

Find yourself next to the water.



City of Ashland
Sustainability Survey Summary

Overview

Total number of responses: 179

Total number interested in Sustainability Committee: 29

Would like additional information: 17

Most Votes Per Question:

- **Food Waste Reduction:** Collect compost in a separate container along with trash and recycling
- **Water Usage Reduction:** Offer rebates for low-flow shower heads, toilets and faucets that use less water
- **Storm Water Management:** Give out information on how to reduce your home's storm water runoff
- **Land Use:** Review zoning and building codes to identify impediments to green and sustainable building practices such as green roofs, grey water systems, etc.
- **Bikeability:** More bike paths or marked bike lanes

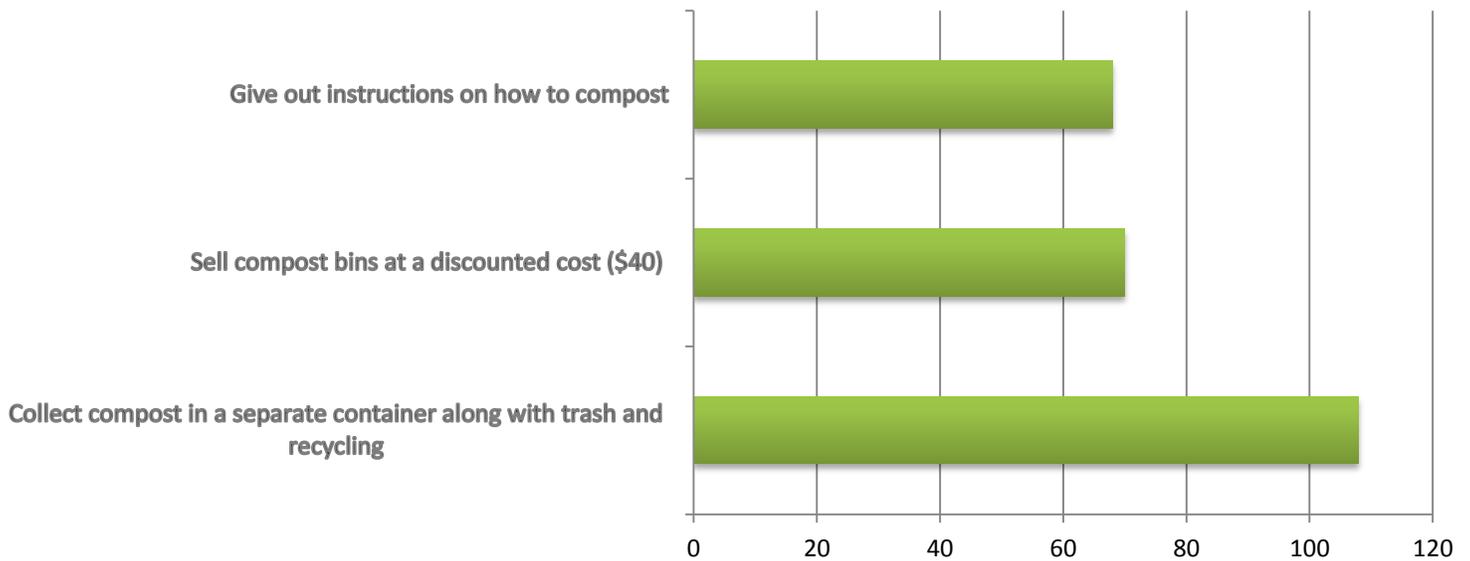
Top Priority Per Question:

- **Food Waste Reduction:** Collect compost in a separate container along with trash and recycling
- **Water Usage Reduction:** Offer rebates for low-flow shower heads, toilets and faucets that use less water
- **Storm Water Management:** Provide free mulch to City residents each spring.
- **Land Use:** Review zoning and building codes to identify impediments to green and sustainable building practices such as green roofs, grey water systems, etc.

