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On July 9, 2007, Mayor Finkbeiner announced eight (8) different Green Initiatives that will lead to a clean and healthier environment in the City of Toledo. In the week prior to this announcement as part of Live Earth, billions of people around the globe pledged to rededicate their lives to protecting and improving the world's environment. Through these Initiatives the City of Toledo is working to ensure the health of our environment and the economy. Now, one year later, this report provides an update of how the City of Toledo is doing in the implementation of our Green Initiatives.

## Recycling

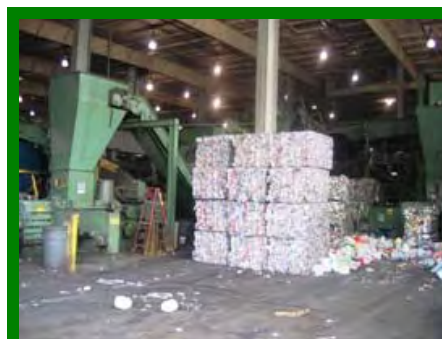
**Goal** – Continue to increase the amount of residents who recycle.

**Why this is important** – We are running out of room at the Hoffman Road Landfill and reusing products will conserve our raw materials for future generations.

**Where we started** – At the time of the announcement the amount of households participating was approximately 17%.

### **STATUS:**

1. In April 2007 the City implemented a citywide refuse collection fee. The fee allowed for a credit to be applied to the fee for those residents who recycle.
2. Toledo currently has approximately 44% of households participating in the recycling program. This is an increase of 27% in one year.
3. On average the City is collecting about 500 tons of recycled materials per year.
4. To enhance efficiency, the City implemented a pilot automated refuse system to collect both refuse and recyclables. In the automated refuse pick-up pilot area the percentage of homeowners recycling is a surprising 96%. This exceeds all preliminary expectations.



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## Anti-Littering Enforcement

**Goal** – Don't litter the countryside, streams, rivers and Lake Erie. Violators will be prosecuted.

**Why this is important** – Successful cities are clean and litter free. Litter adds to the blight of a community.

**Where we started** – Toledo Municipal Code has anti-littering and illegal dumping ordinances in place.

**STATUS:**

The Department of Neighborhoods performs regular ticketing for littering on an on-going basis. In the past year the Department of Neighborhoods initiated a new goal of identifying the twelve worst locations in the following areas: bus stops, exit ramps, graffiti locations, tire dumping locations and illegal dumping locations.

1. In the first quarter of 2008, 18 of the top locations for litter were identified and either ticketed or cleaned-up. The cost of the clean up for the City was passed along via invoice to the property owner.
2. The Annual Spring Clean-Up was held on April 19, 2008 with 61 different groups/organizations and 893 individuals picking up 56,000 pounds of trash, collected 78 tires and removed 72 illegal signs from the right-of-way.
3. The Model Block Program cleaned up seven (7) areas in 2007 and has already completed two Model Blocks in 2008. During the 2007 Model Block Program there were 587 tickets and orders issued. So far in 2008, the monthly Neighborhood Beautification Action report shows that 370 tickets for littering have been issued.

The Division of Environmental Services partners with an organization called Partners for Clean Streams to coordinate the Annual Clean Your Streams day. This past year's event was a big success with 603 volunteers collecting over 18,000 pounds of garbage and 162 tires.



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## Toledo Waterways Initiative

**Goal** – Our Waterways Initiative is preparing to enter Phase 2. This Initiative will make cleaner the Maumee River and Lake Erie.

**Why this is important** – Older areas of the City still utilize a combined sewer system where stormwater and household waste are carried to the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the same pipe. At times of significant rainfall, this system periodically overflows releasing bacteria into the river. The reduction in Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's) will improve the water quality in the Maumee River watershed and the western basin of Lake Erie. The waterways throughout Toledo and the western basin of Lake Erie are vital resources for the community. They offer a recreational opportunity for the local residents and bring an economic windfall through tourism.

**Where we started** - The Toledo Waterways Initiative was formed as a result of the settlement of an 11-year old lawsuit between the City of Toledo and the US and Ohio EPA. In July 2002, voters in the City of Toledo overwhelmingly approved an ordinance that provided funding through fee increases to make improvements to the sewer system.

