

CITY OF DURHAM: Sustainability

Introduction

City of Durham Sustainability Report

The purpose of this report is to communicate the City of Durham's sustainability story to date and to inform a strategic path forward.

The report includes a timeline of major environmental milestones, key indicators, and accomplishments across City departments. Taken together, these components tell a story of how Durham is becoming a better, more sustainable community for its current population and for future generations.

In addition to shedding light on Durham's recent accomplishments, the information in this report will help inform a comprehensive Sustainability Plan for the City of Durham. The plan, under development in 2017, will assist the City in meeting objectives put forth in Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan: stewardship of physical and environmental assets. It will identify several overarching goals across the three central areas of sustainability – environmental, economic, and social – as well as strategic objectives within respective City departments to achieve those goals. By reflecting on our progress we can identify new opportunities to make Durham an even more resilient city.

What is Sustainability?

Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. By ensuring environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic prosperity, a sustainable city offers widespread benefits that enhance the quality of life for all residents, present and future. This report highlights the City of Durham's commitment to achieving this vision of sustainability.

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Sustainability By The Numbers



7%

Reduction in residential
greenhouse gas emissions
since 2008



30

Passengers/hour
on buses
compared to 18.6 passengers/hour
in peer communities

Durham residents use



23%

less water than
the average North Carolinian



Creative industries make up

4.2%

of all business in the county

8,476

Acres of protected Open Space



40

Miles of bicycle lanes



29

Miles of Trails



22.4%

Solid waste recycling rate (2016)



575

Miles of sidewalk



63%

Increase in downtown employees
9,791 (2003) to 16,000 (2014)



1,900

Homes powered by energy
generated from landfill methane
to electricity



26.4%

Alternative commuters
(Carpool, Public Transportation,
Walk, Bike, Work at Home)



52%

Tree Canopy



13%

Improvement in city building
energy efficiency from 2009
to 2016



50%

Population that lives within
1/2 mile of a park

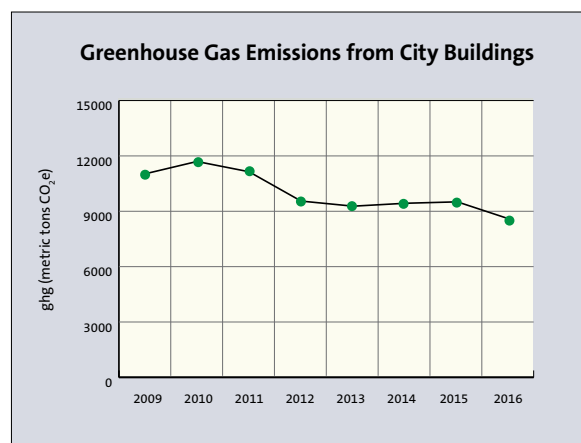
Climate and Energy

Climate change is a global problem with local solutions. Gases emitted from burning fossil fuels and other human activities trap energy in our atmosphere, leading to increased threats from extreme weather events, droughts, floods, heat waves, and pests. While the implications are global, emission reduction starts at the local level. The City is committed to mitigating climate impacts to create safer, healthier, more resilient communities through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resource efficiency.

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

Durham was the first community in North Carolina to adopt a greenhouse gas reduction plan. This plan, approved by the City and County in 2007, calls for a 50% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by government (City, County, and Durham Public Schools) and a 30% reduction community-wide by 2030.

The City-County Sustainability Office oversees the greenhouse gas inventory, tracking annual progress towards these emission reduction goals. Since 2009, the City has reduced emissions in its buildings by almost 22%, while residential and commercial sectors have each seen a decrease of 7% and the industrial sector has decreased emissions overall by about 3% since 2008. Over this time, our population in Durham has increased approximately 10%.



Hybrid
GoDurham Bus

Hybrid Buses

Almost half of the GoDurham fleet are hybrid electric buses which are about 13% more fuel efficient than traditional diesel buses. That adds up to a savings of almost 600,000 gallons of diesel fuel per year.

Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations

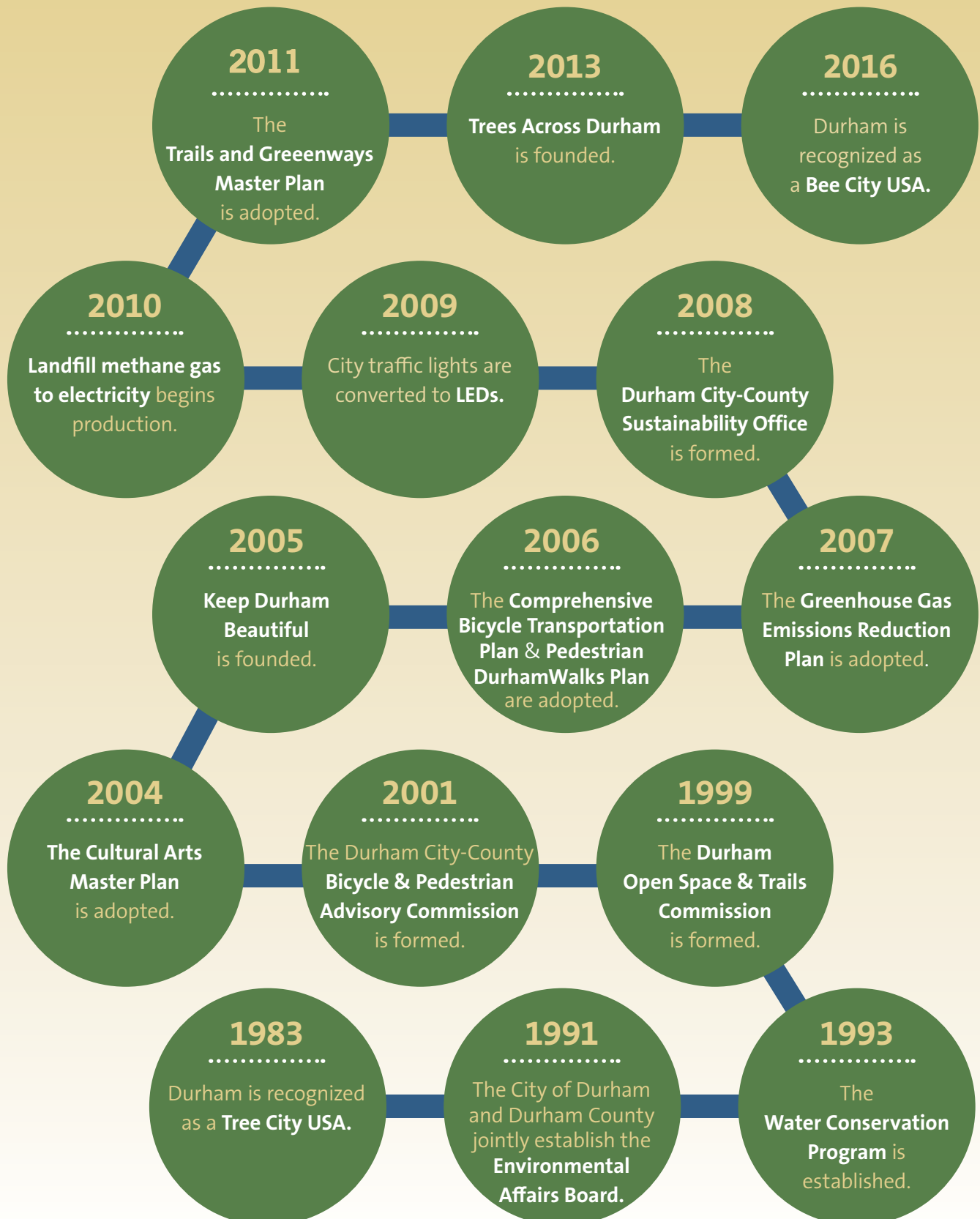
Durham was the first community in North Carolina to adopt an Electric Vehicle and Charging Station

Plan. The City owns four all-electric vehicles for departmental use and has installed four public vehicle charging stations. For a map of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, visit: plugshare.com.

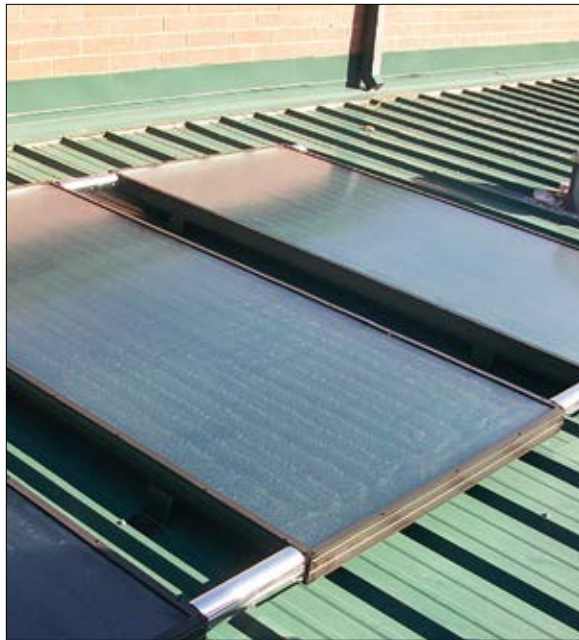
Green Fleet

The City's vehicle fleet has been recognized for four years in a row as one of the 50 Green Government Fleets by Green Fleet Magazine. It was the only fleet in North Carolina to have that designation in 2016. This award is based on a comprehensive set of criteria including how well our Fleet Management Department manages emissions, has policies in place to respect the environment and taxpayer investments, involves employees, utilizes vehicles efficiently, and educates employees about vehicle use

A TIMELINE OF DURHAM SUSTAINABILITY



and maintenance. The City strives to purchase fuel-efficient and clean-burning diesel vehicles, reduce idling, and mitigate the environmental impact of servicing City vehicles through the use of eco-friendly fluids, cleaners, and automotive waste recycling.



Solar hot water panels on top of Fire Station 8



Durham's landfill-methane-to-electricity facility

Green Energy Supply

In 2009, the City partnered with Methane Power to convert methane generated from decomposing waste in the closed landfill into electricity. Through this process, the City earns money by supplying the methane; electricity is generated, offsetting electricity that would have been produced by coal or nuclear power, and methane – a greenhouse gas 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide – is destroyed. Each year the project generates approximately 2–2.4 megawatts of electricity, enough to power about 1,900 homes.

DID YOU KNOW?

City employees regularly strive to save energy in the workplace through small actions like turning off the lights, monitors, and dressing for the weather. The City was ranked in the top 5 on the leaderboard for the Duke Energy Smart Energy in Offices campaign in 2016.

