Sustainability Indicators Project (SIP)
+
Central Texas Indicators 2000

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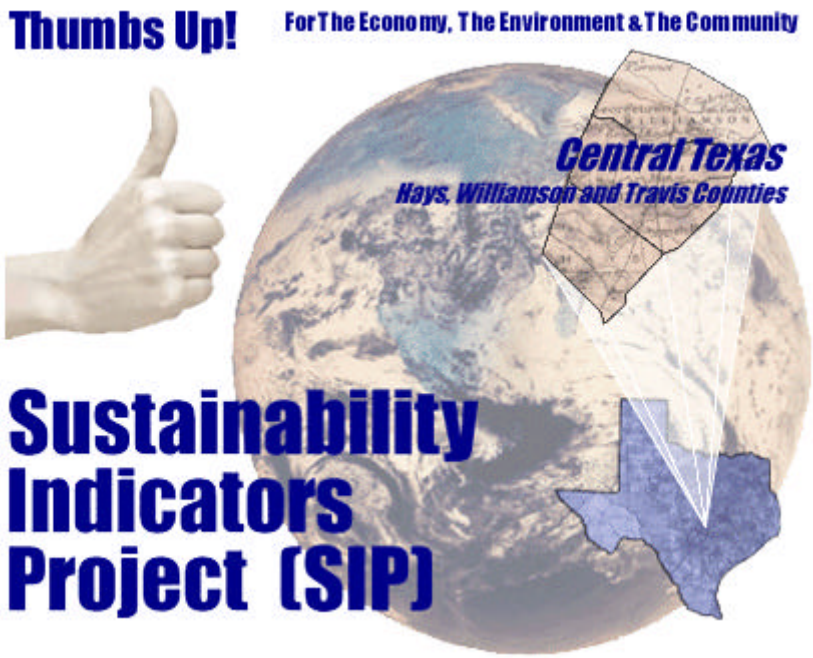

fundamento | educación | desarrollo del indicador | mesa redonda
línea de tiempo| estudio | enlaces relacionados | oportunidades de participación

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Project Background

Proyecto Indicadores de Sustentabilidad

El proyecto Indicadores de Sustentabilidad fue pensado para aumentar el conocimiento y compromiso regionales con el desarrollo sustentable de la comunidad. Esta meta se logrará a través de una discusión pública que (1) defina la visión de sustentabilidad de los residentes de Texas Central y (2) cree indicadores de calidad de vida que nos permitan monitorear nuestro progreso hacia ese mañana sustentable. La campaña del proyecto se llama "¡Adelante! con la Economía, el Ambiente, y la Comunidad."

La sustentabilidad, o el desarrollo sustentable, se definen a menudo como la satisfacción de las necesidades actuales sin arriesgar la capacidad de las generaciones futuras de satisfacer sus propias necesidades. La región de Texas central - y el mundo - está en una encrucijada. Tensiones en el ambiente y en la sociedad, así como la fragilidad de sistemas económicos amenazan la habitabilidad local, en la actualidad y en el futuro. Al mismo tiempo, hay tremendas oportunidades de crear asociaciones dentro de la comunidad regional que nos ayudarán a lograr una elevada calidad de vida para todos.

El proyecto Indicadores de Sustentabilidad es facilitado por un grupo diverso de residentes que están comprometidos con la sustentabilidad de la Región de Austin (defininida aquí como los Condados de Henos, Travis, y Williamson). Ellos reconocen que los intereses empresarios, medioambientales, y sociales se interrelacionan y deben dirigirse como a tal para mejorar calidad de vida de una manera equitativa y justa. Los indicadores del sustentabilidad implican un proceso que se extiende a la comunidad para obtener insumos. Éste es un valor importante asociado con este proyecto. El objetivo será desarrollar un número limitado de indicadores que reflejen los valores de la comunidad regional, que sean indicadores principales orientados a las causas más que a los efectos, y que puedan influenciar eficazmente las acciones individuales y de la comunidad.

Trabajando como un grupo voluntario no-afiliado, el grupo que sostiene este proyecto está buscando incluir el máximo de insumos e interés a lo largo de los condados de Henos, Williamson, y Travis. Los miembros del proyecto han elegido a Patricia Hayes, la anterior presidente de la Universidad de St. Edward y actual vicepresidente ejecutivo y Jefe Operativo de la Red Seton Healthcare, Daron Butler de la firma de ingeniería Turner, Collie, & Braden, Inc. y Roger Duncan, vicepresidente of Austin Energy para conducir este esfuerzo. La asistencia técnica la proporciona el personal de la Iniciativa de las Comunidades Sustentables de la Ciudad de Austin, el Programa de Graduación en Planificación Regional y de la Comunidad de la Universidad de Texas en Austin, la Austin Area Research Organization (AARO), y Tate Austin.

El Proyecto de Indicadores de Sustentabilidad ha comenzado solicitando insumos de los residentes del área a través de los estudios y extensión educativos. Se espera que tome aproximadamente un año para determinar cuáles son los mejores indicadores para usar y para recolectar los datos necesarios. El proceso incluye un foro comunitario en junio de 1999, donde el input de la comunidad es evaluado para determinar indicadores. La fecha designada para el primer informe es enero de 2000.

Para más información y para averiguar cómo puede participar, contacte a Laurence Doxsey en la Ciudad de Austin (tel.: 512-499-3504, fax: 499-2859, e-mail: Doxsey_L@earth.ci.austin.tx.us) o visite el website de la Inciativa Comunidades Sustentables.

Miembros del Comité de Asesores

Personal de asistencia técnica

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Education

Para preparar el Proyecto de Indicadores de Sustentabilidad, nuestro panel asesor y los asistentes técnicos sostuvieron tres sesiones de entrenamiento en el curso de seis meses para repasar qué han hecho otras comunidades para desarrollar indicadores de sustentabilidad y para considerar el mejor enfoque para la región de Texas central.

Entrenamiento y Sesión de Discusión 1

Entrenamiento y Sesión de Discusión 2

¿Qué es sustentabilidad?

El término “sustentabilidad” se utiliza para indicar si una comunidad se está dirigiendo actualmente hacia alguna clase de falla, o hacia la salud y prosperidad en el largo plazo. Una falla podría ser algo tan específico como altas tasas de criminalidad, ríos muertos, o desempleo regional alto, o puede ser tan vago como el descontento extendido con la vida y sus oportunidades.

La sustentabilidad es acerca de nuestros valores. Nuestros valores determinan lo que es, y qué prácticas, lugares, relaciones, oportunidades, o cosas, nosotros queremos sostener. Nosotros debemos decidir qué tipos de estilos de vida queremos tener, en qué tipo de ambiente, y entonces examinar nuestras acciones para determinar si estamos estropeando las perspectivas por lograrlos o mantenerlos. La variable crucial, aquella sobre la cual tenemos el mayor control, es la acción humana. Esto incluye las maneras en las que organizamos nuestra sociedad y actuamos entre nosotros, así como las maneras en las que satisfacemos nuestras necesidades materiales e interactuamos con el ambiente físico.

"La sustentabilidad significa, en sus términos más simples, el

esfuerzo por lograr desarrollo económico con protección del ambiente y equidad social. Su objetivo es crear riqueza responsablemente, sin explotación de seres humanos, sus comunidades, o el ambiente que es la base de todo. Es una transición que no sólo es dirigida a través del rápido aumento en la población humana y en la degradación medioambiental, sino también por nuestro conocimiento y comprensión crecientes de los funcionamientos del mundo natural y por nuestro respeto extendido de los derechos humanos."
fuente: New Jersey Office of Sustainability.

