



CITY OF DUNWOODY

Sustainability Policies and Practices Update

May 08, 2020

Overview

Sustainable smart growth has been Dunwoody tradition since city incorporation in 2008. Such was the focus, that the Sustainability Committee was among the first advisory boards created by Mayor and Council in 2009.

Together Mayor and Council and the Sustainability Committee continue to implement the official Sustainability Plan and to promote culture of eco-conscious living through regular public outreach initiatives. As a result of the city's dedication to smart growth, Dunwoody was re-certified a gold level community under the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities program in 2019.

This document presents summaries of those policies, programs, and plans which have been adopted, remain in effect, and serve as the backbone of our sustainability approach. Staff is encouraged to review this document and the Sustainability Eco-Friendly Policy page on the city's webpage to stay up to date on new ordinances, plans, and/or policies as they are adopted.

Policies in blue are core items. Ordinances available online.

Green Building

Green Building Policy

Requires new city-owned buildings greater than 5,000 square feet or with total project costs greater than \$1 million to achieve LEED+ BC certification, with goal of achieving silver certification.

Energy Star / Earth Craft Policy

Requires city-owned buildings less than 5000 square feet or less than \$1 million in total project costs to attempt LEED certification.

Energy Star / LEED Renovation Policy

Requires renovations to achieve LEED for Existing Buildings certification when possible, to achieve Energy Star or Earth Craft Light Commercial certification.

Green Building Incentives

Encourages green construction by offering expedited reviews for projects that achieve LEED, EnergyStar, or EarthCraft certification.



*Rendering of Twelve24 office building adjacent Dunwoody MARTA station to be LEED certified.
Image credit: Reporter Newspaper.*

Energy Efficiency

Energy Star Purchase Policy

Energy star purchasing policy adopted to prioritize energy efficient equipment and appliances.

LED Traffic Lights Policy

Installed LED bulbs in existing traffic signals, phasing out incandescent bulbs.

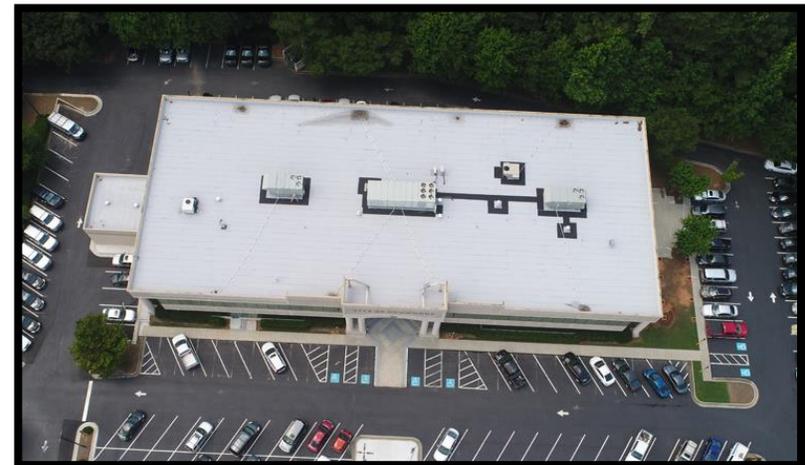
Lights Out / Power Down Policy

Requires all non-emergency building lighting and electronics to be turned off when not in use and at end of the work day.

Cool Roof Project

Installed a cool roof on City Hall to reflect solar energy away from the building, making it easier to maintain internal temperature and reduce energy costs.

Traffic Signal and Street Light
Image Credit: Google



Dunwoody City Hall 2020
Image Credit: Google

Energy Efficiency

LED Lightbulb Program

Replaced all light bulbs in desk lamps used in the Community Development Department with LED bulbs. Additionally exit light signs were converted to LED as all city owned buildings underwent energy audits.

Energy Code Implementation

The Chief Building Official requires all construction projects to conduct duct leakage tests, blower door tests, and to complete house wrap inspections to ensure the structures erected are meeting Georgia Energy Code requirements.