Energy Efficiency

Reducing energy use is important for the City to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and utility bills. Since 2012, the City has committed \$1.7 million to an Energy Efficiency Capital Improvement Fund to increase energy efficiency of City owned facilities. These funds are used for energy saving projects such as upgrading lighting, replacing old heating and air conditioning units with more efficient ones, and adding automated controls on systems so that they turn off when they are not needed. To date, these improvements have saved approximately \$500,000 in utility costs, with additional savings expected to accrue throughout the lifetime of the new equipment.

Water

Energy used in processing drinking water and cleaning water before discharging it back into streams accounts for roughly half of the electricity and one-third of the natural gas used by the City. In 2011, the Water Management Department created Energy Management Plans for the City's two water reclamation facilities, committing to energy saving processes and equipment investments that reduce the amount of energy used to provide us with clean, healthy water. The Water Management Department captures methane produced during the wastewater treatment process and burns it to run boilers for aerobic digestion, resulting in energy savings and reducing emissions of methane.

GET INVOLVED:

Residents are invited to tour the City's two water reclamation facilities to learn about how our wastewater is treated to remove pollutants and solids before returning to our local creeks.

To request a tour for your student or civic group, visit: durhamnc.gov/1065 or call 919-560-4381.



Residents tour the Williams Water Treatment Plant

Streetlights and Traffic Lights

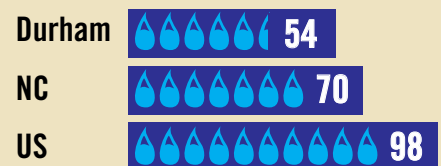
Streetlights and traffic lights make up approximately 22% of the City's electricity use. To reduce the impact of this necessary lighting, the City and the NC Department of Transportation have converted all of the traffic lights to LEDs which are up to 80% more efficient than traditional lighting. 95% of the energy in LEDs is converted into light and only 5% is wasted as heat compared to fluorescent lights which convert 95% of energy to heat and only 5% into light.

Water Efficiency

Durham's residential water use consistently falls below the national average per person, in large part due to the water conservation programs provided by the City's Water Management Department. These programs focus on customer awareness, use of water-efficient devices and fixtures, and programmatic incentives. One such program is the residential rebate for replacing water-wasting toilets with high-efficiency ones. Toilets, on average, account for nearly a quarter of the total water used in homes. Standard toilets use at least 1.6 gallons per flush. WaterSense®-labeled high-efficiency toilets (HETs) use at least 20 percent less than standard ones and can save the average family nearly 13,000 gallons of water every year.

RESIDENTIAL WATER USE

Average gallons per person per day



Durham's residential water use consistently falls well below state and national averages.

Waste Minimization

Solid waste, also known as trash, has several negative environmental impacts including air pollution from trash collection and hauling as well as methane creation when carbon based items like food, fiber, and wood decompose. The City encourages people to use less and recycle more through offering curbside,

single-stream recycling and by issuing higher fees for garbage disposal at the City's Waste Disposal and Recycling Center than for yard waste and recycling. The Waste Disposal and Recycling Center also offers recycling and disposal of electronic waste, household hazardous waste, scrap tires, and appliances free of charge.

