



SUSTAINABLE TYBEE

TYBEE ISLAND'S SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Sustainability Committee

November 10, 2025

SUSTAINABLE TYBEE

Outlines the goals, actions, strategies necessary to advance Tybee Island as a more sustainable community.

1. Make Tybee Island the greenest city on Georgia's coast.
2. Develop **practical** incentives to help businesses, residents, and visitors adopt environmentally sustainable practices.
3. Ensure the plan's goals are both **actionable and achievable** while fostering community education and engagement.

VISION



The City of Tybee Island envisions a vibrant, connected, healthy, and sustainable future, with thriving local businesses, sustainable tourism, and a strong sense of community.

MISSION



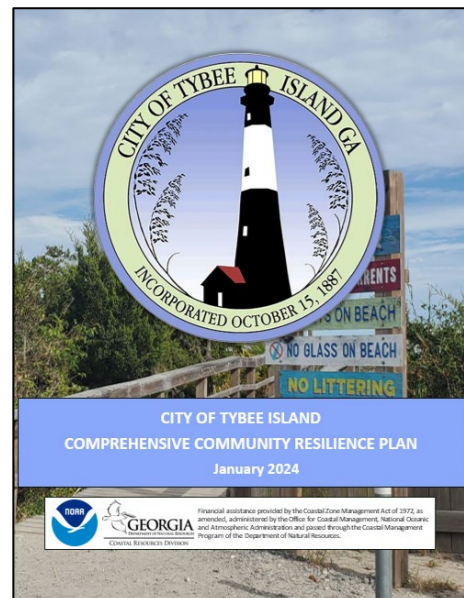
Tybee Island is dedicated to preserving its natural and historic character, fostering economic opportunities, and enhancing quality of life through sustainable initiatives, education, and energy efficiency while ensuring transparent communication with the public.

SUSTAINABILITY VS RESILIENCY

Sustainability and resiliency are interrelated but also work independently. Both are crucial for long-term well-being and factor heavily in the success of the other.



Sustainability refers to meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by using resources responsibly and minimizing harm to the environment and society.



Resiliency is a community's the ability to adapt and recover from disruptions in a proactive and continuous manner that incorporates preparedness, prevention, protection, mitigation response, and recovery from natural disasters or human-made hazards.

PRIORITIES & STRATEGIES



1. Resources & Efficiency

Prioritize the efficient use of resources to reduce environmental impact, lower operational costs, and promote long-term resilience.



2. Waste & Recycling

Commit to reducing waste and increasing recycling efforts by enhancing infrastructure, establishing a procurement policy, educating employees, and strengthening partnerships that conserve resources.

PRIORITIES & STRATEGIES



3. Education & Engagement

Be well-informed about sustainability measures and committed to implementing these plans while fostering strong relationships with community stakeholders to ensure that local priorities are shaped by the community.



4. Greenspace & Wellness

Acknowledge greenspaces, like parks, trees, and natural areas, are strongly linked to improved physical and mental health, reduction in the urban heat island effect, improved air and water quality, increased biodiversity, and offer opportunities for exercise, stress reduction, social interaction, and enhance overall well-being.

RESOURCES & EFFICIENCY

Residential, commercial, and public buildings can greatly benefit from greener building techniques.

❖ **Greener Buildings**

- Utilize LEED and EnergySTAR Guidelines on new city structures and where feasible.
- Work with Georgia Power getting the word out on funded programs promoting building efficiency

❖ **Energy Efficiency**

- Continue to engage in energy savings performance methods for more efficient energy usage in government buildings.

❖ **Water Efficient Buildings**

- Improve water conservation for all permitted projects and consider WaterSense retrofits where feasible for existing public property and city infrastructure.

WASTE & RECYCLING

Increase and enhance recycling infrastructure to make more recycling options available to all employees, residents, visitors, and businesses and encourage proper disposal of hard-to-recycle items.

- ❖ **Implement a city purchasing policy for sustainable products.**
 - Require all city departments to purchase only compostable products when feasible.
 - Eliminate the purchase of styrofoam for city purposes and city events.
 - Prohibit single-use plastics.

- ❖ **Continue to support curbside recycling programs for businesses for designated materials.**

- ❖ **Formalize recycling requirements at special events and provide collection bins to capture recyclable material.**

- ❖ **Improve the signage and the functional layout at the city's recycling drop-off sites.**



EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

Educate citizens, businesses, staff members, and the general public through events, workshops, programs, and community outreach.

