

Sioux Falls might try to cut landfill use by 10%

City moves toward setting goals for sustainability

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A consulting firm hired to help shape a citywide sustainability plan laid out some of its goals Friday at the Plain Green Conference.

Robert Craggs, a vice president at Science Applications

International Corp., updated attendees about the city's eight-month effort to find ways to use less energy and water, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimize waste and promote public transportation and sustainable land use.

The sustainability group, made up of city employees and representatives of local businesses and nonprofit organizations, has been meeting since February. The city used a \$200,000 stimulus grant to hire SAIC to guide the planning process.

Among the goals outlined in

Craggs' presentation:

■ Reduce per-capita landfill disposal in the regional watershed by 10 percent by 2015.

■ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from city operations by 15 percent by 2015.

■ Develop a municipal open-space policy by 2014.

■ Reduce phosphate and nitrate in levels in the city's wastewater by 50 percent by 2030.

■ Beginning with the 2014 capital improvement plan, change

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WHAT'S NEXT

SAIC, the consulting group hired to help craft a citywide sustainability plan, will deliver its final report by the end of November. Learn more at siouxfalls.org/green/smp.

ONLINE

View Robert Craggs' presentation on the city's sustainability plan. [@ARGUSLEADER.COM](http://ARGUSLEADER.COM)



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the evaluation criteria to include environmental and social aspects of a project in addition to financial considerations.

Aimee Ladonski, the city's sustainability coordinator, cautioned that the recommendations still are fluid.

"It's still a living and breathing document," she said. A final report is due by the end of November, when the ideas will be presented to the City Council and — maybe — get translated into policy.

Patrick Anderson, executive director of the Northern Prairies Land Trust, is one of the group members. He called the sustainability plan "a good step forward for the city" and said the land trust is most interested in looking at how the munic-

ipal zoning code might be changed to encourage more green space in the city.

As part of the process, SAIC will develop an inventory of Sioux Falls' greenhouse gas emissions. That process is about 90 percent done, said Ladonski, who is chairwoman of the group's steering committee.

Mayor Mike Huether, who shares the title of group "executive co-champion" with Councilor Kenny Anderson Jr., said the master plan is part of an effort to "focus on future generations."

"Sioux Falls has just touched the tip of the iceberg when it comes to sustainability," he said. "In our efforts to take advantage of what a greener community can become, I fully support the team's efforts and will do what I can to motivate the people of Sioux Falls to

do the same."

Several municipal department heads are represented in the group, and they have discretion to institute changes within that department.

"We're already finding a lot of efficiencies, some really easy low-hanging fruit," Ladonski said.

Public Works Director Mark Cotter said the city's recent move to tighten recycling requirements for trash haulers is part of this effort. Haulers now must recycle 15 percent of the solid waste they collect, up from 8 percent under previous rules.

Longer-term projects that require more significant capital outlays would have to be approved by the council.

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