

TNR-NHO

# MEET YOUR SUSTAINABILITY TEAM

AN INTRO TO TRAVIS COUNTY'S  
SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM AND  
GREEN INITIATIVES



*Highlights*

What is Sustainability?  
Climate Action Plan  
Energy and Water Consumption  
Waste Diversion  
Illegal Dumping  
Commute Connections  
Purchasing and Procurement  
Green Team  
Ambassador Programs  
Environmental Resilience



# TNR - EQ

EQ=Environmental  
Quality  
5 groups





# WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

***“Creating and maintaining the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations.”***

*-Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2024*



Social



Economic



Environmental

# THREE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY



# ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABILITY

1

Protection of  
environmental quality

2

Improving the air and  
water quality of your  
community

3

Conserving natural  
resources

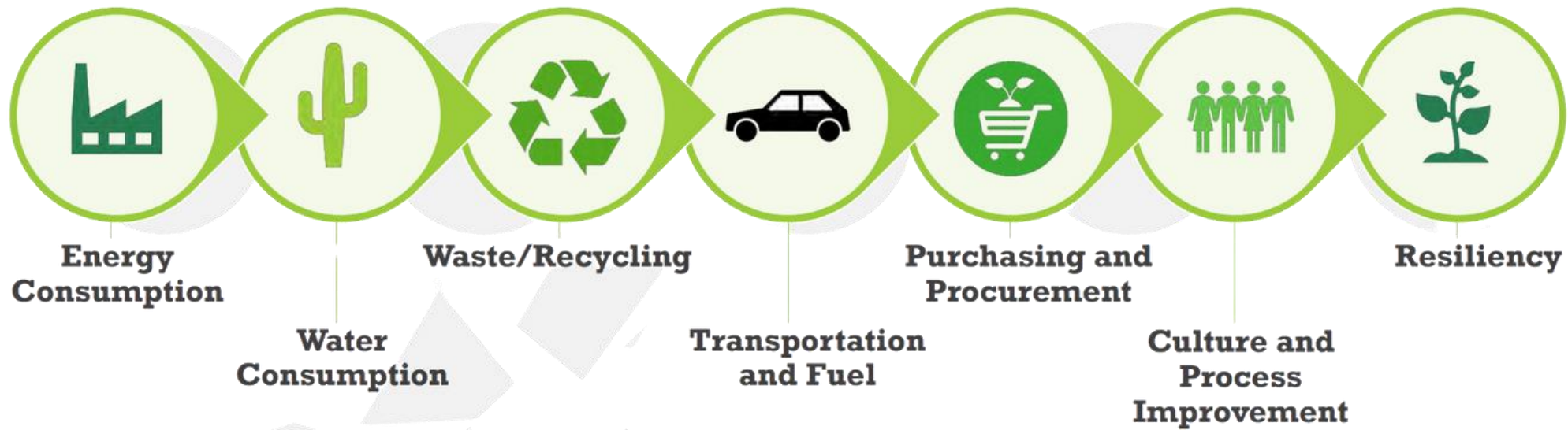


# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- Roadmap for lessening the environmental impacts of County operations
- Every department contributes to CAP goals
- Progress measured and reported in the Annual Sustainability Report



# 7 KEY FOCUS AREAS OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN\*



*\*Plan is currently being reviewed and updated*





# POLICIES YOU SHOULD KNOW...

## **A few policies that support the Climate Action Plan (CAP):**

*Recycle Participation Order (2015)*

*Texas Health and Safety Code*

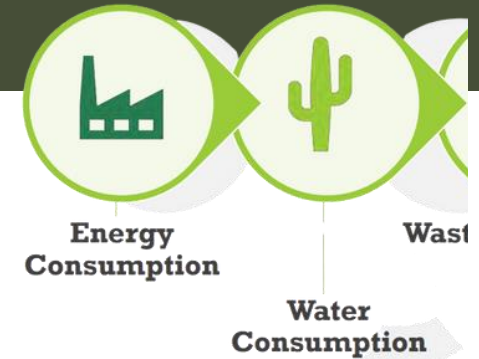
*Interlocal Agreement with City of Austin for Net Zero Waste*

