

Staff Report

FY 2022-23 Mid-Year Sustainability Report

December 13, 2022

This report provides a mid-year update of the FY2022-23 activities and accomplishments related to the Sustainability Advisory Services contract between the City of Ames and Iowa State University.

BACKGROUND:

On July 1, 2010, the City entered into a contract with Iowa State University to utilize the services of its full-time Director of Sustainability. The contract covers a maximum of 480 hours annually (or no more than 25 percent of the Director of Sustainability's time). The Initial Scope of Services focused on the reduction of electric consumption. As additional opportunities and needs have been identified related to sustainability, the Scope of Services has expanded and diversified. During FY 2021-22, in keeping with the Council's direction, the Scope of Services targets the following priority areas related to energy consumption reduction, as well as adding waste reduction and diversion:

- 1) Continue to work with Public Works Department and Water and Pollution Control Department on reuse and diversion programs related to the waste stream, including – but not limited to – the exploration of a composting and food waste program.

- 2) Continue to support and strengthen the Smart Business Challenge through outreach and recruitment of participants, oversight of Challenge interns, and marketing of outcomes and accomplishments of Challenge participants.

- 3) Continue to represent the City at events that educate residents about ongoing City sustainability efforts, rebates, and waste opportunities.

- 4) Coordinate Rummage RAMPage at the Ames Intermodal Facility in partnership with the Resource Recovery Plant, Public Relations, CyRide, and Iowa State University, to address concerns that usable housewares and furniture are being needlessly discarded and hard-to-process materials are being sent to the Resource Recovery Plant.

5) Serve as a City contact with consultants to complete a Climate Action Plan. Help lead the committee of City employees in collaboration with the selected consultant to complete and present the Climate Action Plan to Council.

PROGRESS ON SCOPE OF SERVICES:

1. ***Continue to work with Public Works Department and Water and Pollution Control Department on reuse and diversion programs related to the waste stream, including – but not limited to – the exploration of a composting and food waste program.***

Mid-Year FY2022-23 accomplishments include the following for Priority Area #1:

- Promote and increase awareness and education related to the City of Ames FWD (Food Waste Diversion) program. More than 80 tons of food waste have been collected since the program's beginning – with over 19 tons collected in FY2022.
 - In complement to the FWD program, the City continues to offer the Great Pumpkin Drop-off program, offering an option for fall produce (pumpkins, gourds, etc.). During fall 2022, more than 7.5 tons were collected.

Collaboration partners: Public Works – Bill Schmitt, Mark Peebler, and Lorrie Hanson and Public Relations Officer – Susan Gwiasda; Parks & Recreation also helps through selling kits at the Community Center Gym although users can participate with their own containers.

2. ***Continue to support and strengthen the Smart Business Challenge through outreach and recruitment of participants, oversight of Challenge interns, and marketing of outcomes and accomplishments of Challenge participants.***

Mid-year FY2022-23 accomplishments include the following for Priority Area #2:

- Recruitment and hiring of two new Smart Energy (sharing Smart Business Challenge and Energy Services responsibilities) Interns for 2022 – 2023 are Shelby Nechkash and Grant Buresh.
- Continue recruitment of additional businesses to the Smart Business Challenge and three-year recertification of current certified business members. Thirty-eight businesses are currently participating in the Challenge. Current certifications in the Challenge include three bronze, 10 silver, five gold, and 12 platinum. New certifications mid-year include Championship Productions (silver) and Hach (platinum).

- Coordinate the annual Smart Business Challenge Recognition Event, scheduled for Thursday, January 19, from 11am-1:15pm, at Reiman Gardens. This year's keynote speaker will be Donald Kom, Ames Electric Services Director, speaking on "How the Business Community Can Support the Ames Climate Action Plan".

Collaboration partners: Electric Services – Donald Kom and Joel Zook; Public Works – Bill Schmitt, Mark Peebler, and Lorrie Hanson; Water & Pollution Control – John Dunn; The Energy Group; The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Iowa Waste Exchange Program; and Public Relations Officer – Susan Gwiasda

3. Continue to represent the City at events that educate residents about ongoing City sustainability efforts, rebates, and waste reduction opportunities.

