

# Sustainable Success Stories

## *Johnson County Sustainability Program*

### Goal:

The government of Johnson County, Kansas has undertaken the development of a comprehensive sustainability program. The overarching goal is to incorporate “triple-bottom-line” benefits into all county operations and the delivery of all county services.

### Project Description:

The Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution in December 2007 establishing goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from county operations by one-third by the year 2020 and to reduce community-wide GHG emissions by 80 percent by 2050.

Through an interdepartmental sustainability committee, the county is developing GHG inventories for county government and the county community at large. The county plans to achieve zero waste by 2020 and is expanding its use of recycled content paper and other “green” products.

### Community Benefits and Lessons Learned:

Through life-cycle costing, the county is providing more cost-effective services for its constituents while reducing its environmental impacts and building a stronger community. The leadership of the county’s elected officials and department heads has been critical to the successes the county has achieved to date.

Equally important has been the willingness of staff at all levels to support energy-efficiency initiatives, waste-reduction efforts, and the use of green products. Staff buy-in is more likely to occur when there is leadership from upper management and clear communication about the scope and benefits of new sustainability policies. Providing the public with information that quantifies the benefits of green-building, energy-efficiency and waste-reduction initiatives is essential to building public support for sustainability efforts.

### Funding Sources and Partnerships:

Johnson County Board of County Commissioners  
Federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program

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*The Johnson County Sustainability Program is working towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions by one-third. They are working with local businesses to meet their goal.*