

Sustainable Success Stories

Kansas City Sustainability Workshop

Goal:

Kansas City, Mo., is working towards becoming “The Greenest City in America” by experiencing and exploring the concept of integration and cross-collaboration among departments.

Project Description:

Kansas City, Mo., conducted a two-day sustainability workshop for staff kicking off the initiative, and setting the long-term priority of becoming “The Greenest City in America.” Achievements to date were recognized along with the realization that there is a large amount of work to be done. The workshop, scheduled by the City Manager’s office, took place over two days and included numerous speakers and breakout working sessions.

The purpose was to begin a city-wide dialogue of discovery and to develop ideas, strategies, and actions for moving forward. Individuals from departments were assigned to one of six groups, creating a process of inter-departmental decision-making. Subsequent discussions identified major and unique opportunities and barriers.

Community Benefits and Lessons Learned:

Two resounding needs were expressed — education and empowerment. Numerous ideas were generated in all breakout groups. The challenge lies not in new ideas, but rather in escaping the old ones, creating actions plans, taking real steps and empowering staff to use an integrative approach to make progress. Overcoming the challenges to work as a team rather than individual agencies will lead to better results and achievements.

Funding Sources and Partnerships:

The city of Kansas City, Mo.
Cerner Corp.

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