Would it help you reduce the amount of food you put in your trash if the City did any of the following:

Food Waste Reduction

Number of Votes



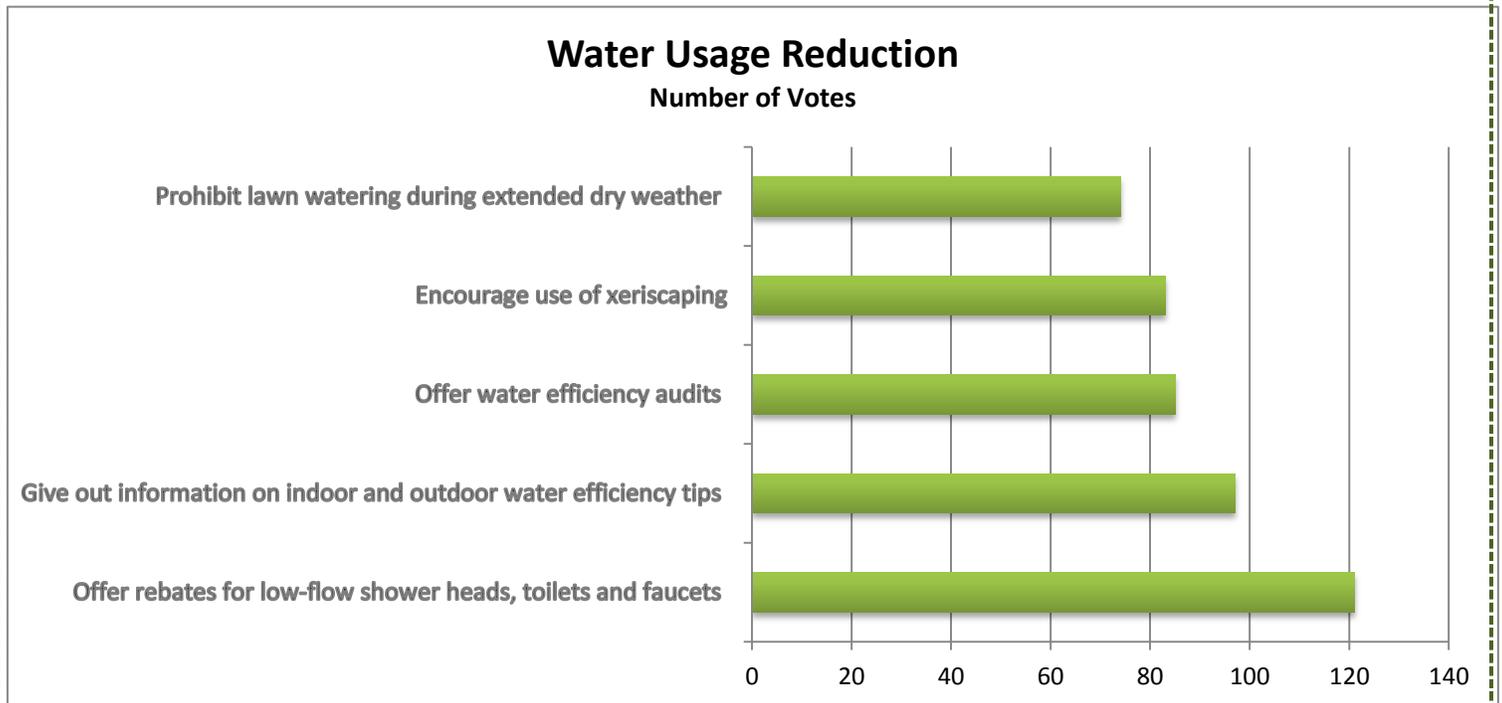
Prioritized:

- 1) Collect compost in a separate container along with trash and recycling
- 2) Give out instructions on how to compost
- 3) Sell compost bins at a discounted cost (\$40)

Other Common Responses:

- Partner with the Northland College Food Lab to provide community composting
- Pick up compost in similar way to garbage/recycling at little to no cost to residents
- Concerns about bears and other animals being attracted to compost bins
- Would like to see community compost be sold to local farmers to offset costs

Should the City do any of the following to help households and businesses reduce water usage?



Prioritized:

- 1) Offer rebates for low-flow shower heads, toilets and faucets that use less water
- 2) Give out information on indoor and outdoor water efficiency tips
- 3) Offer water efficiency audits
- 4) Prohibit lawn watering during extended dry weather
- 5) Encourage use of xeriscaping (plants that don't have to be watered to survive) for residential and business landscaping

