

What are sustainable communities?

Sustainable communities meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. To achieve this goal, truly sustainable communities are environmentally healthy, socially responsible, and financially secure.

Durham needs your help!

You can help us make Durham more sustainable.

Drive less: combine trips, take the bus, walk more

Slow down: following the speed limit can actually reduce the amount of gasoline your vehicle uses

Reduce your use: turn off the lights, lower the AC, use Energy Star appliances.

Get involved: Citizens are invited to attend meetings of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Durham Planning Commission, Environmental Affairs Board, and Open Space and trails Commission.

Creating a Sustainable Durham

The City and County of Durham have adopted many practices to create a more sustainable Durham. The Sustainability Office is a joint City-County initiative to provide guidance and resources to employees, businesses, and citizens to use our natural resources more wisely. The main task of the Sustainability Office is implementing Durham's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan, but it coordinates many other programs.

How Durham is making a difference

- The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan sets the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the governments by 50% and the community by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030.
- The Sustainability Office is implementing a Neighborhood Energy Retrofit Program, designed to reduce residential energy use through energy efficiency retrofits and education for hundreds of homeowners in Durham.
- City and County employees are required to shut off vehicles when not in use to reduce fuel costs, maintenance, pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policies and Environmental Responsibility Expectations for Employees Policies guide purchasing and use of the most environmentally friendly products possible.
- Many departments are implementing paperless systems and records to reduce paper and ink cartridges use, energy needed for copying/printing, and storage needs.
- The City and County purchase fuel-efficient vehicles that qualify for the Environmental Protection Agency's SmartWay program.

Want to learn more?
Call (919) 560-7999
or visit
www.greenerdurham.net

