

SUSTAINABLE FRANKLIN COUNTY

Chapter 11: Conclusions and Summary Recommendations



SUSTAINABLE PLANNING IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

This Regional Plan for Sustainable Development provides a roadmap of how Franklin County can become more sustainable. It outlines the barriers to sustainability that the County faces and offers recommendations on a variety of interconnected issues that can move the region forward to a more sustainable future. Most importantly, the Plan was created by the residents of Franklin County with an extensive public outreach effort at the beginning of the planning process, continued public participation during the drafting of the Plan, and a region-wide comment process for the draft version of the Plan.

This Plan is not intended to just sit on a shelf after its completion. Benchmarks have been created for each of the chapters to mark progress on how well this Plan is being implemented. Responsible parties and time frames have been identified for each of the recommendations.

Implementation will occur at a variety of levels and among many individuals and organizations. For this Plan to be successful, collaboration and compromise must be integral components of the implementation process. Fortunately, Franklin County has a long history of collaboration among governments, non-profits, and community organizations. The region also has a history of sustainable projects that provide a solid foundation from which to build.

The following matrix summarizes the recommendations and strategies made in each of the chapters of the Plan. This matrix highlights the interconnectedness of issues and the need for collaboration as the Plan is implemented.

Summary Recommendations		Sectors Impacted						
		Housing	Transportation	Economic Development	Energy	Natural Resources	Cultural Resources	Land Use and Infrastructure
Housing	Promote housing affordability.	X		X				
	Promote residential infill near downtowns and town centers.	X	X	X		X		X
	Provide housing options for elder and disabled populations.	X						
	Increase rental housing stock.	X						
	Prevent homelessness and assist with the homeless.	X						
	Increase energy efficiency of all housing stock.	X			X			
Transportation	Encourage integrated planning activities that support sustainable development.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Promote transportation activities and technologies which conserve energy and reduce travel congestion and vehicle emissions.		X		X	X		
	Enhance the mobility of people and goods traveling to, from, and through Franklin County.		X	X				
	Promote economic development.		X	X				
	Improve transportation safety.		X					
	Maintain rural character.		X			X	X	X
	Support the preservation of existing transportation infrastructure.		X					X
	Implement climate change adaptation projects to enhance and protect transportation infrastructure.		X			X		X

Summary Recommendations		Sectors Impacted						
		Housing	Transportation	Economic Development	Energy	Natural Resources	Cultural Resources	Land Use and Infrastructure
Economic Development	Support activities to enhance job skills and access to employment in regionally significant clusters and industries.			X				X
	Support activities that redevelop vacant or underutilized commercial and industrial properties.		X	X			X	X
	Support activities that revitalize and more intensely use downtowns and village centers.		X	X			X	X
	Support activities to develop planned industrial park properties in suitable locations.			X				X
	Support agricultural, forestry and fisheries sector in Franklin County.			X		X		
	Support growth of creative economy cluster.			X			X	
	Support growth of educational services cluster.			X				
	Support growth of green economy cluster.			X	X			
	Support growth of information and technology infrastructure cluster.			X				X
	Support the growth of natural and cultural -based tourism cluster.			X		X	X	
	Support activities that promote access to sustainable transportation.		X	X	X			X
	Support the development and growth of locally-owned businesses, cooperatives and non-profit organization that offer job opportunities and provide goods and services for residents.			X				
	Support buy-local efforts at personal, institutional, and business to business level.			X		X		
	Support application of sustainable business practices.			X	X			

Summary Recommendations		Sectors Impacted						
		Housing	Transportation	Economic Development	Energy	Natural Resources	Cultural Resources	Land Use and Infrastructure
Energy	Reduce energy consumption across all sectors – transportation, residential, commercial and industrial – without sacrificing quality of life or economic opportunities.	X	X	X	X	X		X
	Improve energy efficiency so as to reduce wasted energy.	X	X	X	X	X		X
	Reduce the impacts of emissions and extreme weather events through green infrastructure.				X	X		X
	Reduce waste.				X	X		
	Site new green energy and support the local economy.			X	X	X		X
Cultural Resources	Encourage regional and local initiatives that identify and protect existing cultural and historic resources.						X	X
	Support activities that redevelop vacant or underutilized historic properties.	X					X	X
	Support the growth of the creative economy.			X			X	
	Promote cultural resources “branding” on a regional level that captures the essence of Franklin County.			X			X	
	Support efforts of indigenous groups (organizations or tribes) to develop an appreciation and understanding of their rich heritage in the region.					X	X	
	Support education and outreach related to cultural and historic resources.						X	
Natural Resources	Support town, regional, and state policies that help make farms and farming economically viable.			X		X		X
	Promote locally produced farm products and assist farmers in successful farming ventures.			X		X		
	Support the expansion of food and farming related infrastructure and services.			X		X		X
	Support efforts that increase food security for Franklin County and the region			X		X		X
	Support additional research/studies to help support a resilient regional food system.			X		X		

Summary Recommendations		Sectors Impacted						
		Housing	Transportation	Economic Development	Energy	Natural Resources	Cultural Resources	Land Use and Infrastructure
Natural Resources (cont.)	Support initiatives that protect large areas of unfragmented forestland and that promote local forest products.				X	X		X
	Encourage regional and local initiatives that identify and protect existing and potential drinking water supplies.					X		X
	Preserve areas identified as critical habitat, especially those adjacent to already protected land.					X		
	Encourage regional and local initiatives that ensure the protection of wetlands and important flood storage areas.					X		X
Land Use and Infrastructure	Promote infill and redevelopment of Priority Development Areas, Emerging Development Areas, and all town centers.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation into all levels of planning.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Assess the impact climate change could have on vulnerable areas and infrastructure.	X	X			X	X	X
	Work for the protection and viability of drinking water sources for the region.					X		X
	Encourage the adoption of sustainable development/redevelopment techniques.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Encourage the use of green infrastructure techniques at homeowner, municipal, and water-shed levels.				X	X		X
	Advocate for policy that supports sustainable land use patterns.	X	X	X		X		X