Mid-year FY2022-23 accomplishments include the following for Priority Area #3:

- Participated in the Iowa State University WelcomeFest and City of Ames EcoFair.
- Participated as reviewer/professional resource on the topic of encouraging sustainability in Ames for two ISU College of Design courses: the Geodesign for Sustainable Futures (held at Iowa State University) and the Urban Planning and Design Studio (held at the University of Georgia).
- Participate in the Ames Walk Bike Roll pedestrian and bicycle master planning process.
- Continue a monthly radio program on KHOI focused on community sustainability accomplishments, initiatives, and opportunities.
- Continue to represent the City in sustainability update segments on KASI.
- Continue sharing of City of Ames sustainability efforts as part of speaking engagements.
- Continue sharing of City of Ames and Ames community volunteer opportunities and sustainability events via Live Green! Monthly newsletter, Live Green! social media platforms and targeted emails.
- Engage City of Ames department participation in Iowa State University environmental events. For example, Public Works (Storm Water and Resource Recovery), City Manager's Office, and Electric Services tabled at the annual Campus Sustainability Month Celebration, October 25.

4. Coordinate Rummage RAMPage at the Ames Intermodal Facility in partnership with the Resource Recovery Plant, Public Relations, CyRide, and Iowa State University, to address concerns that usable housewares and furniture are being needlessly discarded and hard-to-process materials are being sent to the Resource Recovery Plant.

Mid-year FY2022-23 accomplishments include the following for Priority Area #4:

- Completed the sixth annual Rummage RAMPage, held July 29 to Aug 6, 2022. The event diverted over 71 tons of furniture and housewares from being landfilled and raised more than \$49,000 for local non-profit organizations – an increase of nearly \$10,000 from the fifth annual event, held in 2021. As with the 2021 event, tremendous support was received from ISU Parking, several City departments, and more than 1,700 hours provided by volunteers representing 41 community non-profit organizations.
 - In addition to collecting items to sell, clothing, shoes, linens, books, DVDs, CDs, school supplies, cleaning supplies and non-perishable, unexpired food were once again collected and donated to community non-profit organizations for beneficial and value-added distribution.
 - The ROAR (Rehoming Our Animals/Aquariums Responsibly) initiative, ensuring an opportunity for drop-off of pets that are not able to be moved with residents or residents are no longer able to care for – rather than releasing them – once again partnered with the event.
 - The 2022 Rummage Rampage event was recognized by the Iowa Society of Solid Waste Operations as the winner of the first ever Outstanding Waste Diversion Program and Video Award.
- Kick-off planning – beginning in January for the 2023 Rummage RAMPage event, July 28 – August 5.

Collaboration partners: Iowa State University Parking Services, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Story County Conservation, Iowa Wildlife Center, Resource Recovery Plant, Ames Police, Ames Electric Services, Ames Animal Shelter, Ames Parks & Recreation, Ames Water & Pollution Control, Ames Public Works, Public Relations Office, and community non-profit organizations and volunteers

5. Serve as a City contact with consultants to complete a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and assist in the completion and presentation of the GHG Inventory to the City Council. Plan a key role in selecting consultants for a Climate Action Plan. Help lead the committee of City employees in collaboration with the selected consultant to complete and present the Climate Action Plan to the City Council.

Mid-year FY2022-23 accomplishments include the following for Priority Area #5:

- Collaborate with City staff and consultant SSG to support milestone components of the Climate Action Plan process including:
 - Completion of weekly and/or bi-weekly consultant planning and

- engagement meetings.
- Continued assistance with community engagement, outreach, and awareness-building opportunities. Presentations provided at events and for civic and community groups have included OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Iowa State University), Northcrest Community, Green Hills, and various civic groups.
 - Continued coordination with technical assistance team members related to evaluating the “Six Big Moves.” This document identifies 29 strategies to achieve Climate Action Plan goals of 83% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050. Working with the technical team to analysis the 29 strategies based on eight criteria: amount of administrative effort needed, feasibility of achievement, legal feasibility, cost, funding, impact on residents in terms of property taxes, utility rates, etc., cost compared to the tonnage of carbon removed, and impact on inclusion. Completion of Technical Advisory Team report to Council, related to the analysis of 29, “Six Big Move” strategies toward achieving goals of 83% carbon emissions reduction by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. Analysis was completed and reported, based on eight criteria: analysis the 29 strategies based on eight criteria: amount of administrative effort needed, feasibility of achievement, legal feasibility, cost, funding, impact on residents in terms of property taxes, utility rates, etc., cost compared to the tonnage of carbon removed, and impact on inclusion.
 - Completion of Steering Committee workshop in November.
 - Continue work towards community engagement, reconvening the Supplemental Input Committee, and progress toward April workshop and implementation plan.

Collaboration partners: Electric Services – Don Kom; City Manager’s Office – Deb Schildroth and Susan Gwiasda