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¿Qué es desarrollo sustentable?

Sustentable se define como la cualidad de perdurar sin disminuir. El desarrollo se refiere a la evolución de algo hacia un estado mejorado. Así, el desarrollo sustentable es acerca de hacer cambios para mejorar nuestra calidad de vida actual sin disminuir las opciones disponibles para las generaciones futuras.

Para lograr esto, el desarrollo sustentable utiliza una concepción de calidad de vida nueva, más holística . Tiene en cuenta los efectos psicológicos de diferentes opciones de planeamiento urbano, el valor de nuestra herencia cultural, la importancia del aire y agua limpios, etc. Esto más concepción más comprensiva de calidad de vida nos ayuda a hacer evaluaciones más exactas de los costos y beneficios de nuestras acciones.

El desarrollo sustentable también reconoce el interrelacionamiento de nuestras muchas acciones - que el uso de la tierra afecta opciones de transporte que afectan la salud de personas que afecta el desempeño laboral que afecta el compromiso cívico y así sucesivamente. El desarrollo sustentable busca soluciones que resuelven los problemas a los que apunta, sin exacerbar o crear otros problemas. No ignora los impactos a largo plazo de nuestras acciones.

> **"Poco del crecimiento de los últimos veinte años ha mejorado la calidad de vida humana. La mayor parte de los beneficios han ido a los más ricos y el resto han sido compensados por los costos de agotamiento de los recursos, tensión social, y salud medioambiental y otros problemas causados por el crecimiento. El desarrollo sustentable se refiere a crear: 1) economías sustentables que satisfagan equitativamente necesidades humanas sin extraer insumos de recursos o sin emitir residuos más allá de la capacidad regeneradora del ambiente, y 2) instituciones humanas sustentables que aseguren seguridad y oportunidad para el crecimiento social, intelectual, y espiritual."**
> **fuente: David Korten (1996) "Sustainable Development: Conventional versus Emergent Alternative Wisdom", documento originalmente preparado por The Office of Technology Assessment, United States Congress, Washington, DC**

Principios del desarrollo sustentable:
El desarrollo sustentable requiere una nueva manera de pensar que sea

orientada al largo plazo y no al corto plazo de presupuestos y elecciones
definida por límites que no excluyan las restricciones naturales
natural/geográfica y no artificial/política
orientada a medios y no a fines
holística/interconectada y no jeráraquica/aislada
participativa y no autocrática

fuente: A Planner's Guide to Sustainable Development
American Planning Association: PAS Report number 467
K. J. Krizek and J. Power (1996) p. 18

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¿Por qué debemos esforzarnos por la sustentabilidad?

Dada la definición de sustentabilidad, las respuestas a esta pregunta son tan obvias como numerosas: porque cuidamos a nuestros niños y no queremos que ellos tengan ninguna oportunidad menos de las que nosotros tenemos; porque creemos que todas las personas merecen igual acceso a los trabajos y a un ambiente limpio; y porque sabemos que la comunidad entera crece cuando todos sus ciudadanos pueden encontrar ocupaciones gratificantes y productivas.

La sustentabilidad es una manera de resolver problemas persistentes y capitalizar en oportunidades positivas. La sustentabilidad también apunta a nuestras debilidades en la región de Austin: ¿Cómo podemos evitar empeorar el tránsito? ¿Cómo podemos prevenir otra crisis en el mercado de bienes raíces? ¿Cómo podemos mejorar la calidad del aire? ¿Cómo podemos asegurar que todos los ciudadanos tengan la misma oportunidad de lograr una educación de calidad? ¿Cómo podemos hacer a las agencias públicas más sensitivas y más eficaces? ¿Cómo podemos evitar dedicar más tierras a rellenos sanitarios? Cómo podemos asegurar que podremos satisfacer nuestras necesidades de energía en el futuro?

El desarrollo sustentable apunta a la más alta calidad de vida posible para todas las personas, individual y colectivamente. Se basa en los límites naturales de nuestro ambiente y las necesidades comprensivas de las personas. Así, la sustentabilidad no es alguna meta distante, abstracta, sino la realidad de hoy. No es una opción sino una necesidad.

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¿Cómo ha evolucionado la idea de desarrollo sustentable?

El lenguaje de la sustentabilidad irrumpió en la cultura occidental moderna en los años sesenta por vía del movimiento medioambiental emergente. Estos activistas comprendieron que una sociedad que consumía recursos naturales más rápido de lo que pudieran reponerse, y qué contaminó su ambiente más allá de los residuos que el ecosistema podría procesar, no podría sostenerse. También era perceptible que la tierra simplemente no tenía bastantes recursos para todas las personas consumiendo a la tasa de aquéllos en la mayoría de los países industrializados. En otras palabras, hay límites naturales a los ecosistemas de la tierra, y un desarrollo que enfoca exclusivamente en consumo y el crecimiento económico no es sustentable.

Pronto, la sustentabilidad asumió una concepción más holística a medida que otros señalaron que ciertas condiciones sociales y económicas llevarían a crisis o eran crisis en sí mismas. En 1972, el Club de Roma, un grupo de economistas y científicos europeos, emitió una declaración titulada "Los Límites del Crecimiento." Éste fué un ejemplo temprano de investigación que integró problemas de producción, población, daño medioambiental, consumo de alimentos, y recursos naturales limitados. En 1987 la Comisión Mundial de la ONU para el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo (la Comisión Brundtland) emitió Nuestro Futuro Común, que definió el término el desarrollo sustentable como satisfacer "las necesidades del presente sin comprometer la capacidad de las generaciones futuras de satisfacer sus propias necesidades." Este informe también popularizó la idea del desarrollo sustentable como un taburete de tres patas apoyado por igual en la economía, el ambiente, y la equidad social (las tres Es). En 1992, la Union of Concerned Scientists emitió "Advirtiendo a la Humanidad" firmado por más de 1.500 científicos prominentes, incluyendo a una mayoría de los Premios Nobel vivientes. Aunque no se usó el término sustentabilidad, específicamente notaron que pobreza, sobrepoblación, violencia, y desigualdad de género pueden impulsar a la civilización hacia un desastre ecológico, tanto como la contaminación del agua y la deforestación.

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¿Quién está comprometido con iniciativas de sustentabilidad?

Hay ejemplos de alrededor del globo de ciudades, regiones, y naciones que están empezando a redefinir desarrollo en términos de sustentabilidad. Los esfuerzos internacionales incluyen el de la Comisión Mundial de la ONU para el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo y la Cumbre de la Tierra en Río que propusieron el plan de acción de la Agenda 21 (LA 21). La Organización para la Cooperación Económica y el Desarrollo

(OCDE) en Europa también ha apoyado muchos proyectos de promoción de la sustentabilidad. Nacionalmente, el movimiento del sustentabilidad está siendo liderado el Consejo del Presidente para el Desarrollo Sustentable, el Centro de para la Excelencia para el Desarrollo Sustentable del Departamento de Energía, y la Agencia para la Protección del Ambiente, sobre todo su iniciativa nacional "Crecimiento Inteligente". A nivel estatal, New Jersey, Oregón, Washington, Virginia, Minnesota, Kentucky, Nueva York, y otros han creado programas u oficinas que abogan por la sustentabilidad. Las ciudades de Boston, Seattle, Chattanooga, y Santa Monica ostentan iniciativas modelo de sustentabilidad, y veintidos ciudades norteamericanas han establecido programas LA 21.

