



To: Iowa County Board of Supervisors
Date: March 15, 2011
Re: Sustain Iowa County Committee

As citizens of Iowa County and active volunteers, we care deeply about our future sustainable practices.

We represent a group of approximately 800 individuals within Iowa County who have voted that the environment and sustainable practices are a top priority this year.

We have put together the following information for your review so that you know our concerns and where we feel continued action needs to be taken to keep our county strong.

- Our mission and 2011 work plan
- Our list of accomplishments
- Our request to you to consider these topics priorities in your decision making

We are a group that wants to be involved, so please feel free to request help from us on projects, events, general feedback, or serving on committees.

Sincerely,

Sustain Iowa County Committee Volunteers
(See www.grassrootswi.org/sustain for ongoing information about activities and contacts)



March 15, 2011

COMMENTS TO THE IOWA COUNTY BOARD

Sustain Iowa County is an active group of citizens, all volunteers, whose mission is to foster the social, environmental and economic health of Iowa County. As with a three-legged stool, each of these is vital for sustaining our community.


We come before you this evening because we are well aware that this is a difficult time for budgets and that you will be making difficult decisions. On the other hand, we urge you to keep in mind that our community's future depends on sustainable practices which save money, create jobs and protect our citizens for years to come.

- In the environmental area, we urge continuation of the county's recycling programs that save money, prohibit our landfills from filling up and protect our remarkable natural resources.
- We encourage the restoration of the public-private Eco County Steering Committee, which was responsible for bringing \$250,000 to Iowa County for improvements at the Highway Department building and Bloomfield Manor
- Regarding the social health of Iowa County, we are concerned that one in twelve people here live at or below the \$14,570 poverty level for a two-person household and that one in nine children live in poverty. We strongly urge the Board to allocate available human service dollars in ways that assist those who are struggling to remain economically afloat. We also urge continued Board support for our public libraries, local parks and the city/county recreation programs – all of which benefit low-income families and, in fact, all local families
- For the economic health of Iowa County, we are interested in working with you to help address the county's transportation issues; and to foster sustainable, economically viable, locally owned businesses. Such businesses are already beginning to grow here, including local bio fuel production, methane gas digesters, the Innovation Kitchen and small wind and solar systems. But much more could be done. Our backyards and farm fields could begin to produce diverse food crops to be consumed here and exported regionally. Such local development would be an important insurance policy against national and international market fluctuations.

Members of our group are available to serve on county committees, help promote local sustainable products and businesses, host community events such as the Sustain Iowa County Fair and provide tours of local sustainable sites. We look forward to working with you.

Contact Debi Morton at debi.morton@countyspeed.com or Amber Westerman at amber@amberwesterman.com for further information.

SUSTAIN IOWA COUNTY 2011 WORK PLAN

<p>MISSION</p> 	<p>Works to preserve the economic, social and environmental health of our community</p> <p>Builds awareness and appreciation for the unique resources in our Southwestern Wisconsin neighborhood</p> <p>Works with Iowa County officials, school districts, builders, homeowners, farmers and others to encourage sustainable practices</p> <p>Believes that by working together we can create communities that fulfill today's human needs while not compromising future generations</p>
<p>LEADERSHIP TEAM (working on behalf of 800 citizens of the area)</p>	<p>Jerry Koerner, Debi Morton, Shirley Barnes, Earl Barnes, Barb Glass, Brad Glass, Amber Westerman, Chuck Tennesen, Karen Tennesen, Doug Huebner, Kate Moran, Paula Dail, Lisa Cvengros, Roger Boettcher, Janice Boettcher, Roger Reynolds, Joel Goodman</p>
<p>ADVISORS</p>	<p>Brenda Middlestadt, Jennifer Kerr, David Haskin, Bill Wisler, Jayne Wisler, Taylor Scott</p>
<p>GOALS 2011</p>	<p>Support 4 key projects Increase engagement and communication with the community Plan for 2012 by 3rd Q 2011</p>
<p>SUBCOMMITTEES</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lasagna Garden- Leader: Roger Reynolds, ourfarmwi@mhtc.net 2) School Involvement-Leader: Chuck Tennesen, twotens@yousq.net 3) Speaker's Bureau-Leader-Amber Westerman, amberwesterman.com 4) Sustain Iowa County Topo Map-Shirley Barnes, grassroots@merr.com- SW WI Regional Planning Committee Partnership
<p>BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES</p>	<p>Build <u>awareness</u> around sustainability</p> <p>Educate kids and adults building sustainable practice <u>skills</u></p> <p><u>Recommend changes</u> to local government, businesses, education administration</p> <p>Put in place <u>new</u> sustainable <u>practices</u></p>
<p>CONTACTS AND INFORMATION</p>	<p>Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin Website www.grassrootswi.org Jerry Koerner dogbite@mhtc.net 608-924-3094 Debi Morton debi.morton@countryspeed.com 608-628-1001</p>