



VILLAGE OF AMESVILLE

SUSTAINABILITY ROADMAP



DECEMBER 2014

Contents

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| A Letter from AEP Ohio..... | 2 |
| Executive Summary | 3 |
| Introduction | 4 |
| Energy Efficiency..... | 6 |
| Planned and Ongoing Initiatives | 6 |
| Additional Opportunities..... | 7 |
| Tips to save energy | 8 |
| Water Conservation..... | 9 |
| Planned and Ongoing Initiatives | 9 |
| Additional Opportunities..... | 10 |
| Tips to save water | 11 |
| Reduce, Reuse and Recycle..... | 12 |
| Planned and Ongoing Initiatives | 12 |
| Additional Opportunities..... | 12 |
| Tips to reduce waste | 14 |
| Economic Development..... | 15 |
| Planned and Ongoing Initiatives | 15 |
| Additional Opportunities..... | 16 |
| Tips for a healthier lifestyle..... | 17 |

A Letter from AEP Ohio



AEP Ohio is proud to partner with the Village of Amesville, Ohio, on the development of its Sustainability Roadmap, a document meant to serve as a framework for the village's ongoing commitment to energy efficiency and sustainability.

This roadmap was made possible because of the Village of Amesville's successful participation in AEP Ohio's Community Energy Savers pilot program and the significant existing sustainability efforts of the community.

In 2014, AEP Ohio launched the Community Energy Savers pilot program, linking its commitment to communities with ongoing efforts to bring the benefits of efficiency to more customers. Participating communities that take the lead in encouraging community members to participate in select AEP Ohio energy efficiency programs earn awards based on their participation. At 50 percent of goal, communities earn support in developing a Sustainability Roadmap.

At 100 percent of goal, communities receive a financial award toward one or more community-directed projects. AEP Ohio is testing the cost-effectiveness of this peer-to-peer community-based approach to increasing program participation as compared to conventional marketing strategies.

At AEP Ohio we deliver power to more than 1,000 communities located in 61 of the state's 88 counties. It is our passion and goal to help make these communities shine even brighter by helping residents and businesses become more energy efficient and sustainable through the advancement of a number of programs designed to help use less energy.

We Power Life's Possibilities™ in the communities we serve by supporting local economic development activities that help create jobs and attract businesses to Ohio and by engaging in strategic community philanthropy.

That commitment includes our ongoing efforts to improve reliability and service through expanded technologies and advances in customer-sited metering, as well as to keep communities informed in the event of storms or other emergencies through our first responder partnerships. The benefits that AEP Ohio brings to its communities include those that result from energy efficiency.

On behalf of AEP Ohio and our 1,300 employees, I would like to congratulate the Village of Amesville on its leadership and dedication in creating a more sustainable and engaged community.

Pablo Vegas

Pablo Vegas
AEP Ohio President and
Chief Operating Officer

Since 2009, AEP Ohio energy efficiency programs have delivered the following benefits:

- Saved customers over \$1 billion in lifetime energy savings
- Created more than 100 jobs
- Reduced emissions of carbon dioxide by 1.5 million tons, sulfur dioxide by more than 4,200 tons and mercury by more than 46 pounds

Sixteen different energy efficiency programs make it possible for every customer to participate and receive technical assistance and/or financial incentives or rebates to reduce barriers to implementing energy efficient practices and equipment in their home and business. Program details can be found at AEPOhio.com/WasteLess for residents or AEPOhio.com/Solutions for businesses.

Executive Summary

The Village of Amesville's Sustainability Roadmap was led by Mayor Gary Goosman and his team with support from AEP Ohio's Community Energy Savers pilot representatives. The roadmap leveraged existing sustainability initiatives already adopted within the community that are either in the planning or completion phase. The end result is an actionable plan that targets four (4) priority areas to achieve Amesville's goal of creating a more sustainable and engaged community.

