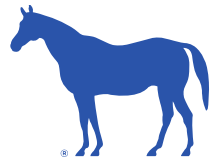


# EMPOWER LEXINGTON: A PLAN FOR A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

*Jada Walker Griggs, Sustainability Program Manager Senior  
Blaine Early, Stites & Harbison / Environmental Commission  
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**LEXINGTON**

## 2012 Empower Lexington: History

- Council passed Resolution 49-2008 in February 2008
- Authorized Lexington to participate in the voluntary Cities for Climate Protection Program
- Under this Program, communities developed a plan to lower energy use and emissions
- Multi-year effort to develop the Empower Lexington plan
- Target set to reduce community-wide energy use by 1% per year
- Focused on managing / using resources wisely, providing resources the community needs to reduce energy use to make Lexington more energy efficient

## 2012 Empower Lexington: Key Points

- Stakeholders developed original plan over a 3-year period (2009-2012)
  - Facilitated by LFUCG
  - Approximately 75 stakeholders and City staff involved in the process
- Contained 27 recommendations and ideas developed by community stakeholders in 5 critical areas
  - Residential
  - Transportation
  - Industrial / Commercial / Institutional
  - Land Use / Food / Agriculture
  - Waste



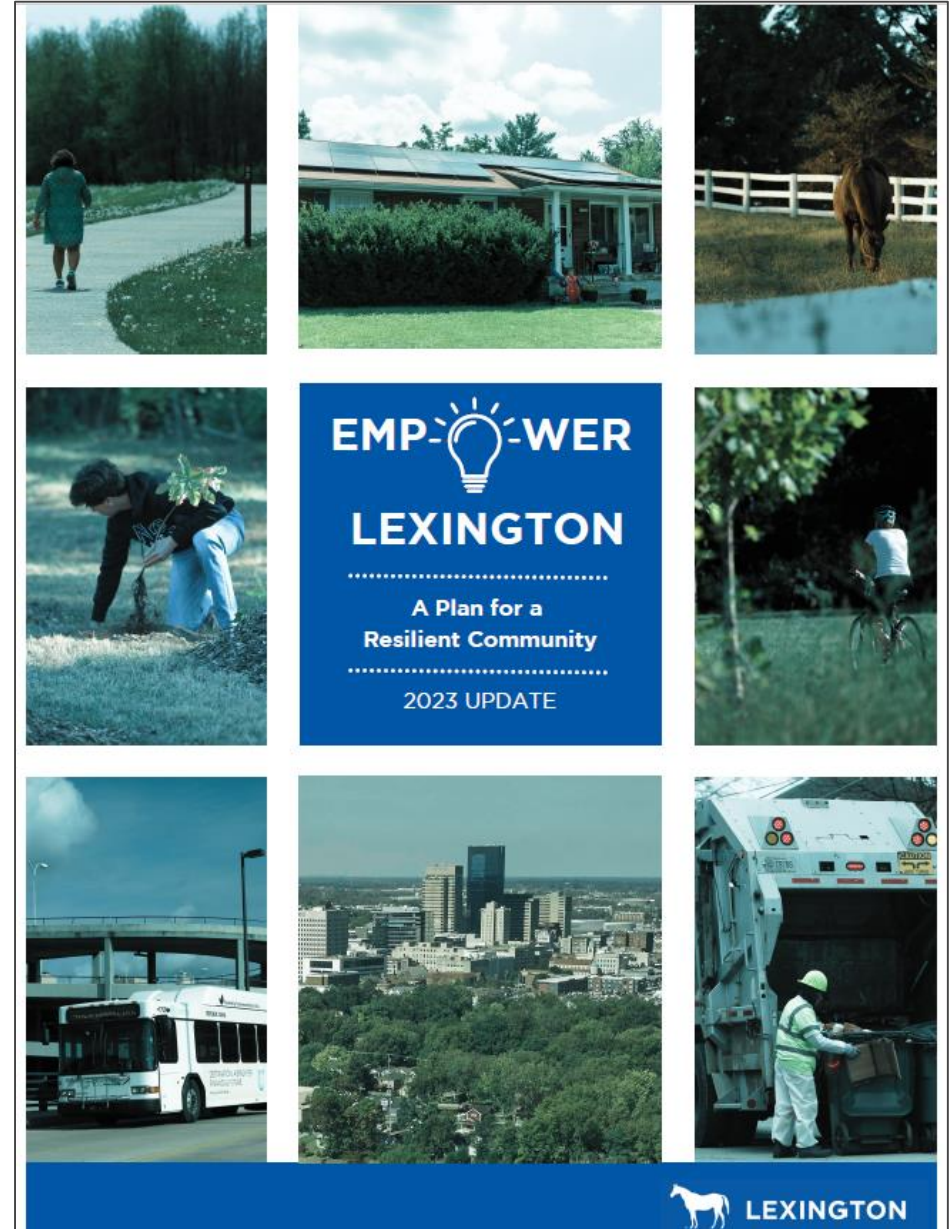
## **2012 Empower Lexington: Key Points**