Outdoor Lighting Efficiency Ordinance

Chapter 27, Article IV, Division 3 of zoning code provides night sky regulations to limit the use of excess lighting that unnecessarily wastes energy and degrades the nighttime visual environment. Requires use of full cut off fixtures.

Image credit: shopplaywood

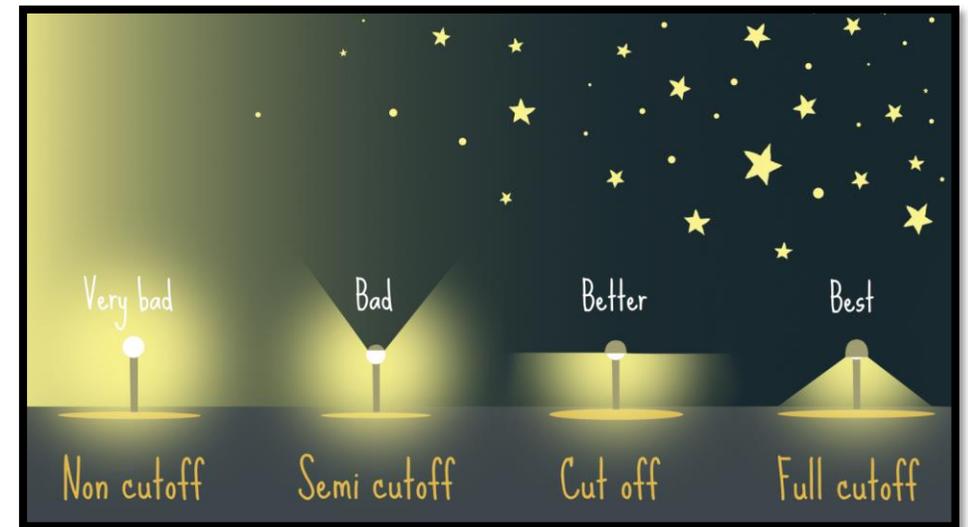
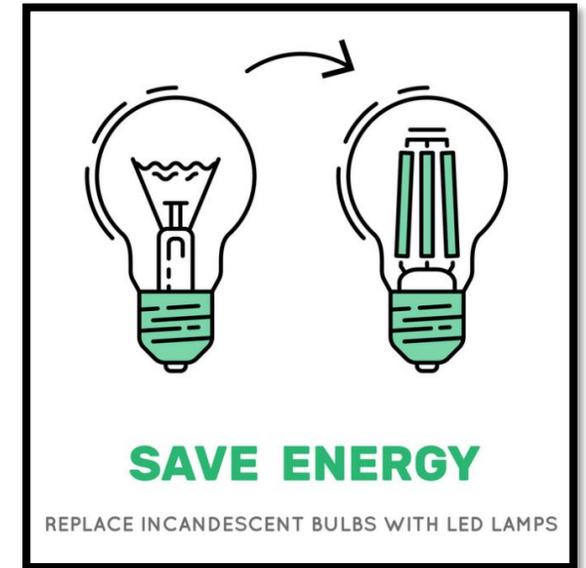


Image credit: Ellan Village, UK

Green Power

Solar Incentives

Encourages the installation of solar projects by offering expedited plan reviews for builders that incorporate solar energy elements including photovoltaic or solar water heaters into their projects. The Sustainability Committee also participated in the Solarize Dunwoody campaign, which brought solar to 52 residences.



Mayor Denis Shortal presented a proclamation to members of Solarize Dunwoody and declared Jan. 31, 2018 as Solarize Dunwoody Day.

Printer photo: Sue Stanton



Campaign Milestones (as of October 10, 2018)

New Solar Capacity: **327.85kW**



Installations:

52 – a 600% increase in Dunwoody



CO² Avoided:

640,838 lbs annually



Savings:

\$163,000+*

TESLA

Tesla Powerwalls:

37 units (13.5kW each)

Thank you for your participation!

