

EXECUTIVE ORDER

NO. 2009-1

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF
MAYOR'S SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE REPORT****Adopted on Earth Day, 2009**

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change are real and will seriously affect our coastal community;

WHEREAS, the City of New Bedford recognizes that creating a sustainable community is necessary to ensure the long-term health and welfare of our citizenry as well as our continued economic development;

WHEREAS, in signing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and in accord with the recommendations set forth in the New Bedford Mayor's Sustainability Task Force Report, the City of New Bedford shall take appropriate measures to move forward in this effort;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Scott W. Lang, Mayor of the City of New Bedford, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby issue the following order to all Department Heads and personnel as follows:

Section 1. City Government & the New Bedford School Department***The City of New Bedford will***

- Discontinue the purchase of incandescent bulbs.
- When possible, in all Requests for Proposals, include evaluation criteria that require the purchasing of green products and of products and services from sustainable businesses, with preference given to local enterprises. When possible, purchase resource-efficient and socially responsible products and services. Life cycle cost analysis should be part of green procurement policies. When possible, evaluation criteria will give preference to businesses and organizations that hire New Bedford residents and/or partner with New Bedford businesses and agencies.
- Organize a buy-local campaign, including foods in local schools under the direction of the New Bedford School Committee.

- Encourage produce purchased by government, institutions, schools, restaurants, and all food related establishments to be regionally and sustainably grown or harvested.
- Implement a policy to attempt to source locally grown food for catered events at City functions whenever possible.
- Convert its fleet of diesel vehicles to hybrid or bio-diesel when available and as resources permit.
- Reserve prime taxi stand spaces for hybrid taxis.
- Working with state government, seek to reduce the excise tax on hybrid vehicles and increase the availability of bio-fuels.
- Work with SRTA to install bike racks on buses.
- Assign a person within each city department to act as a coordinator for that department's sustainability goals.
- Advocate for the sensible regulation of the fishing industry to ensure the long-term viability of the industry and fisheries.
- Lobby the state and federal government to facilitate the design of sustainable transportation systems and options, including the development of 'zero emission' engines for planes, trains, and automobiles.
- Encourage the state and federal governments to create the incentives needed to spur the development of local sustainable mass transportation options, including trains, local trolley systems, and airplanes.

Section 2. Planning & Building:

The City of New Bedford will

- Identify, evaluate and create a program(s) for adaptation required by the effects of climate change that are inevitable, including sea level rise, warmer temperatures, and more severe weather.
- Continue to work with the state Department of Environmental Protection on plans for city-owned brownfield sites that take into account levels of contamination, ease and cost of remediation, demands and appropriate uses.
- Continue to work with the state DEP to create and implement a waterfront plan that reinforces commercial fisheries, marine trades, passenger ferries and freight shipping, research and development in coastal/marine technologies, recreational and ancillary uses that promote a working port. The plan will include the evaluation of an intermodal hub situated at the harbor, ensuring that it remains connected to the downtown and the transportation system.
- Conduct neighborhood-by-neighborhood conversations about traffic and community design as part of the master plan process.
- Ensure that all schools are accessible by sidewalks and bike paths, so that walking or biking to school is safe and appealing, utilizing crossing-guard assistance where needed.
- Provide more crosswalks throughout the city to ensure pedestrian safety.
- Investigate public bike systems to facilitate biking as a mode of transportation.
- Include pedestrian and bicycle areas in all new street design, and redesign existing streets to provide sidewalks as needed, where possible.
- Develop a city bike committee and work with planning agencies and other towns to complete the SouthCoast bike path.
- Ensure that the master plan process commits to the visioning and development process by involving the Mayor's Office and the City Council, assigning key department management and welcoming interested staff. Marshal the needed technical expertise, economic, and support resources to ensure effective stakeholder engagement, credible evaluation, thorough integration, and ongoing public communication of interim thinking and results.

- Create land use and economic development plans to ensure that each city neighborhood contains local businesses and community resources that serve primary needs, and ensure the presence of a transportation infrastructure to provide ample, convenient connections to other neighborhoods.
- Create a green spaces advisory committee to ensure the provision and preservation of open spaces.
- Devote resources to study the impact of adherence to LEED certification standards in all new buildings.
- Conduct feasibility studies on retrofitting schools, libraries and other government buildings with geothermal heat pumps.
- Study the use solar and wind energy in government facilities.
- Ensure that new City buildings and renovations specify green, resource-efficient design and products.
- Collaborate with architects, designers, manufacturers and builders to develop a working understanding of green building and support green building.
- Ensure that City ordinance and regulations support green building practices, and that all personnel are knowledgeable about green building practices.
- Support forums for sharing knowledge about green construction within the industry and with the public.