The priority areas of this Sustainability Roadmap present a set of initiatives to achieve the overall sustainability objectives. Additionally, the document offers various tips for residents and businesses to reduce their energy consumption and adopt sustainable practices:

1. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: The Village of Amesville is working on numerous initiatives to educate its residents and organizations about the environmental and economic benefits of energy conservation and energy efficiency, while actively seeking funds for implementation. Through these engagement initiatives and active community participation in energy efficiency programs, the village aims to contribute to the region's energy efficiency efforts

2. Water Conservation: The Village of Amesville is currently in the planning phase of a major water infrastructure improvement. The project is scheduled to start in the fourth quarter of 2015 and is estimated to be completed within two years from start. Through water conserving initiatives, the Village of Amesville will instill the value of water conservation throughout the community so that these improvements are fully optimized.

3. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle: An increasing number of residents and businesses are participating in waste reduction and recycling programs. The Village of Amesville will continue to promote this initiative by finding new ways to increase participation in recycling, waste reduction and composting initiatives.

4. Economic Development: The Village of Amesville is located approximately 10 miles away from the closest large grocery stores and other services that are not available within the village. There is currently no public means of transportation for residents to access these areas. This is an opportunity for the Village of Amesville to explore and take a smart and more strategic approach to rural transportation and connectivity to local goods and services.



STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Village of Amesville will engage in the activities identified in the roadmap through the following strategies:

- Develop lasting partnerships with local organizations that are committed to promoting energy efficiency and sustainability
- Maintain the strong working relationship between the Village of Amesville and AEP Ohio
- Create a channel of communication to increase participation and knowledge about energy efficiency practices and programs among residents and businesses in the community

Introduction



This Sustainability Roadmap is an actionable plan that targets four priority areas to achieve Amesville's goal of creating a more sustainable and engaged community.

The Village of Amesville is located in the Appalachian Mountains, in beautiful southeastern Ohio, surrounded by wooded hills, narrow valleys, and numerous creeks. The town has a population of approximately 154 people as of 2010 census.

The Coonskin Library, the most historic of Amesville's institutions, opened its doors on February 2, 1804. Its official name was the Western Library Association. Most people referred to it as the Coonskin Library since raccoon furs provided the money necessary to begin the library.

The library's holdings grew and included several hundred books by 1830. The Ohio Historical Society

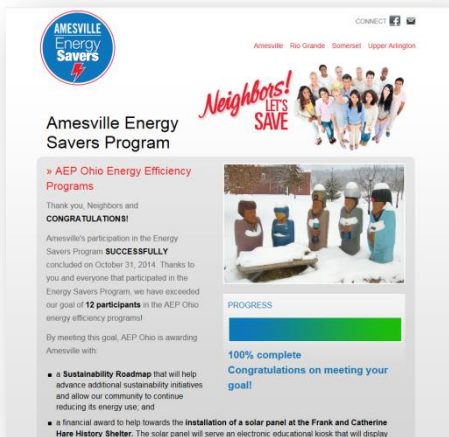
now holds most of the original volumes.

Since 1797 Amesville has grown slowly but steadily. In 1802, the first school built in Ames Township was taught by Charles Cutler. The Amesville Academy was established after the town held a meeting about better education. The first Post Office was located in a brick building at the corner of State and Main Streets in 1821. Unfortunately, the town's location on the bank of Federal Creek and by the McDougal Creek branch has made it prone to flooding. The first flood occurred in 1873. Many floods have followed, including back-to-back floods in 1997 and 1998. Each time, the community has come together to rebuild the town.

As the Village of Amesville moves forward, sustainability has increasingly become an area of focus for many members of the community. Over the past few years, the village and other local institutions have engaged in several sustainability projects such as recycling and water conservation initiatives. Many of the local residents, businesses and institutions also have started to work on making their own properties and organizations more sustainable.

With an energized residential community and strong cultural presence, Amesville is poised to continue to grow and prosper while being a responsible steward of the village's resources.





Each time a local resident or business participated in one of the seven AEP Ohio pre-selected programs– Online Energy Checkup, In-Home Energy, Multifamily Direct Install, Appliance Rebates, Appliance Recycling, Express and Prescriptive programs–the Village of Amesville received points toward its goal of 12 participations during a four month period.

AEP OHIO ENERGY SAVERS PROGRAM

The Village of Amesville participated in the AEP Ohio Energy Savers pilot to help promote energy efficiency activities among community residents and businesses while earning funds to assist with the installation cost of a solar panel at the Frank and Catherine Hare History Shelter.