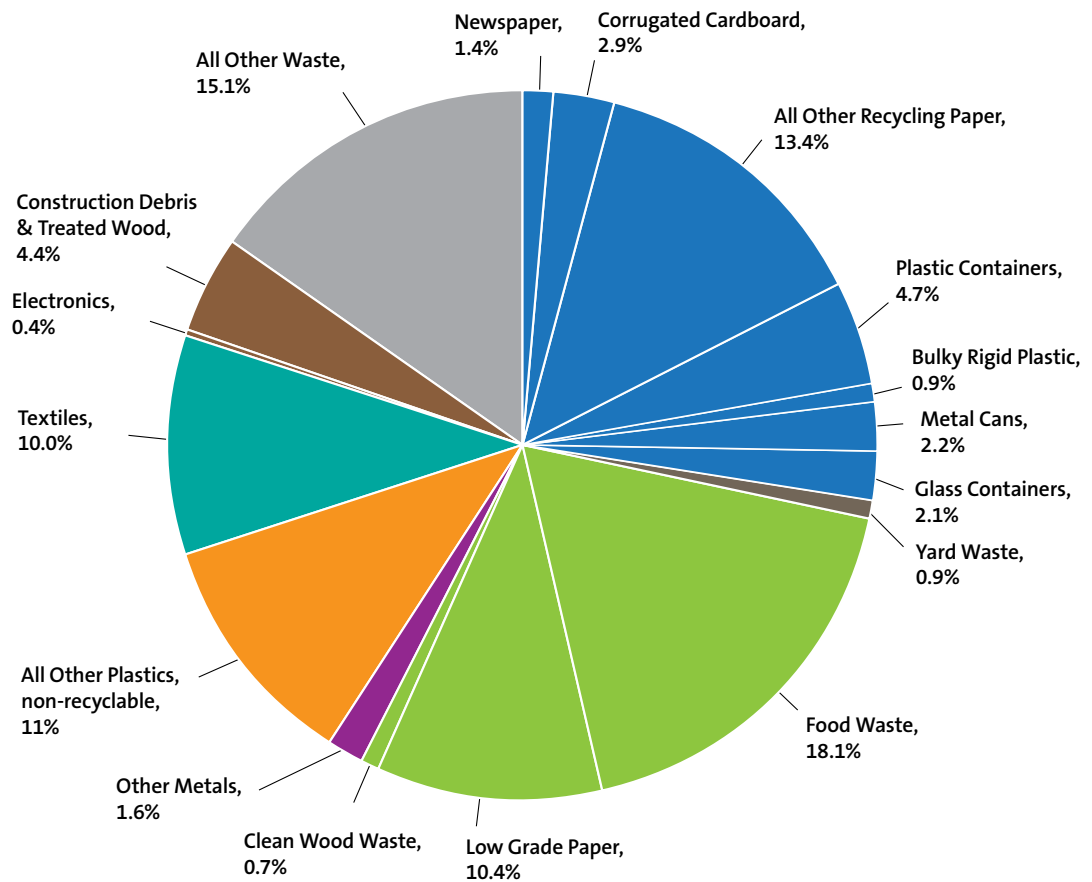
Waste Characterization Study

In January 2016, the City completed a waste characterization study, which found that approximately 66% of the waste stream from single family residential homes could be diverted. Of this, 27.5% of the trash stream for single family residences consisted of recyclable materials, 28.5% was food waste and other compostable material, and 10% was textiles. These results have informed a number of waste diversion pilot programs expected to begin in 2017.

DID YOU KNOW?

Durham is committed to reducing waste by encouraging reuse. For example, the City has a swap shop where residents can drop off reusable items and take away those items that they may be able to use. In 2017, the City partnered with Durham County and Keep Durham Beautiful to host the first annual Durham ReUse Rodeo - a one-stop drop off for donating and recycling unwanted items. To learn more, visit: durhamnc.gov/878 or call 919-560-4186.

Breakdown of Single-Family Residential Waste (% by weight)



- Approximately 28% of single-family residential waste are items that can be recycled in the City's current recycling program.
- Compostable items make up approximately 29% of single-family residential waste and offer the greatest opportunity for the City to divert additional types of waste.

Built Environment

Focusing on the sustainability of our built environment is one way the City of Durham seeks to fulfill our mission to be the leading city in providing an excellent and sustainable quality of life. This includes promoting a clean and secure water supply, walkable neighborhoods, affordable housing, access to public parkland, and diverse transportation choices such as walking, biking and public transit.

Clean and Reliable Water Supply

The City of Durham's Water Management Department provides over 26 million gallons per day of clean and readily-available water for residential and commercial customers. Regularly monitoring water quality for more than 150 contaminants, Durham is in full compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act, guaranteeing that our water meets the strictest public health standards.



Bull City Connector

In August 2010, the City and Duke University launched a fare-FREE bus route that connects Downtown Durham, Duke University, Ninth Street, and Golden Belt. The route runs every 17 minutes Monday through Saturday and utilizes fuel-efficient hybrid diesel-electric buses. For information about the route and bus schedule, visit: godurhamtransit.org/bcc.

The fare-free Bull City Connector

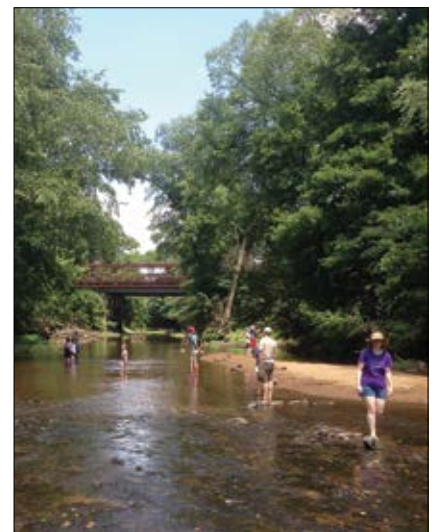
Affordable Housing

While addressing the shortage of affordable housing, the City is also working to make sure the affordable housing it provides is energy efficient and low maintenance. All affordable housing developed with City funds is required to be SystemVision™ and/or ENERGY STAR certified. These certifications mean that the lower heating and cooling costs are guaranteed for two years. This is accomplished by a review of the house plans, on-site inspections during construction, and certification at completion. Lower energy usage benefits not only the environment, but also results in cost savings to the homeowner. Newer homes, like those in the Southside community, are also built with more durable, low-maintenance materials to reduce the overall cost of home ownership and to reduce the total amount of materials that reach the landfill over time.

Parklands

Parks bring community together and encourage healthy living while providing spaces for connecting with the natural environment and our neighbors. The City's Parks and Recreation Department maintains 68 parks and 29 miles of trails throughout Durham.

The second oldest park system in the state, Durham's public parks preserve areas of natural, cultural, and historical significance. West Point on the Eno is a heritage site featuring the West Point Mill,



West Point on the Eno

tobacco barn, museum of photography, and blacksmith shop. Sandy Creek Park is a certified Monarch Waystation, National Wildlife Federation Wildlife Habitat, and NC Native Plant Habitat. In order to preserve, strengthen, and expand parks, trails, open space, and recreational opportunities in Durham, the City supports the Durham Parks Foundation which was founded in 2016.

Diverse Transportation Choices

Access to a variety of transportation choices, including walking, biking, and public transit is an important component of a sustainable, livable community.

Encouraging diverse transportation choices can improve mobility for residents, employees, and visitors, decrease household transportation costs, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health.

DID YOU KNOW?

Biking and hiking is good for personal health, environmental health, and lowers street congestion. Grab a Durham bike and hike map at durhamnc.gov/1031 and hit the trails.

