

2010: It's Easy Being Green

Green Team Proposal to The City of Morgantown, City Council

November 20, 2009

Dear Morgantown City Council,

Morgantown has made encouraging progress in becoming a more sustainable community, a community that utilizes its resources efficiently so that we can meet Morgantown's present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Examples of our successes include more energy-efficient buildings that decrease our carbon footprint, an increasing variety of opportunities to recycle our waste, ongoing efforts to restore our waterways, and growing support for locally-produced foods. But, there is much more that we as residents, businesses and local government can do to improve our sustainability. The reward for taking action is not only the obvious benefit to our environment; sustainable practices also make good economic sense and improve our quality of life.

The opportunities for improving our sustainability range from the simple task of replacing a light bulb, to the more complex tasks of redesigning our buildings or decreasing the number of miles our food must travel to end up on the dinner table. Fortunately, many of these changes are relatively "easy", and can be accomplished through increased public awareness and changes in common practices. The Morgantown Municipal Green Team, an advisory committee to the City of Morgantown, is requesting that the Morgantown City Council proclaim the year 2010 as "2010: It's Easy Being Green" to serve as a catalyst for moving Morgantown towards improved sustainability by promoting easy steps that can be taken towards increased sustainability.

The activities we describe in the accompanying proposal are intended both to celebrate our community's successes and to help us move forward in new directions of sustainability. For example, our calendar will highlight events organized by a variety of organizations across our community, with the goal of stimulating awareness and participation in ongoing events that promote sustainability. We are also proposing new events, such as a monthly "Green Night at the Library", which will provide a new venue for improving public awareness of topics ranging from home improvements to cooking with local foods. The Green Team will also set up a display at various events during 2010, such as the Spring Home Show, distributing brochures and answering questions about sustainable activities. Finally, our calendar will include helpful tips for making our daily living more energy efficient.

Our proposal for "2010: It's Easy Being Green" is an evolving document, and we are in the process of working with organizations and businesses across our community to develop new activities for 2010. Our goal is to be inclusive, uniting residents, businesses, WVU and local government in a comprehensive approach to improving our sustainability. An official designation of "2010: It's Easy Being Green" would be useful in providing a common focus for this effort.

Sincerely,

Bill Wonderlin, Chair
Morgantown Municipal Green Team

Enclosures (7): Statement of Purpose, Fact Sheet, List of Participants and Supporters, Calendar Cover Sheet and Summary, Calendar, Budget, Internship Description