Through the Energy Savers Program, AEP Ohio provided tools, training and resources to Amesville to assist them in educating the community in energy efficiency and sustainability while also engaging community residents and businesses to participate in AEP Ohio's efficiency programs. To support Amesville in accumulating participation, AEP Ohio offered a menu of services including marketing, operations and technical assistance.

Each time a local resident or business participated in one of the seven pre-selected programs (Online Energy Checkup, In-Home Energy, Multifamily Direct Install, Appliance

Rebates, Appliance Recycling, Express, and Prescriptive programs) the Village of Amesville received points toward its goal of 12 participations.

SUSTAINABILITY ROADMAP

The Village of Amesville Community Energy Savers exceeded its goal in advance of its deadline. Having achieved 19 points, the Village of Amesville became eligible to receive service and financial awards from AEP Ohio. One of these awards was the development of a Sustainability Roadmap.

Sustainability planning is a growing trend around the globe, the nation and in the Midwest. Numerous cities and towns in Ohio have created sustainability plans and roadmaps, including Akron, Athens/Ohio University, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Dayton.

There are many benefits to developing a sustainability plan or roadmap, including:

- Develop priorities in an efficient manner
- Foster accountability, what gets measured gets managed
- Galvanize the entire community around common goals
- Signal to prospective residents and businesses that it is a dynamic community, while engaging and retaining existing members

The Village of Amesville project began with a workshop with Mayor Gary Goosman and his team to identify specific goals and activities that would become part of the Sustainability Roadmap. This three-year actionable plan builds upon work that the village has already accomplished or is planning to achieve.

AEP Ohio would like to thank Mayor Greg Goosman, his team and partners for participating in the Community Energy Savers Program and for their contribution in the development of this roadmap.

Energy Efficiency



Energy conservation and energy efficiency are fundamental to a sustainable economy. With the support of committed leaders, cities around the country are working to make their communities more energy efficient. The Village of Amesville is working on numerous initiatives to educate its residents and organizations about the environmental and economic benefits of energy conservation and energy efficiency, while actively seeking funds for implementation. Through these engagement initiatives and active community participation in energy efficiency programs, the village aims to contribute to the region's energy efficiency efforts.

Planned and Ongoing Initiatives

AEP OHIO CAN HELP

Online Energy Checkup, In-Home Energy and Express Programs

Residential customers of AEP Ohio can conduct a free, online energy assessment and receive energy efficient items or may schedule a \$25 assessment, or \$50 energy audit for all electric homes, to identify other efficiency improvements and rebates and receive free installation of efficient compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.

Owners or managers of multifamily properties may be eligible for free efficiency measures for their tenants whose residences are individually metered by AEP Ohio. Call 877-856-2454 for more information.

Business customers that use less than 200,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) annually can schedule a free audit by calling 855-546-3644.

Details for these and all AEP Ohio energy efficiency programs may be found at AEPOhio.com/WasteLess for residents or AEPOhio.com/Solutions for businesses.

Please note that offerings and requirements are subject to change.

- 1 Upgrade Athens County – an effort to win \$5 Million through the Georgetown University Energy Prize competition.** *Together with the Athens County, Amesville submitted a proposal for a Master Plan to increase energy efficiency and sustainability. This initiative requires a two-year roll out for the plan. Finalist communities will be eligible for a \$5 million fund to assist with the implementation of the identified initiatives. Semi-finalists will be chosen in January 2015 among 52 communities across the country that have advanced to the quarter-finals.*
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman
Timeline: 2015
Metrics: Dollars invested locally; energy saved from plan implementation
- 2 Host an annual 'Sustainable Energy' symposium.** *An annual symposium brings together elected officials, professionals and civic groups for discussion on environmentally related issues. The 2014 Symposium in September focused on energy issues, celebrating the village's recent successes in energy conservation and alternative energy. The village will continue to host a symposium on an annual basis focusing on energy conservation and alternative energy in addition to other sustainability issues.*
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman
Timeline: 2015
Metrics: Annual event; number of participants (attendees and speakers)
- 3 Encourage residents and businesses to reduce their energy usage.** *By participating in the AEP Ohio Community Energy Savers pilot program, the Village of Amesville was able to disseminate educational materials electronically and by mail to residents and businesses in the community, which resulted in increased participation in energy efficiency programs. This effort will be continued in the future by sharing information on the AEP Ohio energy efficiency programs via several marketing channels, including newsletters, website, and social media.*
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman
Timeline: 2015
Metrics: Number of community members reached; number of new and returning participants in energy efficiency programs