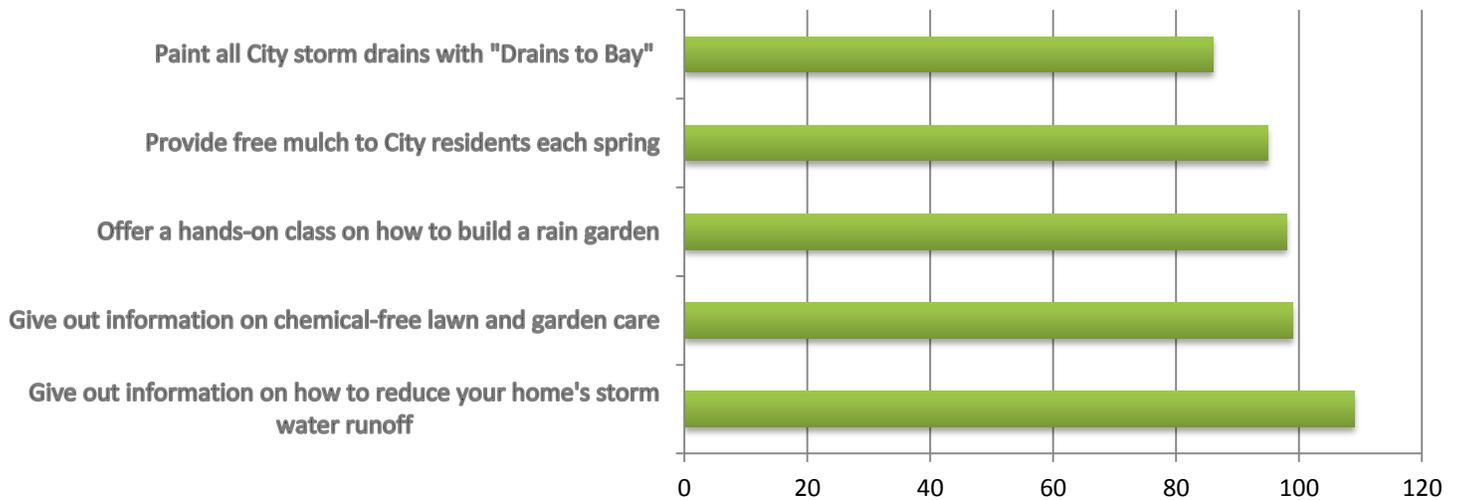
Other Common Responses:

- Promote public, commercial, and residential rain barrel use
- Work to improve efficiency of municipal water infrastructure
- Have variable rates to charge according to usage

What should the City do to further reduce storm water runoff?

Stormwater Runoff Reduction

Number of Votes



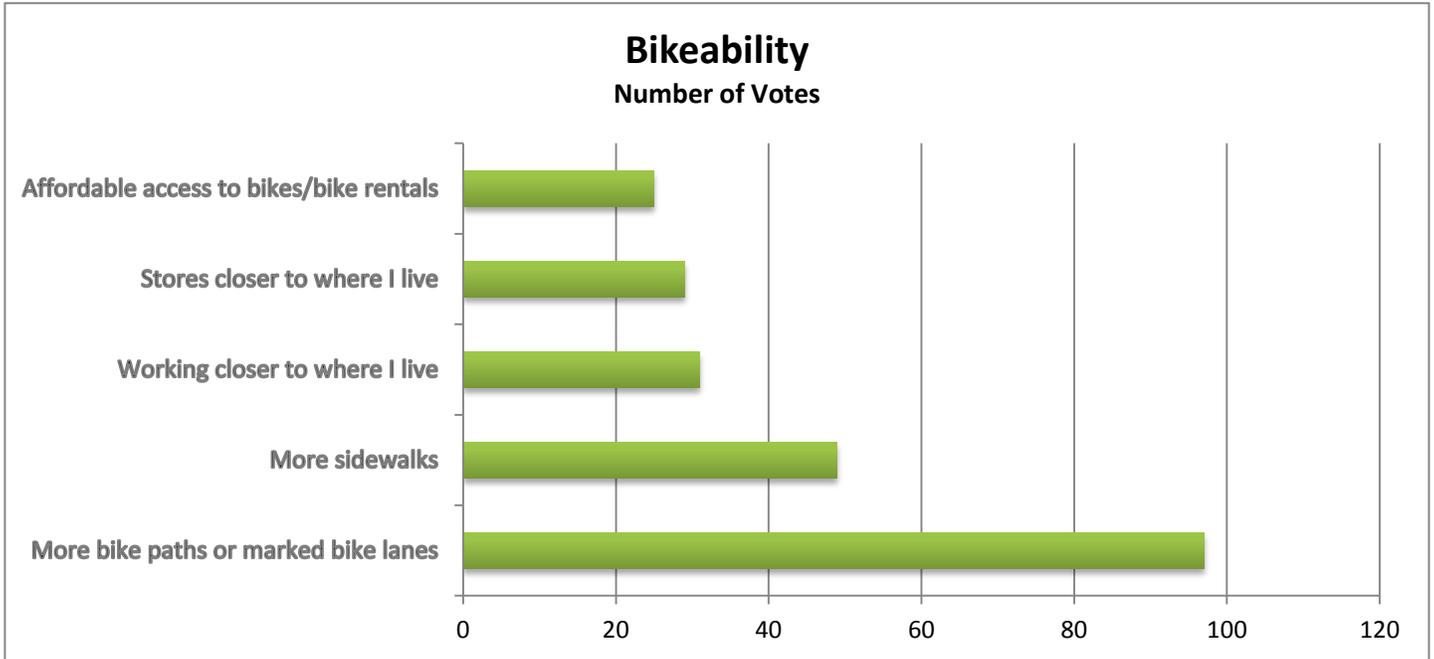
Prioritized:

- 1) Provide free mulch to City residents each spring.
- 2) Give out information on how to reduce your home's storm water runoff
- 3) Give out information on chemical-free lawn and garden care
- 4) Paint all City storm drains with "Drains to Bay" to discourage the dumping of pollutants
- 5) Offer a hands-on class on how to build a rain garden

Other Common Responses:

- Reduce impervious surfaces required for new developments (sidewalks, parking lots, etc.)
- Promote and incentivize rain gardens and permeable pavers for commercial and residential projects
- Improved screening and maintenance of storm drains combined with education to deter people from dumping grass clippings, etc. into drains

What would make you walk or bike more often to get to work or go shopping?



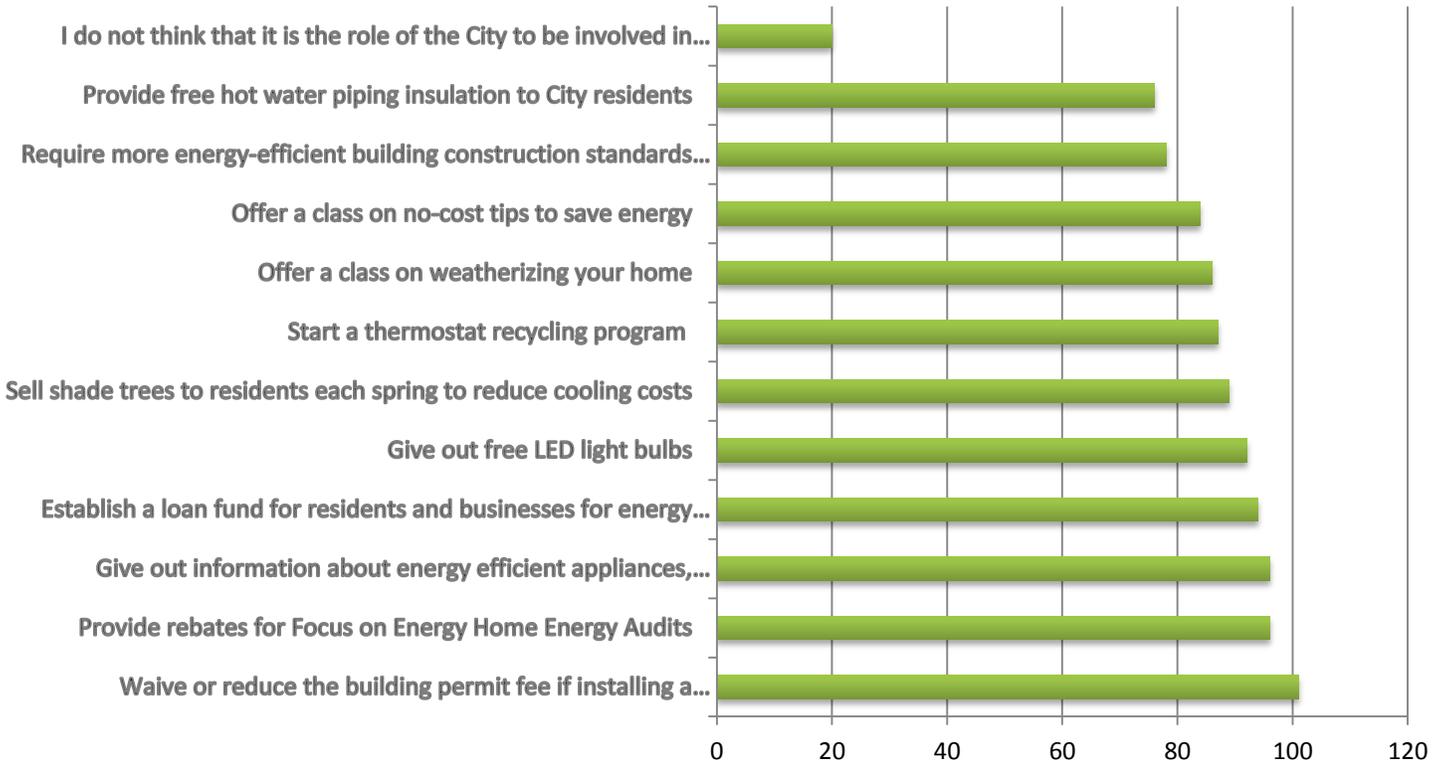
Other Common Responses:

