Springfield – Greene County, Mo
Integrated Plan for the Environment

A citizen-focused approach.
About Springfield, Missouri

THIRD Largest City in MO

POPULATION: 160,000
300,000

1 of 5 Cities to receive EPA grant

HUD: Severely Financially Distressed

IN THE OZARKS:
Environment = Economy

HOME TO 2 Large Medical Systems

48,000 students at 8 colleges & universities
All that you do happens within the context of...
Growing Levels of Poverty

- 25% of citizens living below poverty level
- 54.6% of K-12 students on free and reduced lunch program
- Median Income: $32,333
This indicator illustrates the percentages of students who transfer in and out of each public elementary school in Springfield. While the color intensities represent student mobility rates, it also is a reflection of family stability in the immediate neighborhood.
**Overall Goal:** Curb the growth and decrease the percentage of Greene County citizens living in poverty from 20% to 15% by 2025.

**Greene County Poverty Rate Projections through 2025**

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*
Growing & Changing Demographics

Disappearance of the middle class

Since the 1970s the percentage of households earning middle class incomes has steadily declined.

Source: Alan Krueger, “The Rise and Consequences of Inequality,” speech

THE HUFFINGTON POST
Perceived Silo approach

Is this where we’re headed?

- Storm Water: 2%
- Waste Water: 2%
- Drinking Water: 2%
- Land Resources: 2%
- Air Quality: 2%
Competition for the Next Dollar

- Education
- Talent Attraction
- Food
- Utilities
- Infrastructure
- Housing
- Poverty
- Public Safety
- Healthcare
In 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its "Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework" which emphasized a commitment to work with states and communities to implement an integrated planning approach to address environmental objectives.

In response to this opportunity, leaders from the City of Springfield, Greene County and City Utilities developed a local approach to integrated planning.
This holistic approach will examine our environmental resources in regards to:

Air  Water  Land

...and will seek to answer the question:
If we only had ONE DOLLAR to spend, what is the most effective solution we could implement...

...to address the most pressing problem(s)?

...that matter most to our community?

...and would be affordable to our citizens?
How do we PRIORITIZE?
COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Environmental Priorities
Task Force

MISSION:
Define our community’s environmental priorities
- What are our most important resources?
- Where should we focus our efforts?

If you had one dollar to protect the environment...

...How would you spend it?
...What matters most to you?
Environmental Priorities Task Force

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- What are our most important resources?
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...How would you spend it?

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PRIORITIZE SOURCES

Using a multiple-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) toolset, we can turn this...

...into this:

Our funding should be relative to the size of the pollution source.
Using a multiple-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) toolset, we can turn this...
...into this:

Sediment from construction sites
Stream bank erosion
POTW Discharges
Industrial discharges
Failing Septic Tanks
Sanitary Sewer Overflows

Our funding should be relative to the size of the pollution source.
PRIORITIZE SOLUTIONS

Finding the most effective solutions:
Determine the return on investment (ROI) for each solution.

Finding the most effective solutions:
Use a decision matrix to evaluate and compare solutions.

Ability to compare solutions:
Treat waste and manage it effectively.

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Treat waste and manage it effectively.
Finding the most effective Solutions:

Determine the return on investment (ROI) for each solution
Finding the most effective Solutions:

Use a Sustainable Return On Investment (SROI) approach to capture the "triple bottom line"
Ability to compare solutions:

Treatment Plant Improvements

**BENEFITS:**
- Water Quality

**COSTS:**
- Construction
- Operation/Maint.
- Energy Consumption

Rain Garden

**BENEFITS:**
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Property Values

**COSTS:**
- Construction
- Operation/Maint.
FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

Traditional Approach......

2% of Median Household Income
($12,000 for SS members)

Breakdown of Average Household Budget:

Many of our citizens make LESS than
the Median Income ($42K/year)

What do you pay toward Environmental Protection?

Based on "average" household budget of $42,000/year

How will our decisions impact:

- Jobs
- Income
- Housing
- Public Health

Our Integrated Plan ensures that
the next 6 years will be a success.
Traditional Approach.....

$\leq 2\%$ of Median Household Income

($42,000$ for SS service area)
Breakdown of Average Household Budget:

- Mortgage/Rent
- Auto
- Food
- Clothing
- Entertainment
- Gas
- Water
- Electricity
- Sewer
What do you pay toward Environmental Protection?

Based on "average" household budget of $42,000/year

- Transportation
- Education
- Public Safety
- Infrastructure
Many of our citizens make LESS than the Median Income ($42K/year)
How will our decisions impact:

...low income families?

...our regions' ability to attract new businesses?

...our ability to fund other critical priorities?

Our Integrated Plan ensures that the next 40 years will be a success.
How do we PRIORITIZE?
If we only had ONE DOLLAR to spend, what is the most effective solution we could implement...

...to address the most pressing problem(s)?

...that matter most to our community?

...and would be affordable to our citizens?
COLLABORATION is Key

The silo approach to problem-solving:

It's a fan!
It's a wall!
It's a rope!
It's a spear!
It's a snake!
It's a tree!
The silo approach to problem solving:

- It’s a fan!
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In the Environmental Resources World...

- Air quality is our TOP priority
- We MUST eliminate all sewer overflows
- Stormwater runoff is your BIGGEST problem
- Drinking water protection is our #1 PRIORITY
- We HAVE to clean up hazardous waste sites
Questions?

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