*compared to a one-off purchase with comparable quality components (\$3.15/watt)

Solarize Dunwoody is a solar PV bulk-purchasing program that helps homeowners, businesses and nonprofits in the Dunwoody area save on the cost of solar — the more that participate, the greater the savings.

Water Efficiency

Government Ultra-High Efficiency Plumbing Retrofits Policy

Requires all new city-owned buildings to install high-efficiency plumbing fixtures such as WaterSense® certified toilets, urinals and faucets.

Water Resource Management Plan

Completed audit with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is in compliance with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Water Resource Management Plan(s).

Water Education and Outreach Program

Provides educational resources on how residents can help maintain water quality on the city's Public Works webpage.

Incentives for Water Sense Homes

Offers expedited plan reviews for projects that achieve WaterSense for new homes certification.

The screenshot shows the EPA WaterSense website. At the top is the EPA logo and navigation links for Environmental Topics, Laws & Regulations, and About EPA. A search bar is on the right. Below the navigation is the WaterSense logo and social media icons. The main content area features a featured article titled "Sprinkler Spruce-Up" with a photo of a person working on an irrigation system. To the right of the article is a circular logo that says "WaterSense Meets EPA Criteria" and three buttons: "SEARCH PRODUCTS", "FIND REBATES", and "CONNECT WITH US". Below the featured article is a paragraph about taking steps to save water and protect the environment by choosing WaterSense labeled products. At the bottom, there are three columns of resource categories: "WaterSense Products" (with links for Showerheads, Toilets, Bathroom Faucets & Accessories, More Products..., and Product Search), "WaterSense for Kids" (with links for Let's Learn About WaterSense!, Why Save Water?, Simple Ways to Save Water, Test Your WaterSense Game, and Resources for Educators), and "Our Water" (with links for How We Use Water, Understanding Your Water Bill, Start Saving, Save with Us, and Learn More). Below these are three more columns: "Outdoors" (with links for Landscaping Tips, What to Plant, Landscape Photo Gallery, Watering Wisely Tips, Irrigation with a Pro, and Professional Certification Program), "Homes" (with links for WaterSense Labeled Homes, Homes Specification, Certification and Inspection, Buying and Selling, Water Budget Tool, and Tools and Resources), and "Commercial Buildings" (with links for Getting Started, Types of Facilities, EPA Water Score, Best Management Practices, Tools, and Webinars).

Trees and Greenspace

No Net Loss of Trees Policy

Requires that trees removed on City property (parks, right of way, or other city property) be replaced.

