

Auburn's Cool Cities Initiatives  
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On April 17, 2007 the City of Auburn's City Council passed a resolution pledging support for the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. This agreement is known by its more vernacular name as the "Cool Cities" program. The Cool Cities website can be found at the following location:

<http://coolcities.us/>

The Cool Cities program encourages cities to adopt seven initiatives for combating global warming emissions. You can find those initiatives described at the following location:

<http://coolcities.us/resources/activistTools/Early%20Implementation%20Factsheet.PDF>

As you can see from Auburn's list of accomplishments compiled below, the City of Auburn is actively addressing all of these initiatives and has been doing so for many years.

A major component of the Cool Cities initiative is the Energy Star Program. The City's webpage describing the Energy Star program can be found at the following location:

<http://www.auburnalabama.org/coolcity/>

The City of Auburn has long been a leader in environmentally responsible management and it continues on that course. The list below, which itemizes Auburn's accomplishments in protecting the environment, is testament to Auburn's commitment to environmentally sound programs and practices.

#### Recycling

- The City of Auburn has been recycling for over 20 years
- The City of Auburn offers curb-side recycling (one of the few cities in the state to do so)
- The City of Auburn offers electronics recycling (one of the few cities in the country to do so)
- In 2005, the City of Auburn began the "Keep Auburn Beautiful" campaign which is an affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful program. The Keep Auburn Beautiful program focuses on educating Auburn's citizens about recycling, waste reduction and litter abatement. It also contains an enforcement provision.

#### Alternate Fuels/Transportation

- The City of Auburn first began with alternate fuels in the late seventies when it used propane to fuel many of its vehicles. Today, the City has adopted a biodiesel program where City vehicles are being operated on a fuel that is a mixture of regular diesel fuel and non petroleum based fuels (vegetable oil)
- The City has engaged in the purchase of hybrid vehicles for those operations where such a vehicle is warranted. It is expected that the City's use of hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles will increase in the coming years

- The City has adopted a more thorough review process for purchasing of vehicles to make sure that the vehicles purchased are needed and are appropriate for the duties to be performed. Hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles will figure prominently in this new process.
- The City of Auburn was first recognized as a “Bicycle Friendly Community” in 2000. Since then, the City has continued receiving that recognition and in 2007 was awarded the Bronze Level recognition. The City of Auburn currently has more than 30 miles of bike lanes. The City’s Bike Lane Master Plan calls for more than 115 miles of bike lanes within the Auburn city limits.
- In May of 2008, the City of Auburn launched the Bicycle Loaner Program which loans bicycles to citizens. This program has been a tremendous success and the City is evaluating expanding the program.
- Since 1996 the City of Auburn has been building an extensive sidewalk network to encourage pedestrian traffic. Sidewalk construction in new development became a requirement with the adoption of the City’s Subdivision Regulations in November 1998. Currently, the City of Auburn boasts 62.8 miles of sidewalks with an additional 27.4 miles of sidewalks proposed on the City’s Sidewalk Master Plan.

#### Energy Efficient Lighting

- The City of Auburn has been proactive in replacing City building lighting with energy efficient florescent lighting (including the use of compact florescent bulbs)
- In October of 2007, the City of Auburn sponsored the “Change a Light, Change the World” campaign. This initiative is ongoing.  
(Citizens can “Take the Pledge” at the following website:  
[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=globalwarming.showPledgeHome&CAMPAIGN\\_YEAR=2007&CPD\\_ID=6235](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=globalwarming.showPledgeHome&CAMPAIGN_YEAR=2007&CPD_ID=6235) )
- The City has been purchasing (and continues to purchase) Energy Star compliant equipment including computers, monitors, etc.
- In 2003 the City swapped all of its traffic light signals from incandescent bulb technology to more energy efficient, brighter and longer lasting LED technology.
- The City of Auburn’s Traffic Engineering Division has a continuing effort to coordinate the traffic signals in an effort to reduce the number of starts and stops required when traveling Auburn’s roadways. Studies have shown that a well coordinated traffic signal system can reduce the frequent traveler’s fuel consumption by up to 20%.
- In 2003 we installed StediVolt’s (transient voltage suppressors) on our equipment at the water plant, raw water pump stations, and at our sewer lift stations. Our power bills at the lake and plant have shown between a 5% to 14% decrease since the equipment was installed. We continue to install these voltage suppressors on all large electric motors in our system.

#### Building Codes Encouraging Conservation

- In October of 1994, the City of Auburn adopted the plumbing code which required low flow plumbing fixtures for toilets and urinals. Since then the City has continued to implement the new plumbing requirements that have expanded to include low flow plumbing fixtures for showers, lavatories and sinks.

