

Choices

for a sustainable community

Jim Ley, County Administrator
Susan Scott, Deputy County Administrator

June 7, 2007

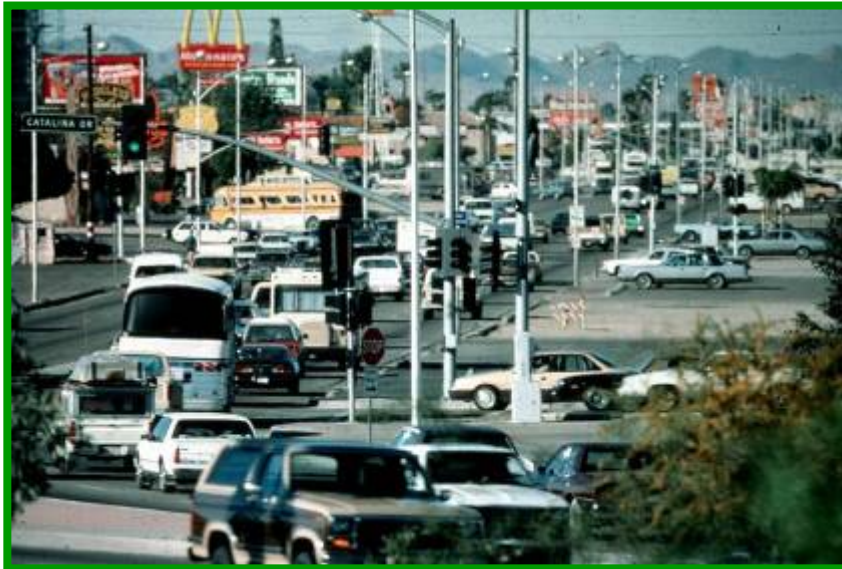
Our realities

- Sarasota County population: 365,000+
- State population: 18M+, 900 more added daily
- Florida's population may double as soon as 2040
- Energy demand may exceed supply within 10 years; 90%+ is imported
- Natural resources straining to keep up
- Loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity
- Sea level rise shrinking usable land



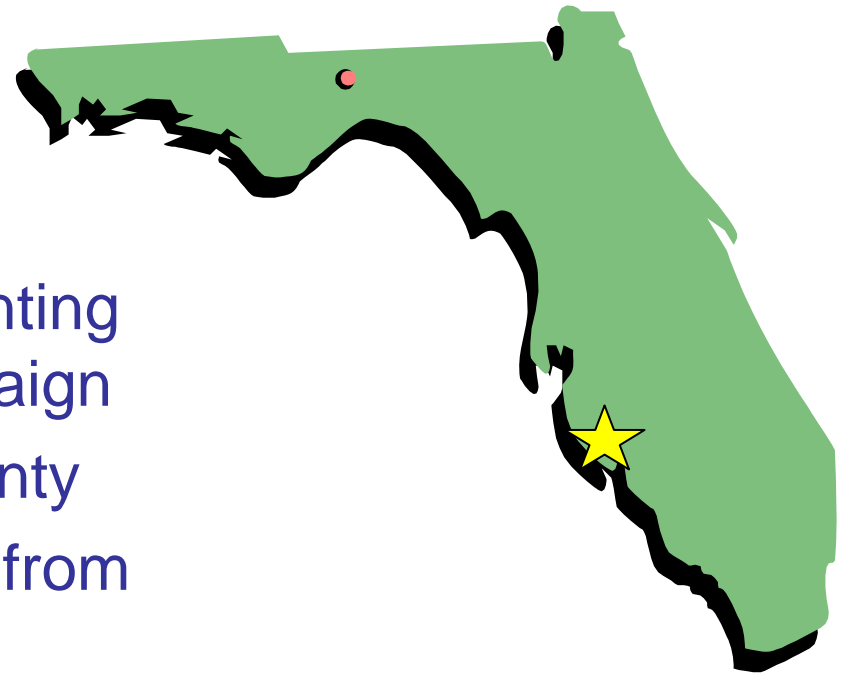
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More reality...



Our realities

- Florida's legislature is mounting a property tax reform campaign
- We face economic uncertainty
- Budget impact could range from \$20M - \$50M
- Those choices impact our future
- How will we maintain services?
- How will we be able to keep our focus on sustainability?



