



**SUSTAINABILITY
OFFICE**

JULIE A. ROSENBACH
Sustainability Coordinator

**SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM
PRIORITIES FOR 2016-2017**

The mission of South Portland's Office of Sustainability is to guide the development of policies and practices that simultaneously promote economic well-being, strong community connections, and a healthy environment. The primary focus of this office is to implement the City's Climate Action Plan and related initiatives to help municipal departments, schools, and the community become more sustainable.

As a staff of one, the Sustainability Coordinator works directly with all municipal departments, an internal sustainability team, and the City's Energy and Recycling Committee to achieve its mission.

To guide the work of this office and supporting committees, the following ten priorities have been identified for 2016-2017. Each priority is framed as an action item with steps to support implementation.

Climate Action Goals

Action item 1: Report progress on the City's Climate Action Plan.

Staff: Update the City's 2007 GHG emissions inventory to determine if we have achieved the 17% reduction by 2017 goal, and provide a status report on the 25 actions identified in the plan.

Action item 2: Establish new GHG reduction goals and identify actions the City can implement to achieve them.

Staff: Support Council decision-making by providing examples of carbon reduction goals in other communities for both City operations and the community as a whole, and identify actions the City can take to reduce GHG emissions to these levels.

For Council: Review and adopt new GHG reduction goals and actions for South Portland.

Action item 3: Prepare the City for the effects of climate change including sea level rise

Staff: Participate in climate adaptation work being spearheaded by community partners, and keep the City apprised of opportunities to collaborate on adaptation strategies.

Energy Management

Action item 4: Improve energy management in City buildings and facilities.

Staff: Develop an energy management strategy for municipal buildings that includes a deferred maintenance plan and building audits to identify opportunities for financial savings, efficiency upgrades, conservation programs and renewable energy.

For Council: Review and fund projects identified in the energy management strategy through the Green CIP and/or other financing mechanisms.

Action item 5: Use benchmarking to increase energy efficiency in City, commercial and multi-family buildings.

Staff: Benchmark the energy performance of City buildings using EPA's EnergyStar Portfolio Manager, and work with Planning Department to draft ordinance language targeting benchmarking and disclosure rules for large commercial and multi-family buildings.

Explore opportunities to use economic development programs to support energy efficiency.

For Council: Review and adopt proposed benchmarking ordinance.

Solar Energy

Action item 6: Continue to pursue opportunities to site solar arrays on City property including the City's capped landfill.

Staff: Work with Portland to get the best deal possible for developing a solar array on the City's capped landfill and advocate for policy changes at the state level to make large projects more feasible.

Explore options to support community solar projects that would allow residents and businesses unable to place solar panels on their property to benefit from solar power.

For Council: Review and adopt zoning and policy amendments to facilitate installation of solar panels in South Portland.



**SUSTAINABILITY
OFFICE**

JULIE A. ROSENBACH
Sustainability Coordinator

Transportation

Action item 7: Re-examine the purchase of alternative fuels for fleet vehicles and equipment.

Staff: Develop a one-year pilot program to test the efficacy of a B20 blend of biodiesel in select in municipal vehicles.

Waste Reduction

Action item 8: Take meaningful steps to increase the City's recycling rate to 40% by 2020.

Staff: Develop a Waste Reduction Plan to identify and implement actions the City can take to achieve its goal, including development of a residential and business recycling outreach campaign.

Add e-waste collection to the City's HHW event.

Review other communities' ordinances and develop ordinance language to require multi-family unit recycling.

Develop zero waste guidance documents for all City-sponsored and community-sponsored events.

Continue to investigate options for comprehensive City-wide collection and composting of organics.

Pesticides Use

Action item 9: Reduce toxics in our community by reducing the use of synthetic pesticides and promoting a transition to organic land care practices.

Staff: Develop a draft ordinance to limit and/or eliminate synthetic pesticide use in South Portland, and work with stakeholders at every level to develop an education and outreach campaign highlighting organic practices.

For Council: Review and adopt the proposed ordinance to ban pesticides.



**SUSTAINABILITY
OFFICE**

JULIE A. ROSENBACH
Sustainability Coordinator

Community Education and Engagement

Action item 10: Initiate a broad community outreach program to educate residents and businesses about South Portland's sustainability policies, practices and programs.

Staff: Utilize the City's website and community newsletters and explore creative ways to educate community members about sustainable programs and practices including energy conservation, waste reduction and recycling, organic land management and other practices.

Publicize municipal sustainability goals, and engage with community groups about how they can participate in achieving these goals.

Partner with community groups who offer environmental education and programs including the Greater Portland Sustainability Council, Maine Environmental Sustainability Network, and others.