#### LEED criteria

- In FY 2009, the City plans to use the criterion used by the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design) certification program to evaluate energy and

resource usage at the Environmental Services facilities. It is hoped that what is learned from this project will be transferable to the other City facilities throughout Auburn.

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- LEED is a third party certification program (architects, engineers, etc.) that encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria. Simply put, the goal is to maximize operational efficiency while minimizing environmental impacts. There are standards for new facilities as well as “established facilities,” which is what we’ll be using as a guide. Our goal is evaluate and if noted, reduce consumption in the areas of water, electricity, natural gas, chemical use (i.e. cleaning materials), and others.

#### “Green” Policies

- The City of Auburn amended Sections 412, 413, 416 of Article IV of the Zoning Ordinance in May 2006 to include all new streamway buffer regulations as well as revised steep slope regulations.
- The City amended the landscape regulations in September 2006. While the amendments in their entirety were based on environmental concerns, special attention should be given to the provision that sets forth criteria for Tree Surveys, Tree Protection Plans, Tree Replacement Plans and formalizing the benefits of retaining existing vegetation on-site by providing a “tree credit” incentive.
- In February of 2007, the City of Auburn adopted the Conservation Overlay District (COD) and corresponding regulations as well as Conservation Subdivision regulations for the Lake Ogletree Watershed. This set forth development criteria geared toward realizing reductions of impervious surfaces for new residential developments.
- The City of Auburn has adopted a Greenspace and Greenway Master Plan. Through this program, the City has set aside significant greenspace (primarily along creekways) commensurate with new development. Specific successes include Camden Ridge, Tuscany Village, Copper Beech, among others.
- In 2003, the City of Auburn adopted an Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance. The Ordinance provides a regulatory mechanism for City staff to inspect and enforce erosion and sediment control practices on construction sites in an effort to minimize adverse impacts from construction site runoff. This ordinance is considered to be a model ordinance for the State of Alabama.
- In 2004, the City of Auburn adopted an Illicit Discharge Ordinance. The Ordinance prohibits the release of any material not composed entirely of stormwater into the City’s storm sewer system. The purpose of this ordinance is to minimize the release of pollutants into the Auburn storm sewer system.
- In 2004, the City of Auburn began a Water Quality Monitoring Program. The initial scope of the program was to evaluate the effect of construction site runoff on our local water resources and to evaluate the effectiveness of construction site best management practices. The Program has grown since 2004 and now includes a comprehensive water quality monitoring program to evaluate the overall water quality condition of our local water resources. Water quality monitoring efforts currently include turbidity monitoring for construction site runoff, post-construction stormwater outfall monitoring, real time stream water quality monitoring, and bacteriological monitoring for detection of potential illicit discharges
- In 2005, the City formed the Watershed Management Division of the Water Resource Management Department. This Division’s responsibility is to manage the City’s Phase II Stormwater Program. Aspects of this program include, but are not limited to, erosion and

sediment control inspections, water quality monitoring, illicit discharge monitoring, and public education and outreach.

#### Public Education and Outreach

- Storm Drain Marking Program – Program initially implemented by the City of Auburn and Auburn University’s Sustainability Initiative in 2006 to install storm drain markers on storm drain inlets within the City of Auburn. The inlet markers were designed by students in the Auburn City School system and include informational artwork and information on the importance of not dumping pollutants in to the storm drain.
- City of Auburn sponsorship of the Lee County Water Festival – The City of Auburn has been the driving force behind this five-year educational effort. The 5th annual Lee County Water Festival was held in May 2008 with approximately 1,500 4th graders from schools in the Lee County area attending. The primary purpose of the event is to educate young people on the importance of our water resources and the role each of us plays in conserving our water. Students learn about water filtration, aquifers and the water cycle through hands-on activities such as the edible aquifer, making a water cycle bracelet and building a mini-filtration unit.
- Earth Week – The City of Auburn is an active participant in Earth Week. One of the City’s Earth Week activities is the demonstration of the City’s Earthscape model which is used to educate children on the effects of stormwater runoff on our water resources. In conjunction with Earth Week, the City of Auburn’s Environmental Services Department hosts an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection day to provide residents with the opportunity to drop off hazardous household chemicals at a collection site eliminating the possibility of these items being dumped in to our local water resources.
- City staff routinely distributes pamphlets on the proper collection and disposal of fats, oils and greases to local food establishments and in areas where these materials may be potential causes of sanitary sewer overflows.