Sustainable Success Stories

Center City Neighborhood
Revitalization and Greening

Project Description:
The Center City Neighborhood Redevelopment and Sustainability Project is a long-range, high-impact program that will affect the occupants of every home in a 12-square-block area east of 71 Highway between 31st St. and Armour Blvd. The project incorporates the creation and maintenance of rain gardens and usable green space with renovation and construction projects that will increase energy efficiency for the neighborhood homes.

Goals:

- Plant an urban apple orchard, which would be the second urban orchard in Kansas City, Mo.
- Plant two rain gardens each year through 2013.
- Build four to eight single-family, universally designed, Energy Star homes in 2011.
- Complete energy audits on 100 percent of owner-occupied homes in the neighborhood by 2013.
- Encourage homeowners to participate in energy efficiency education programs.
- Help homeowners get access to funding for stabilization and energy efficiency renovations for their residences.

Community Benefits:
Home renovations reduce utility expenses and increase homeowner comfort. Rain gardens and green public spaces limit development’s impact on city services while helping residents become healthier and more interactive with their neighbors. These interactions and the resulting relationships may reduce crime and increase the overall safety of the neighborhood.

Surrounding communities benefit from an engaged neighborhood focused on sustainable redevelopment, the incorporation of the arts, increasing partnerships, reduction in crime and the thoughtful use of neighborhood assets and the environment.

Contact:
Eddie Tapper, Director of Real Estate and Construction
Westside Housing Organization
919 W. 24th St.
Kansas City, MO 64108
816-221-0286
etapper@westsidehousing.org

Funding Sources:
Public, private, community, philanthropic and corporate funding have been blended and leveraged to develop energy efficient, green homes in a walkable, safe and vibrant neighborhood.