Building Sustainable Communities through Comprehensive Planning: The Ohio Model
What we will cover...

• Ohio Extension’s Sustainable Comp Planning Model

• How this works: Example from Ohio community – City of Kent

• Tools/techniques that can be used in other communities
Community Examples

City of Kent

• Population 28,904
• Cleveland-Akron-Elyria CSA
• Current economic conditions/demographics
• Partnerships
  City of Kent
  Kent State University
  Kent Urban Design Center
  OSU Extension
State of Community Sustainability

- While 90% of local governments have recycling programs, only 33% have adopted policy goals.

- While 82% of local governments are implementing transportation improvements, only 25% have adopted a plan with specific targets.
Ohio Extension Model

- Help communities create a plan guided by a shared community vision, incorporating 4 cornerstones of sustainability

Year One:

  Establish inclusionary Steering group
  Gain support
  Discover shared community vision
  Identify themes/create goals

Year Two – Three:

  Convene workgroups around themes
  Create sector plans
  Bring together sector plans to insure balance and sustainability
Sustainable Development

Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Brundtland Commission, 1987

“a dynamic process in which communities anticipate and accommodate the needs of future generations in ways that reproduce and balance local social, economic and ecological systems, and link local actions to global concerns”

Berke & Conroy, 2000
Sustainability Cornerstones

Interconnected and balanced
Economy, Society, Environment

Inclusionary

Long term

Multidimensional
Cornerstone 1: Interconnected and Balanced

From this… To this.
Cornerstone 2: Inclusionary

Stakeholder Engagement and inclusion in:

– Governance

– Vision
Tool: Lasswell’s Values & Institutions Categories


Revised by: Myra Moss and Bill Grunkemeyer, OSU Extension Sustainable Development Initiatives, 2009
Cornerstone 3: Long Term

Generational Planning:

- Consider impact of decisions made today on grandchildren and great grandchildren
- Develop a shared community vision 50 years into the future
Inclusive Visioning Process

• Who, Where & How to Visit Determined by Steering Committee

• Technique: “Go to where people gather”

  Piggybacking

• Technique: Reduce barriers to participation
Tool: Lasswell’s Values & Institutions Categories


Revised by: Myra Moss and Bill Grunkemeyer, OSU Extension Sustainable Development Initiatives, 2009
Tools: Two Vision Questions

• What do you value about the _________ community and want to preserve for your grandchildren & great-grandchildren? (Identifies existing assets)

• What do you hope for the _________community for your grandchildren and great-grandchildren? (Identifies desired assets)
Cornerstone 4: Multidimensional

- Each planning goal strives to include Social, Environmental and Economic components

- *Multidimensional* indicators track progress toward reaching objectives and goals
City of Kent Bicentennial Plan

- Establish Steering Group & conduct community visioning
- Analyze vision input for key consensus themes
- Take themes back out to community for concurrence & identification of connections
- Develop goals & write plan
Kent’s Sustainable Goals

• Environment, Natural & Built
  
  a. Natural
  Provide quality recreational opportunities & facilities
  Preserve natural resources

  b. Built environment
  Promote traffic management
  Improve pedestrian orientation
  Use existing buildings for redevelopment
Kent’s Sustainable Goals

• Social
  Preserve Kent’s small town atmosphere
  Retain a strong public-education system
Kent’s Sustainable Goals

• **Economic**

  Encourage & promote locally owned small business
  Promote a diverse economy with social & environmental conscience
  Develop Kent’s downtown as an economic focal point
### Vision to Outcomes: City of Kent, Ohio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiatives</th>
<th>Environmental</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Economic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Special Planning Area: Kent Bog** | Green space buffer to protect sensitive areas  
Watershed protection  
Innovative development | Recreational opportunities  
New single family housing | New jobs & private investment  
Opportunities for entrepreneurs |
| **Downtown Revitalization** | Enhance Cuyahoga River corridor (natural)  
Re-orient buildings to face river (natural & built)  
Reuse existing downtown buildings (built)  
Remove portion of dam to improve water quality | Walkable community  
Places for families to gather  
Recreation opportunities  
Preserve history of unique features | Financing for local entrepreneurs  
Local business opportunities  
Attract more customers to downtown |
| **Special Planning Area: Campus Link** | Provides for alternative modes of transportation  
Enhanced green space  
Reduce walkability barriers (Haymaker) | Ties together campus and community | Students & parents drawn to downtown shopping and accommodations |
Kent Dam - Before
Kent Dam - After
Heritage Park & Downtown
How does sustainability help planning?

- *Balanced and interconnected* – Each goal intentionally includes benefit to all three sectors
- *Inclusion* – governance & planning more broadly supported, resulting in achievable, consensus vision-based goals
- *Long term* – pushes community to think beyond immediate concerns to long range shared future.
- *Multidimensional indicators* – insures sustainability outcomes.
OSU Extension’s Sustainable Development Initiatives Web Site:

http://sustainabledevelopment.osu.edu/

Myra Moss, Community Development Educator, Heart of Ohio EERA, OSU Extension

moss.63@osu.edu