Troop 93

Sustainability Merit Badge, requirement 2a “community”

February 10, 2014

To create a sustainable world, we must live in sustainable communities. People will need to decrease or eliminate their reliance on cars, fossil fuels, cheap goods from China, and vegetables grown in the deserts of California with the use of billions of gallons of “imported” water. Sustainable urban and community planning will produce a new symptom of healthy people living in walkable, bikeable communities. Community design that allows people to walk, bike or utilize public transportation to arrive at their local grocery, bank or workplace is the ultimate goal of sustainability. In a sustainable world, people will decrease their reliance on SUV's, cars and trucks running on inefficient combustion engines. For example, a bike path could be planned for the next major road project, thereby making it more convenient and conducive for safe bicycle travel by urban dwellers. Meanwhile, the transportation technology should be striving to constantly improve efficiency, for example through the use of hybrid vehicles.

The return to regional economies will reduce transport miles, time wasted in traffic jams, unemployment, and environmental ruin. Imagine being able to once again purchase high quality goods that are manufactured within your community by your neighbors. Local resources will be utilized in the processes and the nutrients returned back to the earth upon disposal. Renewable energy will be generated on site or within the community, so as to decrease energy loss caused by sending energy from across the region, state or country.

Sustainable communities are all about species 'belonging' to a community, with every sense of that word. Many people today believe that we can just leave our cities, states, country, or even planet if the environmental destruction becomes too severe. This way of living cannot be sustainably maintained into the future.

Enterprise Green Communities Certification

http://www.enterprisecommunity.com/solutions-and-innovation/enterprise-green-communities/certification

1. Integrative Design
    - Green Planning
    - Universal Design
2. Location and Neighborhood Fabric
    - Site sensitive selection
    - Connections to existing development and infrastructure
    - Compact development
    - Preserve open space
    - Access to public transit
    - Walkable neighborhoods
    - Smart site selection to allow for access to passive solar heat and daylighting
    - Brownfield or adaptive reuse site
    - Access to fresh, local foods

3. Site Improvements
    - Erosion and sediment control
    - Low impact development
    - Landscaping
    - Efficient irrigation
    - Surface stormwater management
4. Water conservation
    - Plumbing fixtures
5. Energy efficiency
    - High performing buildings
    - Appropriately sized heating and cooling equipment
    - Energy Star appliances
    - Efficient lighting
    - Renewable energy
6. Construction material selection
    - NO VOCs “volatile organic solids”
    - Construction Waste Management
    - Recycling storage
    - Use of recycled materials
    - Regional material usage
    - Use of “certified” woods
    - “Heat Island Effect” on roofs and paving
7. Healthy Living Environment
    - No formaldehyde in wood products
    - Environmentally safe flooring
    - Ventilation
    - Mold prevention
    - Pest management
    - Be smoke free!
8. Maintenance
    - minimize utility consumption and provide a healthy and durable living environment
    - once an issue is identified, appropriate actions can be taken to maximize cost savings and health benefits