



Milton Grows Green Committee Executive Summary

“Milton Grows Green” is a volunteer committee. Our mission is: advocating responsibly managed growth by conserving and protecting resources, while preserving Milton’s heritage and natural landscape for future generations. Councilwoman Julie Zahner Bailey initiated the idea of Milton “going green” last September, bringing the concept to a council work session for discussion and to ensure a consensus with the Mayor and Council. Subsequent meetings with the City Manager, Mayor and staff reaffirmed the formation and direction of this committee.

Our inaugural meeting occurred on February 22, 2008. There are currently 18 committee members who have expressed enthusiasm and interest in ensuring the sustainability of Milton’s character while advocating for appropriately-managed growth. We hope to influence public policy and personal choices in a way that improves the health and quality of life we have come to associate with our rural neighborhoods. In the subsequent weekly meetings, we have focused on adopting a logo and drafting a mission statement, and are in the process of identifying distinct categories of interest applicable to Milton. To date, we have identified the following subcommittees:

- **Certifications and Designations.** Identify grants and designations to apply for that would give broader recognition to the city and distinguish it as environmentally sensitive.
- **Water conservation and quality, Air quality and Energy conservation.** Investigate areas of concern including storm water run-off reduction, better erosion control methods, reduction of impervious surfaces to reduce storm-water runoff, and promotion of rain barrels and other rainwater collection systems.
- **Land Use and Building Standards.** Preserve open spaces, conserve land and trees, and identify heritage trees and vistas. Promote adoption of building standards and techniques that are more environmentally sensitive and energy efficient.
- **Solid Waste Management.** Encourage the 3 “Rs,” Reduce, Recycle and Reuse. Suggest ways city agencies could incorporate these principles as well as identifying viable alternatives for residents. Includes Adopt-a-Road.
- **Communication and Education.** Activities directed toward influencing public policies and private choices.

Each of the subcommittees above will develop a prioritized list of realistic, attainable, eco-friendly initiatives it proposes. We also wish to establish measurable, practical performance standards that identify the benefits to our city's economy, its public health and safety, and the value of sustaining our resources.

Initiatives in this direction are increasingly required, and not just desirable. The committee’s goals will continue to evolve, as will scientific examination of the environment and our impact upon it. Becoming “green” is a social commitment to the environment. Milton has a vested interest in becoming a part of this effort.