### **STATUS:**

1. The Phase 1 projects are complete and include improvements to the treatment plant. The City is currently performing a two-year study on the performance of the ballasted flocculation facility and continuing work on the sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's) throughout the system.
2. To date, as part of the Phase 1 projects the City of Toledo has spent over \$170 million dollars on wastewater treatment and conveyance work.
3. Looking forward to Phase 2, the City is in the final stages of agreeing to a Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) with the U.S. EPA at a cost of approximately \$300 million.
4. While City Council has authorized the Phase 2 contract with Black & Veatch for design improvements, the City is in the process of negotiating the LTCP with the U.S. EPA.
5. In Phase 2 the City of Toledo will reduce the combined sewer overflow volume from 624.4 million gallons per year to approximately 180 million gallons per year. This is an overall reduction of 444 million gallons per year and will greatly improve the water quality in the Toledo area.



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## Rain Gardens

**Goal** – The City of Toledo will continue to promote the construction of rain gardens in the city to improve water quality and encourage other low-impact development practices.

**Why this is important** – Rain Gardens reduce the initial surge of storm water into the system which helps reduce potential flooding. Rain Gardens also improve water quality by providing natural filtration.

**Where we started** – In the spring of 2007, the Toledo Rain Garden Initiative began by promoting the idea of rain gardens to homeowners, developers, landscapers, business owners and governmental agencies. A demonstration rain garden was built at Environmental Services to be used as an educational tool on how to construct and care for a rain garden.

**STATUS:**

1. There are fourteen (14) rain gardens currently installed in the City of Toledo.
2. There are another twelve (12) in construction due to be completed this year.
3. There are currently thirty-one (31) different groups participating/supporting the Rain Garden Initiative.
4. Over the past year the Rain Garden Initiative has participated in 68 outreach events in the community.
5. The Rain Garden Initiative has also branched out into the use of rain barrels. A first ever rain barrel sale was held on March 29 at the Erie Street Market. This event was a big success with all ninety-two (92) rain barrels available being sold.
6. Environmental Services has also put together a plan to address the flooding in the Maywood Ave. neighborhood. This plan, called the Maywood Project, implements a series of rain gardens and rain barrels throughout the area to collect the stormwater. This plan has been drafted into a formal proposal and been submitted to Congresswoman Kaptur's office for potential funding.
7. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 Environmental Services will host the inaugural Frogtown Fair at the Erie Street Market. This event will focus on educating Toledoans on what they can do to become more environmentally conscience at home. During this event another rain barrel sale and a rain garden tour will take place among many other educational exhibits.



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## Environmental Permitting

**Goal** – The Division of Environmental Services will raise the bar on permits seeking to compromise pollution control standards impacting air, water and the soil.

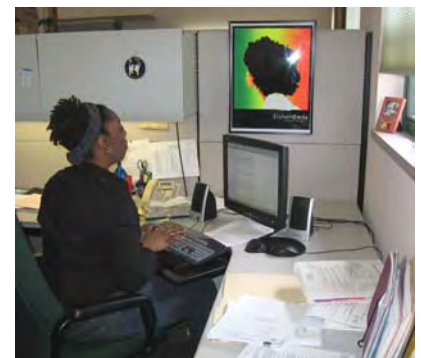
**Why this is important** – Proper environmental permitting allows the successful co-existence of a community comprised of citizens and industry through established standards which are protective of the public's health and achievable by industry.

**Where we started** – Our authority to permit is based on the Toledo Municipal Code, State and Federal regulations. These complex regulations are subject to periodic change as scientific knowledge adds to our understanding of the risk of pollution to the public and as better process control technologies are developed.

**STATUS:**

**Environmental Services performs regular inspections, testing and complaint response, working continuously with the community to improve compliance with environmental regulations. Recent changes to the air pollution system will combine current smaller stand-alone systems into a single source compliance system which will be available on-line to the regulated community.**

1. This newly installed system creates a streamlined one-stop process, replacing the existing method of issuance requiring a permit to install followed by a separate permit to operate.
2. For small businesses, their reporting requirements have been extended from five (5) years to ten (10) to reduce the amount of burdensome paperwork.
3. In the past year, Environmental Services has implemented a new compliance tracking system that provides a summary on a regular basis. This helps to identify companies in non-compliance.
4. In the past year, Environmental Services has processed thirty-one (31) new permits-to-install and expects a marked increase in renewal applications in the coming year.



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## Green Building Codes and Practices

**Goal** – The City will continue to encourage green building codes and practices.

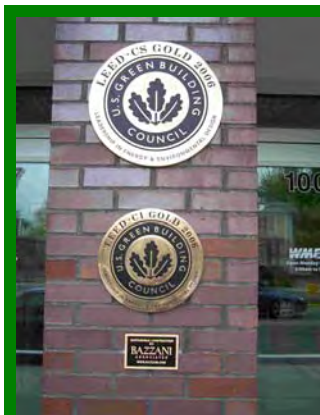
**Why this is important** – Research has shown that Green building practices promote energy efficiency, reduce operating costs, improve health and work productivity and lessen the environmental impact from buildings and developments.

