## **Conceptualizing Sustainable Futures**



### **Sustainable Futures ?**



December 2015, www.ClimateScoreboard.org

### What is an EcoDistrict?

- Promotes district-wide, sustainable projects
- Reduces emissions and resource use
- Engages cross-disciplinary stakeholders

#### DISTRICT ENERGY REDUCTION



#### DISTRICT WATER REDUCTION



#### What is an EcoDistrict?

#### EcoDistricts strive to:

- Foster sustainability initiatives
- Implement district-wide collaborative efforts
- Engage stakeholders to achieve complex projects
- Conserve resources (energy & water)
- Promote public health
- Increase transportation mobility
- Encourage equitable development
- Reintegrate ecological systems

The creation of an EcoDistrict supports the continued growth of districts by developing strategies for sustainable growth that consider environmental impacts, quality of life, and economic vitality.



**EcoDistrict Development Framework** 





### **EcoDistrict Imperatives**

### equity.

### resilience.

Resilience is the capacity of cities to function so that all people may thrive — especially those most vulnerable — regardless of the stresses they encounter. We encourage project teams and practitioners to view resilience with a broad lens that considers how to prepare their community for social, technological, economic, environmental, and/or political disruption and their impact on health and wellbeing.

### climate.





protection.

restore natural capital.

www.ecodistricts.org

#### What is an EcoDistrict?

6	RESOURCE PROTECTION Goal: Create communities that eliminate pollution and restore natural capital.	
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCED WITHIN THE DISTRICT	Annual tons of greenhouse gas emissions emitted per capita within the district
		Annual tons of greenhouse gas emissions emitted from buildings, infrastructure, transportation, and water consumption
	GENERATION OF DISTRICT-SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY	Percentage of total energy derived from decentralized renewable sources, as a percentage of the city's total energy consumption
		Percentage of electrical and thermal energy generation provided by renewables
WATER EFFICIENCY	EFFICIENT USE OF POTABLE WATER THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT	Annual gallons of water used per capita annually
		Annual gallons of water used per square feet annually
	ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCES FOR NON-POTABLE USES	Number of buildings within the district have access to alternative (non potable) water sources
WASTE MANAGEMENT	MINIMAL GENERATION OF WASTE	Percentage of per capita waste diverted from landfill
	CAPTURE THE RESIDUAL VALUE OF ORGANIC WASTES	Percentage of organic waste that is diverted from landfill for energy recovery or composting

#### The Process is Similar for New or Existing Neighborhoods

#### **Realize Vision**

Built vision & momentum

#### **EcoDistricts 'Incubator' workshop**

• A team of 5 representatives attended in May 2013

#### Grow the stakeholder group

Recruited key decision makers to participate in the EcoDistrict development early on

#### Initial organization funding

- Funding for a Project Manager
- Funding for a consultant to complete a district energy assessment

### **Multiple Stakeholders**



#### **EcoDistrict's Target Cities Program**

#### **Target Cities: A Clinton Global Initiative**

- National Pilot Program
- 11 EcoDistrict projects across 9 North American Cities
- Focused on peer learning & capacity building
- Provides insights into complicated projects



#### Kendall Square's EcoDistrict:

The Kendall Square EcoDistrict is working:

... to facilitate Kendall Square's growth:

- in the number of residents
  - in robust, healthy habitat in livability
- **GROWTH** 
  - in business/job opportunities
  - in capacity for resilience

#### ... while reducing the district's footprint:

in carbon emissions in energy consumption

- DOTPRINT in stormwater runoff
  - in potable water usage
  - in impermeable surfaces



Diagram illustrates overarching goals of Kendall Square's EcoDistrict.



#### Local Initiatives & EcoDistrict Alignment



This diagram illustrates current sustainability initiatives in and around Cambridge and their relationship to the EcoDistrict.

#### An EcoDistrict & Resilience

#### **Potential Resilience Partnership**

Goal: To initiate a conversation between stakeholders, City representatives, and representatives of key neighborhoods outside of the EcoDistrict about how best to increase resilience in all of the neighborhoods and set collaborative goals for resilience to bring to the City Climate Change Adaptation efforts.



- Engaged in preliminary discussions with City departments to identify impacted neighborhoods
- Created a framework for engagement around building resilience for the EcoDistrict
- Recruit members and representatives from communities to participate in the resilience conversation
- Initiate community conversations
- Bring conversation outcomes to the wider Adaptation Planning process

#### **Potential Actions:**

- Establish partnerships with surrounding neighborhoods
- Promote shared community benefits
- Identify and prioritize areas vulnerable to climate change

# Thriving with Water



# Jim Newman | Principal



1