- ❖ Develop partnerships and collaborations to provide information and workshops on sustainable practices that can be implemented at home.
- ❖ Develop an interactive digital story map that showcases the sustainable projects, programs, and goals the city is working on by using a geographic platform on the city website.
 - This map may include locations of electric vehicle charging station infrastructure, recycling drop-offs, beach toy borrow boxes, parks, bike trails, and community organizations that offer marine science and nature-based programs.
- ❖ Highlight residents, businesses, and local organizations participation in the Adopt-An-Area, the Fight Dirty Tybee, and Clean Beach Volunteer programs

GREENSPACE & WELLNESS

Focus on increasing green areas, such as parks and community gardens, to improve air quality and provide recreational spaces for residents.

- ❖ Plan for the replacement of city trees.
- ❖ Improve connectivity between greenspaces.
- ❖ Support the success of the Tree City and Bee City designations and seek other similar designations.
- ❖ Find way to enhance and expand the community garden
- ❖ Find more opportunities to expand the fruit orchard initiative.
- ❖ Extend the city's tree canopy.



CURRENT PROGRAMS

Adopt-An-Area

The Adopt-An-Area participants do monthly cleanups in designated areas, including roadways, parking lots, beaches, marshes, and parks.

Turtle Friendly Tybee

This initiative supports local businesses in adopting sustainable practices that help protect our coastal environment and iconic sea turtles.

Aluminum Recycling Pilot Program

The Curbside Aluminum Recycling Pilot Program was launched in January 2025 to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of expanding aluminum recycling services for local businesses.

Fight Dirty Tybee

Volunteers deep clean Tybee's beaches several times a month, removing things like small bits of plastic, butts, straws, stirrers, Styrofoam pieces, shards of plastic wrappers, band aids, hair ties, and countless other small items.

PROCUREMENT POLICY

This policy applies to all city departments, offices, and facilities when purchasing office supplies, equipment, and other materials used in daily operations in accordance with the city's purchasing policy.

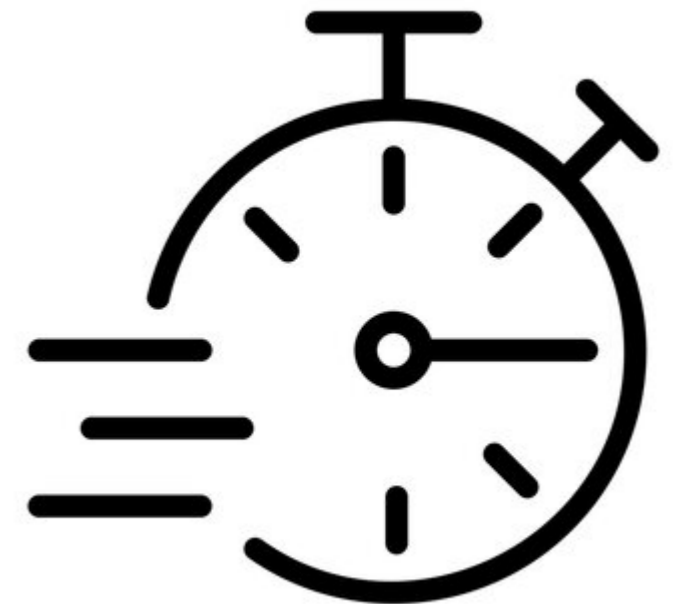
- Reduction of Single-Use Plastics
- Sustainable Purchasing Standards
- Vendor & Supplier Requirements
- Employee Engagement & Implementation

THE GOAL

The goal of the City's procurement policy is to establish clear, consistent requirements for acquiring goods and services in a way that is transparent, fair, cost-effective, and aligned with the City's sustainability goals.

