

PRINCIPLES AND GOALS FOR A SUSTAINABLE HOUSTON



ECONOMY

Principles

- A prosperous city with a climate for capital and human investment that supports global competitiveness.
- The creation of wealth through innovation, research, and local entrepreneurship.
- A diversified economy, while retaining our position as the global energy leader.

Goals

- Become a sophisticated, vibrant, information technology-driven city with a highly skilled workforce.
- Promote a diversified business community attractive to international interests
- Help small businesses thrive in local neighborhoods.
- Provide increased employment training opportunities that address a wide range of occupations and industries.
- Be sensitive to culture and language inside, outside the work place including schools.



COMMUNITY

Principles

- Fairness, justice, opportunity, access.
- The right to speak and to participate.
- Good health; excellent, affordable, accessible health care.
- Safe shelter, food for our indigent and homeless; help for citizens living in poverty.
- Childcare, after-school programs, and recreational opportunities for children.
- Safety and security.

Goals

- Encourage healthy living, affordable quality care for all economic and age groups with adequate trauma centers and clinics.
- Affordable quality day care to children.
- Drug counseling and other drug prevention intervention in schools.
- Facilitate transition process for intermediate, junior high students living in poverty
- Assist the homeless.
- Provide opportunities to earn a living wage.
- Respect diversity, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual preference, religion, socio-economic status.
- Informed and empowered citizenry able to access information, influence government decisions.
- Support seniors with affordable housing, tax exemptions, healthcare, transportation, park facilities and activities, environmental awareness about housing areas, and police presence in senior communities.
- Support vital, diverse art community.
- Affordable, accessible art centers, programs.



ENVIRONMENT

Principles

- Houston to be a beautiful city with air and water that are plentiful and healthy.
- Preservation of natural greenspace with parks of many sizes.
- Protection of our trees and more of them.
- Policies to protect our floodplains.
- An environment for future generations that is at least as good as the environment we enjoy today.

Goals

- Improve health by improving the quality of the air.
- Guard and care for our water resources.
- Develop new and safe water supplies.
- Clean up waterways, eliminate pollution.
- A flood management plan that encourages regional cooperation.
- Become a clean and unpolluted city.
- Support technologically advanced energy alternatives.
- Support sustainable buildings and developments.
- Preserve, restore, add natural areas.
- Develop linear parks along bayous.
- Create more parks and open space evenly distributed geographically and accessible to all citizens.

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Principles

- Choices in quality, size, and price of housing in urban centers with jobs, schools, goods, and services.
- Home ownership, affordable housing for the whole range of citizen incomes.
- Parks near homes, respect for historic places.

Goals

- Support, preserve beautiful neighborhoods.
- Protect, strengthen neighborhood identity and values through sensible application of newly created laws, regulations, programs, incentives.
- Promote, preserve older neighborhoods, and where appropriate redevelop them into better places.
- Support housing for all near shops, schools, police services, workplaces.
- Repair visual blight, regulate to prevent it.
- Provide libraries, recreational facilities, parks, in walking distance of every home.
- Improve neighborhood infrastructure.
- Preserve historic areas.



TRANSPORTATION

Principles

- The best transportation system in America.
- An integrated, efficient, multi-modal network that provides choices and safety.

Goals

- A transit system that is clean, fast, efficient, high frequency, comfortable, accessible, fiscally responsible, aesthetically pleasing, well routed.
- Maintain and improve a well built, coordinated, accessible network of expressways, roads, streets, and sidewalks integrated with other modes of transportation.
- Improve and expand pedestrian and bicyclist facilities and paths to provide alternative mobility options, ensure safety, and connect neighborhoods and centers.
- Link transportation and land use planning.



GOVERNMENT

Principles

- Flexible, efficient, and excellent public service and policies for our health, safety, and welfare.
- Public officials who can balance long-term and short-term visions, and make fair use of our assets.
- Sustainable, unobtrusive infrastructure.
- Active regional collaboration.

Goals

- Create a master plan for growth that fosters dense, walkable, mixed-use urban centers at all scales surrounded by affordable, accessible, diverse neighborhoods.
- Reduce costs, become more accountable.
- Give citizens active voice in policy making.
- Deliver public services equally to all areas of the City, including recycling, street cleanup, lighting, curbs and gutters, and mosquito control.
- Develop secure public and private places and adequate laws for public protection from all offenses.
- Enforce laws extensively and fairly.
- Collaborate, coordinate in the region
- Provide high-quality bilingual public education; safe schools, highly trained teachers, small classes.
- Help immigrants learn how our government works so they can access jobs, education opportunities, and the justice system on par with non-immigrants.