Greenspace Plan

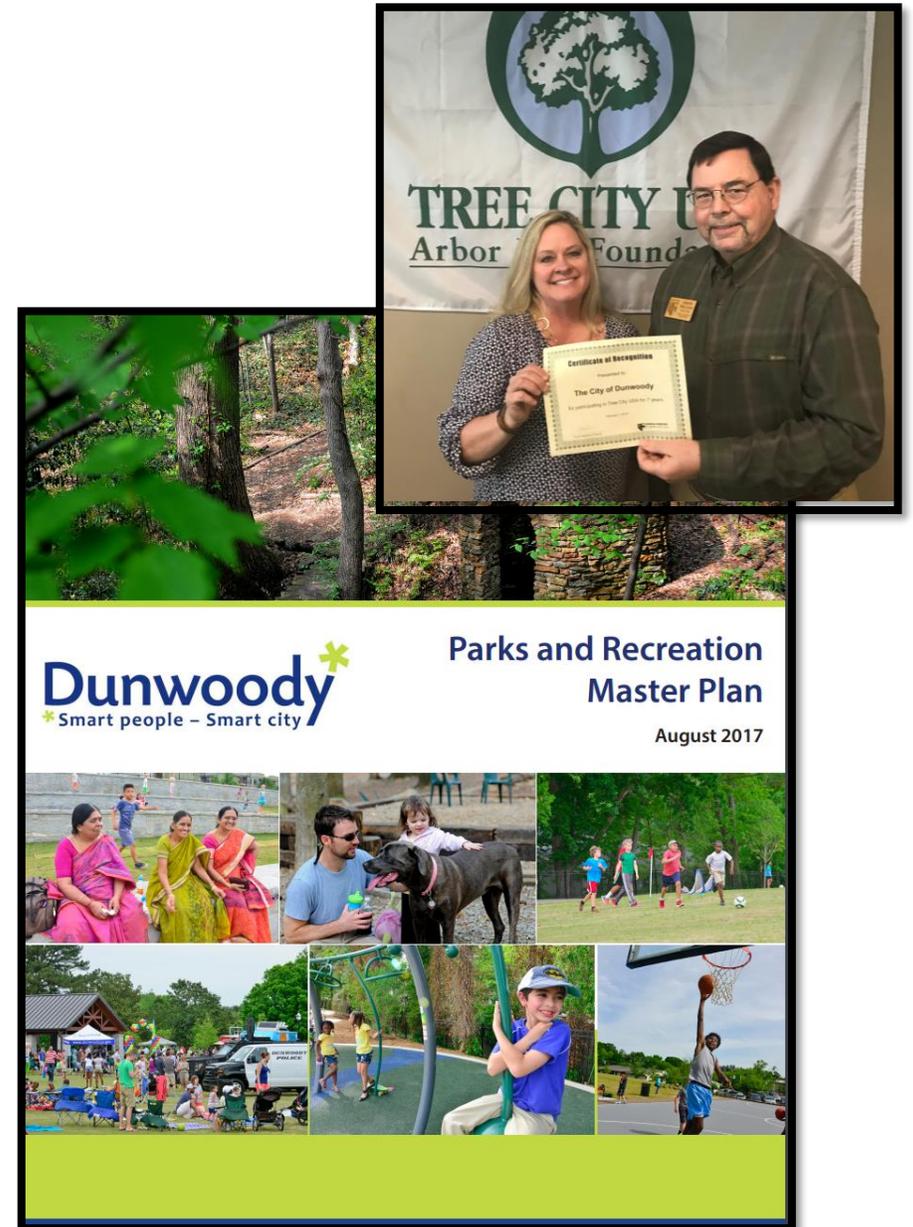
Adopted the Parks and Open Space Master Plan in March 2011. Updated and adopted new plan August 2017.

Sustainable Landscaping Policy

Adopted landscaping specifications for integrated pest management and the use of drought tolerant and native landscaping plantings.

Tree City USA

Designated Tree City USA since 2012. To maintain designation, Dunwoody has a Tree Commission, a community tree ordinance, a community forestry program with an annual budget of \$2 per capita and annual Arbor Day observance and proclamation.



Trees and Greenspace

Sterling Pointe Parking Lot.
Image Credit: Google

Parking Lot Tree Canopy

Encourages 50% shade coverage of parking lots through standards requiring a minimum of one canopy tree for every eight parking spaces and a minimum of 200 square feet of contiguous soil space per overstory tree. See Sterling Pointe, Spruill site for examples of compliance.

Community Gardens

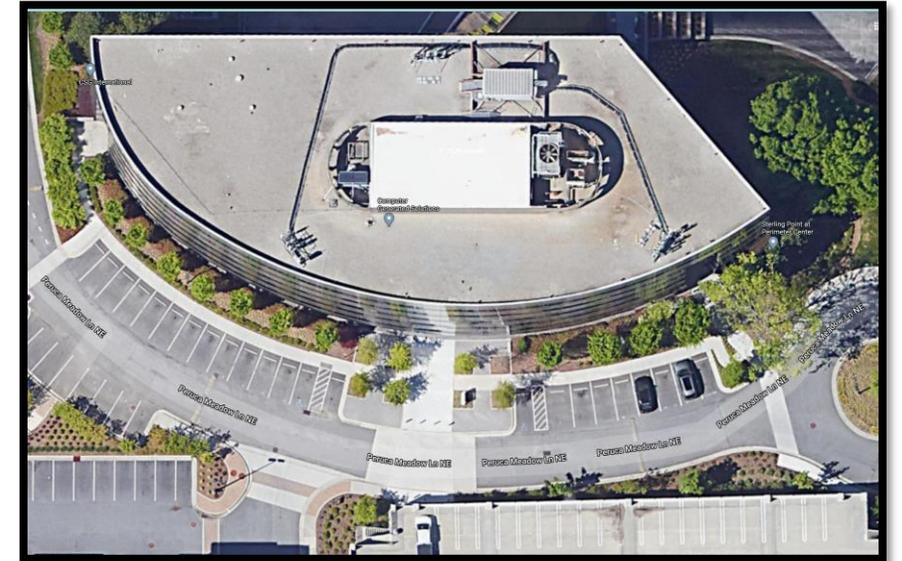
Donated space at Brook Run Park for the Dunwoody Community Garden. Residents can lease one of 60 plots for \$50 per year. Volunteers maintain 20% of the beds and donate cultivated produce to charity.