- Under the Cities for Climate Protection Program, Council was asked to pass a resolution supporting implementation of the *Empower Lexington* plan
- Resolution 0439-12 was passed on May 10, 2012
- Implementing the *Empower Lexington* plan was one of the goals in the 2018 Comprehensive Plan



## Empower Lexington: 2023 Update

- About 50 members participated in workgroups including a Core Team (members from previous plan efforts).
- Empower Lexington sector workgroups met January - May 2023
- New sectors align with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Cities Certification to identify actions critical to reducing our environmental impact and to complete the Roadmap for the LEED for Cities Certification
- Public input opportunities were held July - August 2023





# Empower Lexington: Updating the Plan

- The full 2-page “Charge to Committee” document is included in the packet.

## Charge to Committees working on recommendations for *Empower Lexington – 2023*

*Empower Lexington – 2023* is a plan to assess and improve environmental quality and sustainability in Lexington and Fayette County. The community’s work in these areas will be guided by the framework found in the LEED for Cities and Communities that was developed by the U.S Green Building Council. General Information on LEED for Cities and Communities can be found at this website:

<https://www.usgbc.org/leed/rating-systems/leed-for-cities-communities>

The *Empower Lexington – 2023* working groups are organized in six primary categories: Natural Systems and Ecology; Transportation and Land Use; Water Efficiency; Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Materials and Resources; and Quality of Life.

The attached Planning Tool (an Excel Spreadsheet) provides additional detail on each category and the evaluation criteria. Other information can be found at these websites:

Guide: <https://build.usgbc.org/lfcexistingbeta41>

Scorecard: <https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-v41-cities-and-communities-existing-scorecard>

**We ask the members of each working group to reach consensus and provide a written report for their category that includes, at a minimum, the following:**

1. Evaluate whether, and to what extent, the Lexington and Fayette County meets each of the category’s prerequisites or credits (refer to the LfC Planning Tool for Local Governments 2020).
  - A. Identify the specific information, data, plans, policies, etc. on which you rely to make the determination.
  - B. Propose one or more specific strategies or projects that the working group recommends that, if accomplished, would improve Lexington and Fayette County’s accomplishment of the prerequisite or credit. You may propose as few or as many strategies as your working group believes is appropriate.

For each strategy or project, identify the following characteristics:

    - a. the priority (High, Medium, Low) for this strategy or project;
    - b. SMART goals, those that are specific, measurable, attainable/achievable and relevant;
    - c. the likelihood of success;
    - d. person or entity responsible;
    - e. the data or other method to demonstrate success or improvement;
    - f. the projected cost;
    - g. the projected timeframe; and
    - h. the benefits derived.
  - C. If your working group believes that a particular strategy or project requires or implicates the work of another working group, then you may suggest a cooperative project that addresses the characteristics listed above.
2. If you believe that one or more categories should be added to the LEED for Cities and Communities framework and planning tool to reflect the specific character and needs of Lexington and Fayette County, then describe that/those categories and address the items A, B, and C from the previous section with respect to the category/ies.

