



# A Sustainability Plan for Rye

Presentation for Mayor's Forum by Sara Goddard  
Rye Sustainability Committee

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# Why a Plan in Rye?

- Preserve Rye's natural beauty
- Trim costs
- Safety and health concerns
- Respond to an involved and active community committed to environmental conservation
- Reach out to active communities outside Rye
- Absence of a comprehensive plan
- Not a new concept! Many similar plans throughout NY and the US

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# What is a Sustainability Plan?

## *Background*

- Specifies and defines a community's environmental objectives
- Provides a venue to incorporate existing and future environmental initiatives
- Rye is a member of ICLEI, an international organization that provides guidance for towns/cities creating plans

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# Benefits from a Sustainability Plan

- Reduce costs by implementing energy efficiencies, waste reduction measures
- Enhance quality of life through a focus on air quality, water and land conservation measures
- Improve health and reduce traffic congestion through measures that promote walking and biking
- Provide a model for other communities to follow
- Attract new "green" businesses
- Foster collaboration among stakeholders to adopt a plan that reflects shared values

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# Outline for a Sustainability Plan

- Assessment of community's unique features, strengths and weaknesses
- Goals/Initiatives for various sectors:
  - ▣ Energy & Climate;
  - ▣ Transportation;
  - ▣ Land & Water Use;
  - ▣ Waste Reduction & Recycling
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory to determine a city's carbon footprint and establish a baseline
- Action plan
- Monitor progress

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# RSC Sustainability Milestones



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# What the RSC has Completed

- Organized Mayor's Forum to educate Rye stakeholders
- Explored best practices and lessons learned from other towns and organizations
- Begun GHG emissions audit of all municipal facilities
- Contacted environmental committees in the area to discuss the possibility of working together on key initiatives
- Established contacts within ICLEI to take advantage of its resources
- Setting up an energy efficiency workshop to identify inefficiencies at one of the City's facilities
- Written a draft of the sustainability plan

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# Next Steps

- Complete GHG emissions audit
- Community awareness initiatives:
  - ▣ Awareness campaign/"road show" to educate the public, increase exposure, and solicit feedback
  - ▣ Sustainability forum/expo targeted more toward the public
  - ▣ Sustainability page on the Rye City Website (Ryeny.gov)
  - ▣ Create an environmental education program for students
- Recommend goals & initiatives for the sustainability plan
- Continue to partner with neighboring communities on specific initiatives
- Identify a person to source grants and necessary funding
- Completion of sustainability plan

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# RSC Mission Statement



- The **Sustainability Committee** of the City of Rye was established in October 2010. Its mission is to draft a Sustainability Plan for the City of Rye taking into consideration Rye's unique natural, social and economic characteristics.
- Toward this end, it undertakes the following activities:
  - Explore best practices and lessons learned from other towns with sustainability plans
  - Provide opportunities for the public to get involved and solicit public input and feedback
  - Recommend programs and procedures that will result in cost savings and environmental benefits (energy audit based) for future generations.

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# RSC Contact Information

- Email:  
[ryesustainability@gmail.com](mailto:ryesustainability@gmail.com)
- RSC page: “*Sustainability Committee Information*”, on Ryeny.gov
- Committee Members:
  - Dan Allen
  - Mimi Bateman
  - Paul Berte
  - Melissa Brown-Grieco
  - Suzanne Clary
  - Gretchen Kaye-Crowley
  - Sara Goddard
  - Marci Raab
  - Annalise Stack
  - Birgit Townley

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