Hay una multitud de ONGs internacionales, nacionales, y locales para las que la sustentabilidad es su causa primaria. Éstas incluyen al Instituto Internacional de Winnipeg para el Desarrollo Sustentable, el Community Sustainability Resource Institute en Maryland, y el Centro para las Comunidades Sustentables en la Universidad de Washington. Muchas otras organizaciones familiares han establecido iniciativas de sustentabilidad. Los ejemplos incluyen la Asociación Nacional de Condados, la Conferencia Americana de Alcaldes, la Asociación de Planificación Americana, y el Consorcio de Granjas Americano.

También las empresas están esforzándose por volverse más sustentables. Algunas usan ahora una "línea del fondo triple" (las tres Es) para calibrar más holísticamente su desempeño. Otras han formado grupos como Empresas por la Responsabilidad Social y el Concejo Mundial de Empresas para el Desarrollo Sustentable. Los ejemplos de iniciativas de sustentabilidad en corporaciones en particular incluyen políticas "no sweat shop", acuerdos de"compra local", metas de "emisión cero", y cuotas de reciclaje.

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¿Cómo se están moviendo las comunidades hacia el desarrollo sustentable?

Hay una variedad de herramientas y técnicas que las diferentes comunidades han empleado para ayudarse a cambiar hacia la sustentabilidad. Algunos que se han observado con éxito en los Estados Unidos incluyen:

- **visión de la comunidad**
- **declaración de ingresos de la comunidad**
- **planes maestros**
- **planificación del vecindario**
- **foros de la comunidad**
- **iniciativas de ecología industrial**
- **iniciativas de educación para la sustentabilidad**
- **indicadores**
- **cartografía comprensiva**
- **eco-equipos vecinales**

dineros locales
incentivos empresarios
auditorías de sustentabilidad
incentivos para la energía renovable
coordinación de agencia

"Algunas comunidades ya han empezado a trabajar hacia esta meta. Los proyectos más exitosos tienen tres características en común: Primero, la comunidad creó una visión de su futuro que equilibra necesidades económicas, medioambientales, y sociales. La comunidad vio su futuro en el largo plazo: no en el orden de los años, sino en el orden de las décadas o las generaciones. Segundo, la visión incorporó los puntos de vista de un amplio corte transversal de la comunidad. Tercero, la comunidad dedujo cómo monitorear su progreso en alcanzar esa visión."
fuente: Maureen Hart

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¿Qué son indicadores de sustentabilidad?

Los indicadores de sustentabilidad son datos sobre nuestro mundo. Son usados por las comunidades para monitorear condiciones existentes y tendencias, y para poner metas para mejorar. Un conjunto de indicadores en particular intenta ser una lista comprensiva que se dirige a los problemas más importantes en una comunidad en particular, tal como fuera determinado por sus residentes. Tomados colectivamente, se entiende que estos indicadores proporcionan una valoración justa de la verdadera calidad de vida en la comunidad y de sus perspectivas a futuro. Los indicadores se usan para educar a los ciudadanos y para llamar la atención sobre los problemas importantes en un comunidad.

El proceso de escoger indicadores puede ser al menos tan importante como el uso de la lista final. Si la comunidad entera participa, los ciudadanos habrán tenido la oportunidad para expresar sus preocupaciones sobre sus vidas y entonces ver esas preocupaciones traducidas en datos que la comunidad entera monitorea. Estos proyectos se diseñan para renovar el sentido de compromiso e inversión de los ciudadanos en sus comunidades; exigen algo de la muy necesaria reflexión sobre el tipo y características de las comunidades en que los ciudadanos quieren realmente vivir.

El potencial de los proyectos de indicadores se confirma por el consenso extendido sobre la importancia de monitorear el progreso hacia el desarrollo sustentable. El informe de la Comisión Brundtland enfatizó la importancia de establecer nuevas maneras de definir y medir progresos. La políticas de la Agenda 21 animaron de modo similar la recolección y monitoreo de datos a fin de evaluar y ayudar nuestro tránsito hacia la sustentabilidad. Los Principios de Bellagio, unánimemente endosados en una conferencia de expertos en mediciones internacionales de 1996, perfilan pautas básicas para escoger y usar indicadores. En los EE.UU., el Concejo del Presidente para el Desarrollo Sustentable ha encabezado el esfuerzo para establecer un conjunto nacional de indicadores, y ha recomendado que todos los niveles de gobierno coordinen sus proyectos de indicadores.

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¿Qué puede hacerse en la región de Austin?

La Región de Austin enfrenta desafíos significativos. Aunque éste es de hecho uno de los mejores lugares para vivir en el país, muchos aspectos de nuestra comunidad no son sustentables. Dependemos de energía no renovable; la mayoría de los ciudadanos no vota: la contaminación del aire está empeorando; la congestión del tránsito está empeorando; muchos de nuestros niños no pueden conseguir una buena educación; la biodiversidad local está disminuyendo; muchos empleadores no pueden encontrar a obreros suficientemente calificados; etc. Deben encontrarse nuevas maneras de enfrentar estos problemas.

IEn 1996, la Comisión de Planeamiento de los Ciudadanos recomendó la formación de un programa de la ciudad que dirigido específicamente al problema de la sustentabilidad local. La Iniciativa de las Comunidades Sustentables, ubicada en el Departamento de Servicios de Planeamiento, Ambientales y de Conservación de la ciudad, fué pensada para ayudar a la región de Austin a identificar y eliminar prácticas que disminuyen de las oportunidades para la sustentabilidad a largo plazo y promueve actividades que mejorarán la calidad de vida de los residentes de toda la región. Además de servir como un clearing de compartir información y coordinar actividades, la ICS ha desarrollado una matriz para probar Proyectos de Mejora Capitales en relación a su adhesión a los principios de la sustentabilidad. Se ha unido con la Universidad de Texas y otras instituciones para organizar conferencias y seminarios y traer conferenciastas a Austin. Empezando en 1998, la ICS comenzó publicando un boletín trimestral, y está ahora proporcionando apoyo al Proyecto de Indicadores de Sustentabilidad basados en la comunidad.

Otros grupos en la comunidad han estado dirigiéndose a aspectos parciales de la sustentabilidad durante mucho tiempo. Los activistas sociales han estado luchando por justicia entre todas las clases y razas. Los ambientalistas han estado trabajando para proteger recursos naturales y características. Los grupos empresariales han buscado mantener saludable la economía. Ahora todos estos grupos necesitan empezar a coordinar sus esfuerzos. Necesitan reconocer que, finalmente, tienen muchas metas similares. La sustentabilidad es satisfacer las metas últimas de todos estos grupos de la mejor manera posible.

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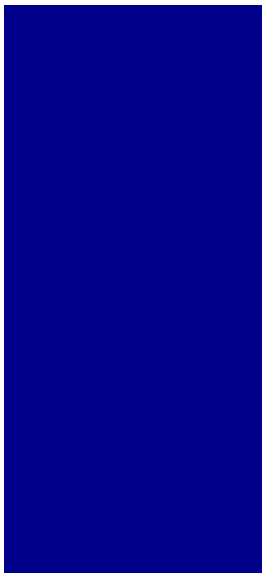
Fuentes:



- **The Chattanooga Institute. citado de material presentado en el seminario Local Government Sustainability Innovators. UT-Austin: febrero 28, 1998.**
- **The Colorado Forum on National and Community Indicators. informe disponible en internet en http://www.rprogress.org/progsum/cip_progsum.html**
- **The Community Indicators Handbook. publicado por Redefining Progress. 1997.**
- **Guide to Sustainable Community Indicators. by Maureen Hart Ipswich, Mass.: QLF/Atlantic Center for the Environment. 1995.**
- **Hamilton-Wentworth Sustainable Community Indicators. citado de material presentado al seminario "Targeting Sustainability". UT-Austin: abril 25, 1998.**
- **Indicators of Sustainable Community 1998. informe publicado por Sustainable Seattle.**

