

# GREEN. COOL!

**BUILDING ON A CULTURE OF INNOVATION, SOUTH BEND CONTINUES TO FIND CREATIVE WAYS TO REDUCE ENERGY USE, TRIM COSTS, BEAUTIFY THE CITY AND HELP SAVE THE PLANET.**



## THINKING GLOBALLY. ACTING LOCALLY.



The South Bend community values a healthy natural environment and responsible use of resources. The City's Office of Sustainability, guided by community leaders through the Green Ribbon Commission, helps improve the relationships between local government, residents, and businesses and the natural systems on which we all rely. Non-profit organizations work to make positive change in our neighborhoods, river and streams, and green spaces. Local businesses focus on growing profits without impacting the environment.

### CONSERVATION

A field of sunflowers highlights efforts to plant native grasses and wildflowers on City lots and in retention basins to reduce mowing. A flower bed in historic Leeper Park is part of a biofiltration system to resolve chronic sewer-odor problems. The installation of anti-idling technology and route-optimization software will conserve fuel for our City fleet. Maintaining lushly landscaped neighborhoods, South Bend's healthy urban forest has resulted in a Tree City USA designation since 1997. City-owned Potawatomi Zoo takes an active role in preserving some of the world's most endangered species, while the City's parks department has created a natural resources management policy to safeguard the area's distinctive environmental features, such as the 160-acre Rum Village forest, one of the few old-growth mixed deciduous urban forests left in the country.



### FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

Biweekly curbside recycling began in 1999, while a household hazardous waste collection center has operated since the mid-1980s. City crews collect yard waste and leaves, creating compost and mulch that's free to city residents at the Organic Resource Facility (saving \$284,000 in landfill costs in the process). The City reuses biosolids generated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, applying them as fertilizer on area farmland.

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## RECLAMATION

Landfills were transformed into the Erskine Commons shopping center and Fredrickson Park, an environmental-learning area with a regional Boy Scout facility. Restoring the city's most impaired waterway, Bowman Creek, will turn a troubled site into a beautiful asset. With Indiana's most aggressive brownfield reclamation effort, South Bend is turning the former Studebaker corridor into Ignition Park, offering prime real estate for high-tech businesses to commercialize and manufacture products. Volunteers organized over 57 gardens in South Bend.

## CNG VEHICLES

In 2013, the City began to convert its fleet from diesel and gasoline to compressed natural gas (CNG), beginning with solid waste trucks. By 2020, the City plans to convert 85% of its fleet to CNG fuel, starting with police cars and pick-up trucks, eventually including heavy equipment, trucks, and even ambulances. Transpo is also converting its aging busses to new CNG equipment. The City and Transpo have formed an innovative partnership and won several large grants to construct a brand new fast-fill station, to open in July 2015. Members of the public will also be able to fill their CNG vehicles at this station. When compared to diesel, CNG reduces greenhouse gases by 6 to 11% and significantly decreases other air pollutants, and the fuel costs 70% less.

## LEADING THE WORLD

South Bend is becoming the world's first city to monitor and control combined sewer overflows (CSOs) with computerized sensors and motorized controls. Based on research from the University of Notre Dame and Purdue University, a local start-up, EmNet, has deployed 105 wireless sensors and nine "smart valves" with motorized controls as part of CSOnet. A \$6-million investment, CSOnet could save the City a projected \$130 million in avoided capital costs.

## SMART GROWTH/NEW URBANISM

Eddy Street Commons, a \$215-million mixed-use development, models land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open spaces and encourage walking and biking. This 25-acre, high-density development uses one-third the land of a comparable suburban development. Similar principles help guide development in Downtown and East Bank Village neighborhoods. The City's "Smart Streets" initiative is re-imagining streets that are friendly for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians as well as that support local businesses and encourage a sense of community.

## DOING MORE WITH LESS

For several years, the City has focused on increasing energy efficiency to reduce costs, protect the environment, and provide higher quality. Switching to LED lights in traffic signals and parking garages is saving several million dollars in electricity costs and reducing emissions that impact air quality. A 45-kilowatt hydroelectric turbine is powering a popular downtown park. Innovative financing is funding massive improvements in energy use and comfort in Century Center. The wastewater treatment plant is investing in capture of biogas, a byproduct of treatment, reusing the gas to save utility costs and dramatically reduce the plant's carbon footprint.

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