## Empower Lexington: 2023 Update

- Stakeholders reviewed information for the following sectors:
  - Materials and Resources
  - Natural Systems and Ecology
  - Transportation and Land Use
  - Quality of Life (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion)
  - Water Efficiency
  - Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Plan includes an updated community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory and recommended strategies or projects per sector to help us meet our net-zero goals by 2050.
- The community identified their Top 3, which are highlighted in the plan in blue. The highest ranked goal per sector is included in this presentation.



## Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

- Reactivate our community-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG)\* Emissions Inventory for calendar year 2021
- City contracted Tetra Tech to complete the inventory
- Track community-wide & LFUCG GHG emissions
- Activities and sources attributed to LFUCG operations were included as a subset to the community-wide inventory
- Results presented to the EQPW Committee on June 16, 2024

\*GHG - Gases in the earth's atmosphere that trap heat. Increased concentrations of certain gases contributes to global warming and climate change.

## Empower Lexington: Materials and Resources

### Goal

- Establish programs that discourage the use of single-use plastics, such as plastic bags.

### Strategies / Projects

- Consider establishing extended producer responsibility (EPR) policies for hard-to-recycle materials, such as paint, batteries, electronics and medicine.



## **Empower Lexington: Natural Systems and Ecology**

### **Goal**

- Preserve land with vegetative and tree cover, in both rural and urban areas.

### **Strategies / Projects**

- Promote best management practices that encourage native vegetation and that maintain riparian (stream) buffers to enhance environmental quality and promote carbon sequestration whether in the city or in rural areas.
- Obtain a tree canopy cover of 30% throughout the Urban Service Area.
- Encourage policies and programs that preserve land with vegetative and tree cover in both rural and urban areas and promote preservation of greenspace.



## **Empower Lexington: Transportation and Land Use**

### **Goal**

- Identify areas in need of infrastructure (e.g., sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, etc.) to encourage walking, scooting, and biking.

### **Strategies / Projects**

- Identify transit-focused priority areas to study through Small Area Plans that would call for increased diversity of uses, affordable housing, enhanced connectivity, and increased transit access within the study area(s).
- Update the Zoning Ordinance and Land Subdivision Regulations to implement the regulatory framework proposed in the Imagine Nicholasville Road Corridor Study and the forthcoming Imagine New Circle Road Corridor Study.

## Empower Lexington: Quality of Life

### Goal

- Enable all existing and new neighborhoods to flourish through thoughtful development / redevelopment.

### Strategies / Projects

- Continue implementation of development / redevelopment standards and the Zoning Ordinance.
- Continue providing grant opportunities for neighborhood improvements such as the Neighborhood Action Match Program and Stormwater Quality Projects Incentive Grant Program.

## Empower Lexington: Water Efficiency

### Goal

- Increase tree canopy coverage to improve water quality and reduce rainwater runoff.

### Strategies / Projects

- Continue encouraging the use of tree trenches and planter boxes for commercial developments.
- Continue funding projects through the Stormwater Quality Projects Incentive Grant Program that include riparian tree plantings.
- Continue implementing tree canopy projects included in watershed plans.

# Empower Lexington: Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

## Goal

- Request utility companies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2035 and reach net-zero by 2050.

## Strategies / Projects

- Work with utility companies to identify potential renewable energy projects and initiatives to help facilitate transition of energy sources.

## Empower Lexington: What's Next

**We view the *Empower Lexington* plan as key to becoming a more energy efficient and sustainable community**

- Develop Emissions Reduction Plan
  - Set GHG emissions reduction targets of 50% by 2030 and net-zero by 2050; Inline with national targets and Lexington's Comp Plan, Imagine Lexington 2045 goals approved by Council
  - Include an assessment of the effects of climate change along with adaptation strategies to best address those challenges
- Quantify our community-wide GHG Emissions Inventory every two (2) years to track progress
- Share results with the public and the Urban County Council
- Revise *Empower Lexington* plan as needed

To view entire plan including recommendations go to [www.lexingtonky.gov/sustainability](http://www.lexingtonky.gov/sustainability)



## Empower Lexington: Resolution

- Requesting the EQPW Committee’s consideration of a resolution to approve the 2023 Empower Lexington plan
- Approving the plan and supporting community efforts will have both a positive environmental and economic impact