Farmers Markets

Provides publicity assistance for the Dunwoody Green Market that is held Wednesdays from 8:00 am to noon, May through November.

Tree Inventory and Assessment

Completed tree assessment as part of its 2009 Comprehensive Land Use Planning Process, allowing the city to ensure proper management and long term survivability of its tree canopy.



Transportation

Green Fleet Policy

Green fleet policy that gives a preference for purchasing alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles for non-emergency fleet vehicles and lower emission emergency fleet vehicles.

No Idling Policy

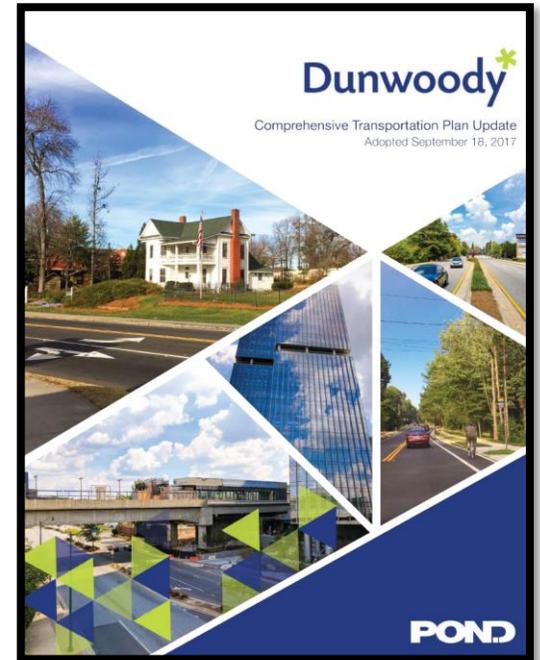
Adopted a no idling policy for city vehicles to prevent non-emergency city vehicles from idling longer than 30 seconds. Diesel vehicles must limit their warm-up period to three to five minutes.

Complete Streets Policy

Adopted a **complete streets policy** to ensure that streets will be safe for all users of the public right-of way, including motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, freight providers, people with disabilities, emergency responders and adjacent land users. This policy is also integrated as part of Dunwoody's Transportation Plan, adopted 2017.

Traffic Signal Synchronization

Worked with the Perimeter Community Improvement Districts to fund and implement the Perimeter Traffic Operations Program (PTOP), which includes the optimization and maintenance of 99 traffic signals throughout the PCIDs. Average vehicular delay has been reduced on the corridors by 29 percent. New timing plans pay for themselves every 55.2 workdays.



PROJECT: REGIONAL TRAFFIC OPERATIONS PROGRAM (RTOP)

REGIONAL TRAFFIC OPERATIONS PROGRAM (RTOP):

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) created an operations program focused on actively managing traffic signals along corridors of regional significance. These corridors are crucial arterials within the Atlanta region and key thoroughfares to move commuters in and out of substantial employment centers. Many of the corridors feed into business districts, such as Perimeter, where traffic signal systems are not being actively managed. Consequently, GDOT

Together with the Ashford Dunwoody DDI and the Hammond Half-Diamond Interchange, RTOP helps to mitigate traffic and positively impact commute times.