WALKING

The Durham City Council adopted the DurhamWalks! Pedestrian Plan in 2006 in order to assess and prioritize infrastructure needs to make Durham more pedestrian friendly. The plan resulted in the construction of more than 30 miles of sidewalks on key corridors. The Unified Development Ordinance requires new sidewalks to be built along the street in front of new development and redevelopment projects. As a result, there are now more than 575 miles of sidewalk. The City of Durham's Transportation Department is developing the Durham Bike+Walk Plan in 2017, an update to the DurhamWalks! plan focused on prioritizing critical corridors and accelerating the pace of sidewalk construction.



Green Lanes encourage safe bicycle commuting on West Chapel Hill Street

BIKING

Durham currently has 40 miles of bike lanes, a result of identifying opportunities to add bicycle lanes during road resurfacing and new construction projects. The Bike+Walk Plan being developed will update the 2006 Durham Comprehensive Bicycle Plan to identify critical corridors for bicyclists and develop project recommendations. In addition to investing in bike lanes, the City supports a bike-friendly community through continuous improvement of the trails and greenway system, a focus on bicycle safety, and plans to access the feasibility of implementing a bike share system in Durham.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Daily public transit ridership in Durham is among the highest in the state. In 2016, Durham averaged 30 passengers per hour compared to 18.6 passengers per hour in our peer communities. From 2013 to 2016, Durham has seen a 17% increase in the number of residents who live within ¼ mile of a bus stop that has service every 30 minutes. A quarter mile, or about a five minute walk, is generally accepted as the distance most people are willing to walk to a public transit stop. The City has partnered with GoTriangle to increase services and focus development around future light-rail transit stations to improve the public transit network in Durham.

Transportation Demand Management

The City works with local and regional partners to reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles by encouraging options such as carpooling, vanpooling, public transit, biking, walking, teleworking, and flexible work weeks. As a region, in 2016, 4.6 million vehicle trips were avoided, 61 million commute miles were reduced, and 2.6 million gallons of gas were saved. Additionally, the City recently installed approximately 1,000 parking meters downtown to encourage visitors to access downtown by bus, foot, and bike, help reduce congestion, and increase accessibility to shops and restaurants.

Natural Systems

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure provides a cost-effective and resilient way to help control for heavy rain and snow events in urban areas, which tend to have high levels of impervious surfaces (roads, sidewalks, buildings, parking lots, etc.). When stormwater runs through gutters and storm drains, it comes out directly into nearby creeks, streams, rivers and lakes, carrying pollutants into our water from trash, bacteria, and metals picked up in our urban environment. By mimicking the natural water cycle, green infrastructure absorbs and cleans (filters) stormwater at its source, which improves water health and prevents flooding. Planting trees, pollinator and rain gardens, installing green roofs, restoring wetlands, and protecting vegetation buffers around waterways are all methods of increasing green infrastructure in our urban environment.

GET INVOLVED:

Residents and businesses can play an important role in providing the extra eyes, ears, and noses needed to help find sources of pollution in our waterways. Call 919-560-SWIM to report any illegal water pollution.

Tree Canopy

Durham first became a Tree City USA in 1983, signaling the City's longstanding commitment to maintaining, protecting, and improving the urban tree canopy. The City's 2016 canopy study showed that Durham currently has 52% tree canopy. The City's Urban Forestry Division, Keep Durham Beautiful, and the Sustainability Office have sought grants and volunteers to help plant over 3,000 trees since 2014, given away thousands of tree seedlings, and offered Tree Care 101 workshops for residents interested in learning about the benefits trees provide for our water and air quality.

Partnering for Pollinator Gardens

Keep Durham Beautiful, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supported by the City of Durham, launched the Healthy Bee, Healthy Me Pollinator Garden Program in 2016, establishing 12 pollinator gardens throughout Durham in proximity to community gardens. The program helps ensure the sustainability of nectar and pollen sources for honey bees, native bees, butterflies, and other pollinators throughout



Keep Durham Beautiful Healthy Bee, Healthy Me Pollinator Garden at Briggs Community Garden

the year, providing green infrastructure and an essential component to increase the yield of the food crops grown within commercial and community gardens.

Rain Catchers Program

Through a pilot project funded by a Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant, the Department of Public Works, Division of Stormwater and GIS Services installed over 250 green infrastructure elements including rain gardens, cisterns, trees and downspout disconnections in the South Ellerbe Creek Watershed.



No Mow sign at Forest Hills Park

Let it Grow

The “No Mow” or

“Let it Grow” program is a collaboration between the City’s Department of Public Works, Division of Stormwater and GIS Services, Water Management, and Parks and Recreation departments. The signs remind grounds crews to allow native plants to grow along the edges of creeks and streams. By allowing stream buffers to return to natural habitat in City-owned parks, stormwater pollutants are filtered by trees, grasses, shrubs and other plants before entering the stream.

DID YOU KNOW?

Pet waste left on streets, yards and trails does not biodegrade. When it rains, pet waste washes into storm drains – polluting our rivers, lakes, and drinking water sources. Each gram of dog waste contains 23 million fecal coliform bacteria as well as nitrogen, both of which can harm wildlife and human health. Help by scooping the poop – it’s the law! To learn more, visit: durhamnc.gov/786 or call 919-560-4326.