- 4 **Provide residents and local businesses with information regarding renewable energy.** In partnership with local renewable energy businesses, the Village of Amesville will help distribute information regarding renewable energy options, such as costs, incentives, energy credits and other details. Information regarding available solutions as identified by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) are published on the local website and will continue to be updated as new information becomes available.
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman
Timeline: 2015
Metrics: Number of articles or posts published; number of webpage views

- 5 **Promote the Ohio Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) offered by Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action.** The HWAP is a no-cost energy assistance program available to home owners and renters with a household income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. The program is designed to reduce energy costs and improve participants' health and safety.
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman
Timeline: 2015
Metrics: Information posted on the local website; number of participants; number of webpage views

- 6 **Explore additional options for installation of solar panels.** As a result of participating in the AEP Ohio Community Energy Savers, Amesville procured funding to assist with the installation of a solar panel that will serve an electronic informational kiosk at the Frank and Catherine Hare History Shelter. This will eliminate the costs associated with delivery of electricity and the monthly billing and consumption expenses. Additionally, the village is exploring the opportunity of installing a 12.1 kW solar panel system on the village building, but funding is unavailable at the moment, as the bank requires a 7 year payback for loans. Taking in consideration available grants, the payback is currently estimated at 13 years. This opportunity will continue to be explored and implemented as limitations change.
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman
Timeline: 2017
Metrics: Number of opportunities for solar energy identified; dollars funding identified to support solar projects

Additional Opportunities

- 7 **Determine a baseline for current energy consumption for the village owned building.** Whether it is a single building or the entire community, the first step in tracking energy performance is creating an energy baseline. The baseline should include energy consumption (electricity, natural gas, renewables) for at least 12 months period.
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman
Timeline: 2015

- 8 **Benchmark the village building using EPA's online Tool, ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager.** Benchmarking is a valuable tool for gauging energy usage relative to similarly classed facilities. Using the EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (ESPM), the building's energy consumption can be compared to other buildings of similar size and use. The results of this comparison are expressed through a numerical score between 1 and 100, where the higher the score, the better the building is performing. A minimum score of 75 is required to achieve ENERGY STAR® recognition.
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman
Timeline: 2016

- 9 **Promote and participate in the "Earth Hour" initiative** using local media outlets, such as Facebook, local website, newsletters, etc. Next "Earth Hour" is March 28, 2015 at 8:30 PM.
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman
Timeline: 2015

- 10 **Invite your energy utilities to Amesville during Earth Day** or other environmental events to help promote energy efficiency and conservation.
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman;
Timeline: 2015

Tips to save energy

Oftentimes people associate energy efficiency with discomfort. Many energy efficiency and energy conservation measures provide residents and business owners the opportunity to save on their utility bills without compromising the comfort of their home or employees. Small behavioral and operational changes can have a significant impact on the overall performance of a home or building.

At Home

- Unplug electronics and unused appliances to reduce the “vampire energy”
- [Recycle an old refrigerator or freezer](#) and **get cash back!**
- Use your appliances wisely
- Take advantage of your computer's energy-saving features
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with ENERGY STAR® certified [Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs \(CFLs\)](#) or [Light-Emitting Diodes \(LEDs\)](#).
Get **special discounts** on CFL bulbs through [AEPOhio.com/Rebates](#)
- Install programmable thermostats
- Turn off the lights you're no longer using.
- Weatherize your home
- Change your furnace and air conditioning filters every year
- Install low-flow plumbing fixtures

AEP OHIO CAN HELP

Appliance Recycling Program

Customers of AEP Ohio can call 877-545-4112 to schedule free pick-up of their old, working refrigerator or freezer. AEP Ohio will pay the customer \$50 and recycle the appliance-keeping out of the landfill and off the grid.