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...and one more reality



We're here because we choose to be.



In Sarasota County

it's all about

Sustainability

• energy • transportation • environment

Where we've come from

- 2002 Resolution to promote sustainability
 - Environmentally preferred procurement
 - Sustainable stewardship, education, marketing
 - Energy efficiency/integrated whole building design approach
- 2002 Office of Sustainability created

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Ecological footprint, 2003

- U.S. citizen average 24 acres per capita
- Sarasota County 22.2 acres per capita
- Planet's **capacity**: 5 acres per capita!
- The gap between what we consume and what we produce is significant



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We have a lot of work to do.

Strategic initiatives



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Ecological footprint: what's yours?



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Commission goal, 2004

- Open minds to **balances** that must be achieved, to see the big picture more often
- Realize it is not today but **tomorrow** we are influencing
- Recognize that we will be judged by **future generations** on our ability to balance equation

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Community conversations

In six sessions throughout the county...

We let the conversation steer us. We asked:

- What do you value in a community?
- What do you most want to leave as a legacy?

The answer to both questions was:

- A healthy environment!

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Community conversations 2005 results

Values

1. Environment
2. Arts and culture
3. Affordable housing
4. Public safety
5. Public transportation

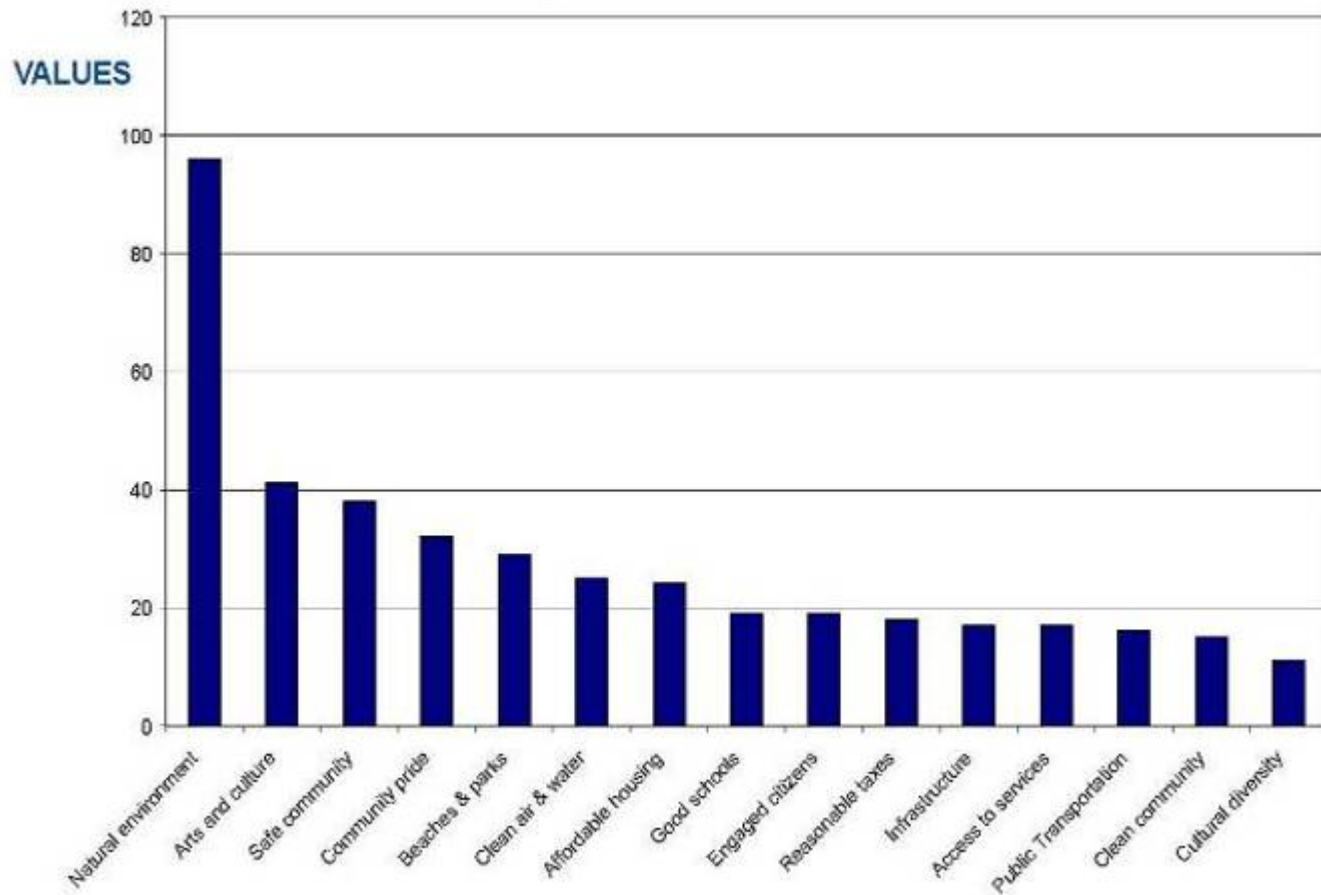


Legacies

1. Environment
2. Smart growth
3. Affordable housing
4. Cultural diversity
5. Arts and culture

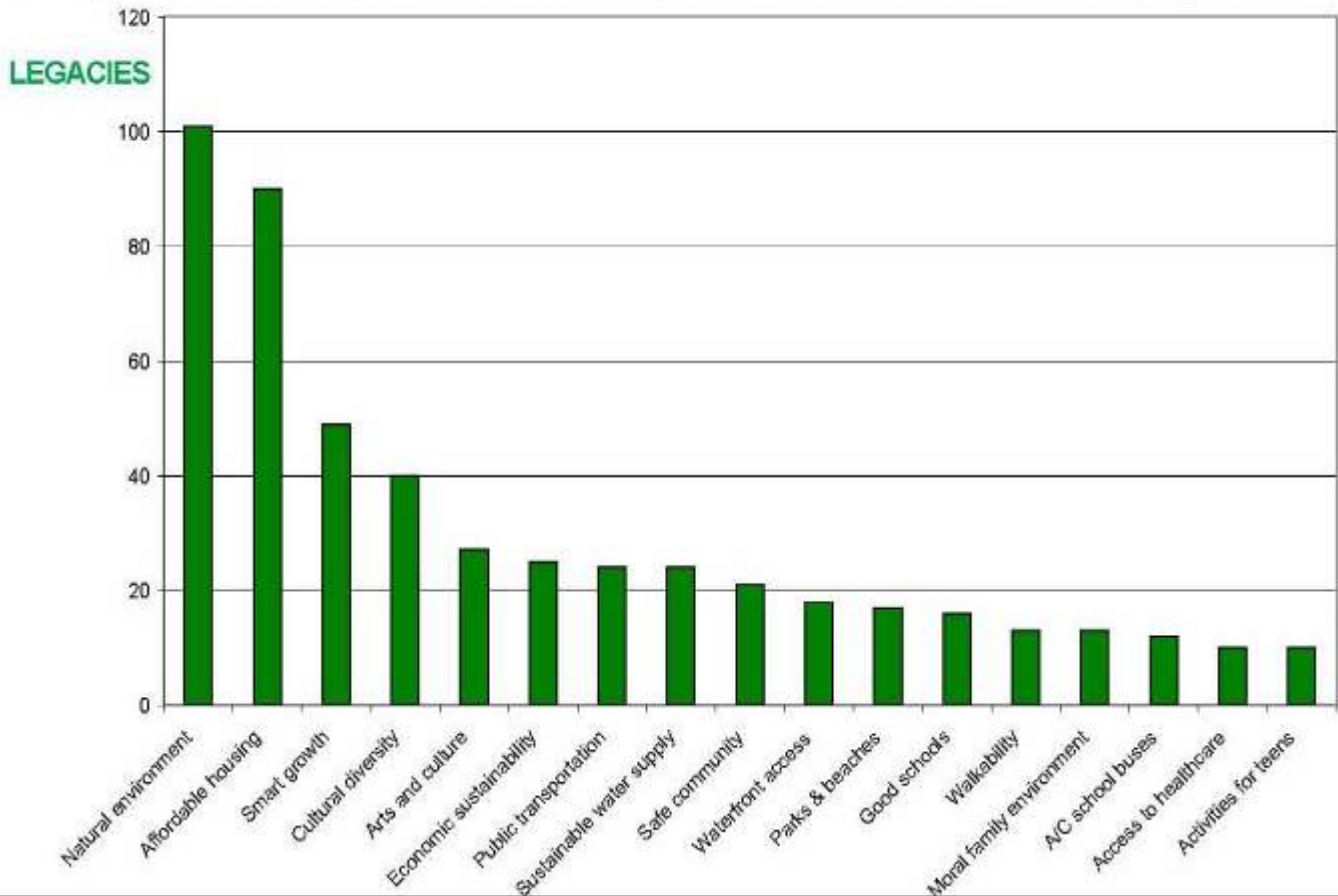
Community conversations

The blue graph represents what the Community Conversations participants value most in their community. The numbers on the chart represent the number of votes each value received.



Community conversations

The **green graph** represents the legacies the Community Conversations participants want to leave to future generations. The numbers on the chart represent the number of votes each legacy received.



Community partnerships

Informed, engaged community

- Green business
- Health Department
- Economic Development Corporation
- SCOPE (Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence)

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Partners' broadening roles


- USDOE Rebuild America
- Florida Power & Light
- Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV)
- Development community
- Science and Environmental Council
- Economic Development Corporation

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**Who are your partners?
What are their roles?**



Government's changing role

- Culture shift: “don'ts”  “do's”
 - Green building incentives
 - Environmentally preferred procurement
 - Ordinances that promote best practices
 - Golf courses
 - Irrigation
 - Landscaping
 - Integrated pest management

Walking the talk

Our power as consumers: consider environmentally preferred procurement

- Facilitators of information and choice
- Influencers of vendors

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Walking the talk: 2030 Challenge

We will work to increase the fossil fuel reduction standard for all new buildings in these increments:

- **2010 by 60%**
- **2015 by 70%**
- **2020 by 80%**
- **2025 by 90%**
- **2030 - Carbon neutral**



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Walking the talk: how will you meet the 2030 Challenge?



Fiscal sustainability in government

Challenges

- Maintaining services with reduced resources
- Planning and budgeting in uncertain times
- Doing more with less
- Communicating effectively with community

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Putting it all together

When we charted
the individual
sustainability
efforts, we were
surprised at the
breadth and
depth!

See next slide...