**Where we started** - In years past, building codes in the City of Toledo have not required developers to use the latest technology when it comes to building design standards.

**STATUS:**

The City of Toledo wants to lead the region in promoting the use of low impact development, energy conservation, “green” building design and other environmental conservation practices.

1. Legislation passed on Oct. 2 2007 requires Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for a newly constructed City facilities whenever possible.
2. The City of Toledo has also committed to retrofit facilities with energy efficient alternatives, and employ process changes that will result in reduced energy usage and greenhouse gas production wherever possible.
3. The City of Toledo continues to promote the use of low impact development throughout the community in current programs such as the Rain Garden Initiative, Downspout Disconnection Program and the Stormwater Credits Program.
4. The City of Toledo’s Brownfield Program continues to actively redevelop environmentally challenged properties, and thus promote the reuse of infrastructure. In the past year, the City has received a \$3 million Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund grant for additional asbestos abatement at the ACME Building in the Marina District and has submitted a \$750,000 proposal to the Clean Ohio Assistance Fund for the final remediation of the former XXKEM property.
5. The City of Toledo is now a member of the U.S. Green Building Council. This allows us access to resources such as information on the latest green building information and the ability to connect with other members for information sharing.



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## Green Policies

**Goal** – The City encourages all businesses and individuals to practice “green policies”, as will the City.

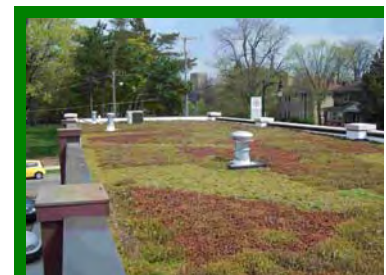
**Why this is important** – The adoption of Green Policies makes it a requirement to consider environmental quality and green practices when making decisions about new facilities, transportation and energy consumption. The City of Toledo should lead by example by implementing Green Policies in our own operations.

**Where we started** – At the time of the announcement the City of Toledo did not have a green policy in place.

**STATUS:**

1. On October 2, 2007 Toledo City Council passed Resolution 648-07 requesting the City of Toledo to adopt a Green Policy.
2. This resolution promotes sustainable development strategies to ensure that the City of Toledo is an environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy place to live and work.
3. The resolution also adopts a green purchasing policy (focused on buying recycled products when possible), examines the use of alternative fuels for fleet vehicles and requires the City to practice environmentally responsible growth when establishing land use policy.
4. The City of Toledo has also provided an incentive program, in the form of a reduced refuse collection fee, to encourage residents to recycle whenever possible.
5. A draft version of the forthcoming City of Toledo Green Policy has been attached for review.
6. The implementation of this resolution and forthcoming policy has already begun by ordering fourteen (14) new hybrid fleet vehicles to address concerns over air quality and fuel consumption. Additionally the City of Toledo has partnered with the University of Toledo and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur’s office to test the use of biodiesel in City vehicles. Finally, the City has also partnered with Chevron to perform energy audits on City facilities gain a better understanding of energy usage and conservation opportunities.

**BIODIESEL**  
**PARTNERS** *for*  
**RENEWABLE**  
**ENERGY**  
*Harvesting Energy Independence in Ohio*



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## A proposal for the State of Ohio to locate a Center for Alternative Energy in Toledo.

**Goal** – The City will be forwarding to Governor Strickland and Lt. Governor Fisher shortly, a proposal for the State of Ohio to locate a Center for Alternative Energy right here in Toledo.

**Why this is important** – The City of Toledo must embrace the industries of the future.

**Where we started** – The University of Toledo has been a leader in research regarding the development of solar technologies. This leadership and knowledge has spawned several companies in the area that focus on the production and development of thin-film solar photovoltaics.

### **STATUS:**

1. We are already a leader in solar energy, have co-generation from methane gas under construction, are evaluating wind turbines and have submitted a grant application for a demonstration wind turbine project. Locating a Center for Alternative Energy is a natural fit and will solidify Toledo as an alternative energy capital.
2. On September 25, 2007 Mayor Finkbeiner sent Governor Strickland an official proposal to locate the Ohio Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development here in Toledo. It is the City's vision that this Center will focus on converting the sophisticated energy research conducted at Ohio's private and public institutions into integrated commercial solutions for Ohio and the World. A State sponsored research facility, devoted to the efficient usage of economically viable and environmentally sustainable energy for Ohio's communities and Ohio's industries is needed.
3. Since the September 25<sup>th</sup> proposal submittal, the City of Toledo, Department of Economic Development has continued and will continue to promote Toledo to the State of Ohio as the place to locate the Ohio Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development.

