Washington County recognizes the responsibility for public agencies to conserve natural resources, be fiscally responsible and celebrate the achievements of a productive organization. Our efforts are advancing sustainable practices in our day-to-day operations. With future generations in mind, Washington County has placed a growing emphasis on sustainability as a framework for planning, policy development and management. The County is committed to building upon its sustainability initiatives and practices to support its mission and vision.

PROGRAM FOCUS
Washington County’s Sustainability Program provides guidance for best practices throughout the organization. The program is focused in four strategic areas: planning and policy development, technical assistance to departments and community partners, education and awareness of employees and constituents, and measurement and tracking of progress.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
In 2014, the Sustainability Program developed an expanded definition of internal sustainability that encompasses the triple bottom line. This three-part approach ensures all aspects of sustainability – environment, economy, and equity – are included in the County’s business operations. The definition is as follows:

Washington County strives to improve the triple bottom line through policies and programs that:
- Foster workplace excellence by empowering and engaging employees
- Connect a healthy environment with wellness and better quality of life
- Recognize and celebrate cultural differences while creating a collaborative work environment
- Promote responsible stewardship of County resources

In addition, the Sustainability Program continued to provide technical assistance to internal teams (including the Sustainability Liaisons, Energy Team and Wellness Committee) and to external partners through the Partners for a Sustainable Washington County Community. The program also has a staff training component. Training is focused on behavior change, especially in places in the organization where employees can make an impact, such as energy use, recycling and commute options.

In 2014, the County adopted a five-year sustainability plan with new ten-year goals. Since the previous goals were targeted for completion by 2013, the new goals are now set for completion by the end of Fiscal Year 2018. The new goals are shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERNAL MEASURE</th>
<th>2018 GOAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Energy</td>
<td>20 percent ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>2 percent ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling</td>
<td>50 percent ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage</td>
<td>25 percent ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials Recovery Rate</td>
<td>50 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleet Fuel</td>
<td>8 percent ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement</td>
<td>Keep green purchases ▲</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This report showcases Washington County’s accomplishments to improve sustainability as of June 30, 2014.
MEASURING OUR PROGRESS

The Sustainability Program works with many departments to compile data for internal and community measures. Internal data is normalized by the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees to get an accurate year-to-year comparison of resource use. FTE was selected as a normalizing factor because it is common to all internal measures. Normalized and non-normalized internal data is included to show actual and relative figures.

**Building Energy Use per FTE**
- **Goal:** 20 percent reduction from FY 2008 to FY 2018
- **Achievement:** Reduced energy use per FTE 19 percent (reduced total energy use 16 percent)

**Water Use per FTE**
- **Goal:** 2 percent reduction from FY 2008 to FY 2018
- **Achievement:** Reduced water use per FTE 5 percent (reduced total energy use almost 2 percent)

**Recycling Generated per FTE**
- **Goal:** 50 percent reduction from FY 2008 to FY 2018
- **Achievement:** Increased recycling per FTE 37 percent (reduced total energy use 42 percent)

**Garbage Generated per FTE**
- **Goal:** 25 percent reduction from FY 2008 to FY 2018
- **Achievement:** Reduced garbage per FTE 12 percent (reduced total energy use 8 percent)

**County Facilities Materials Recovery**
- **Goal:** 50 percent recovery rate by FY 2018
- **Achievement:** 43 percent recovery rate (recovery rate is waste recovered divided by total amount generated)

**Fleet Fuel Use per FTE**
- **Goal:** 8 percent reduction from FY 2008 to FY 2018
- **Achievement:** Reduced fleet fuel use per FTE 10 percent (reduced total energy use 6 percent)
Improving sustainability of internal operations helped lower operational expenses and conserve resources, as shown in the chart on the right.

*Due to increases in fuel prices, cost savings were not realized for fleet fuel. Fortunately, conservation efforts helped control the County’s fuel costs and have kept the increase lower than it would have been if usage stayed at baseline level.*

### Community Measures

The Sustainability Program also tracks community objectives such as green building, auto use, transportation options and recycling and garbage generation. Since progress in these areas is much more dependent on community education and involvement, special project funding and cultural changes, specific goals were not set for all of these measures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Measure</th>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>2014 Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Building</td>
<td>County Renewable Energy Electrical Permits (for all users)</td>
<td>256 issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling, Waste Prevention &amp; Garbage</td>
<td>Regional Materials Recovery Rate</td>
<td>64.3 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Use Reduction</td>
<td>County Bike &amp; Pedestrian Road Improvements Added</td>
<td>10.9 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Options</td>
<td>Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle Commute Mode for County Residents</td>
<td>26 percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Renewable Energy Electrical Permits Issued

*All renewable energy permits issued for business and residential sites in unincorporated Washington County*

### Metro Regional Materials Recovery

*Goal: 64 percent recovery rate for Metro regional area
Achievement: 64 percent recovery rate (recovery rate is waste recovered divided by total amount generated)*
Sustainability is a process of continual improvement, and the County is taking disciplined, thoughtful steps that are in the best interest of the organization and the community, now and in the future. Implementing sustainability initiatives requires a collaborative approach and the cooperation of all departments and staff, as well as community partners. Here are some highlights of what we are doing or have planned in Fiscal Year 2015:

- Updating the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for internal operations
- Working with departments to develop policies and guidelines to improve sustainability of operations
- Continuing to look at ways to address all of the triple bottom line, including social equity
- Renewing efforts and training on employee waste prevention and reduction, following a 2014 waste audit
- Continuing outreach to engage employees in saving resources, trying transportation options, volunteering and participating in charitable giving

CONCLUSION
Washington County believes that sustainability actions must produce measurable results, provide long-term benefits and improve efficiency of operations. Washington County’s Sustainability Program provides guidance for best sustainable practices throughout the organization and in the community. The Sustainability Program reports progress toward its objectives to the Board of Commissioners, employees and the community. If you wish to view the annual presentation, policies, reports or plans, please visit the program website.

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