Please note that offerings and requirements are subject to change.

At Work

- Conduct an energy audit/assessment
- Calculate a baseline for energy usage and track energy efficiency improvements
- Adjust lighting levels for different uses and times of day
- Install lighting controls such as dimmers, timers, motion sensors, and photocells.
- Use LED lighting for outdoor security and decoration.

AEP OHIO CAN HELP

Express Program

Small businesses can cut the hassle and cost of energy efficiency upgrades with the Express Program. A representative will survey your facility for FREE to identify energy saving opportunities and propose recommended improvements. Customers will be eligible for incentives up to 80% of total project cost. Participation is limited to non-residential customers with annual consumption of 200,000 kWh or less. Call 855-546-3644 to schedule your free assessment.

Please note that offerings and requirements are subject to change.

Water Conservation



Amesville is currently in the planning phase of a major water infrastructure improvement. The project is scheduled to start in the fourth quarter of 2015 and is estimated to be completed within two years from start. The wastewater treatment system has been entirely redone in 2011 (3 years ago). Through water conserving initiatives, the Village of Amesville will instill the value of water conservation throughout the community so that these improvements are fully optimized.

Planned and Ongoing Initiatives

- 1 Eliminate water leaks through improvements to the water distribution system.** *The drinking water distribution system is scheduled for replacement starting in the fourth quarter of 2015. The project will be implemented over a two year period. This improvement will result in reduced water leaks through the distribution system and improved reliability.*
Champion: Village of Amesville
Timeline: 2018
Metrics: Miles of new pipelines installed and old pipelines replaced
- 2 Provide tips on water conservation measures to community members.** *Using local media outlets, such as social media, local website, newsletters, or direct mailing, the Village of Amesville plans on educating its residents and businesses about the environmental and economic benefits of water conservation measures.*
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman/ Tom McGuire
Timeline: 2015
Metrics: Distribute tips with the water bill once a year
- 3 Promote rain barrels and other green infrastructures.** *Work with regional organizations such as Athens Soil and Water Conservation District to promote water efficient irrigation through the use of rain barrels and other green infrastructures. Rain barrel programs have been adopted by numerous communities in the past years, including Columbus, Cleveland, Upper Arlington and more in Ohio.*
Champion: Village of Amesville
Timeline: 2015
Metrics: Partners identified; evaluate feasibility to implement a rain barrel program
- 4 Encourage installation of faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.** *While this initiative has already been promoted during the participation period in the AEP Ohio Community Energy Savers, the Village of Amesville will continue encouraging the use of faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads by publishing information regarding benefits and available incentives using the local media channels. Additionally, faucet aerator shall be installed on all restrooms within the village building.*
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman
Timeline: 2015
Metrics: Faucet aerators installed in the village building; number of posts and information published

Additional Opportunities

- 5 *Establish a baseline for current water consumption for village buildings and facilities*
Champion:
Timeline: 2017
Metrics: Tracking system in place (e.g. through the ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager tool or spreadsheets)

- 6 *Invite the water utility staff to Amesville for Earth Day and other environmental events to help promote water savings*
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman
Timeline: 2016
Metrics: Number of events attended

Tips to save water

The average American household uses 320 gallons of water per day, about 30 percent of which is devoted to outdoor uses. More than half of that outdoor water is used for watering lawns and gardens. When it comes to conserving irrigation water, small adjustments can have a significant impact. Here are some ideas on how to use water in the house and at work more efficiently:

At Home

- When hand washing dishes fill one sink with wash water instead of letting water run through
- Purchase ENERGY STAR® certified dish washers
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a container instead of letting water run through
- Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator or in a container with lukewarm water
- Use a reusable water bottle to drink water for your daily needs
- Don't water your lawn during summer peak hours or on windy days when most of the water would evaporate or be blown away
- Use drip irrigation for shrubs and trees to apply water directly to the roots
- Monitor your bill for unusually high water use to detect leaks
- Test your toilet for leaks at least once a year by using food coloring or toilet cleaner (colored) to see if it seeps into the bowl
- Use rain barrels to harvest rainwater from gutters and watering gardens and landscapes