- Increased number of bike racks around town, particularly in downtown and near businesses
- Repair sidewalks and increase visibly designated biking areas
- Better lighting in the evenings, along trail and along main corridors

As it pertains to energy usage in homes, which of the following City actions do you support?

Energy Use Reduction

Number of Votes



Prioritized:

- 1) Establish a loan fund for residents and businesses for energy efficiency upgrades
- 2) Require more energy efficient building construction standards than current code requires
- 3) Give out information about energy efficient appliances, practices, and home construction
- 4) Give out free LED light bulbs
- 5) Provide rebates for Focus on Energy Home Energy Audits
- 6) Waive or reduce the building permit fee if installing a renewable energy system
- 7) Offer a class on no-cost tips to save energy
- 8) Offer a class on weatherizing your home

9) Provide free hot water piping insulation to City residents

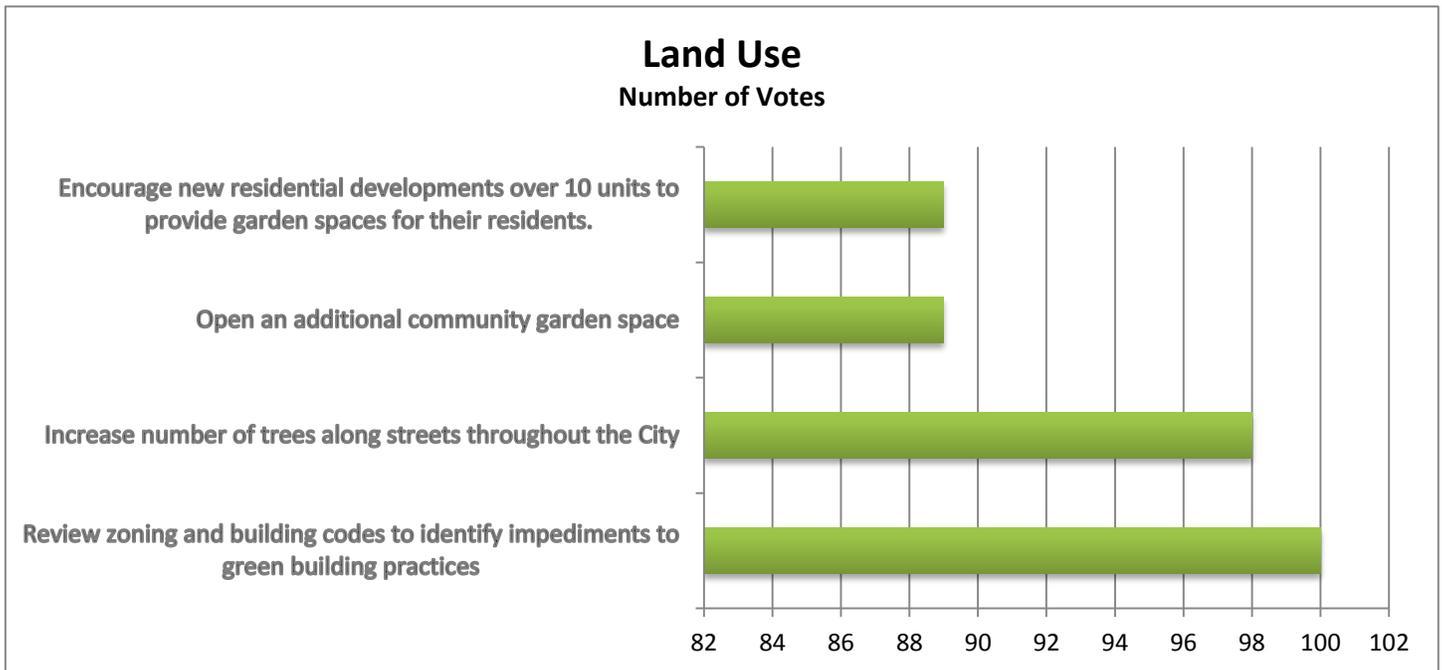
10) Start a thermostat recycling program where residents can bring in their old thermostat in exchange for a low-cost 7-day programmable thermostat

