

ENVIRONMENT SMALL GROUP
BRAINSTORMING. AUG. 18, 2007

Dreamer, Realist, Critic combined into one table

Note ...

TON = Town of Normal

COB = City of Bloomington

HOA = Homeowners Association

TMDL = Total Maximum Daily Load (in short, the EPA determines that a water body has too much of a certain pollutant, such as nitrogen, and sets a “total maximum daily load” on that water body)

BNPTS = Bloomington Normal Public Transit System

IDOT = Ill. Dept. of Transportation

Water ..

1. Water efficiency standards, building codes
2. Charge real cost of water
3. Lobby TON/COB to stop chemical use on public land
4. Neighborhood groups/HOA's could be better educated
5. Stream restoration in town
6. Emphasis on water conservation (xeriscaping)
7. Investing in better drinking water source for COB (i.e. ground water)
8. Rain gardens
9. Cisterns/rain barrels
10. Storm water management: native vegetation, tree planting
11. Prohibit fertilizers and pesticides, etc
12. Require posting, education/Yard Smart
13. Better regulation of septics – require annual inspections
14. Require educational materials with home purchase
15. No bottled water
16. Erosion and sediment control ordinance AND enforcement
17. Total “buy in” to TMDL's/watershed planning
18. Celebrate water

Air

1. Better monitoring and public info—publicize existing air monitoring; consider air quality in future development
2. Lobby IDOT for Mitsu air emissions ... ask Larry Shapiro
3. Interstate
4. Clunker buyback program
5. Native plantings on roadsides
6. Require air pollution offsets
7. Vehicle emissions testing
8. Bus retrofits (esp. schools)—lobby U5 and D87 to do this
9. County to adopt roadsides for wildlife
10. Anti-idling regs—lobby for adoption via School Boards and Munis
11. Increased hybrids in fleets (i.e. taxis, TON, State Farm)
12. More interconnected greenspace
13. 2 million trees by (date?!) (all native)

Land

1. Increased native and organic landscaping
2. Greenbelt around B-N i.e. forest preserve in Chic
3. Increased pocket parks
4. Increased space allotted for passive recreation and natural habitat
5. TON/COB to:
 - Buy more land far out for future greenspace
 - Get state grant \$
 - Partner MUCH MORE with local nonprofits i.e. Parklands & Audubon
6. Get native planting areas at all major inst's to be examples: BroMenn, TON City Hall, COB City Hall
7. Native Species
8. Biotic inventories, starting with parkland
9. Increased emphasis on backyard habitat (native)
10. Less habitat fragmentation
11. Increased public education and appreciation of our native heritage
12. public park needs x % native area
13. Ecological restoration on public lands
14. Better management of existing habitat .. Code to require biotic inventory pre-development
15. Partner with ISU/IWU nonprofits
16. Local code to not prohibit native landscaping
17. Much better education via web
18. Angela Smith—Sugar Grove
19. In code, more clearly rec. native planting with web refs, etc.
20. Lobby McLean County Board ad TON/COB to protect farmland
21. Connect with Amer. Farmland Trust and Research other communities' initiatives
22. Establish "Purchase of Dvmt Rights" with real estate tax
23. Need to co-opt developers OR Recruit an experienced out-of-town developer to do a "green" development here OR Hire a non-local engineering firm
24. Show developer a less palatable regulatory option to encourage better development AND giving them a clear alternative/actual plan
25. Development "consumers" need to be more educated and then must "demand" green development

Food

1. Increased local organic food from small farms
2. Real farmland protection regs
3. Develop local markets: major institutions purchasing it, local restaurants
4. Greater awareness of local food issues
5. Better use of leftover food from local sources and local restaurants
6. Ensure no HOA restrictions on gardens/compost
7. Tell everyone to ask, "Where's the local food?" when they eat out
8. Investing cost savings of composting
9. Local rest's to publicize use of local food
10. Increased community Gardens on existing public parks and at churches
11. Work w/religious groups on circulating excess food

Energy

1. Distributed pwr—all bldg's create energy (renewable/sust.)

2. Decreased gas consumpt .. efficient vehicles, better BNPTS, bike/ped friendly
3. Carbon neutral
4. Retrofitting residential and communal strucs
5. Increased energy efficiency in building codes
6. Communities signing on to declarations, etc.
7. Ideas from existing initiatives i.e. other communities to learn how to do renewables; ISU/IWU/HCC classes could do work
8. Local environmental “think tank” with adequate access to decision makers
9. Stripe bike lanes
10. Local financial incentives for energy retrofit
11. Increased public education via government and local retailers
12. Curriculum in schools for energy and sustainability
13. Work more with local Senator and State Reps
14. Work with very local politicians
15. Increased use of on-demand water heaters

Summary

THM: If we get buy-in from powerful players, much is possible: TON, COB, County, State Farm, Unit 5, District 87, Country Companies