



Imagine KC Kickoff Event

Trend Analysis

Construct

1. Participants are calling for the redevelopment of the region's existing footprint with focus on rehabilitating, repurposing and reinvesting in older neighborhoods and structures.
 - a. Investment should focus on creating mixed-use areas that combine housing, commercial/retail and employment centers, which would create multiple urban villages where residents would live, work, shop and recreate.
 - b. Design emphases should focus on energy efficiency and universally designed structures. Multimodal, friendly neighborhoods should include efficient public transit, sidewalks and access to other transportation modes and infrastructure.
 - c. Tax policies, public regulations and infrastructure investment should be directed toward enabling, encouraging and requiring consistent adherence to the attainment of these goals.
2. Participants are also calling for concentrating dense (not overcrowded) mixed-use and income developments along major transportation corridors to improve efficiencies and enhance sustainable communities.
3. Participants are calling for development of "green" infrastructure that minimizes storm water runoff and enhances ground percolation.
 - a. Incentives and education programs should be developed and promoted for construction of green roofs, bio-retention, rain gardens, underground rain barrels and rainwater recycling systems.
 - b. Green space should be designed and built into all development and redevelopment projects.

Connect

1. Participants are calling for the development of efficient, economical, environmental and energy-saving transportation systems, which includes transition to alternative-fuel-powered vehicles, public transit (rail and bus), bicycles and pedestrian friendly neighborhoods.
 - a. Public and private investment should focus on providing quality transportation services (modes and infrastructure) to all segments of the region's population. Special considerations should be given to the growing segment of the population that is 50 years and older, persons with special needs, and the traditionally underrepresented and underserved.
2. Participants are calling for a regional transportation authority vested with the power and political will to create and implement comprehensive plans and direct transportation investments across jurisdictional boundaries (both state and local).

Consume

1. Participants are calling for leadership by local governments driving a regional initiative to advocate and educate the general public as well as establish policies and regulations that create a "green" culture.

- a. Local food production, community gardens and urban farming should be encouraged through changes to local government codes, the involvement of community and nonprofit organizations, and use of land trust properties for agricultural purposes.
- b. Local governments should require deposits on all nonrecyclable products and packaging. Incentives should be provided to consumers and producers to recapture and reuse these items.
- c. Local educational institutions should lead the way in preparing the region's workforce for green jobs. Resources should be made available to incubate green entrepreneurial enterprises and foster action at the community level. Environmental education should be made compulsory in elementary schools, with requirements that parents receive information through their children.
- d. Economic development agencies should institute initiatives aimed at attracting environmentally friendly and proactive industries. Tax incentives should be provided to companies that engage in byproduct synergies, reducing demand for virgin raw materials and energy.
- e. Local government should institute policies that promote maximization of energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy sources, and enabling support systems.
- f. Utilities and local governments should recognize light pollution is an actionable item and take steps to reduce light trespass, infiltration and energy waste.

Citizen Engagement

1. Participants, through the self-selecting nature of these conversations, added citizen engagement to the identified themes. Specific conversations dealt with engaging youth, citizens age 50 and above, and raising public awareness. A conversation on racial and social equity called for convening diverse groups from the beginning of the process and networking in the community. Many conversations touched on engaging citizens as a strategy for addressing their topics, which included an interest in increased education and mentorship opportunities that would bridge the gap between generations and diverse populations.