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Entrenamiento y Sesión de Discusión 2

Objetivo general de un Proyecto de Indicadores de Sustentabilidad:

- **Facilitar el desarrollo de un acuerdo general de la comunidad sobre un futuro sustentable**

- **Medir los cambios de fenómenos específicos a fin de:**
  *** proporcionar información importante a los ciudadanos**
  *** establecer metas y evaluar desempeño**
  *** promover comportamientos y cambios de política**

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Visión de Sustentabilidad / Misión del Proyecto

- **Proporciona una imagen de lo que a la comunidad le gustaría llegar a ser; incluye objetivos a largo plazo.**
- **Ayuda a priorizar problemas.**
- **Define metas procesales y substantivas.**

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El Proceso

- **Democracia y educación pública son los ingredientes clave y los más valiosos productos de un proyecto de indicadores de sustentabilidad. Todas las otras metas de la sustentabilidad se alcanzarán mejor a través de este proceso.**

"El proceso para desarrollar indicadores debe reconocer la importancia de participación de la comunidad en todos los niveles. Nuestro papel primario como catalizadores en este proceso es obtener una visión, y entonces promover esa visión con educación y información como eslabones entre las fases."
(The Colorado Forum on National and Community Indicators p. 5)

- **La máxima inclusividad es vital: es lo que hace al producto válido y relevante.**
  "La cosa más importante al crear una comunidad sustentable es incluir a todos los miembros en el proceso de creación."
  (Guide to Sustainable Community Indicators p. 11)
- **Foros comunitarios, estudios, y los paneles de especialistas pueden ayudar a generar ideas.**
- **Listas de indicadores en borrador o como documento de trabajo han sido útiles a muchas comunidades: pueden llamar la atención e inspirar participación.**

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Escogiendo Indicadores

- **¿Por qué es importante medir esto?**
  Para poner "una cara a lo que nosotros valoramos."
  Para traducir "valores en indicadores mensurables."
  (The Colorado Forum on National and Community Indicators p. 5)
- **Seleccione fenómenos que**
  *** muestren cambio a través del tiempo,**
  *** sean fáciles de entender,**
  *** atraigan la atención de los medios de comunicación, e**
  *** inspiren a la acción.**
  (The Community Indicators Handbook p. 17)
- **Los indicadores deben**
  "reflejar un equilibrio acorde con el modelo del taburete de tres patas (equilibrio entre los factores económicos, sociales/sanitarios, y medioambientales), y deben representar la capacidada ser sensibles a la acción de individuos o de la comunidad."
  (Hamilton-Wentworth Sustainable Community Indicators p. 2)
- **Intente llegar a las causas de raíz de los problemas sociales, no sólo a los síntomas.**
- **Los indicadores de nivel macro y micro son ambos importantes; por consiguiente, incluya problemas que apunten a niveles institucionales e individuales.**
- **Incluya indicadores de impacto tanto positivo como negativo.**
- **Use porcentajes o tasas en lugar de números en bruto.**
- **Escoja indicadores que tengan relaciones causales con una variedad de sectores de la comunidad.**
- **Mida la efectividad de las soluciones, no sólo números de programas o dólares gastados.**
- **No liste una cantidad sin controlar calidad y distribución.**
- **No todos los indicadores son indicadores de sustentabilidad - promueva la sustentabilidad.**

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Definiendo los Fenómenos a ser Medidos

- **¿Qué está siendo medido?**
- **¿Es esta una medida aproximada o el valor real?**
- **¿Cómo se mide?**
- **¿Los fenómenos pueden aislarse?**
- **¿El indicador es un resultado, un producto, o una actividad?**

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Jerarquizando Indicadores

- **¿Podemos determinar la importancia relativa de los fenómenos que estamos midiendo?**
- **¿Cuáles son las preocupaciones más urgentes de este comunidad?**
- **¿Cuáles son algunos problemas importantes acerca de los que la mayoría de los ciudadanos parecen estar desprevenidos?**
- **Posibles criterios:**
  "pertinente, refleje la comunidad valora, atractivo a los medios de comunicación locales, estadísticamente mensurable, lógicamente o científicamente defendible, fiable, conducentes, política-pertinente"
  Indicators of Sustainable Community 1998 p. 4)

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Estableciendo Metas

- **Los diferentes indicadores serán expresados por cifras absolutas, cambios porcentuales, o tendencias generales.**
- **La factibilidad de lograr las metas es un problema relevante, a veces un equilibrio entre metas conservadoras y ambiciosas es lo mejor.**
  "Si usted escoge metas demasiado fáciles de lograr, la credibilidad del indicador se ve comprometida. Si la meta es casi imposible lograr, entonces el grupo o los individuos responsables probablemente se rendirán."
  (Hamilton-Wentworth Sustainable Community Indicators p. 6)
- **A veces la meta última es clara.**
  "Consideraremos los residuos, en cualquier forma, como malos para la empresa y el ambiente y promoveremos la Meta de Cero."
  (The Chattanooga Institute)
- **Considere insumos desde agencias o instituciones que afectan o son afectadas por los fenómenos que son medidos.**
- **Las metas pueden modificarse en función de cambios en las condiciones o actitudes.**

arriba

Relaciones Entre Fenómenos Medidos

- **¿Qué afectan los fenómenos medidos?**

"...tracing linkages between systems can lead to a broader and deeper understanding of the reasons for a rising or declining trend."
(The Community Indicators Handbook p. 35)

- **Explore cadenas causales:**
  "...cuando las tasas de pobreza infantil son altas, es probable que más jóvenes entren en una vida de crimen. Altas tasas de criminalidad probablemente haga a los padres menos propensos a permitir a sus niños caminar o ir en bicicleta a la escuela, y más propensos a llevarlos en auto. Una mayor tendencia a conducir implica más goteos y derrames de aceite de motor o fluido del radiador, algunos de los cuales derivarán a los arroyos locales [de los que la fauna depende]."
  (Indicators of Sustainable Community 1998 p. 5)
- **Explore los resultados de cambios de conducta personal:**
  "¿Por ejemplo, qué indicadores podrían ser afectados si usted escoge caminar a la tienda en lugar de manejar? Usted podría (1) ayudar a mejorar la calidad del aire, (2) reducir el uso de energía no renovable, (3) ahorrar dinero, dejándolo en el banco como capital de la comunidad, (4) potencialmente, reducir el número de horas que necesita trabajar. Si usted caminara o anduviera en bicicleta regularmente, podría (5) mejorar su salud (y quizás reducir gastos de salud) y (6) volverse más amistoso para con sus vecinos. Varias de estas actividades pueden (7) mejorar su calidad de vida percibida."

  (Indicators of Sustainable Community 1998 p. 5)

arriba

Anidado de Indicadores

- **Anidado geográfico: diferentes áreas en la región y diferentes tamaño de sectores de la región tendrán muy diferentes valores para determinados indicadores. A veces la información local será la más pertinente, a veces el agregado regional lo será.**
- **Anidado en sistemas (ver relaciones).**

arriba

Recolección de datos

- **¿Ya están disponibles algunos datos?**
- **No dude en establecer líneas de base y empezar a monitorear fenómenos importantes que no se informan actualmente como indicadores.**
  A raíz de que el Panel Cívico Seattle Sustentable decidió que "el espíritu comunitario" era un indicador clave de salud de la comunidad, los organizadores tuvieron que desarrollar un estudio y contratar una empresa local de estudios de mercado para determinar el "el espíritu comunitario" de los ciudadanos de Seattle.
  (The Community Indicators Handbook p. 21)

  "Actualmente, parece haber una brecha entre los datos disponibles y los que a las comunidades gustaría medir--lo

que ellas valoran. Quizás uno de los más grandes desafíos para el movimiento de indicadores será recoger nuevos tipos de datos que empiezan a salvar esta brecha."
(The Colorado Forum on National and Community Indicators p. 8).