Section 3. Outreach, Education, & Neighborhoods:

The City of New Bedford will

- Work with the public and other stakeholders in understanding risks, costs, options for remediation, and potentials for redevelopment of brownfields sites.
- Encourage home ownership through outreach around first-time homebuyer program.
- Institute an educational outreach effort to inform parents and children about how to avoid lead poisoning.
- Begin a public health advocacy campaign aimed at reducing the current levels of pollution in our air, water, and soil, as well as the prevention of any more pollution.
- Encourage community collaboration on sustainability initiatives, open to interested people, non-profit agencies, and businesses to develop a plan to enhance New Bedford's sustainability. No less than half of the participants should be people who cannot benefit monetarily from any of the funding sources adopted.
- Create a Sustainability Fund geared in a variety of ways to aid people in adopting sustainability initiatives, such as installing renewable energy alternatives to power a home's electrical needs.
- Hold a regional sustainability summit, incorporated into the Bioneers by the Bay conference.
- Create ten citizen-run community gardens by 2010 and twenty or more by 2020.
- Coordinate with residents to pilot sustainability projects within specific wards or neighborhoods.
- Incorporate neighborhood safety as a principle of sustainability in New Bedford.
- Design a citywide campaign to engage voluntary community participation.
- Incentivize citizen efforts to implement sustainable changes through provision of expertise and modeling the needed changes.

Section 4. Workforce Training & Economic Development:

The City of New Bedford will

- Partner with local institutions of higher learning on green jobs training.

- Hire local companies and residents whenever possible when using government funds.
- In concert with WIB, unions, and educational institutions, build a capable workforce ready to work in identified green trades and businesses.
- In concert with the Economic Development Council (EDC), the Workforce Investment Board (WIB), trade unions and educational institutions, accelerate the development of a workforce to be ready for today's jobs *and* trained for the envisioned sustainable economy. This can be accomplished by calculating labor force requirements, identifying skills needed for the identified positions, assessing skills gaps and delivering training in the skills for target sectors.
- Investigate the requirement of LEED certification standards for commercial and industrial building projects over 10,000 square feet for business seeking city Tax Increment Financing.
- Take on a leadership role and work with the EDC to develop promotional materials, identify and target sustainable manufacturers, and facilitate relocations to promote green industry.
- Designate green zones, eco-industrial parks for green businesses, and/or green clusters, and ensure suitable infrastructure exists to support green development.
- Investigate the creation of local incentives for green businesses, and lobby the state legislature and agencies to increase the value of the incentives. Support the full utilization of state historic tax credits and other incentives towards re-use.
- Encourage opportunities for local industry to manufacture "cradle-to-cradle," with the waste products of one industry being re-used as a base component of future products in the same or other industries.
- Favor brownfield over greenfield development for any governmental expansions, and create incentives that encourage private developers to do the same.
- Promote New Bedford as a working port, including partnering with other ports on short sea route development.
- Encourage through ordinance and regulation mixed-use development.
- Encourage business owners to reduce their business's carbon footprint. Provide several incentives for businesses to become a 'cool business', such as tax incentives and favorable publicity.
- Work with the EDC to promote the business case for sustainability by identifying the benefits of ecologic, economic, and social responsibility. The EDC will support business leaders and managers in transforming their businesses into sustainable enterprises by ensuring that the appropriate expertise is available.

Section 5. Energy & the Environment:

The City of New Bedford will

- Conduct a feasibility study for a waste-to-energy facility.
- Urge the state of MA to require all power plants to switch to non-polluting renewable energy alternatives.
- Work with the DEP and EPA to identify the largest contributors to carbon emissions.
- Conduct a survey of its current waste streams.
- Continue to expand efforts to recognize resources in the waste stream, and to harvest it for productive use, identifying those streams suitable for cogeneration.
- Prepare a waste stream analysis that provides sufficient detail to identify strategies and programs for all classes of waste and all classes of generators. Based on the waste stream analyses create an overall plan to guide waste management.
- Work with the state to ensure the enforcement of state law requiring that businesses and industries be financially responsible for any and all damages to people or properties caused by pollution from said business or industry.

- Pursue partnerships to clean and restore individual brownfields, including working with businesses seeking to demonstrate and evaluate promising remedial technologies, with neighborhoods looking to expand amenities, and with recreation users in need of facilities.
- Work with the federal government to accelerate harbor cleanup efforts, including the elimination of all Combined Sewer Overflows.
- Create and use resource exchanges that facilitate the disposal for reuse/acquisition of raw materials, unneeded or unwanted products [e.g. old computers, pallets, partial cans of paint, packing pellets and other packaging materials etc.].
- Work with the state government to enforce laws concerning the disposal of hazardous materials.
- Continue the current program to address infiltration and cross-connections into sewer lines.
- Establish a Denitrification Task Force with Acushnet and Fairhaven to address nitrogen pollution in the harbor, seeking federal and state funds.
- Create a policy to make available free teleconferencing and videoconferencing capabilities for educational, non-profit, and personal use through the city library system to promote a decrease in air and commuter travel.
- Create or adopt a carbon footprint measurement tool, one that can be easily taught and used by city residents.

The City of New Bedford extends its sincerest gratitude to the members of the Mayor's Sustainability Task Force under the chairmanship of former Mayor John K. Bullard, for their dedication, hard work, expertise, and commitment to this initiative; and to the many community members and organizations who have contributed ideas, energy, and advocacy to this process and to other local environmental causes over the past several decades.

GIVEN under my hand and the Privy Seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the City of Bedford, this twenty-second day of April in the year Two thousand and Nine.

This Executive Order is issued by me on the 22nd day of April, 2009 and shall remain in force and effect until revoked or amended by a subsequent Executive Order.

Scott W. Lang

Mayor