



# Crossroads Resource Center

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***Tools for Community Self-determination***

## **Minneapolis Sustainability Roundtable**

January 17, 2004

### **Elements of a Long-term Vision for Sustainability**

*Identified by participants in the Roundtable*

#### **Protecting environmental resources**

"All forms of pollution abated"

No personal water filters needed

Beaches are clean and open for swimming

Soil is clean

Bring back hooved animals to city

"People know as many native birds and flowers as they do entertainers"

Recycling as a way of life

Water-efficient cleaning systems

#### **Reducing resource impacts**

##### **Transportation**

Free of congestion

Walkable city (more people walking)

Safe

Train through downtown

Efficient

Easy access

Environmentally friendly

Streets are semi-permeable since lighter vehicles

Amenities within walking distance

All needs can be met within limited geographic boundaries

Communities built at human scale

Take the dog to the dog park via LRT

##### **Energy**

Reduced energy use

Energy alternatives for all groups

"buys regionally"

Solar powered night lighting

Hydrogen economy

**Enhancing ecological conditions**

Urban forests in all neighborhoods  
Truly affordable housing  
Urban gardens  
Energy companies promote urban gardens since it saves energy  
More fresh produce stores than gas stations in Minneapolis  
Increased composting  
Communities linked through green space  
Conservation of wild spaces  
Buffer zones along river  
Green space available  
Mississippi River & lakes are viewed as valuable natural resources  
River & lakes are used for lots of canoeing and kayaking  
Individuals know their connection to the river and lakes  
No waste / all recycled  
Ecologically sound building design  
Everyone in city has walking access to a healthy, vibrant park, most likely centered around a healthy water feature, with recreational features selected by neighborhood  
New production systems are designed not to create toxins  
All systems self-sustainable  
Turn streets into gardens and alleys into transport paths  
Permeable road surfaces  
No air quality alerts  
No beach closings  
No fish advisories  
No salt used in winter  
Less water-borne illness  
Less mosquito-borne illness  
Reforestation extends to low-income areas  
Recharging capacity for storm water

**Creating wealth in communities & reducing disparities**

Livable wage  
Equal job training for all groups  
Low-income housing in all neighborhoods  
Locally produced jobs  
Small business  
Full employment in region  
More telecommuting  
Everyone has meaningful work  
More people working from home  
No longer glorify 40-hour work week  
"Nobody makes more than 15 times what the lowest income person makes."  
"End of private capital accumulation"  
Excess wealth used to support worldwide liberation movements  
25-hour work week  
All families earn more than poverty level  
Access to all kinds of empowering jobs

**Strengthening business sector**

No growth economy  
Cluster of local central markets such as Mercado Central

**Enhancing tax base**

Progressive tax policies

**Enhancing health & reducing health disparities**

Universal care affordable for all  
Reduced costs  
Agriculture included in planning  
"Asthma rates lowest ever"  
Portable health benefits that promote job mobility  
Focus on health rather than medicine  
Guaranteed right to a healthy diet for all citizens  
More use of natural light and less artificial light

**Strengthening educational attainment**

Education on sustainability in public schools  
Access to education  
Service learning is built into curriculum  
"Schools produce thoughtful, creative compassionate students with critical interdisciplinary analysis skills"  
Teachers are well paid and respected  
"Schools that train and educate for useful work and full participation in citizenship"

**Fostering public safety**

"Zero murders in Minneapolis"

**Building social capital**

No good or bad neighbors  
Economically integrated neighborhoods  
It's hard to distinguish one neighborhood from another except by historic housing styles  
Minneapolis is known for its lively celebration of its connection to nature  
Streets and sidewalks free of trash  
Sharing tools  
Sharing meals  
People know each other  
Ties with rural areas  
Rural people also buy local  
Intergenerational engagement: (*How*: Keep community interesting, build base so all ages stay)  
All citizens aware of city's "Sustainability Score"  
No class hierarchy

**Building social capital, *continued***

Gap between high and low-income closed  
Green amenities foster interactions between all generations of residents  
All citizens are valued as important  
Families are respectful units  
High volunteerism rates  
Inclusion and full participation for all disabled people  
Public support to strengthen families that are split by capitalism  
Volunteers work with children  
Time off work for family care  
"Media reports citizen-initiated victories"  
Many languages spoken  
Cross-cultural invitations

**Arts & Culture**

Translated information  
Media and communication available to all  
Aesthetics not impacted by economy  
Local self-reliance  
Don't wait until 2054 to bring Cedar Fest back!  
More community celebrations with integration of cultures as the theme  
Focus on spiritual and artistic systems

**Metro Region**

Increase density in urban core balanced with new dense growth in suburbs  
Disperse less desirable uses (e.g., landfills)  
Extend this dream metro-wide

**Housing**

Rental buildings look as good as home-owners  
Co-housing increased  
Natural home materials  
Quality sustainable housing  
No blighted properties

**Governance**

Finding out what the community needs  
Citizens encouraged to participate in the vision-creating and governance of their community  
Minneapolis residency required for all city administrators  
Local choice and input  
Sustainability requires smaller scale

**Physical Design**

Aesthetics are not impacted by climate change

Preservation of old buildings generally considered as timelines to remind us of where we came from

**Issues**

Globalization

Livable wages

Changing the mindset requires structures that change the mindset (e.g. progress in recycling over 20 years)