The Sarasota County, Florida

Roadmap to Sustainability

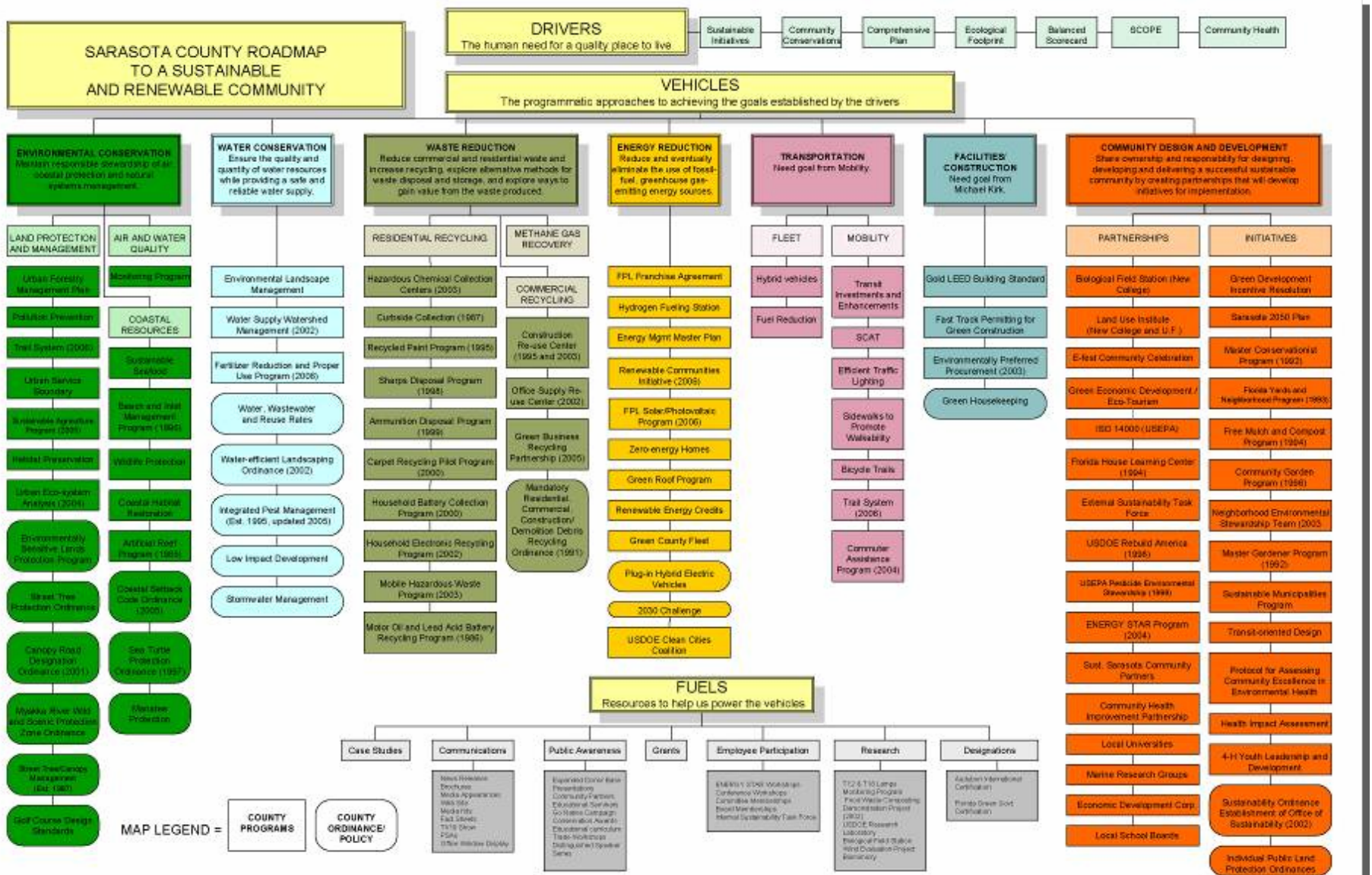


Our roadmap to sustainability

- **Drivers** - sustainable initiatives, community conversations, balanced scorecard, comprehensive plan, ecological footprint
- **Vehicles:** programmatic approaches - environmental conservation, water conservation, waste reduction, energy reduction, transportation, facilities construction, community design & development
- **Fuels** - designations, funding, employee participation, research, communications, public awareness
- **Gauges** - performance measures

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The roadmap



Striving for balance

Aha!

Environmental | Economic | Social

In sustainability, this balance is called the triple bottom line. The goal is to balance the impacts of all three elements.

Striving for balance



Environmental

Economic

Social

The balance is not a given.
We really have to work at it.

Our ownership shift

- Small office, staff of three
 - Shift to organization-wide ownership, Action Teams
 - Next shift to community partnerships, county as facilitator
- Community-based social marketing
 - Neighborhood grants, online web site
 - NEST (Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team)
 - ESLPP (Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program)

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Change a light challenge

09/06 NACo / Office Depot challenged...

The nation's 3,066 counties to

- Collect pledges from county employees
- Replace **one** incandescent bulb or fixture at home with one that has the ENERGY STAR label



The power of one



That campaign...

- Generated **1,560** such pledges from the top three counties by size: Fairfax County, VA, Marinette County WI and Sarasota County FL
- Generated **1,039** in Sarasota County alone
- Saved **292,998** kilowatts of energy and nearly **\$30,000** in energy costs
- Saved **467,550** pounds of greenhouse gas emissions from polluting the atmosphere

Comp Plan 2007

- Sarasota County government commits to...
 - Lead by example
 - Promote public participation
 - Work in community partnership
- Improve our quality of life and protect the natural systems that promote life
- Reduce our ecological footprint

Where we are going

2006 commitments

- 2030 Carbon-neutral Challenge
- Roadmap
 - Chart
 - Document
 - Measures
 - Action teams

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It's all about choices

- We know we don't have it all right yet, but we're committed to getting it as right as we possibly can – together.
- What will **you** pledge to do?
- How will you take this home to **your community?**

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Water conservation



Energy conservation



Partnerships



Waste reduction

Choices



Land management



Our future



Housing



Transportation

Choices:
it's up to you

www.scgov.net/sustainability

