

## Summary of Focus Areas and Goal Statements

### Focus Areas

1. **Buildings and Energy:** Improving energy efficiency and reducing energy use in buildings will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. There are opportunities to promote energy generation on-site at public and private properties. There are also ways to reduce the energy consumption of the water and sewer systems that provide services to properties in Harrisonburg.
2. **Land Use and Green Space:** Regulating and guiding the sustainable use of publicly-owned and privately-owned lands and green spaces provides opportunities for promoting positive social and environmental outcomes and an efficient use of resources.
3. **Regional Food Systems:** A food system is generally understood to be the chain of activities connecting food production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste management. Helping people to understand how the dozens of choices they make every day (what we eat, what we buy, how we use or consume these items, and how we dispose of them) impacts the community will contribute to a sustainable food system and a healthy environment.
4. **Sustainable Transportation:** Sustainable transportation includes alternative fuel public transportation fleets, increasing usage of public transportation, traffic signal optimization, increasing bicycle and pedestrian options, and more.
5. **Waste Reduction and Recycling:** The City of Harrisonburg seeks to determine a sustainable, long-term, and fiscally responsible refuse and recycling program that consistently supports and promotes the reduction of solid waste, the reuse of usable items, and the recycling of materials.
6. **Water Resources:** The watersheds and water systems we depend on to provide clean drinking water must be protected for public health as well as health of aquatic ecosystems. Water resources can be protected by managing drinking water sources, water use, the sanitary sewer system, and stormwater runoff.

### Goals

#### Guiding Goals

1. Continue to Advance Sustainability Initiatives in the Community
2. Reduce Overall, Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Intensity of Greenhouse Gases Emitted from Different Activities
3. Continue to Grow and Deepen Local Partnerships in Order to Further the Implementation of the Environmental Action Plan (EAP)

#### Focus Area 1 - Buildings and Energy

1. Encourage Producers of Electricity Supplied to the City to Include More Carbon Free Sources
2. Understand the City's Energy Use
3. Decrease Energy Use Intensity of Municipal Buildings
4. Decrease Energy Use Intensity of City School Buildings
5. Optimize Energy Use of Water Operations
6. Encourage Efforts to Improve Energy Efficiency and Increase Renewable Energy and Sustainable Energy Sources

**Focus Area 2 - Land Use and Green Space**

1. Modernize and Establish Enduring Land Use and Development Patterns
2. Maintain and Create a Well-Distributed and Accessible Parks and Recreation System
3. Maintain and Increase a Healthy Tree Canopy
4. Evaluate Opportunities for Underutilized Public and Private Lands and Consider Opportunities to Rehabilitate and Create New Natural Habitats

**Focus Area 3 - Regional Food Systems**

1. Promote Accessibility to Local, Healthy, and Sustainably Produced Food
2. Support Sustainable Food Production, Selection, Distribution, and Disposal Practices

**Focus Area 4 - Sustainable Transportation**

1. Develop an Alternative Fuel Fleet Program
2. Implement Sustainability Practices into Municipal Fleet Management
3. Increase Public Transit Ridership
4. Traffic Signal Optimization and Timing Improvements
5. Support Alternative and Low-Carbon Forms of Transportation and Improved Fuel Efficiency
6. Continue to Coordinate Land Use Planning and Regulations with Transportation Planning

**Focus Area 5 - Waste Reduction and Recycling**

1. Support and Promote the Reduction of Refuse in Landfills
2. Support and Promote the Reuse of Usable Items
3. Support and Promote Recycling
4. Support and Promote Healthy and Safe Solid Waste Disposal

**Focus Area 6 - Water Resources**

1. Protect and Secure Drinking Water Sources
2. Implement the Water Use and Water Loss Management Plans
3. Protect Stream Health Through Sanitary Sewer Management
4. Protect and Enhance Water Quality of Surface Water and Stormwater Runoff