At Work

- If not already present, install water meters and sub-meters to measure water consumption
- Assess your water use to identify opportunities for savings and track results
- Check regularly for leaks and, when found, repair them promptly
- Consider and compare water use when purchasing ice makers, dishwashers, coolers and cleaning equipment
- Install WaterSense labeled showerheads, toilets, and flushing urinals
- Use sprinklers that deliver big drops of water closer to the ground. Smaller drops and mist will often times evaporate before hitting the ground
- Water lawn and outdoors only when necessary
- Plant native landscaping and lawns that thrive with less water
- For extended lawn areas needing irrigation, install control devices such as moisture sensors to match the water needs of the landscaping

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle



Reducing waste and increasing recycling participation work hand-in-hand with protecting natural resources while saving residents money. An increasing number of residents and businesses are participating in waste reduction and recycling programs. The Village of Amesville will continue to promote this initiative by finding new ways to increase participation in recycling, waste reduction and composting initiatives.

Planned and Ongoing Initiatives

- 1 Work with Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District to promote recycling.** *Include information on what to recycle through social media, website, newsletter and events. The Village of Amesville will take any of the available opportunities to dispense this information further to the community to increase participation in the single stream recycling program.*
Champion: Village of Amesville/ Tim McGuire
Timeline: 2016
Metrics: Number of publications including recycling information
- 2 Promote appliance recycling.** *Through the AEP Ohio Recycling Program (freezers and refrigerators), customers of AEP Ohio can get paid for protecting the environment while saving money and energy. This opportunity will continue to be promoted using media outlets such as Facebook, local website, newsletters, or direct mailers.*
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman
Timeline: 2015, 2016, 2017
Metrics: Number of publications including appliance recycling information
- 3 Organize 2-3 annual clean-up days.** *This initiative is made possible with the help of volunteers in the village and coordination is typically done using the village's newsletter, social media and word to mouth. The village will continue organizing this effort and target an increased volunteer participation each year.*
Champion: Village of Amesville
Timeline: 2015, 2016, 2017
Metrics: 2-3 clean-up events a year
- 4 Explore e-waste recycling and household hazardous waste collection events.** *The village will work with Athens Hocking Recycling and other regional institutions to explore the feasibility of hosting collection events for residents and businesses to dispose of obsolete electronics and household hazardous waste properly.*
Champion: Village of Amesville
Timeline: 2014
Metrics: Coordination with regional institutions; number of collection events; number of participants

Additional Opportunities

- 5 Identify additional needs for recycling dumpsters or drop-off locations around the village**
Champion: Village of Amesville
Timeline: 2014

- 6 *Work with the school and other local organizations such as the Athens Soil and Water Conservation District to host a hands-on training on recycling and composting*
Champion: Village of Amesville
Timeline: 2014

- 7 *Adopt green procurement policy or guidelines to minimize the environmental impact of procured materials within the village government*
Champion: Village of Amesville
Timeline: 2014

- 8 *Introduce a Construction and Demolition debris recycling ordinance where contractors are required to recycle debris of a minimum 50% (or other percentage) of the waste generated*
Champion: Village of Amesville
Timeline: 2014

Tips to reduce waste

Waste reduction measures can help protect the environment by slowing the depletion of natural resources and reduce pollution associated with the extraction of raw materials and overcrowded landfills. Three main ways to reduce waste include waste reduction, recycling and composting. Many measures can be taken among these three categories, both at home and at the work place.

At Home

- Purchase items that are recyclable
- Use reusable bags when shopping for groceries
- Learn what items are recyclable
- Start your home composting bin for your landscape
- Bring recyclables and yard waste to the drop-off location
- Eliminate unnecessary items, such as paper and plastic cups used at home – use durable, reusable products rather than single-use
- Take only what you need (bags, flyers, napkins, etc.)
- Make smaller portion size to reduce food waste

At Work

- Minimize waste and use FSC-certified recycled paper in offices
- Reduce printing paper and ink usage by setting double-sided printing as default
- Use rechargeable batteries
- Bring your own mug for coffee and other liquid use when plastic or paper cups are the alternative
- Purchase energy efficient lighting fixtures, and ENERGY STAR® certified office equipment and appliances
- Participate in donation programs, giving away items such as office equipment and building supplies
- Consider composting and ‘grass cycling’



Economic Development



The Village of Amesville is located approximately 10 miles away from the closest large grocery stores and other services that are not available within the village. There is currently no public means of transportation for residents to access these areas. This is an opportunity for the Village of Amesville to explore and take a smart and more strategic approach to rural transportation and connectivity to local goods and services.