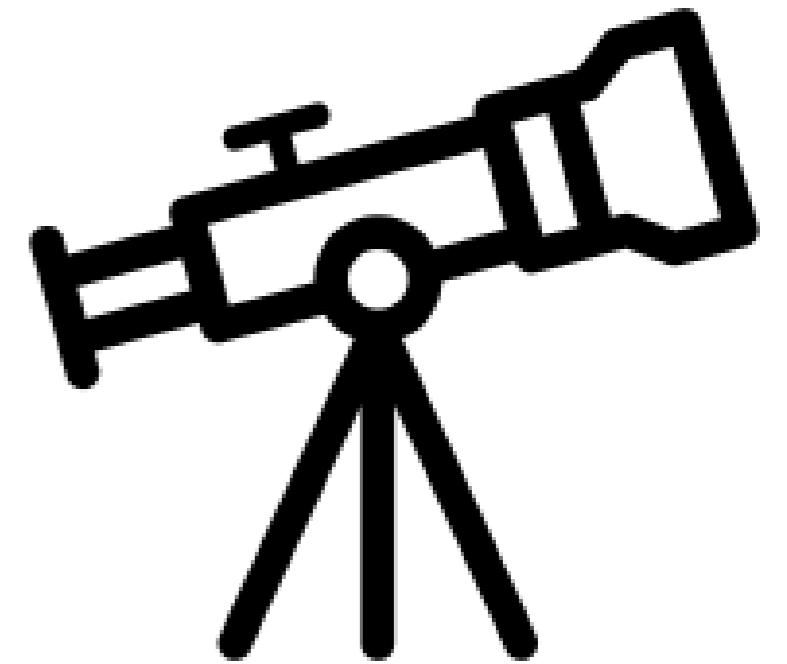
SHORT RANGE GOALS (<5)

- Increase the amount of green space on the city's capital projects.
- Increase the city's electric vehicle fleet, where feasible.
- Construct publicly available EV charging stations.
- Increase city-wide recycling rates.
- Implement the city sustainable purchasing policy with a goal of 100% sustainable office and program supplies.
- Print on both sides. Go paperless where possible.
- Establish a tree replacement program and budget for the one-for-one removal and replacement of city trees.
- Increase turtle friendly businesses



LONG RANGE GOALS (>5)

- Reduce energy consumption by 15 percent for all city-owned facilities.
- Reduce water consumption by 15 percent for all city-owned facilities.
- Increase recycling efforts, composting, and alternate disposal options (and creative reuse) at city buildings and on capital projects by 10 percent.
- Increase city-wide recycling rates by 25 percent.
- Aim to make all energy consumed on Tybee Island renewable.
- Increase tree canopy to 60% coverage



ON-GOING GOALS

- Increase the amount of green space on the city's capital projects.
- Increase the city's electric vehicle fleet, where feasible.
- Construct publicly available EV charging stations.
- Increase recycling efforts, composting, and alternate disposal options at city buildings and on capital projects.
- Increase city-wide recycling rates.
- Reduce the use of non-renewable resources.
- Encourage city staff members with sustainable duties to obtain sustainability certifications, including LEED Green Associate, LEED AP, and/or ENV SP.



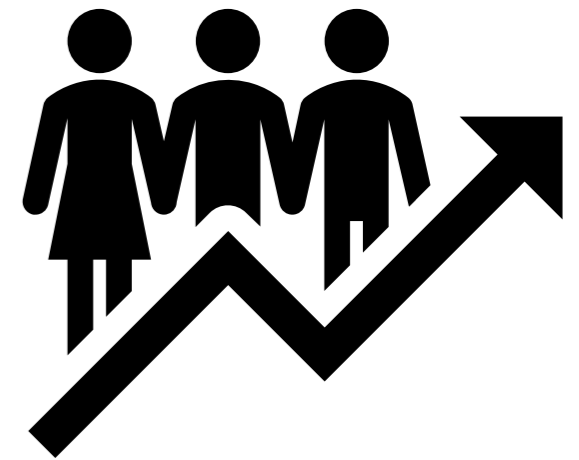
NEXT STEPS

- Create a Sustainability Committee
- Finalize the sustainability plan
- Develop an action plan
- Incorporate Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Search Out Grant Funding
- Continue to update the Land Development Code
- Promote Recycling & Waste Diversion
- Create and socialize a sustainable survey every two years
- Recognize and honor contributions in sustainability



MEASURING PROGRESS

- ❑ **Create an Audit Matrix** to evaluate and track the progress of goals, strategies, actions, and other performance measures.
- ❑ **Tracking key performance indicators** such as recycling rates, waste diversion metrics, and completion of community events and workshops.
- ❑ **Sustainable purchasing** will be tracked by reviewing procurement data to ensure purchases are in alignment with environmentally preferred policies.
- ❑ **Regular reporting**, analysis of recycling rates and program statistics, and annual reviews to evaluate effectiveness, identify areas for improvement, and guide future actions.



Thank you

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