- La exactitud de la información es crucial.
- Grupos de voluntarios o instituciones podrían tomar responsabilidad por los datos de un indicador.
- El costo de la recolección de datos puede ser prohibitivo en algún casos.
- La recolección de datos será continua.

arriba

Difusión del Informe de Indicadores

- Defina cualquier término poco familiar.
- Identifique la audiencia objetivo.
- Enfatice la relevancia de los indicadores.
- Use una técnica de presentación simple, ej., gráficos, banderas rojas, cartas.
- Identifique claramente si los números crecientes son buenos o malos para cada indicador.
- Considere publicar una ficha de informe corta y un informe detallado.
- Pueden combinarse indicadores en un índice.
- Incluya fuentes de información.
- Incluya las razones para escoger cada indicador.
- Incluya alguna interpretación y evaluación, ej., relaciones de causa y efecto, cómo podría ocurrir un cambio, resultados de mantenerse una tendencia en particular.
- Incluya modos de que los ciudadanos y las organizaciones pueden ayudar mejore la tendencia de un indicador.
- Distribuya ampliamente el informe.
- Recomendaciones para la cobertura de medios de comunicación:
  * proporcione información de contacto
  * presente el informe de indicadores como un relato
  * resalte los problemas urgentes
  * use a un vocero
  * asegúrese respaldos
  (The Community Indicators Handbook p. 37)

arriba

Acciones motivantes

- Los programas"Adopte un indicador" han tenido mucho éxito en otras comunidades.
- Promueva la participación de organizaciones de voluntarios.
- Publique una guía para incidir en los fenómenos que los indicadores miden.
- Publique un directorio de instituciones cuyas las actividades afectan indicadores o son responsable de supervisar las actividades de otros.

"Si bien los datos de los indicadores son importantes, normalmente es el diálogo que ellos provocan lo que resulta en acción."
(The Colorado Forum on National and Community Indicators p. 5)

arriba

Manteniendo el Proyecto Activo Año Tras Año

- **Planifique y aliente la participación continua de los ciudadanos.**
- **Ate los resultados de los indicadores al planeamiento fiscal y presupuestario.**
- **Considere las necesidades de financiamiento.**

arriba

Fuentes:

- **The Chattanooga Institute. citado del material presentado en el seminario Local Government Sustainability Innovators. UT-Austin: febrero 28, 1998.**
- **The Colorado Forum on National and Community Indicators. informe disponible en internet en http://www.rprogress.org/progsum/cip_progsum.html**
- **The Community Indicators Handbook. publicado por Redefining Progress. 1997.**
- **Guide to Sustainable Community Indicators. por Maureen Hart Ipswich, Mass.: QLF/Atlantic Center for the Environment. 1995.**
- **Hamilton-Wentworth Sustainable Community Indicators. citado del material presentado en el seminario "Targeting Sustainability". UT-Austin: abril 25, 1998.**
- **Indicators of Sustainable Community 1998. informe publicado por Sustainable Seattle.**

Sustainability Indicators Project of Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties

Central Texas Indicators 2000

A Report on the Economic, Environmental, and Social Health of the Central Texas Region

Contents

Message to the Central Texas Community

We want the best for our children. We want the highest quality of life and the greatest economic prosperity extended to all in our community. We want to be good stewards of the natural and created resources placed in our care.

The Sustainability Indicators Project in Central Texas was born of the belief that we can advance all of these goals by paying attention to where we are now and holding one another accountable for our future. The Indicators Project is rooted in the concept of sustainable community—recognizing the interdependence of the environment, economic development, and social equity. We want to support a decision-making climate that invests in what is good for today without compromising the future for our children, a climate that benefits each person and the common good.

Our indicators project in Central Texas is not a new idea - over 150 communities in the country are using this tool for civic improvement. Locally, our group has evolved from a handful of volunteers who first met in 1997 into a fifty-person Advisory Board and an active Executive Committee. Our membership includes representatives from Williamson, Travis, and Hays counties whose areas of expertise are evenly distributed among economic development, environmental concerns, and social equity.

By selecting these forty-two issues and articulating an ideal state for the future, the members of the Sustainability Indicators Project Advisory Board are making a strong statement about the kind of community we would like to see. We care passionately about the future of Central Texas, yet we do not believe it is our role to dictate specific responses to our region's challenges or say exactly how we ought to perform on these indicators.

We publish this first report with several cautions.

- There are many important areas in Central Texas we were not able to include in this report. We used a highly participatory process to select these forty-two measures, but dozens of others were suggested, and we have tried to capture many of those important topics in an appendix to this report.

- An indicator by definition is a piece of data that communicates the status of a complex system. We struggled mightily to choose the best indicators, and for those we settled on, data were not always forthcoming. Where data is substantially incomplete, we have labeled the indicator "Under Construction".

- We have tried to be extraordinarily careful in reporting this information. If careful readers discover data problems, we will be glad to make corrections in next year's report.

In as many cases as possible, we have tried to collect five years of data or more for this first report. We plan to publish this report each year to monitor trend-lines. In fact, the trend is actually what is most important. Are we as a community moving in the direction we wish to move in?

We publish this first report with one request of community volunteers and leaders and citizens. Please use the data as a starting point for dialogue and action. Where the data paints a picture of health and achievement and vitality, let us celebrate together. Where they challenge us to more action and better solutions, let us redouble our efforts.

We want this report to lift up the concept of sustainable community so that we can raise our aspirations. We want every decision to recognize the interdependence of economic vitality, environmental quality, and social equity. We want every decision to reflect a concern for all of our brothers and sisters and for our children in generations to come.

History

Summer 1997

First meeting of the initiating group

Staff from the City of Austin's Sustainable Communities Initiative convened a small group of community leaders to discuss creating an indicators project similar to other communities. Staff from the University of Texas Graduate Program in Community and Regional Planning also assisted in the initial planning stages.

Fall 1997

Initiating group sponsors an indicators workshop for invited community leaders - conducted by nationally known consultant Maureen Hart.

Winter/Spring 1998

Recruitment of the Advisory Board

After a population analysis, the goal was set to recruit two-thirds of a fifty-person Advisory Board from Travis County and the remaining one-third from Williamson and Hays Counties. An effort was made to recruit approximately one-third of the members from each of the three Es: economic development, the environment, and social equity. Substantial efforts were made to achieve representation from diverse ethnic, age, and interest groups.

April 1998

First Advisory Board meeting

The decision was made to form a smaller Executive Committee with a chair and co-chairs representative of the three Es. Staff from the City of Austin Sustainable Communities Initiative, UT's Community and Regional Planning Program, and the Austin Area Research Organization were invited to invited to provide non-voting staff and technical support for the project.

June 1998

Selection of Chairs and Executive Committee

The original Executive Committee of 11 members was selected (expanded to 15 in November 1998).

Summer/Fall 1998

Education program for Advisory Board members

Advisory Board members were provided an overview of the sustainable community philosophy, a workshop on the nature of good indicators, and summary information on current data sources within the region.

Winter/Spring 1999

Community outreach and education

The community survey on priority issues was published in the Austin American-Statesman and separately distributed in Spanish. Surveys were returned through HEB and other community centers. On-line participation in this survey was also possible. Approximately twenty-five presentations concerning sustainability and the indicators project were made to community groups by Advisory Board members. Surveys were also distributed at these presentations.

