

BIP #18 – Sustainable City Government Partnership (SCGP)

GOAL

The goal of the Sustainable City Government Partnership is to foster a collaborative, City-wide effort to integrate sustainable practices and resource efficiency into municipal operations. By establishing a planning and monitoring framework, based on employee and Bureau-level innovation, the SCGP promotes the City's sustainability goals and strengthens existing policies and efforts.

BENEFITS

The City will gain financial and environmental benefits from a coordinated system for implementing sustainable best practices within all levels of City operations and facility management. Several bureaus have taken important steps to institutionalize resource efficiency, but the City lacks an overall sustainability strategy.

Implementing the SCGP will:

- **Increase accountability** for efficient use of resources, creating vibrant communities, supporting local economic development and protecting the environment;
- Maximize **inter-Bureau collaboration** and knowledge-sharing, capturing City-wide efficiencies and cost savings;
- Integrate into and improve existing **operational frameworks**;
- Provide a **platform for communicating** the City's sustainability efforts to the larger community; and
- Help the City become a **leader** and model for other communities in the application of sustainable practices and technologies, an area with economic growth potential.

Commitment to Sustainability

The City of Portland will promote a sustainable future that meets today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, and accepts its responsibility to:

- Support a stable, diverse and equitable economy
- Protect the quality of the air, water, land and other natural resources
- Conserve native vegetation, fish, wildlife habitat and other ecosystems
- Minimize human impacts on local and worldwide ecosystems

(excerpt from Sustainable City Principles, 1994)

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the SCGP depends on participation and collaboration between multiple functions of City government, encouraging the infusion of innovative ideas from all levels through a partnership approach. The SCGP will also support other operational frameworks, including Managing for Results, to institutionalize sustainable practices as a part of how the City does business.

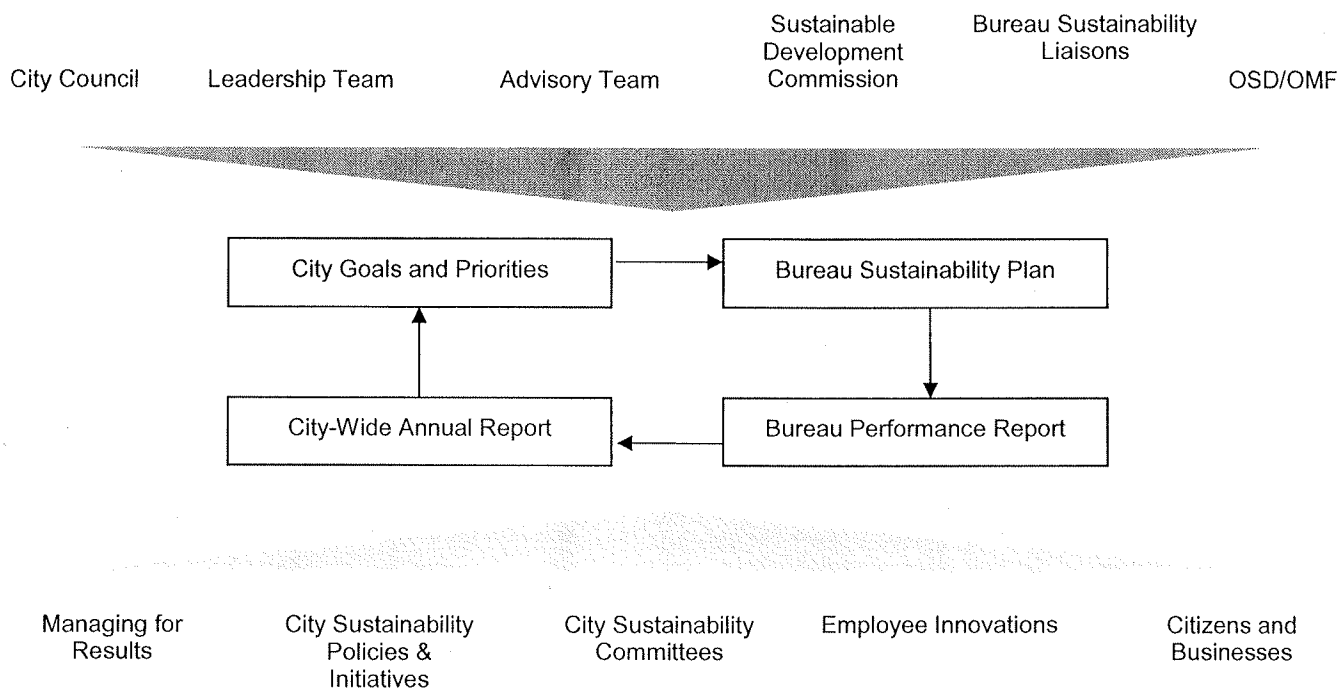
Implementation of the SCGP proposed to create the following groups:

- Leadership Team** Chaired by OSD and OMF Directors with members including Bureau & PDC Directors and Sustainable Development Commission representatives. This team implements and oversees the SCGP; annually establishes City-wide goals and priority areas; reviews and supports Sustainability Plans; and reports annually to the Council and community via a City-wide Annual Report.
- Advisory Team** Bureau and PDC Sustainability Liaisons, Committee Representatives (e.g. Sustainable Procurement, Toxics Reduction, Green Building), City Staff and external parties with relevant expertise. This team provides staff support to the Leadership Team; develops targets and performance measurements based on City-wide goals and priority areas; assists Bureaus in identifying and implementing specific sustainability practices; and leverages resources for innovative projects that strengthen inter-bureau collaboration.
- Sustainability Liaisons** Appointed by each Bureau Director. The Sustainability Liaisons participate in the Advisory Team; coordinate the development of Bureau Sustainability Plans and Performance Reports with other Bureau staff; facilitate implementation of the proactive strategies outlined in the Bureau Sustainability Plan; and contribute to the development of the City-wide Annual Report.

The involvement of the following groups is also crucial to the success of the Sustainable City Government Partnership:

- Employees** Serve as a source for innovation and driving force behind implementation of sustainable practices.
- City Council** Reviews and adopts City-wide goals and City-wide Annual Report; implements sustainability-related performance expectations in Bureau Director performance evaluations; and allocates necessary resources to Bureaus for implementation of Sustainability Plans.
- Sustainable Development Commission** Reviews Bureau Sustainability Plans, Performance Reports and the City-wide Annual Report and provides feedback and recommendations to City Council.

GENERAL FRAMEWORK



Sustainability Plans & Performance Reports

The SCGP will be implemented in phases, conducting a baseline assessment in the first year and adopting new action times and goals in subsequent years. For example, Bureaus would:

- Year One** Develop a sustainability policy or vision statement; collect baseline data on resource consumption (e.g. energy use, waste generation, fuel consumption); and document past and current efforts and savings.
- Year Two** Continue to track resource consumption; establish at least three new action items that address the City-wide sustainability goals; outline the associated performance measures, roles, budget resources, and target dates; establish employee communications plan and identify training needs; and report on progress annually.

Implementation for Small Bureaus
 Small Bureaus may reduce the burden of SCGP staffing by sharing a Sustainability Liaison who prepares Sustainability Plans and Reports for all participating Bureaus. It is expected that the time required to implement the SCGP on an ongoing basis will be commensurate to the size of each Bureau, the significance of their impacts, and the sphere of their influence.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTIONS

Adopt a resolution creating the Sustainable City Government Partnership, as outlined.