



Sustainable Communities 500 Checklist and Response Form

Rather than using this paper form, if possible, we prefer that you fill out and submit the response on-line. This will make it much easier for us to highlight your project on the website. To find the form, go to www.sustainablepittsburgh.org and click on the Sustainable Communities 500 button.

Use one form per project or activity (maximum five project examples).

If you are unable to provide your information on-line, please mail this completed form to: Sustainable Pittsburgh, 425 Sixth Ave., Suite 1335, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. For assistance or more information, call 412-258-6642.

Sustainability or Sustainable Development is about improving our quality of life and getting the best out of the way we use things while limiting any negative impact our actions have now or in the future.

Person Submitting Project:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Source of Submission:

Government Individual/Household Community Organization Other: _____

Contact for the project:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Sustainable Communities 500 Checklist

While your project may be primarily related to Economy, Society, Nature, or Well-Being, it may have impacts or benefits in other areas. Think about the linkages and check all those questions in the checklist below which your project addresses – the more the better, as sustainability is maximized when there are multiple benefits.

This checklist can also be used in the future as part of your everyday planning and review. We have included an extra copy for your reference.

Does the project:

ECONOMY

Employment Issues:

- work to reduce the percent of people living in poverty?
- produce long term jobs (wage and benefits)?
- help community-based businesses grow?
- purchase locally made goods?
- advance healthy and efficient “green” buildings?
- involve businesses helping to support the community?
- involve businesses contributing to a clean and healthy environment?
- create jobs close to where people live?

Cost of Living

- promote self-sufficient behavior (gardening, decreased energy usage, etc.)?
- save money or reduce costs?
- advance intergovernmental cooperatives as means to improve services and reduce costs?

Mobility

- encourage use of public transportation to connect workers to jobs?
- encourage carpooling?
- improve walking and cycling conditions?
- reduce traffic congestion?
- reduce pollution from vehicles?

Housing

- combat homelessness?
- help to create a wider range of affordable housing?
- increase home ownership?
- improve the quality, energy efficiency, and/or upkeep of current housing stock?
- locate housing/jobs/services within walking distance and public transportation?

NATURE

Ecosystem Health

- create, save, reclaim, or maintain a healthy habitat for native species of plants and animals?
- encourage a positive attitude toward environmental stewardship?

Air Quality

- reduce or absorb air pollutants like particulate matter, greenhouse gases, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, or ozone?

Energy Use

- decrease overall energy consumption, develop a local energy distribution system?
- increase the percentage of energy consumption coming from clean energy such as natural gas and renewable sources such as wind, biomass, hydropower, or solar?

Land Consumption

- re-develop or efficiently use previously developed land or vacant properties?
- preserve the cultural and historic heritage of a community?
- save farmland or other undeveloped land?
- steer development or growth to most appropriate places?
- mitigate impacts of growth and development to neighboring communities?
- advance mixed use development projects?

Water Quality

- improve the quality of streams or watersheds for recreation and other uses?
- implement a water conservation program?
- address more effective stormwater management?

Waste and Recycling

- reduce, reuse, and recycle resources, minimize resources and waste?
- increase the use of recycled products or increase demand for projects designed to use fewer and less harmful materials?

SOCIETY

Crime

- minimize crime?
- increase awareness about crime prevention?
- improve street-scaping, graffiti elimination, trash removal, etc.?

Education

- supplement basic education with activities such as after-school programs, teacher training, etc.?
- improve the infrastructure and services provided at schools?
- help children prepare for school?
- reduce drop-out rates or encourage students to return to school?
- increase access to information like the Internet, library services, etc.?

Sense of Community

- increase interaction among residents and neighborhood groups?
- provide opportunities for volunteerism?
- provide opportunities for diverse groups to have input on and evolve solutions to community challenges?
- address community beautification (art, gardens, green space, etc.)?
- increase access to the arts or outdoor leisure activities?
- demonstrate corporate/business social responsibility?

Voting Participation

- encourage voter registration and participation?
- encourage participation in the electoral process besides voting, such as running for office or volunteering?

WELL-BEING

Health and the Community

- take measures to reduce factors that contribute to ill health (poverty, diet, lifestyle, stress, and pollution)?
- provide activities or facilities for citizens to exercise?
- provide healthy and safe working environments?
- provide locally grown food?
- use outdoor recreation as a means to health and community building?

Social Equity

- provide opportunities for all and narrow the gap in access, services, quality of care, etc.?
- promote diversity?
- assist disadvantaged groups?

Project Information:

Project Name: _____

Project is found in: _____ County _____ Municipality.

Description of the Project

Purpose of the Project: (100 words)

Briefly describe how the project contributes to the sustainability of your community: (100 words)

If you can, provide information that quantifies the success of your project: (For example, if your project increases affordable housing, how many units have been built?) (100 words)

Who were major partners? (100 words)

Funding

Approximately, how much did the project cost to design and implement? (100 words)

Approximately, how much does it cost to operate, continue, or maintain the project? (100 words)

What funding sources were used to pay for it? (100 words)

Lessons Learned

Describe any obstacles encountered in the implementation of the project or activity: (100 words)

List any advice you have for others who want to implement a similar project in their community: (100 words)

Check the items that might make it easier to launch similar sustainable projects in your community in the future and provide a brief explanation or specifics, if possible:

- Funding
- Policy
- Incentives
- Community Participation
- Other: _____

Specifics:

Community Land Use Planning

Please, if you know, describe how the project meets the goals of the municipal comprehensive land use plan: (100 words)

Visuals

If you can, please include a photograph, any pamphlets or brochures, or drawings of your project that can be reproduced.

Was this submittal approved by a local government elected official or municipal manager or Secretary?
 Yes No

Name of Official: _____

Municipality: _____