June 1999

Indicators Selection Forum

Community forum of Advisory Board members and invited citizen leaders to review draft indicators. Eighty leaders from the entire region and the three Es participated - identifying the potential list of final issues for indicator development.

September 1999

Advisory Board adoption of 42 indicators

Fall 1999/Winter 2000

Data collection

March 2000

First Sustainability Indicators Project report published

Acknowledgements

Over the past two years, the Sustainability Indicators Project has benefited substantially from the volunteer efforts of a broad group of community leaders and partner organizations. Special thanks go to the members of the Sustainability Indicators Project Advisory Board and Executive Committee whose names are listed at the end of this report.

We would also like especially to acknowledge the following partners whose substantial contributions have made this project possible:

The Austin American-Statesman printed and circulated copies of the Sustainability Indicators survey and printed additional copies of the survey in Spanish for circulation throughout the community. The Statesman has also been active in their editorial coverage of the project. Special thanks both to publisher Mike Laosa and editor Rich Oppel.

Austin 2010 and Charles Heimsath contributed extraordinary resources towards the research on economic indicators.

The City of Austin provided significant financial and staffing support for the project through its Sustainable Communities Initiative. Laurence Doxsey, director of that office until March 1999, played a significant leadership role in coordinating the first 18 months of the project. Since that time, Andrew Grigsby has played a key staffing role for the Sustainability Indicators Project.

Corder/Thompson and Associates volunteered their time and recruited forum facilitators for the Indicators Selection Forum in June 1999.

Our thanks to Marie Crane & Associates for the substantial discount in developing the survey questions and coordinating the survey process for the six indicators for which original research was conducted.

The layout and design of this report was performed at Fuller, Dyal, & Stamper. Our thanks to designer Kevin Goodbar.

Thank you to Hart Information Services for their contribution of the printing of the report. We appreciate David Hart's leadership in this donation.

HEB cooperated generously with the Sustainability Indicators Project by establishing pick-up centers for surveys to be returned.

Several radio, television, and print media supported the distribution of the survey and public understanding of this project. Our thanks goes to La Prensa, the Austin Business Journal, KXAN, KVUE, and KTBC.

A grant from the RGK Foundation provided critical support for the coding of surveys in preparation for the forum. We are indebted to Greg Kozmetsky for his support of our effort.

Our special thanks to St. Edward's University for hosting the forum and providing the wonderful space, food, and hospitality.

Over the past 18 months we have benefited enormously from the pro bono services of TateAustin both in organizing media communication and in preparing the final report for printing. Our thanks to staff members Colin Rowan and Dave Shaw and to Kerry Tate for their generous support.

The United Way graciously agreed to serve as a fiscal agent for the Sustainability Indicators Project. We appreciate that important contribution.

The University of Texas' Graduate Program in Community and Regional Planning played a critical support role in the project. Special thanks to Professor Bob Paterson and to Graduate Assistant Edna Niederman for their many contributions over the years including their assistance in formulating and tabulating the original public survey.

The careful review of the data, research on national and regional comparisons, and writing/editing done by Lisa Weckerle and Andrew Grigsby made this final report possible.

Our thanks to the Wildflower Center for their support of the Sustainability Indicators press conference in March 1999.

Issues Addressed in this Report

Our Community/Our Children

1. Community Safety
2. Safety in the Home
3. Adult Literacy
4. Students' Academic Performance
5. School Quality
6. Equity in Education
7. Equity in Law Enforcement
8. Equity in Access to Capital
9. Equity in Leadership Positions
10. Participation in the Arts
11. Philanthropy and Volunteerism
12. Neighborliness
13. Quality of Child Care
14. Access to Child Care
15. Civic Engagement

Our Workforce/Our Economy

16. Government Effectiveness
17. Cost of Living
18. Housing Affordability
19. Household Income
20. Labor Availability
21. Job Training Availability
22. Exporting Industries' Growth
23. Job Opportunities
24. Diversity of Industries
25. Diversity of Employers
26. Entrepreneurship
27. Technological Innovation

Our Health/Our Environment

28. Individuals' Physical Health
29. Individuals' Mental Health
30. Health Insurance Coverage
31. Air Quality
32. Hazardous Materials
33. Water Quality
34. Energy Use
35. Solid Waste
36. Water Availability

Our Land/Our Infrastructure

37. Attractiveness of the Landscape
38. Rural Land in the Region
39. Public Open Spaces
40. Density of New Development
41. Vehicle Miles Traveled
42. Time Spent Commuting

Our Community/ Our Children

1 Community Safety

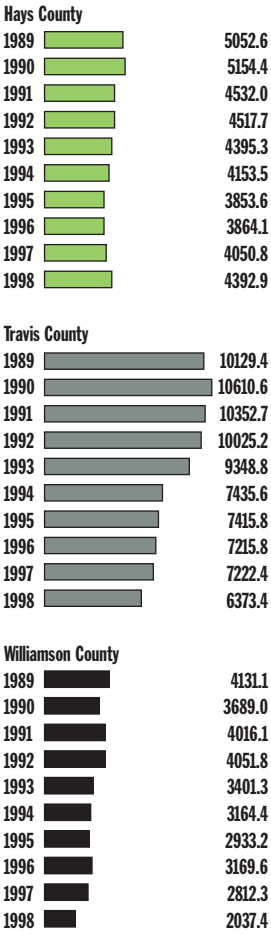
Ideal State: People in Central Texas communities are safe from crime.
Measured by: The indexed crime rate.

Findings:

Over the ten-year period, the average Travis County rate was about twice as high as the Hays County rate and almost triple the Williamson County rate. Comparing the averaged indexed crime rate of the first and second five years of the decade, the rate fell by 29.3% in Travis County, 26.8% in Williamson County, and 14.1% in Hays County. In the most recent years reported, the rate increased somewhat only in Hays County, while it dropped in Travis and Williamson counties in 1998.

Context: The 1998 indexed crime rate for the Austin-San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson counties, was 4891.7. The 1998 overall Texas indexed crime rate was 5111.6; the total rate of all MSAs in the United States was 4975.0. For the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC, MSA, the rate was 6295.1; for the San Jose, CA, MSA, 3400.1; and for the Portland, OR-Vancouver, WA, MSA, 5743.0.

THE NUMBER OF INDEXED CRIMES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES



Notes
Data are from the FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR), to which local police and sheriff's departments submit information on a voluntary basis (see UCR for list of participating departments). Reported crimes include murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft.

Safe Families

2

Ideal State: Central Texas is a community in which all persons live in a safe home environment.

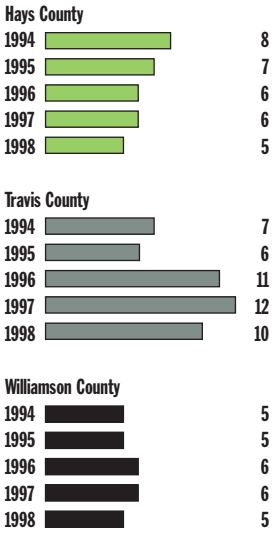
Measured by: The number of reported family violence incidents per 1,000 residents.

Findings:

In the last three years, the number of reported incidents in Travis County has been significantly higher than incidents in previous years. In the past five years, Hays County shows a declining trend in crimes reported, and the numbers in Williamson County are relatively unchanged.

Context: In 1998, the Texas family violence rate per 1,000 persons was 8.9. The number of crimes reported statewide increased slightly from 1994 through 1996, but then decreased slightly from 1996 to 1998. Similar data are not available for national comparison.