WATER IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Water is vital to life – we depend on clean water for drinking, cleaning, cooking, and recreation. A healthy water system also provides habitat for fish and wildlife, prevents flooding, and filters pollution. In an urban environment, pollution due to runoff from impervious surfaces, increased development, and illicit discharges threaten the biological, chemical, and hydrological integrity of our local waterways. Sources of pollution include neglected pet waste, oil and grass clippings entering storm drains, and overflowing sanitary sewer pipes.

While the city-wide ecological health as measured by turbidity levels and Water Quality Index (WQI) scores are good, Durham has a high level of bacteria pollution in many of our waterways that can create health concerns for recreational users. The City monitors water quality, identifies pollution sources, and implements watershed management plans and educational programs to address watershed health in Durham.

GET INVOLVED:

Contribute to the health of our local waterways by joining the Adopt-A-Stream program. Host a stream cleanup or monitor a stream on a regular basis. To learn more, visit: durhamnc.gov/947 or call 919-560-4326.

Watershed Improvement Plans

Watershed improvement plans have been created for five of Durham’s priority urban watersheds to assess the current watershed health, identify water quality problems, develop riparian area management plans, and evaluate effective pollution control measures for point and non-point pollution sources. To learn about the targeted plans for each watershed, visit: durhamnc.gov/919.

Stormwater Star Certified Businesses



We all have a role to play in protecting and ensuring clean water in Durham. The Stormwater STAR program recognizes businesses committed to keeping our water clean and showing their customers that they care. To learn more about how to become Stormwater STAR certified, visit: durhamnc.gov/796.

Natural Resource Protection

Natural resources provide many important ecosystem services including clean water and air, food production, flood prevention, wildlife habitat, climate regulation, and cultural benefits. The City protects natural resource areas through environmental protection standards adopted under the Unified Development Ordinance; the acquisition, preservation, and restoration of Durham's open spaces; and a focus on connectivity and access to natural resource areas for both human and wildlife health.

Natural Resource Areas and Connectivity



The American Tobacco Trail is a 22.6 mile rails-to-trails project that runs throughout Durham connecting Durham, Chatham, and Wake County

Durham currently has 8,476 acres of open space (both privately and publically owned), 1,800 of which is parkland managed by the City's Parks and Recreation Department. The Durham Urban Open Space Plan identifies and prioritizes properties with ecological and community significance for acquisition and conservation. The plan focuses on connectivity and access for all residents to parks, trails, and other open spaces and also lays out policy and program recommendations for both existing and planned open spaces that would enhance the biodiversity, habitat value, and ecological integrity of the open space system through sustainable design and maintenance.

Economy and Jobs

Durham has been widely celebrated for our economic transformation and revitalization over recent decades, which has resulted in a robust local economy that strives to promote equitably shared prosperity and access to quality jobs.

Living Wage

A living wage is the income required for an individual to meet their own basic needs without public or private assistance. The City of Durham has several policies in place to ensure that city workers, and

those who contract with the City, receive a fair living wage. In 1998, the City passed the Livable Wage Ordinance to guarantee that employees of contractors and subcontractors hired by the City receive at least the minimum hourly wage paid to City employees. Additionally, the 2016-2017 budget increased the minimum wage for full-time city workers from \$12.53 per hour to \$13.35 per hour, \$14.15 per hour for FY 2017-2018 and \$15 per hour for FY 2018-2019.

Local Economy

Since 2008, Durham has attracted more than \$2.28 billion in economic development growth, creating more than 6,000 new jobs. In downtown specifically, the total number of employees has increased more than 60% since 2003. In the last 20 years, over \$1.2 billion dollars in public and private investments have been made to support additional business, retail, and housing growth in Downtown Durham.

Durham consistently performs better than national and state averages in various economic performance indicators:

Indicator	Durham	State Average	National Average
Unemployment Rate ¹	4.3%	4.9%	4.5%
Job Growth ²	2.25%	2.26%	1.59%
Income per capita ²	\$29,051	\$25,608	\$28,555

¹ As of December 2016, not adjusted for seasonality. ² As of December 2016.

Economic Development Strategic Plan

In 2015, the City and County published the City-County Economic Development Strategic Plan that identified four strategic focus areas around which the economic development planning and implementation process will be structured: Business Retention and Recruitment, Business-Friendly Environment, Infrastructure, and Talent Development and Recruitment.

Workforce Development

Durham is committed to maintaining a talented workforce with diverse skillsets through various workforce readiness programs. The Durham Workforce Development Board (DWDB) in collaboration with the City of Durham's Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD), administers programs designed to meet the workforce needs of businesses and to prepare workers for high-demand, high-pay careers by connecting them to technical training and assisting them with placement and job retention. Through various partnerships and programs, including the NCWorks Career Center and Durham YouthWork Internship Program (DYIP), the DWDB and OEWD provide a wide array of employment and training programs, services, and resources to both jobseekers and employers.



High school student, Isaiah Paige, learns about office work through his YouthWorks internship at the NCCU Juvenile Justice Department

Arts and Community

The City recognizes that Durham's rich cultural heritage is an important part of what makes our neighborhoods thrive, attracts tourism and business development, and brings together the community. Durham supports a vibrant arts community, historic preservation, and social and cultural diversity through policies, ordinances, economic incentives, and special events.



Durham Civil Rights Mural next to the Durham Arts Council

Arts and Culture

Arts and culture play a significant role in sustainable development, community cohesion, youth education, creative self-expression, economic development, and revitalization. Durham has a strong arts community representing approximately 4.2% of all business in the county according to the Local Arts Index.