Transportation

Bicycle Facilities and Pedestrian Plan

The 2017 Master Transportation Plan includes bicycle and Pedestrian friendly policies. In addition, all five elementary schools also actively participate in the city's Safe Routes to School program. The city conducted walking audits at half of the schools, identified long-term and short-term infrastructure needs and completed several of these projects to improve the walking and biking environment around the schools.

Bicycle Parking Policy

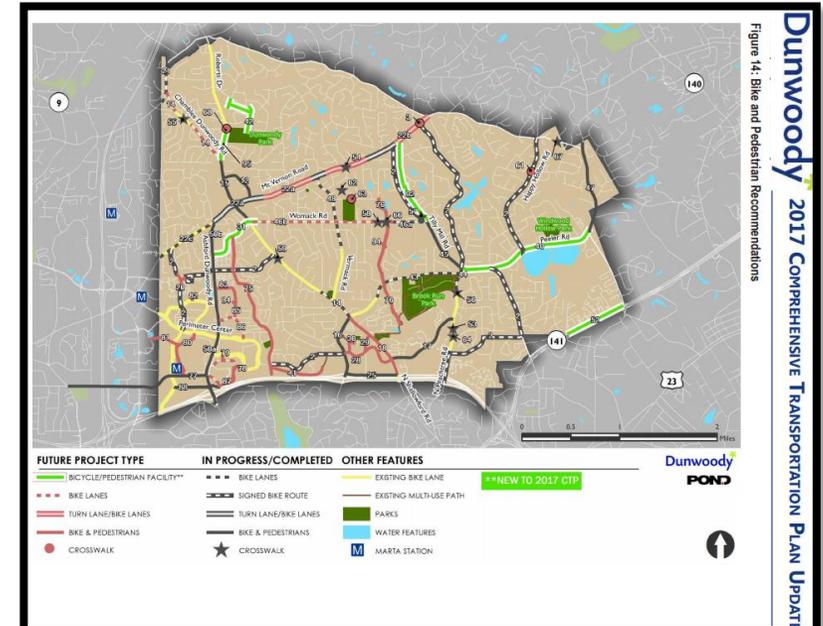
Bicycle Parking Policy – A minimum of four bicycle racks shall be located at or near all City of Dunwoody parks and community facilities owned or operated by the City.

Shared Parking Requirements

Shared and reduced parking is encouraged in the Dunwoody Village Overlay District to meet parking requirements.

Electric Vehicle Ready

The City has installed EV charging stations at Brook Run Park and the Dunwoody Nature Center to facilitate the growing use of electronic vehicles in the City. The initiative was highlighted by the [GMA](#).



Recycling / Waste Reduction

Sustainable Purchasing Policy

The city evaluates the environmental performance of vendors in providing goods and services by assessing vendor's raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance, disposal of products or service delivery. The city also replaces disposable products with products that are re-usable, recyclable or compostable, wherever practicable.

Traditional Recycling Program

Dunwoody has an agreement with DeKalb County for recycling and yard debris collection services for residential and City facilities, including traditional curbside pickup.

Non-traditional Recycling Program

Copier toner, ink cartridges and rechargeable batteries are collected at City Hall for recycling through a private vendor. Glass recycling containers are available at Brook Run Park and Dunwoody Library.

Recycled Paper Purchasing Policy

City purchases paper with at least 30 percent recycled content for copy, computer, and fax paper.

Residential Curbside Recycling

Single stream curbside recycling is available to all city residents and includes the recycling of paper, cardboard, metal containers, polystyrene cups, all plastics and all glass.



<https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/sanitation/why-how-recycle>

Recycling / Waste Reduction

Commercial Recycling Program

Recycling is available to commercial facilities with five day a week pick up and includes recycling of paper, cardboard, metal containers, plastics and glass.