THE NUMBER OF REPORTED FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS PER 1,000 RESIDENTS IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES



Notes

Family violence is defined as all crimes committed against a family member related by blood or marriage. Reported crimes include aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, murder, manslaughter, justifiable homicide, kidnapping, robbery, rape, sodomy, sex with an object, fondling, incest, and statutory rape. The data are collected by the Texas Department of Safety.

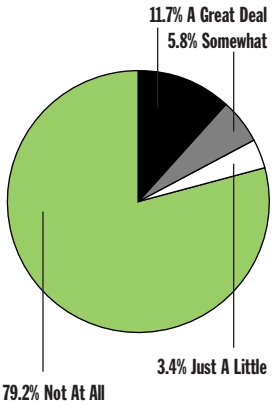
3 Adult Literacy

Ideal State: All Central Texans attain a literacy level that provides the foundation to lead successful and productive lives.

Measured by: The percentage of the adult population reporting to what extent their ability to read/write the English language limits "how easy it is for them to get things done".

THE PERCENTAGE OF THE ADULT POPULATION REPORTING TO WHAT EXTENT THEIR ABILITY TO READ/WRITE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LIMITS "HOW EASY IT IS FOR THEM TO GET THINGS DONE"

Year 2000



Findings:

In January 2000, 11.7% of survey respondents reported that their ability to accomplish everyday tasks was limited "a great deal" by the level of their ability to read/write in English. A smaller portion (7.2%) of area residents reported that their ability to get a job that they were otherwise qualified for was hampered "a great deal" by their proficiency in English (not displayed). Nearly 80% reported that their ability to get things done was not at all limited by their English literacy skills.

Context: In 1993, the National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS) reported that the following percentages of the adult population read at better than Level 1 proficiency:

Hays County:	85%	City of Austin:	83%
Travis County:	84%	City of Georgetown:	81%
Williamson County:	87%	City of Round Rock:	89%
Texas:	77%	City of San Marcos:	83%
USA:	78%	City of Taylor:	72%
Wake County, North Carolina:	83%	City of Columbus, Ohio:	80%
Multnomah County, Oregon:	85%	City of Tucson, Arizona:	81%

Adults at Level 1 usually can sign their names, identify a country in a short article, locate one piece of information in a sports article, locate the expiration date information on a driver's license, and total a bank deposit entry. The NALS was begun by the U.S. Department of Education in 1988 and published as the National Institute for Literacy's "The State of Literacy in America" in 1993.

Notes

Data were obtained from a telephone survey of a random sample of 507 households in Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties. The survey was conducted in January 2000 by M. Crane and Associates and commissioned by the Sustainability Indicators Project. All of the interviews were conducted in English and approximately 5% of households contacted could not be interviewed due to apparent language barriers.

Students' Academic Performance

4

Ideal State: Central Texas schools meet the educational needs of all students through a system of educational excellence in a safe and inclusive community.

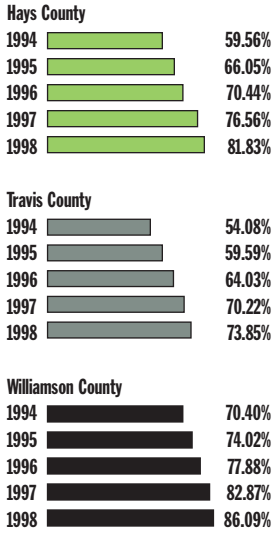
Measured by: The percentage of students who are at or above grade level in all core academic subjects—measured by TAAS performance.

Findings:

Scores have improved consistently on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills in all three counties over the past five years. The TAAS tests students in reading, mathematics, writing, science, and social studies at different grade levels. This indicator captures the percentage of students who pass the tests for their grade level in core academic subjects (reading, mathematics, writing).

Context: Passing rates and scores have risen across the state since the TAAS test was originated in the 1990-1991 school year. Since this is a custom-designed test for Texas, there is no national comparison. However, Texas has been recognized for gains in areas of student achievement by the National Education Goals Panel. Texas was also cited by this group for improving academic performance as measured largely by the National Assessment of Educational Progress test.

THE PERCENTAGE OF HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTY STUDENTS WHO ARE AT OR ABOVE GRADE LEVEL IN ALL CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS - MEASURED BY TAAS PERFORMANCE



Notes

These numbers represent the percentage of students who passed all core academic subjects of the TAAS (Texas Assessment of Academic Skills) test they took in all of the school districts in the three-county region. The data are available from the Texas Education Agency in its Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) District Reports.

5 School Quality

Ideal State: Central Texas Schools meet the educational needs of all students through a system of educational excellence in a safe and inclusive community.

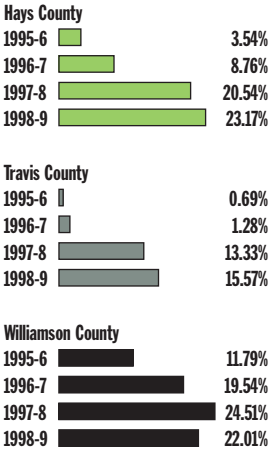
Measured by: The percentage of students who attend schools rated exemplary.

Findings:

The percentage of students attending exemplary schools in Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties has risen substantially over the last four years. An exemplary school in Texas is one in which at least 90% of students passed the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills in reading, writing, and math; there is a dropout rate of 1% or less; and attendance is at least 94%.

Context: In 1999, 16.5% of all public schools were rated exemplary in Texas. Because exemplary schools are defined by a test unique to Texas, there is no exact national comparison.

THE PERCENTAGE OF HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTY STUDENTS WHO ATTEND SCHOOLS RATED EXEMPLARY



Notes
In order to achieve an exemplary rating, a district or campus must meet the following criteria: at least 90.0% of all students passing the TAAS in reading, writing, and mathematics; a dropout rate of 1.0% or less; and an attendance rate of at least 94.0%. Data are available from the Texas Education Agency - Accountability Rating System District Reports and Public Education Information Management System Enrollment Reports.

Equity in Education

6

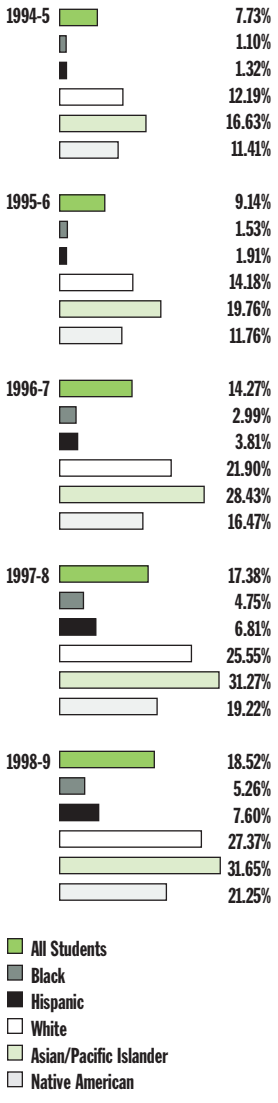
Ideal State: All Central Texans have equal access to justice, education, and economic advancement without regard for race or ethnicity.
Measured by: The percentage of students attending exemplary schools —by race/ethnicity.

Findings:

By the 1998-99 school year, less than 8% of Black and Hispanic students in the three counties were enrolled in exemplary public schools, while more than 27% of both Asian/Pacific Islander and White students attended exemplary schools. Over the past five years, the percentages of students enrolled in exemplary schools have been increasing steadily for all groups.