11) Sell shade trees to residents each spring, at the City's cost, to be planted near homes to help reduce cooling costs

Other Common Responses:

- Promote public solar and/or wind projects to “lead by example”
- Market existing funding available for projects related to energy efficiency and weatherization

What items related to land use should the City support/implement to encourage more sustainable practices?



Prioritized:

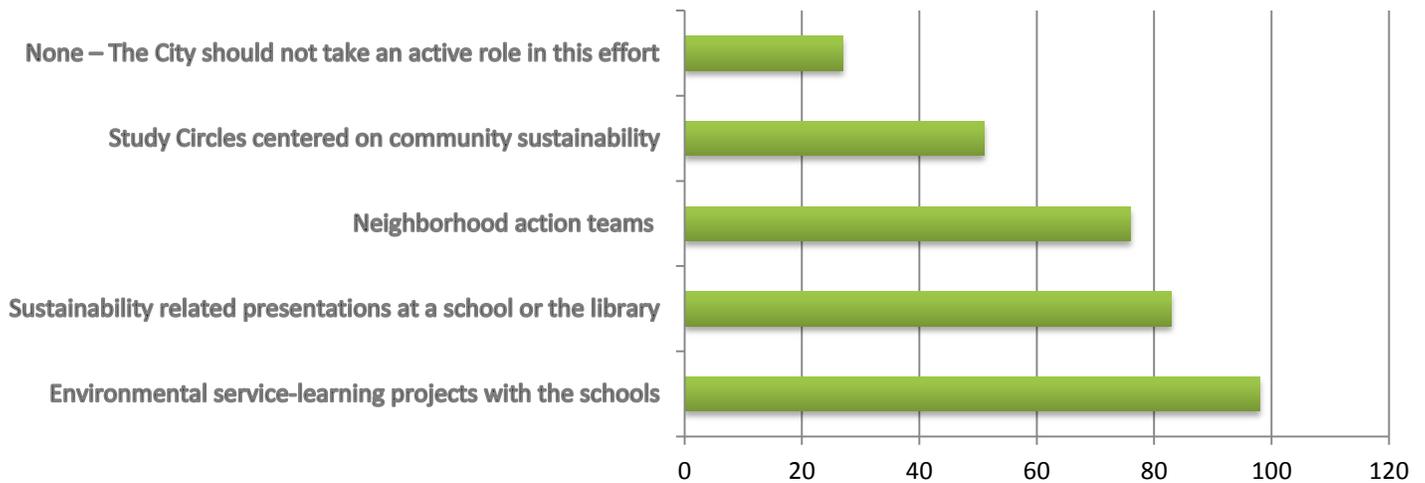
- 1) Review zoning and building codes to identify impediments to green and sustainable building practices such as green roofs, grey water systems, etc.
- 2) As a part of the City design review process, encourage new residential developments over 10 units to provide garden spaces for their residents.
- 3) Open an additional community garden space
- 4) Increase number of trees along streets throughout the City

Other Common Responses:

- Educational outreach on non-conventional development techniques permitted in the city (i.e. native landscaping, geothermal options, small homes)
- Encourage and incentivize private and neighborhood gardens
- Streamline and simplify application processes
- Encourage infill development rather than new construction

Educational Forums

Number of Votes



Prioritized:

- 1) Environmental service-learning projects with the schools
- 2) Neighborhood action teams (i.e. Madison Environmental Group's EnAct groups)
- 3) Sustainability related presentations at a school or the library
- 4) Study Circles centered on community sustainability (i.e. Natural Step)

Other Common Responses:

- Educational social media campaign
- Engage community in hands-on learning and volunteer projects
- Education for City staff and Council on best practices related to sustainability

Recommended Next Steps

- 1) Form Sustainability Committee
- 2) Sustainability Intern
- 3) Ongoing Sustainability Educational Column
- 4) Identify Community Partners