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# Board of Supervisors Memorandum

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October 5, 2010

## Sustainability Report Card for Fiscal Year 2009/2010

### Overview

Pima County Departments recently completed the second year of implementation of the *Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations*, achieving several significant milestones. The attached Sustainability Report Card for Fiscal Year 2009/10 summarizes these accomplishments and provides a detailed account of the progress the County is making in reaching 31 performance targets or "success indicators."

Page 3 of the Report Card highlights several advances the County made in Fiscal Year 2010 to increase the sustainability and efficiency of County operations. These include:

- √ Reducing energy expenses by \$1.2 million compared to the baseline year of Fiscal Year 2008;
- √ Managing 2.6 MW in renewable energy projects, which is 5 percent of the County's total energy load;
- √ Cutting landfill waste by 29 percent since Fiscal Year 2008;
- √ Reducing water use at the County's 39 urban parks by 20 percent compared to the baseline year of 2006;
- √ Reaching the milestone of having one-quarter of the County's regular fleet vehicles run on alternative fuels;
- √ Increasing the proportion of office supply dollars spent on eco-friendly products by 73 percent, and reducing total office supply expenses by \$93,000;
- √ Acquiring 4,848 acres of land for conservation purposes, and implementing a monitoring system to ensure the number of acres impacted elsewhere by public improvement projects are significantly offset;
- √ Receiving a LEED Gold certification for the Sullivan Jackson Employment Center, surpassing the County's minimum standard of LEED Silver; and
- √ Establishing the first greenhouse gas reduction target for County Operations, and preparing a Year 2020 greenhouse gas forecast that demonstrates the target can be achieved with aggressive implementation of the County's sustainability initiatives.

In addition to identifying areas where the County made significant progress and achieved or surpassed the success indicators, this Report Card also includes "improvement plans" for areas where the County's performance can be further enhanced. In Fiscal Year 2011, improvement

plans will be implemented to increase employee participation in trip reduction programs (Indicator No. 3); to encourage more employees and job candidates to obtain LEED professional accreditations (Indicator No. 5); and to encourage all special events at County facilities to practice "integrated waste management" (Indicator No. 19).

In addition, because the Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations is intended to be adaptive and evolve over time based on changing conditions, technologies, and new information and analyses, a few success indicators include recommended amendments and one indicator is recommended for deletion. These proposed changes are explained in the Report Card and briefly summarized below:

- Reduce the numeric target for LEED accreditations from 30 to 14 employees (Indicator No. 5);
- Provide more flexibility in the manner in which employees with purchasing responsibilities can obtain their required green purchasing training (Indicator No. 11);
- Evaluate the County's progress in protecting the natural environment through the use of effluent by measuring acres of riparian habitat *actually restored or enhanced* rather than the acre feet of effluent devoted to that purpose (Indicator No. 25); and
- Eliminate the requirement that all County landscaping projects rely exclusively on non-potable water after initial establishment because this is not always possible and, over the long run, may result in increased water use and cost by increasing plant mortality and the subsequent need for revegetation and new irrigation (Indicator No. 21). At the same time, add the following action items to the Sustainable Action Plan: (1) initiate an employee education series that focuses on lessons learned from local case studies of landscape projects; and (2) develop countywide guidelines for low water-use and non-potable irrigation.

#### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board accept the Year Two Implementation Report Card for the Sustainable Action for County Operations and adopt the recommended amendments to the Success Indicators.

Respectfully submitted,



C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

CHH/dr (September 22, 2010)

#### Attachments

c: Elected Officials  
Department Directors  
Sustainability Steering Committee