



Working Towards a Sustainable and Regenerative Fairfield

CITIZEN ACTION COMMITTEES OF THE
COMMUNITY FUTURES CONFERENCE



In August, over 50 individuals attended the Community Futures Conference, a daylong exercise addressing how Fairfield could do its part to reduce global warming. Participants formed eight committees that mapped out a two-year strategy to transform our city into a carbon neutral and regenerative community.

Innumerable creative ideas flowed, and several citizen action committees evolved. Many are now plunging into initial projects to reduce Fairfield's carbon output, incorporate cost-saving and environmentally friendly technologies, and share with others how to lessen our impact on the environment.

We all can do something, big or small, to reduce global warming. We have the knowledge and the technology to create a secure, energy-dependent, and sustainable future for ourselves. Our environment will benefit, and so will our pocketbooks, our security, and our health.

This pamphlet provides you with a list of all the working committees born from the conference with their mission and their projects. We warmly invite you to join any one of them. Bring your energy, contribute your ideas, and together, let's make Fairfield Iowa's first sustainable city!

The Community Futures Conference was the brainchild of the Sustainable Living Coalition's Big Green Summer. To learn more about this event, and to keep up with ongoing activities, visit its evolving website at www.renewfairfield.com.

CITIZEN ACTION COMMITTEES

FOOD SYSTEMS

Mission:

Create a sustainable food system for Fairfield as we transition into a future free of fossil fuels.

Projects:

- Establish a demonstration center to act as an educational tool in bringing awareness to all food production-related topics.
- Open a community kitchen processing facility to help local producers create value-added products from their farms and gardens.
- Revive the Alliant Energy tree planting program with an emphasis on using edible/useful species.
- Work with the city government to implement useful/edible plantings around the new south and east freeway interchanges and to complete the design of the sign area west of Fairfield.



Photo: Leroy Marylene

How You Could Help:

Identify possible sites for community gardens, a learning center, and a processing facility. Identify and write grant proposals.

Contact: Grover Stock • 641-226-0530 • email: foodforest@mac.com

BUILDING AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Mission:

Ensure that development and construction are done in smart, appropriate, and environmental responsible ways. Promote green building techniques by making information about them more easily accessible and by making resources available to homeowners, developers, designers, builders, and any other interested parties.

Projects:

Develop a Resource Center office by retrofitting a local building to showcase energy-efficient design. This will be a one-stop shop for all information about green building and may eventually employ a consultant or house volunteers who can help with individual and community projects.

How You Can Help

We are still in our beginning stages and welcome anyone interested in joining our efforts.

Contact: Briggs Shore, 641-430-1089 • briggsshore@gmail.com

FAIRFIELD GREEN CLUB

Mission:

To teach families and businesses simple action steps to reduce global warming.

Projects:

Hold one-on-one or small group meetings to teach easy, cost-effective steps that anyone can take to conserve energy and reduce their household's and business's impact on the environment.

How You Can Help:

Help us make presentations!

Contact: Sharon Starr • 641-472-3105 • rstarr@lisco.com

FAIRFIELD CLIMATE NEUTRAL INITIATIVE

Mission:

Cities can play a tremendous role in the global warming climate crisis, but reducing our carbon emissions is not enough. It is important to consider the full environmental costs of our lifestyles in order to live more sustainably. Our mission is to make Fairfield a certified carbon-neutral city as a major first step towards becoming a 100% sustainable and regenerative community. We will also position Fairfield as a model from which other communities can learn.

Projects:

- Create an Environmental Footprint model for Fairfield as a baseline for measuring our progress towards Carbon Neutrality — and beyond — a sustainable, regenerative, more self-reliant future.
- Work with the city, local businesses, and the citizens of Fairfield, to establish a 10-year strategic plan to reduce our carbon footprint and establish regenerative measures.
- Develop an educational outreach program to teach people how to reduce their carbon emissions/environmental footprint.



How You Can Help

In our second phase of development, volunteers will be needed from all segments of the community to make presentations to businesses, community organizations, schools, and residents about implementing carbon-reducing measures.

Contact: Fred Rosenberg • 472-9332 • fred@osagecomputing.com
Bob Ferguson • 913-208-6357 • bob@rapidoffice.com

ENERGY

Mission:

Reduce and eventually eliminate Fairfield's need for fossil fuels by helping all businesses and residences implement the twin pillars of carbon neutrality: 1) energy efficient measures and 2) renewable energy technologies.

Projects:

- Help community implement an 18-step energy efficiency and renewable energy plan recommended by top environmentalists and Alliant Energy. This plan is aligned with the Fairfield Carbon Neutral Initiative to help Fairfield become the first city in the US to become Climate Neutral. See www.biggreensummer.com/Main/Energy for the plan.
- Sign up the first 100 individuals for an Alliant Energy home audit to jump-start our community's move to greater energy-efficiency.
- Develop a follow-up program to train individuals to implement audit recommendations.
- Receive help to build a sustainable home to showcase the latest developments in green housing; energy efficiency; and solar, wind and geothermal energy.

How You Can Help

Sign residents and businesses up for Alliant Energy home audits.

Contact: Stuart Valentine • 469-4000 • svalentine@fwg.com

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLICITY

Mission:

Educate and motivate the entire community about how to reduce global warming and inspire the community to make personal choices to reduce its carbon footprint. Help coordinate the PR efforts of the various committees, as needed.

Projects:

- Begin an educational newsletter that also publicizes all community environmental activities.
- Help establish an educational community resource center to educate the public.
- Create promotional materials for all committees for local media.
- Establish green neighborhood associations to help implement sustainable measures within neighborhoods and to provide a support network for encouraging each other to begin making simple lifestyle changes.
- Develop a network of individuals that can work with all segments of the community to implement energy-efficiency and renewable energy measures.



How You Can Help:

Writers, designers, and website developers needed as well as individuals throughout the community who would like to reach out to businesses, schools, organizations, and residents. Volunteers also needed to help set up public information meetings and establish green neighborhood associations.

Contact: Diane Comey • 472-0376 • dcomey@lisco.com

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mission:

Our mission is to create a sustainable and regenerative waste management system by eliminating the concept of waste in all layers of life, from industrial, to commercial, to residential. For a system to be sustainable, it cannot have waste. Better to have a resource management system, where the focus is on transforming, harnessing, and benefiting from the materials received, rather than poorly disposing of them. This will allow us to tap into a wealth of resources that were previously overlooked.

Projects:

- Community composting projects
- Educational programs
- Resource exchange center and website

How You Can Help:

All help is greatly appreciated with any of these projects.

Contact: Michael Cook • mbrcook@gmail.com

TRANSPORTATION

Mission:

Develop smarter ways to transport resources and to reduce the number of vehicles and miles traveled within Fairfield.

Projects:

- Shared wheels – includes community bikes, green-vehicle rentals, car sharing, car-pooling, and the development of a safe hitchhiking program.
- Create programs to encourage people to use alternative transportation methods.

How You Can Help

Volunteers are sought who can adopt one of these projects and run with it.

Contact: Ben Stallings • 472-1996 • ben@interdependentweb.com