Planned and Ongoing Initiatives

- 1 Adopt additional transit options to enable seniors and fixed income residents to access primary goods and services.** Currently, senior residents in Amesville are provided bus transportation to and from the Senior Center once a week. A more flexible and varied schedule would allow more seniors to take advantage of this service. The village plans on identifying additional needs and proposing alternative or additional transportation options. The service and any changes in the schedule will be communicated via newsletters, local website and social media.
Champion: Village of Amesville
Timeline: 2015
Metrics: Additional transportation schedule
- 2 Explore the feasibility of a car sharing program.** There are currently numerous online applications that allow people to coordinate car trips. In a small community, it is important that this service is centralized and that everyone uses the same system to operate effectively. Many of the existing applications can be used from both a smartphone or from a computer. Options include, but are not limited to: Zimride, Liftshare, Wheelz, Jayride, RelayRides, JustShareIt, Getaround, etc. As a next step, the Village of Amesville will identify one system and will promote it through local media outlets, such as Facebook page, website, newsletters, articles, etc.
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman
Timeline: 2015
Metrics: Posts on the car-sharing application; feedback from the community; number of participants in the program; number of car trips saved
- 3 Host annual events to promote local food and farmers.** The Farm to Table - A Taste of Amesville is a fundraising dinner for Village Productions, a local arts and culture non-profit organization, where 90% of the food served comes from within 10 miles from Amesville and is prepared by the organization's Board. The village will continue to support and promote this event annually.
Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman
Timeline: 2015
Metrics: Number of attendees; number of local vendors offering food at the event
- 4 Attract small businesses by providing access to financial assistance for those who wish to pursue 'green' endeavors.**
Champion: Village of Amesville
Timeline: 2015
Metrics: Number of new small businesses opened per year
- 5 Connect the community to organizations that offer educational and job training opportunities related to sustainability.** The Green Edge Gardens is a family-owned organic local farm that hosts educational events about

gardening and composting in addition to growing quality certified organic produce. The Village of Amesville will explore the possibility of partnering with this organization and other local organizations such as Village Productions and Athens Soil and Water Conservation District to offer educational and job training opportunities for Amesville residents. The village will promote existing programs from these organizations, such as Green Edge Gardens' 'Farm Share' program, the local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

Champion: Mayor Gary Goosman

Timeline: 2015

Metrics: Number of programs offered by local organizations; number of participants

Additional Opportunities



- 6 Engage local farmers and partners in an initiative that promotes adopting a fruit and nut tree planting program as decorative trees

Champion:

Timeline:

- 7 Engage schools in promoting "tree planting" as a way of celebrating an event or as an extra-curricular activity for students and parents

Champion:

Timeline:

Tips for a healthier lifestyle

The local food system is the production and distribution of food that is geographically localized. Labeling the food as sustainable involves a great number of factors such as the way the food is grown or raised, the way the food is harvested or slaughtered, processed, packaged, and distributed. Benefits of consuming locally grown food include reduced fuel consumption associated with long range transportation of goods. Additionally, small-scale local production is typically healthier and offers opportunities to grow the local economy. Community gardens, for instance, allow families and individuals without land of their own the opportunity to produce food, resulting in families eating healthier diets, while improving the air quality and filter rainwater.

At Home

- Choose walking or biking over driving when possible and safe
- Participate in community meeting that discuss infrastructure needs
- Start a walking and/or running group
- Grow your own herbs and produce
- Make an effort to eat locally grown and/or organic produce to support the local economy
- Share produce with your neighbors
- Shop at farmers markets or stores that sell local products
- Pick healthy recipes over fast food

At Work

- Join a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) with your co-workers
- Organize a food drive
- Promote vegetables show and tell at local schools
- Organize a healthy recipe exchange with your co-workers
- Develop a community garden
- Share the drive – check with your co-workers on carpooling opportunities