The City and County adopted the Durham Cultural Master Plan in 2004, which lays out strategies for strengthening the arts and cultural sector. Currently, the City of Durham is partnering with the Durham Arts Council to implement the first phase of the 10-year SmART Vision Plan focused on creating three pedestrian corridors that connect cultural landmarks in the heart of downtown through public art, streetscaping, greenways, and wayfinding to create a more cohesive, vibrant urban center.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every season, the City-owned Durham Performing Arts Center (DPAC) attracts hundreds of thousands of guests, creating a significant boost to the local economy. In the 2015-2016 season, over 500,000 guests attended DPAC, adding over \$79 million to Durham's economy.

Historic Preservation

Efforts to protect, rehabilitate, restore and creatively reuse historically significant properties have been vital to preserving Durham's unique character and charm amidst pressures of continual population growth. Restoring and redeveloping properties not only safeguards our collective history, but also

consumes less energy and materials than demolition and new construction and increases the economic value of our downtown district and neighborhoods.

The City has been interested in preserving historic resources in the community since the 1970s when the first inventory of historically significant structures and properties was completed. In 1989, the City Council approved the Downtown Durham Local Historic District and preservation plan.

The City-County Planning Department currently helps to identify, protect, and promote historic resources through the designation of local historic districts and landmarks, establishment and support of the Historic Preservation Commission, and nominating properties and districts for the National Register of Historic Places.

DID YOU KNOW?

Right at the heart of downtown Durham, Historic Parrish Street (also known as Black Wall Street) represents Durham's history of successful black-owned businesses dating back to the 20th century.

In honor of the entrepreneurial spirit of the area, The City of Durham's Office of Economic and Workforce Development provides incentives to help create, retain, and expand businesses on Historic Parrish Street.

To learn more, visit: durhamnc.gov/540.

Social and Cultural Diversity

Arts and culture is one way to increase understanding and communications among people of diverse backgrounds. Durham celebrates, respects, and represents the diverse social and cultural backgrounds in the community by hosting public events that help tell Durham's story. The Durham Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide variety of low-cost, family-friendly events such as the Durham Senior Games, Bimbé Cultural Arts Festival, Durham Earth Day, Durham Latino Fiesta and Soccer Challenge, DisAble the Label, and Kwanzaa Celebration.



Bimbé Cultural Arts Festival

Equity and Empowerment

The City is committed to equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity for all residents with a focus on civic engagement, equitable access to City services, poverty prevention, and environmental justice.

Civic Engagement

The City's Strategic Plan and budgeting processes involve multiple avenues for resident engagement and input, including our annual Resident Satisfaction Survey and several public hearings and presentations related to the annual budget and Capital Improvement Plan. Budget and Management Services (BMS) intentionally and directly attempts to engage all residents, including traditionally underrepresented groups, through inclusive, context-sensitive, and transparent decision-making processes. In 2017, BMS started utilizing a budget prioritization tool and received feedback from over 2,100 residents.

GET INVOLVED:

Residents are invited to serve on 24 boards, committees, and commissions that address various aspects of Durham's quality of life, including environmental affairs, preserving open spaces and trails, historic preservation, and transportation choices. The City Clerk's Office accepts applications year round for vacant positions appointed by the Durham City Council. To learn more, visit: durhamnc.gov/1334 or call 919-560-4166.

Ending Homelessness for Veterans

Following a two-year effort to help disabled veterans who have been homeless for a year or more, Durham has been recognized by the federal government for effectively ending chronic veteran homelessness. This achievement was made possible through a coordinated effort facilitated by the Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee, bringing together partners from across public and private sectors, the federal government, and multiple non-profit homeless housing organizations. Within two years, Durham has housed 305 formerly homeless veterans through unprecedented collaborative efforts from the Durham VA Medical Center, Durham Housing Authority, City's Community Development Department, and Durham County.



City Hall on the Go brings information and services to residents

City Hall on the Go

Launched in 2016, City Hall on the Go is a mobile unit that serves residents where they live, work, and play, bringing City staff and services directly to the community. The truck includes information on services provided by City departments, internet access for employment searches, access to paying water utility bills, and sending online requests for services to Durham One Call.

Bull City Fresh Start Initiative

The Bull City Fresh Start Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Durham Police Department, the Department of Community Development, Healing with CAARE Inc., and other stakeholders within the community that aims to locate, offer assistance, and provide supplies and housing options for Durham's homeless population. As part of this initiative, the City received grant funds to purchase

130 Empowerment Coats, heavy duty sleeping bags that convert into a winter coat when needed, to distribute throughout Durham.

Brownfields Program

During the 1990s, many areas of Durham, once bustling with activity were left vacant or underutilized because they might be contaminated with pollutants. These types of sites are called brownfields. In 2006, the City received the first of three grants from the Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Program to help assess the pollution on sites ripe for redevelopment. This program, administered through the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, focuses on removing some of the barriers to the development of brownfield sites by paying the due-diligence costs that prospective property buyers may not otherwise have been willing to risk. These grant funds, which total \$1.2 million, are used for environmental testing, conceptual work, planning, and other associated costs to focus on blighted, underutilized properties in and around Northeast Central Durham. Redevelopment of these



Accessible Icon features active wheelchair users

properties offers significant upside potential. Brownfield cleanup and repurposing utilizes existing infrastructure, increases the local tax base, provides job opportunities, promotes revitalization of the immediate surrounding area, and improves and protects the environment and public health.