Non-traditional Recycling Facilities

Offers recycling of paper, cardboard, plastics, metal and glass for city staff and visitors. Desk side bins are provided for employees, and centralized drop offs are located in break rooms, the mail room and the City Council Chambers. Continued education through signs and emails keeps staff informed of proper disposal and accepted materials.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Event

Hosts an annual Household Hazardous Waste collection event for citizens, accepting a comprehensive list of household hazardous waste, including adhesives, lawn care products, automotive products, paints and cleaners.

Organics and Yard Debris Collection

Residential curbside collection of yard debris is available for all residents. The yard debris is processed at the DeKalb County Yard Waste Composting Facility into high-grade mulch, compost and soil products and is then made available to DeKalb County residents free of charge.



Land Use

Facility at Greyfield

Dunwoody acquired the long-vacant Brook Run Hospital facilities and renovated the greyfield property into Brook Run Park. The hospital's greenhouse and maintenance barn are now used for educational programming and community gardening. City Hall is also located at a greyfield site.

Facility at Infill

[Project Renaissance](#) in Georgetown is a prime example of the City engaging in a private-public partnership to execute smart infill development.

Smart Growth Incentives

Provides a variety of Smart Growth Incentives, such as the Planned Development District, Pedestrian Community District, and three Livable Community Initiatives (Dunwoody Village LCI, Georgetown North Shallowford LCI, and Perimeter Center LCI.)

City Hall used to be “Community & Southern Bank”



Georgetown Park, part of Project Renaissance, in 2020.

Education

Youth Engagement

The Sustainability Committee has two ex-officio committee member positions for local high school students and two for college students to facilitate youth involvement in sustainability initiatives.

Employee Education

The City educates city staff on environmental sustainability efforts through bi-monthly staff meetings, the city intranet, e-mail blasts, lunch-n-learns and a variety of educational posters, fliers and announcements.

Resident Education

The City of Dunwoody Sustainability Committee has developed a public awareness and education campaign on the city's sustainability efforts. The Commission developed a logo and uses it in outreach efforts for informing citizens such as brochures, business cards, stickers, t-shirts and a social networking website.

For more on the Sustainability Committee:

http://www.dunwoodyga.gov/Departments/community_development/Sustainability-Commission.aspx

City hosted rain barrel making workshop.



Teaching about water filtration

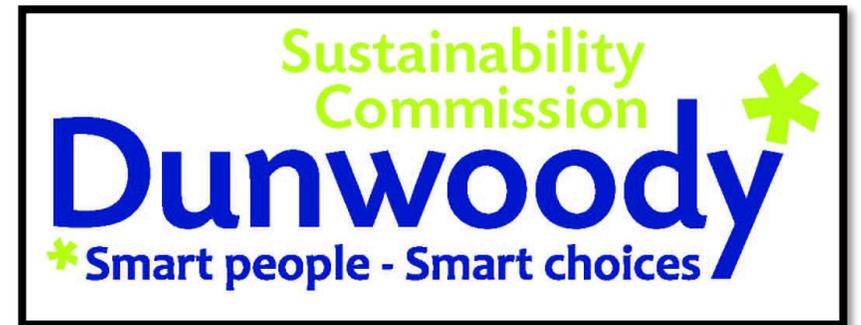
Innovation

Discounts for Green Actions The city's "Punch Up the Green" promotion encouraged citizens to engage in sustainable actions by offering discounts at local businesses for residents who completed six "Green Actions." The "Green Actions" included walking instead of driving, changing an incandescent light bulb to a CFL, riding a bicycle instead of driving, recycling, turning off the car instead of idling and choosing a sustainable action of their own.

Special Events Recycling Requires all applicants for special event permits to submit a recycling plan as part of the permit application. The plan must demonstrate where recycling receptacles will be located and the vendors who will collect recyclables. An estimated 450 gallons of recyclables were diverted from the landfill at the 2011 Dunwoody Music Festival as a result of this permit requirement.

Sustainable Hero Award Established by the Sustainability Committee in 2010, whom implement the Dunwoody Sustainability Plan and award the Sustainable Hero Award recognizing individuals or entities which inspire the community to improve sustainability practices.

Sustainable Heroes 2014: Bobbi Sedam





Questions? Want to learn more?

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