



think green. act green.

NeighborWorks America's Healthy, Sustainable Communities Agenda

About

Think Green, Act Green: NeighborWorks America's Healthy, Sustainable Communities Agenda was launched February 27, 2008 with a \$750,000 grant from The Home Depot Foundation. This agenda focuses on further advancing environmental responsibility across the community development industry and bringing more "green" benefits to low- and moderate-income families. NeighborWorks America will use its prominent role as an educator and facilitator of community development to act on this agenda.

Mission

NeighborWorks commits to being a leader with its network in employing and promoting equitable, green and sustainable practices for the long-term benefit of the environment so that people can live and work in healthy, ecologically friendly and affordable places.

Goals

- ♦ **Reduce our carbon footprint by 10 percent in the next three years** by reducing waste, correcting inefficiencies and leveraging resources.
- ♦ **Deliver sustainability benefits to 100,000 low- to moderate-income households** by 2011 through counseling; production that delivers healthier, more energy efficient homes; and improvements that conserve natural resources.
- ♦ Advance the community development industry dialogue on how to deliver sustainable community outcomes and use our Community Building and Organizing platform to engage at least **50 local communities** across the country on how to be greener communities.

Objectives

- ♦ To achieve noticeable reductions in the ecological footprint for the operations of NeighborWorks and its network organizations
- ♦ To create tools and measures to advance greening of organizations and services
- ♦ To elevate the industry understanding of green and increase green practices undertaken by the industry
- ♦ To achieve noticeable reduction in the environmental impact of existing and new buildings, such as lower greenhouse gas emissions
- ♦ To motivate communities to become greener, healthier places for people to live

» Over



First Year Outcomes

To reduce NeighborWorks America's footprint:

- Created a Green Champion Team to advance company awareness
 - Recycling programs advanced in several District locations
 - Green Clean Day to clean offices and return goods to storeroom
 - Green Pledge taken in Boston District Office
- Employees reduced their travel by over 10 percent
- Paper usage down by 22 percent
- Over 15 percent of employees telecommute

To assist network organizations (NWOs) in reducing their footprint:

- ♦ Conducted 22 sustainability audits of NWOs; immediate actions taken include:
 - Development of corporate green pledges
 - Development of policies and protocols on commuting and recycling
 - Installment of photovoltaic panels to reduce energy consumption
- ♦ Created a course to help community development industry evaluate carbon footprint and take action
- ♦ Published Greening Your Nonprofit business manual in May 2009

To help residents gain a green benefit:

Helped or advanced efforts that aided more than 20,000 families:

- ♦ Over 8,000 low-income homes rehabilitated with green attributes and weatherized for energy efficiency
- ♦ Provided \$1.7 million in green grants to support over 1,600 units of new or rehabilitated housing
- ♦ Conducted training for 35 organizations on managing the energy use in multifamily rental properties
- ♦ Awarded planning grants to 16 organizations that manage over 11,000 units of housing
- ♦ Over 90 NWOs include green in homebuyer education courses to inform thousands about the benefits of healthy, sustainable homes

In support of community engagement

- ♦ Developed a course for Taking Green Action in Your Community
- ♦ Supported 18 organizations in green community-based projects

To lead and advance our Green Training efforts

- ♦ Developed 15 green courses that over 1,000 people have taken
- ♦ Added courses in Building Science, Green Housing Rehab, Greening your Nonprofit Business, Taking Green Action in Your Community
- ♦ Launched several e-learning courses to mitigate travel to NTIs, and adding an e-learning course on Basics of Green Building
- ♦ Developed a Green Roadmap for Project Development to inform project managers the steps to take to assure that a project begins and ends as a green development
- ♦ Held second symposium on Green Development in Phoenix in May 2009