

# Learning from Each Other: A Comprehensive Survey of Sustainability Practices

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# Sustainability is multi-faceted

- Environmental protection
- Economic development
- Social equity
  
- Sustainability actions are broad and rapidly evolving.

# Who is interested in measuring performance?

- Officials in local government
- Citizens
- Researchers

# Why measure?

- Assessing progress
- Not competing
- Sharing—learning from each other

# Creating a comprehensive inventory: Sources

- Visible Strategies: Framework Adapted from U.S. Mayors <http://usmayors.visiblestrategies.com/>
- Kent E. Portney, *Taking Sustainable Cities Seriously* (MIT Press, 2003), 34 indicators on page 65.
- Karlenzig, W., Marquardt, F., White et al (2007) *How Green is Your City?* New Society Press, Canada
- Nation's Cities Weekly, 31 July 06, Furdell, Phyllis article on 10 case studies of municipal government equity
- [www.interfacesustainability.com](http://www.interfacesustainability.com)
- [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org)
- [www.sustainlane.org](http://www.sustainlane.org)
- Virginia Green Challenge – Virginia Municipal League

# Virginia Go Green Challenge

- 30 indicators
- 2008—26 or 8% of 324 total local governments are “green certified” with minimum score of 100 (out of a possible 200)
- 2009 submission due 9/30/09
  - Will add a “silver” designation for scores 125–149, gold 150-174, and platinum for 175 and above.
- Separate standards for school systems

# Virginia - Areas covered

- Government Policy Adoption
- Energy Efficiency
- Green Building
- Waste Management
- Vehicles
- Land Use / Transportation
- Water / Air Quality
- Employee Incentives
- Education / Community Participation
- Innovation

# Comprehensive Inventory

- Virginia topics +
  - Government policy adoption
  - Energy efficiency
  - Green building
  - Recycling and waste reduction
  - Land use and smart growth +
  - Transportation
  - Water and wastewater management +
  - Pollution prevention and reduction
  - Education and outreach
  - Innovations
- Additional topics
  - Economic sustainability
  - Community livability and inclusion
  - Governance, access, and equity
  - Green power
  - Sustainability organization, administration, management, or coordination



# Refining inventory

- Field test inventory in SCN
- Use feedback from users to finalize survey to be proposed for use by ICMA

# Use of inventory results in SCN

- Develop a profile of how governments in the Phoenix region are tackling the sustainability challenge
- Identify what they may be able to share with each other
- Determine what approaches they may want to jointly develop
- Monitor progress

# Comments invited

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