

Local Government and Sustainability

Questions from Kay

What I your experience made the difference

What is government's role?

How to address issues of transportation and land use planning

———Transportation accounts for 50% of the carbon emission in urban areas so if you don't have and use patterns that reduce the use of cars, it is difficult to have an impact.

Cit Managers role

———This is an opportunity for cities to shape the policy that the community wants.

———Where so you start and where do you stop with incentives?

Staffing

———Not a plan but a way of thinking...build it into your culture.

Lessons learned

Practical advice for council

Practical advice for staff

If you were to start over, what would you do differently?

Both of these cities enjoy strong economies that allow them to work on these issues. Cities had have weaker economies and less public funds available...or issues involving public safety have a much more difficult path ahead.

Buildings account for

70% of electric consumption

30% of green house gas emissions

40% of raw material use

30% of waste output

12% of potable water consumption

2008 Summit on Energy, Environment and Economic Change

Making it work: Local Governments and Sustainability

The Role of Local Government in Sustainability

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I have had the opportunity to work for two cities known today as leaders in many fields but certainly leaders in the environment, land use planning and sustainability.

I was ~~very lucky fortunate~~ to ~~be working~~ for the City of Portland when very innovative and exciting ~~things policies and programs~~ were ~~getting started~~ commenced including the adoption of the Urban Growth Boundary and the construction of the first of the light rail lines that now serve the ~~metro~~ Portland Metro area. Initiatives such as paid parking and recycling were instituted and were quickly adopted by residents as a way of life. There was strong political leadership that guided these initiatives backed by equally strong community support for taking the steps needed to protect the environment.

~~When Then~~, I arrived in Pasadena and found that free parking was considered a God-given right and no body-one wanted my empty cans and bottles. ~~It~~ is was a culture shock. ~~But However~~, I am pleased to say that Pasadena has changed and I was very fortunate proud to be able to be a part of that revolution.

Recently Pasadena was selected by Popular Science as the 37th Greenest City in the United States. I hope the magazine reviews Pasadena again because based on the progress the city has made in just the past year, its ranking will be even higher. ~~think if they~~ For example:

-Because of new mixed use in-fill housing, 35% of downtown residents don't drive to work alone and 7% of downtown household don't own a car

-had seen what has happened in the last year, Pasadena might have even been able to move to a higher ranking on that list. ((What changes? Why not list them?)) After a 3-year renovation and seismic retrofit received LEED Gold. Any municipal building project over 5,000 sq ft or commercial building over 25,000 sq ft must follow LEED practices

-Many new programs have been initiated including electronic recycling, which recycled over 182,000 pounds of electronic waste in the first year. The uses non-chemical pesticides for park maintenance and green seal cleaning products. The City's green fleet has expanded and a CNG fueling station is under construction.

-10% of the community's electricity supply comes from green sources an increase from 2% a year ago

-A new Citizen Environmental Commission has energized community support

~~The change~~ Changing policies and habits wasn't always easy ~~and~~. It started slowly but over time has accelerated. ~~And~~ today, the environmental spirit and ethic is firmly ingrained in Pasadena's government and neighborhoods. ~~change seems to be occurring on a daily basis.~~ Not surprisingly ~~t~~ The formula for this change is surprisingly similar to what I experienced in Portland: ~~d...~~ strong political support backed-driven by equally strong community support. It is this growing community support that not only has ~~not only allowed-permitted~~ the adoption of better policies, but voiced demands forced the ~~accelerated~~ accelerating the pace of efforts to for policies, programs and project that protect ~~theour~~ environment and ~~theour~~ community's quality of life.

Scholars and other stewards of public policy marvel at the monumental public shift towards supporting environmental causes and initiates within such a brief period of time and say it has few if any historical comparisons.

This provides a great opportunity for government to more aggressively move ahead promote an environmental agenda. ~~quickly and reflecting~~ Reflecting on this phenomenon also helps, I believe, in defining the best role of local government in nurturing community sustainability. Rather than having to take the sole and often difficult leadership role, government has many partners ready to assist. Local g Government need not be the planner, implementer and funder of all initiatives. Instead, it can frequently serve as ~~eatalysiscatalyst~~ catalyst, educator, supporter, and ~~convenerconvener~~ and for change.

Local government's ability to work with businesses has also evolved. The majority of people are already convinced that ~~things need to change~~ change is needed and therefore many businesses, either because it helps their bottom line, marketing strategy, or both are ready to assist. These partnerships provide for better policies ~~lans~~, allowed for more seamless implementation and increase the potential effectiveness of ~~the~~ outcomes. environmental initiatives.
~~((give examples?))~~

Certainly there will be struggles, differences and compromises along the way. ~~We are not all ready to sell our car and walk to work.~~ Communities ~~are at different~~ differ in their stages of ~~their~~ development and there are no silver bullets to making sustainable programs work for everyone. But we are at a point in time when political leadership and support ~~tative~~ communities can join in developing and, implementing and supporting some of the most progressive environmental changes in ~~our~~ history.

To read more about Pasadena's programs go to www.cityofpasadena.net/greencity