



COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP

Endorsing the Community Sustainability Partners Agreement

WHEREAS, the Greater Grand Rapids Community has inherent skills and capabilities including: a good work ethic; the willingness to work together and collaborate; the spirit of entrepreneurship; and systems oriented thinking.

WHEREAS, over the last 5 year period, the Greater Grand Rapids Community has gone through a significant amount of economic downturn that has severely affected local employment, our business outlook, and the health of our city.

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Grand Rapids in January 2005 acknowledged in his State of the City address that the city would be focusing on a platform of sustainability including non-toxics purchasing; LEED building design for all commercial buildings; and the goal of reducing the City's dependency on non-renewable resource power by 20% by 2008.

WHEREAS, The City of Grand Rapids unanimously supported and signed the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement on June 28, 2005.

WHEREAS, the Community Sustainability Partners, including the City of Grand Rapids, the Grand Rapids Public Schools, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids Community College and Grand Valley State University, have entered into a mutual partnership to develop sustainability plans and indicators that will help enrich and secure the future of the Greater Grand Rapids Community that will result in preserving our natural resources, providing economic vitality and fostering social justice.

WHEREAS, the Community Sustainability Partners have signed the Community Sustainability Partners Agreement which reads:

Community Sustainability Partners Agreement

- A. We are set to engage in a three year planning, development, and implementation initiative to imbed sustainability best practices into the policies, procedures and cultures of our respective organizations through a collaborative partnership.
- B. We will accomplish our overall objectives through specific strategies and action plans including:
 - 1. establishing a guiding framework for sustainability
 - 2. generating an overall vision for the City, including targeted goals
 - 3. implementing mechanisms to gather data, monitor progress, and ensure continuous improvement
 - 4. assessing our sustainability as organizations
 - 5. developing sustainability implementation plans for our respective organizations
 - 6. establishing sustainability indicators and a sustainability reporting “triple bottom line” format, including preserving environmental integrity, increasing economic prosperity, and promoting social equity
 - 7. identifying our successes in sustainability
 - 8. building an overall constituency for sustainability within our organizations and the community
 - 9. educating respective stakeholder groups and constituents, including the Grand Rapids Public Schools, local colleges and universities, local businesses, and community citizens regarding sustainability best practices and education for sustainability.
 - 10. creating a structure for our ongoing mutual ongoing accountability
- C. We expect the following outcomes for our respective organizations
 - 1. stabilized operational budgets and overall fiscal accountability
 - 2. measurable reduction in environmental degradation in our practices
 - 3. increased public understanding and engagement in our work
 - 4. more diverse representation at all levels
 - 5. improved quality of life for the overall community
 - 6. increased economic vitality in the city and region

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Community Sustainability Partners urges others from public, private, and academic sectors from the greater Grand Rapids Community to join this effort. By endorsing this agreement, our organization also embraces the development of sustainability planning on a best efforts basis.

Community Sustainability Partners Agreement – Signature Page

Date:

You have my support for the Community Sustainability Partners Agreement.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail address: _____

Staff Contact: _____
(Name and title if different from above)

Contact phone: _____

Contact e-mail: _____

Once signed, we would like to publicly include your name with others who have endorsed this agreement.

Please return completed form at your earliest convenience to: Community Sustainability Partners Agreement

Community Sustainability Partners
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Office of Sustainability
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Allendale, MI 49401

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