Accessible Icon Project

In 2016, community volunteers in partnership with the City's General Services department installed 104 accessible icons at City-owned and County-owned facilities, schools, private businesses, and churches. This symbol of active wheelchair users highlights the new, inspired, and more accurate representation of disabled persons who are willing and able, powerful and valuable members of our community. To get involved in this design activism initiative, visit: <http://bit.ly/2IRMRgl>.

Police Department: LGBTQ Liason Officer and Hispanic Outreach Officer

Safe and secure neighborhoods are fundamental to the quality of life and economic vitality of the City. The City's Police Department recently added a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Liaison Officer and Hispanic Outreach Officer to its ranks to help ensure communities' needs are addressed for all residents. These liaisons are creating a customized approach to helping the Police Department bridge the gap between police and LGBTQ and Hispanic communities, promote understanding, and breaking down the wall of mistrust. They also help to increase awareness of public safety programs, resources, and methods. Liaisons will be a resource to victims of crime, including those acts that are driven by prejudice.

Innovation

One of the first communities in North Carolina to establish a Sustainability Office, Durham is often on the leading edge when it comes to local government best practices and processes. Durham constantly strives towards good governance, exemplary performance, and innovative, creative approaches to community challenges. One of Durham's Strategic Plan goals is to be an "Innovative and High Performing Organization." The Office of Performance and Innovation was created in 2016 to work alongside all 24 departments to help accomplish this goal by fostering a culture of innovation.



Bull City Workplace Challenge

The Sustainability Office, working with government and non-profit partners, launched the Bull City Workplace Challenge in early 2017 to engage workplaces to assess their current environmental policies and practices and improve them over time. Any Durham business, non-profit, or institution can participate in the program that includes energy conservation, water conservation and quality, waste reduction, toxics reduction, transportation, and purchasing. Participants have access to technical assistance and networking opportunities to help them improve their environmental performance. To learn more, visit: BullCityWorkplaceChallenge.com.

Sustainability Education

The City runs numerous environmental education programs to help students, residents, and businesses become better stewards of our natural resources. Resources include presentations, curricula, contests, tours, and videos. Topics range from water conservation and quality, recreation and nature, stormwater management, litter prevention, recycling, tree care, pollinator gardens, and basic energy education. To find out more, visit: durhamnc.gov/268.

Innovation Team

In recognition of our commitment to designing and implementing bold solutions to complex problems, Durham was selected as one of seven cities from around the world in 2017 to be a member of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Innovation Team Grant Project. With funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies, the City will launch an in-house innovation team out of the Office of Performance and Innovation to help develop new ways of addressing community problems such as reducing poverty, violent crime, and providing a stronger focus on the economic vitality of residents who have been involved in the criminal justice system.

DID YOU KNOW?

The City and County launched the Open Durham data platform in 2015 to provide an easy way for anyone to access Durham government data sets that could be put to good use by the private sector, non-profits, researchers, and academics. To learn more, visit: opendurham.nc.gov.

On the Horizon

Durham has much to be proud of when it comes to recent accomplishments promoting environmental, economic, and social sustainability. However, there are always opportunities for continued improvement. Several upcoming projects and initiatives will help us make progress in becoming more sustainable.

LEED Projects

The General Services Department is building the City's first two LEED Silver projects, the new Durham Police Headquarters and Fire and EMS Station 17. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a certification system for green buildings developed by the US Green Building Council. LEED certification helps identify ways to reduce the impacts associated with constructing and operating buildings, from the utilization of local and sustainable building materials, to thoughtful design that enables natural lighting, to energy and water efficient appliances and processes. Notable sustainable elements of the Police Headquarters will include sustainably harvested wood, a high efficiency HVAC system using air-cooled chillers, and thermal insulated glazing to mitigate thermal loss. The Fire and EMS Station plans to feature rooftop solar panels, an electric vehicle charging station, and water efficient landscaping. Both buildings are expected to be completed in 2018.



Rendition of new Durham Police Headquarters, one of the City's first two LEED projects expected to be completed in 2018

Design Districts

Design Districts for six areas around the future Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit system stations have been proposed to redirect growth and focus redevelopment in a more compact, walkable, and mixed use pattern.

Curbside Composting

With 28.5% of our waste stream made up of food waste and other compostable materials, according to the Waste Characterization Study, the City, working with the State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), has proposed a pilot program for the 2018 Fiscal Year that would incorporate curbside composting of household food waste and biosolids using City yard waste containers.



STAR Community Certification

The City is pursuing certification through the STAR Community Rating System, the nation's leading framework and certification program for local sustainability. STAR provides a transparent and data-driven approach to measuring municipal sustainability progress across social, economic, and environmental performance areas. This process will further assist the City in assessing its current sustainability efforts, identifying opportunities for growth, and developing feasible goals and strategies to integrate into the comprehensive Sustainability Plan.

City of Durham Sustainability Plan

The information gathered through the STAR community rating system will assist the City in developing a comprehensive Sustainability Plan. This plan, which will be developed through collaborative efforts between the General Services Department, the City-County Sustainability Office, and numerous other City departments, as well as public input, will outline the strategic path forward for further improving sustainability in Durham.

GET INVOLVED:

Let us know what you think is important to address in the City of Durham Sustainability Plan.

To learn more, visit: Greener Durham at GreenerDurham.net.



Get Connected

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To learn more about the plans and sustainability initiatives referenced in this report, visit: durhamnc.gov/268.