

# Go Green - Save Green Task Force

Mission Statement via web-page : *The Village of Howard Go Green, Save Green Task Force is dedicated to identifying ways to provide internal and external cost savings, while providing a sustainable benefit to our economy, ecology, and community, and to be an educational resource for schools, businesses, residents and the general community.*

## Past

Purpose: to evaluate the management practices of the Village and make recommendations for changes that would save the Village money and practice environmental stewardship.

- collected data of energy-usage which lead to developing an energy-use policy
- creation of Green Business Recognition Program
- facilitated E-Cycling event with CyberWorks
- conducted gasoline usage study
- established a relationship between the Village and Focus on Energy
- creation of community gardens
- conducted carbon-footprint analysis and received IPSI certification
- advised sponsorship of Lineville Intermediate School's Environmental Science Fair
- Volunteered as judges at Environmental Science Fair
- Represented Village of Howard at NEW Zero Waste meeting
- Provided input in at Comp Plan ad hoc meetings
- Proposed a noxious weeds and natural landscaping ordinances



## Present

- Investigating pros and cons of continuing task force as a Village appointed committee
  - Village Administration is satisfied with changes made - remaining changes in facility updates are costly (low-hanging fruit is already taken care of)
  - Will the Board/Administration only be supportive of "Green" initiatives if they result in saving money?
  - Members understand the limited time staff have to commit to this task force



## **Future**

- Members recognize that the staff has made changes in management practices that are more environmentally friendly and have saved the Village money in the process. However, the members feel that there are still ways that the Village can look at improving sustainability practices. Members of the task force would like to **continue to assist** the Village by assessing its energy-use, help implement changes, and evaluate the effectiveness of those changes. It is not the intent of this group to be a “watch-dog” of the Village, but rather to partner with it and help make continued sustainability improvements internally and externally on an as needed basis.
- **New Mission:** Exist as a citizen-led organization promoting sustainable, community-based initiatives within the Village of Howard.
- **Possible Goals:**
  - raise awareness and knowledge of community about “green” practices through Linneville Environmental Science Fair
  - increase the amount of recycling in the community.
  - set an annual energy-saving goal for the Village?
  - pursue a project that would make the community aware of the use of renewable energy.
  - assist the Village in creating a long-term sustainability plan.
  - continue and possibly expand the community garden program?
  - pursue grant-funding for projects (ie. community clean-up day, renewable energy display, etc.)
  - organize one community awareness- building event (ie. golf-outing, science fair exhibits, clean-up day, etc.) to inform public on our group’s efforts.