A RESOLUTION APPROVING “*EMPOWER LEXINGTON: A PLAN FOR A RESILIENT COMMUNITY*,” A COMMUNITY-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN DESIGNED TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND ENERGY USE IN LEXINGTON-FAYETTE COUNTY, AND FURTHER SUPPORTING COMMUNITY EFFORTS IN FURTHERANCE OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Empower Lexington Core Team

Jada Walker Griggs	LFUCG, Sustainability
James Bush	LFUCG, DES Energy Initiatives
Valerie Friedmann	LFUCG, Planning (Former)
Amy Sohner	Bluegrass Greensource
Henry Jackson	Bluegrass Climate Action Team
Scott Southall	earthcycle design
Emily Elkinson	Fayette County Public Schools Student / LFUCG Planning Intern (Former)
Tresine Logsdon	Fayette County Public Schools, Sustainability
Blaine Early	Stites & Harbison / Environmental Commission
Shane Tedder	University of Kentucky, Sustainability
Steve Kay	Vice Mayor (Former) / Roberts & Kay

## Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Shane Tedder	University of Kentucky, Sustainability
James Bush	LFUCG, DES Energy Initiatives
Susan Hill	Architect
David Butler	Alltech
Judith Humble	Bluegrass Climate Action Team
Todd Johnson	Building Industry Association of Central Kentucky
Linda Rumpke	Columbia Gas
Cheryl Klever	Commerce Lexington
Gina Greathouse	Commerce Lexington
Logan Poteat	Fayette County Public Schools, Energy
Tresine Logsdon	Fayette County Public Schools, Sustainability
Mary Kate Gray	Louisville Gas & Electric/Kentucky Utilities

## Materials and Resources

Esther Moberly	University of Kentucky, Recycling (Former)
Lauren Monahan	LFUCG, Division of Waste Management
Kerry Loy	Central Kentucky Hauling
Ben Haydon	Goodwill Industries
Jeff Gaisford	Recycling & Envir. Services Mgr. (Former)
Greg Butler	Republic Services
Raymond Hill	University of Kentucky / Environmental Commission

## Natural Systems and Ecology

Blaine Early	Stites & Harbison
Beth Cawood Overman	LFUCG, Purchase of Development Rights
Eve Miller	LFUCG, Natural Resource Protection (Former)
Heather Wilson	LFUCG, Urban Forestry
Rob Rumpke	Bluegrass Tomorrow
Scott Southall	earthcycle design
Brittany Roethemeier	Fayette Alliance
Carrie McIntosh	Kentucky Farm Bureau
Gloria Martin	Rural Land Management Board
Christine Smith	Seedleaf
Steve Kay	Vice Mayor (Former) / Roberts & Kay

## Transportation and Land Use

Kenzie Gleason	LFUCG, Metropolitan Planning Organization
Valerie Friedmann	LFUCG, Planning (Former)
Jason Allinder	LFUCG, Traffic Engineering
Gary Means	LexPark (Former)
Fred Combs	Lextran
Cathy Clement	Bluegrass Climate Action Team
Brittany Roethemeier	Fayette Alliance
Kim Webb	Fayette County Public Schools, Transportation
Jim Drahovzal	Geologist

## Quality of Life

Tresine Logsdon	Fayette County Public Schools, Sustainability
Carlisha McKissic	LFUCG, Affordable Housing (Former)
Susan Hill	Architect
Amy Sohner	Bluegrass Greensource
Henry Jackson	Bluegrass Climate Action Team
Todd Johnson	Building Industry Association of Central Kentucky
Walter Gaffield	Fayette County Neighborhood Council President
Beau Revlett	Kentucky Tenants Association

## Water Efficiency

Christopher Dent	LFUCG, Division of Water Quality
Lindsie Nicholas	LFUCG, Division of Water Quality (Former)
Scott Southall	earthcycle design
Bob Money	Kentucky American Water

# Questions?

[jgriggs@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:jgriggs@lexingtonky.gov)  
[www.lexingtonky.gov/sustainability](http://www.lexingtonky.gov/sustainability)



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