



INITIATIVE 9

Energy Efficiency	Complete
Create an Energy Improvement Plan	
Sign up for the ENERGY STAR Local Government Challenge to commit to improve your energy use by 10% or more (www.greencounties.org/energystar).	
Conduct a baseline emissions inventory of your government facilities (NACo offers free ENERGY STAR benchmarking for county governments)	
Conduct an energy audit of at least two of your government facilities and implement at least one recommendation	
Purchase power from renewable sources or install renewable energy technology (solar, wind, or geothermal) for use in government facilities. The total of purchased renewable energy and on-site produced renewable energy must equal at least 2.5% of the energy use for all government facilities	
Develop a policy to utilize energy efficient and/or dark sky compliant outdoor light fixtures	
Establish an energy manager position/responsibility or management team within the government	
Implement policy for office spaces (i.e. turn off computers, lights when not in use, etc.)	
Green Buildings	Complete
Establish a policy of LEED (or an equivalent) certification for all new or renovated government facilities (see the NACo Green Government initiative database for examples)	
Approve building a LEED (or an equivalent) certified government or school building or renovate an existing building to the LEED certified level	
Offer incentives (tax credits, reduced permitting fees, expedited permitting process, etc.) for private builders who meet LEED standards	
Waste Management	Complete
Implement an internal government program that reduces, reuses and recycles paper, plastic and other materials	
Establish a county-wide “e-waste” recycling program	
Establish an organic-wastes program, separate yard waste and compost	
Conduct a waste audit	
Develop an environmental purchasing policy	
Community Health Assessment, most prevalent county health risk public awareness campaign	
Vehicles	Complete
Adopt a “green fleet” policy that incorporates, at a minimum, the purchase of low emitting fuel efficient vehicles for vehicle fleet replacement and the use of alternative fuels (biodiesel, natural gas, ethanol) in fleet operations.	
Adopt an anti-idling policy for school/government fleet vehicles	

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOL

Land Use / Transportation	Complete
Adopt land-use plans that allow higher-density development either near public transit nodes or in areas with existing infrastructure and encourage mixed-use communities	
Promote the use of permanent conservation easements on private property within your community and/or implement a permanent conversation easement on public land	
Adopt a land-use development tool that preserves open space, farmland and forests, such as Purchasing of Development Rights.	
Preserve and create safe community green spaces such as playgrounds and parks	
Develop a policy to discourage development in areas without appropriate infrastructure, such as limitations on utility extensions	
Water / Air Quality	Complete
Formal adoption of a sustainability plan, county climate protection resolution (see NACo's county climate protection resolution template at www.naco.org/climateprotection) or similar commitment by the governing body. To review plans from other counties, simply search the NACo Green Government Initiative Database at www.greencounties.org .	
Develop and implement a plan for tree preservation and planting	
Adopt a Low Impact Design (LID) stormwater management policy and/or Environmental Site Design (ESD) guidelines	
Use county buildings as example spaces for rain gardens, bioswales and tree cover improvements	
Education	Complete
Create a Learn and Earn High School	
Establish a Safe Routes to Schools program that encourages walking and bicycling to neighborhood schools	
Establish clubs at high schools dealing with the environment and energy conservation	
Promote ways your county staff and residents can be green and healthy (see the NACo Go Green, Get Healthy Campaign at www.naco.org/gogreengethealthy) Develop an employee education program on policies/practices relating to the environment and energy conservation	
Conduct an Energy Star Challenge for your community	
Technology	Complete
Ensure High Speed Internet Access is available to public at all libraries	
Create free wireless zones at public facilities	
Use virtual storage	
Cooling requirements	
Economic Development	Complete
Create a web site devoted specifically to county government and updated regularly with information for citizens and potential investors	
Employee Incentives	Complete
Provide employee benefits for ride sharing, walking, biking or taking mass transit to work	
Government Policy Adoption	Complete
Establish a Capital Improvement Plan and demonstrated actions taken to achieve the plan	
Maintain a healthy fund balance based on population	