*Travis County Waste Management Policy*

*Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy*

# ENERGY AND WATER CONSUMPTION

- What can you do?
- FMD Work Order Form



## Energy

Turn off the lights if you are the last to leave the office

Unplug all devices you are not using or before you leave the office

Use natural light if possible

Take the stairs

## Water

Keep the faucet off when lathering hands in the bathroom

Report a leak, dripping faucet, or a running toilet

Be mindful of water use while washing dishes in breakrooms

# WASTE DIVERSION



- Process of diverting waste from landfill
- Main categories at the County:
  1. Recycling
  2. Hazardous Waste
  3. Universal Waste



# WASTE DIVERSION: RECYCLING

- Single-Stream: everything goes into one bin
- What goes in the recycling bin?

1. Glass
2. Hard Plastics
3. Metal
4. Cardboard
5. Paper

**STOP! CAN YOU RECYCLE THIS?**

**YES**

**NO**

These items need to be thrown away in the trash can:

- Styrofoam
- Food
- Plastic Bags
- Paper Towels
- Plastic Utensils

**CONSERVE**  
TRAVIS COUNTY

# WASTE DIVERSION: RECYCLING

- Several bins available for your workspace
- Tips:
  - Do **NOT** place any food/food waste in the recycling bins
  - No soft plastics (snack wrappers, plastic bags)
  - Only use **CLEAR**, 30-gallon bags to line recycling bins
    - OPAQUE=LANDFILL TRASH



# WASTE DIVERSION: HAZARDOUS WASTE (HAZMAT)

- Common Types:
  - Expired or Unused Sanitizer
  - Cleaning Agents (Lysol, Ajax, etc.)
  - Paint
  - Pesticides, Herbicides



- For **County** generated hazardous waste, contact [hazmat@traviscountytexas.gov](mailto:hazmat@traviscountytexas.gov)

# ***WASTE DIVERSION: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)***

- *Schedule an appointment with the City of Austin's Reuse and Recycle Drop-Off Center (for Austin and Travis County Residents only)*
- <https://www.austintexas.gov/dropoff>



# WASTE DIVERSION: UNIVERSAL WASTE(UW)

## Types of UW:

- Batteries
- Light Bulbs
- Ballasts
- Mercury Containing Equipment

## Tips:

- Don't throw these away
- Request a disposal container







# ILLEGAL DUMPING

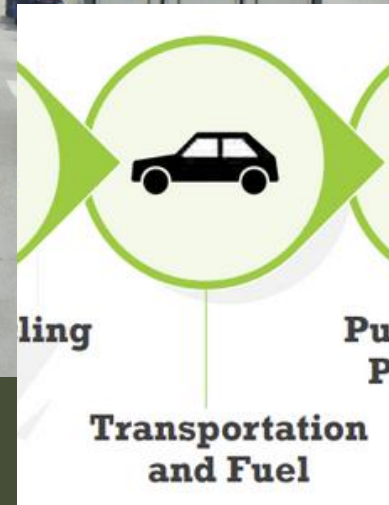
- Occurs when perpetrators “dump” their waste illegally at:
  - Roadways
  - Ditches
  - Parking Lots
- Common items:
  - Motor fluids
  - Batteries
  - Paint
  - Mattresses
  - Other bulky items
- If you see something, call it in:
  - Illegal Dumping Hotline:  
(877) NO DUMPS (663-8677)
  - TCEQ: (512) 339-2929



# ILLEGAL DUMPING

## *AT COUNTY FACILITIES, PARKS, AND R-O-Ws*

- Departments/Teams that may assist:
  - Stormwater
  - Sustainability
  - TNR Road and Bridge
  - County Attorney's Office
- If you experience illegal dumping at work, let us know
  - Legal action can be taken!
  - ENV Hotline: 512-854-4400



# COMMUTE CONNECTIONS

- Program to promote alternate commute options:

**1.COMMUTER LEAVE INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CLIP)**

**2.TELEWORKING**

**3.FREE TRANSIT PASSES**

**4.GUARANTEED RIDE HOME**

**5.METROBIKES**





# COMMUTER LEAVE INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CLIP)

- Earn extra time off by using the following commute solutions instead of driving to work:

**1. PUBLIC TRANSIT**

**2. WALK**

**3. WORK A 10 HOUR, 4 DAY WORK WEEK\***

**4. TELEWORK\***



*\*Check with your supervisor for approval*

# PURCHASING AND PROCUREMENT



- **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Policy**
- **Reuse Store**
  - To donate or pick up office supplies to and from the Store, contact [TNR.AdminSupport@traviscountytexas.gov](mailto:TNR.AdminSupport@traviscountytexas.gov)
- **Purchasing Warehouse**
  - For furniture and larger items, contact [PUR\\_Assets@traviscountytexas.gov](mailto:PUR_Assets@traviscountytexas.gov)



# TRAVIS COUNTY'S GREEN TEAM



- Green Team members help:
  - Lead by example
  - Share relevant sustainability events/updates
  - Engage in projects and activities outside of their office to further Travis County sustainability efforts

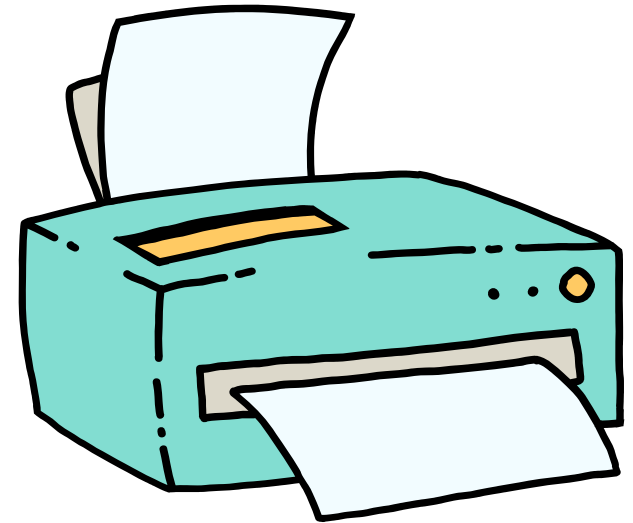


 **GreenTeam**

# AMBASSADOR PROGRAMS

## Toner Ambassadors

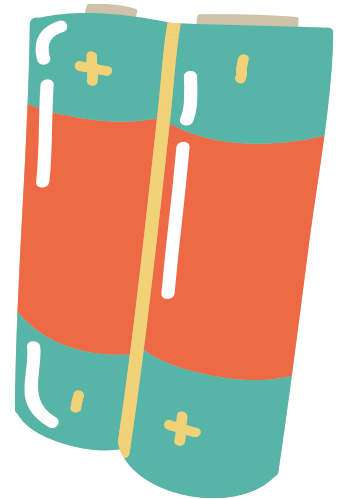
- Recycle used/unwanted toner and ink cartridges and generate revenue for the county
- Find an ambassador near you or sign up to start recycling cartridges
- Other printer accessories:
  - Check with the company brand to recycle



# AMBASSADOR PROGRAMS

## Battery Ambassadors

- Recycle used/unwanted batteries and generate revenue for the county
  - Multiple types of County generated batteries
  - Alkaline household generated batteries
- Drop off batteries at a Battery Station
- Sign-up to become a Battery Ambassador





# MORE WAYS WE CAN HELP

- Event planning & Volunteer Opportunities:
  - Provide recycling bins and give recommendations on celebrating sustainably!
  - Year-round events like the Lake Travis Clean Up
- Education/Trainings:
  - Online trainings and in-person presentations
- Recycling issues? Contact us!
  - On site assessments and waste audits
  - Assistance with recycling dumpster/vendor issues



# ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE



Resiliency

## Top 6 Climate Actions for Households & Individuals

1. Eat a Plant-Rich Diet
2. Reduce Food Waste
3. Solar Panels
4. Building Insulation
5. LED Lighting
6. Public Transit

Source: <https://drawdown.org/>



<https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/environmental-quality/environmental-resilience-program>



# QUESTIONS?

Contact information:

Send me an email  
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General email inbox  
[conserve@traviscountytexas.gov](mailto:conserve@traviscountytexas.gov)