available from other jurisdictions that have committed to sustainability. The Resource Notebook has several specific examples.
- Create and adopt resolutions that promote the 'greening' effort. Examples of local county and city resolutions are included in the Resource Notebook.
- In tandem with a general 'greening' effort - take incremental steps that quickly address potential barriers to sustainable development; and, build support to revise any code or ordinance.
- Lead by example through LEED certified county capital improvements.

FURTHER STRATEGIES:

- Continue this 'greening' process - looking for opportunities to collaborate with others to build support for your sustainable community vision.
- Encourage leadership in every role.
- Initiate a regional or statewide conference of local governments supporting green building and sustainable development programs - i.e. governor's task force.
- Educate professionals: educating personnel within county as well as local builders / architects / owners / developers / HOAs. Develop a proposal for a training program to be supported through grants.
- Incentivize building green.

RESOURCES:

COUNTY / CITY INITIATIVES - 'GREENING' PROCESS

- Pima County, AZ www.pimaxpress.com/Building
- City of Scottsdale, AZ www.scottsdaleaz.gov/greenbuilding/
- King County, WA www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/greenbuilding/
- Alameda County, CA www.stopwaste.org
- City of Austin, TX www.austinenergy.com

ORGANIZATIONS

- Development Center for Appropriate Technology www.dcat.net
- U.S. Green Building Council LEED™ www.usgbc.org
- Build It Green - Public Agency Council www.builditgreen.org
- Sustainlane Government www.sustainlane.us/