Context: Because exemplary schools are defined by a test unique in Texas, there is no exact comparison with national statistics. However, other national data on school success reflect dramatic differences in success by ethnicity. For example, the U.S. Department of Education reported the national dropout rate for 1997 was 11% overall, 6% for White students, 13.4% for Black students, and 25.3% for Hispanic students.

THE PERCENTAGE OF HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTY STUDENTS ATTENDING EXEMPLARY SCHOOLS—BY RACE/ETHNICITY



Notes
Exemplary schools are designated by uniform criteria from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) (see indicator #5). Raw data are available from the TEA's Accountability Rating System District Reports and Public Education Information Management System Enrollment Reports.

7 Equity in Law Enforcement

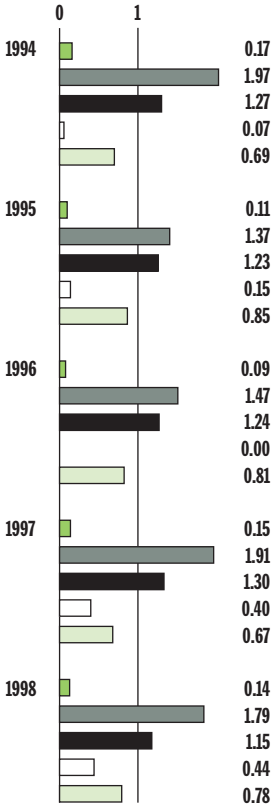
Ideal State: All Central Texans have equal access to justice, education, and economic advancement without regard for race or ethnicity.
Measured by: The ratio of the ethnicity percentages of youths' encounters with law enforcement system compared to the ethnicity percentages of the youth population.

Findings:

This ratio indicates the magnitude by which youths of different ethnicities are likely to be listed in criminal court as compared to their proportion of the general youth population. A ratio of more than 1 means that the ethnicity proportion of youths in the criminal court system is higher than the ethnicity proportion of youths in the general population. A ratio of less than 1 means that the ethnicity proportion of youths in the criminal court system is lower than the ethnicity proportion of youths in the general population. The ratios have remained relatively stable for all ethnicities over the five-year period. For all five years, the ratios for Black and Hispanic youths have been greater than 1, while the ratios for White, Asian, and Native American youths have been less than 1.

Context: Similar ratios are not available for other jurisdictions.

THE RATIO OF THE ETHNICITY PERCENTAGES OF YOUTHS' ENCOUNTERS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM COMPARED TO THE ETHNICITY PERCENTAGES OF THE YOUTH POPULATION—IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES



Asian/Pacific Islander
Black
Hispanic
Native American
White

Notes
The ratio reports the ethnicity percentage of youths arrested divided by the ethnicity percentage of youth in the general population. Youths arrested refers to the number of people 17 years of age or under who were arrested in Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties. Data are available from the Texas Department of Public Safety. Total youth population percentages are the public school population by race in Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties.

Equity in Access to Capital

8

Ideal State: All Central Texans have equal access to justice, education, and economic advancement without regard for race or ethnicity.
Measured by: The likelihood of an individual's home loan application being approved—by race/ethnicity.

Findings:

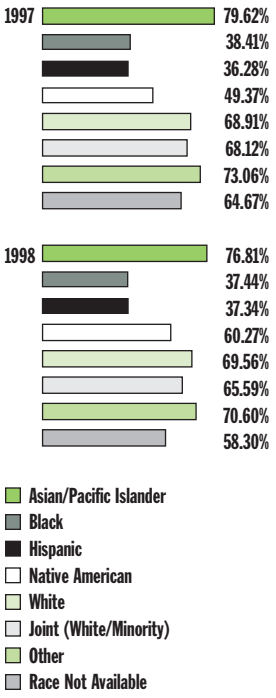
There is a disparity between racial groups in overall access to capital, some of which may be correlated to disparity in income levels. Asian/Pacific Islander individuals, White individuals, and "Joint Families" (defined as those with both White and minority members) were almost two times more likely to be approved for home loans than Black and Hispanic individuals. In both 1997 and 1998, Black and Hispanic individuals had the lowest rate of likelihood for getting their home loan applications approved. From 1997 to 1998, Native American/Alaskan Native individuals had the largest increase in likelihood for getting their home loans approved. For this analysis, home loan applications have not been subdivided by income level. These data are reported for the five-county Austin-San Marcos MSA.

Context: Austin-San Marcos MSA patterns of home loan application approval by ethnicity are similar to national trends with two exceptions. Hispanic approvals nationally are significantly higher than the rate of approval in the Austin-San Marcos MSA. Native American approvals nationally are lower than approvals locally, especially in 1998.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

Year	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	Native American	White	Joint (White/ Minority)	Other	Race not Available
1997	77.3%	40.40%	54.30%	42.15%	67.92%	68.75%	67.15%	55.61%
1998	78.4%	38.77%	53.08%	40.96%	67.42%	69.94%	63.96%	50.76%

THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S HOME LOAN APPLICATION BEING APPROVED—BY RACE/ETHNICITY—IN THE AUSTIN-SAN MARCOS MSA



Notes
The data are from the Disposition of Applications for Conventional Home-Purchase Loans, 1 to 4 Family Homes, by Race, produced by the Federal Financial Institution Examination Council (FFIEC) as directed by the Federal Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA).

9 Equity in Leadership Positions

Ideal State: Central Texas demonstrates that it values diversity.

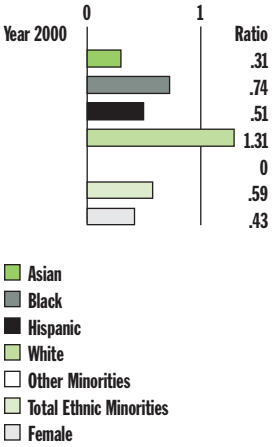
Measured by: The ratio of the percentages of persons who are ethnic minorities or women in regional leadership positions compared to the percentages of those groups in the total population.

Findings:

Based on data collected in January 2000, White individuals are represented at a higher percentage in leadership than in the general population, while ethnic minorities and women are represented at a lower percentage in leadership than in the general population. In reference to ethnic minorities, Black individuals have the highest ratio of representation, followed by Hispanic individuals, and then by Asian individuals. The percentage of minorities in leadership (23.17%) is approximately half as much as the percentage of minorities in the general population (39.5%). With the exception of Asian individuals, minorities and women had higher percentages of representation in government leadership compared to company leadership.

Context: Similar studies on corporate leadership use a substantially narrower definition of leadership positions. According to a Dallas Morning News Survey of the senior officers at the 100 largest companies in Dallas, racial minorities comprised 2.8% of the positions in 1998 and 3.9% of the positions in 1999. The Glass Ceiling Report (1993), a national study on leadership positions and diversity, found that 97% of senior managers at Fortune 1000 industrial and Fortune 500 companies are white and 95%-97% are male.

THE RATIO OF THE PERCENTAGES OF PERSONS WHO ARE ETHNIC MINORITIES OR WOMEN AND HOLD A REGIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITION COMPARED TO THE PERCENTAGES OF THOSE GROUPS IN THE TOTAL POPULATION—IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES



Notes

Regional leaders include city council members, county commissioners, county judges, school board members, state legislature delegates, and chief executives of private or public institutions with more than 500 employees in the region. Data on Texas State Representatives are from Texas Legislature Online. Data on chief executives of private institutions and other government officials are from a survey conducted by Susan Engelking. * Private firm leaders may include some institutions from Bastrop and Caldwell counties. ** Total population percentages are for the Austin-San Marcos MSA for 1998, available from the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce.

Participation in the Arts

10

Ideal State: Central Texas communities provide all interested persons exceptional opportunities for and easy access to artistic and cultural activities of their choice.

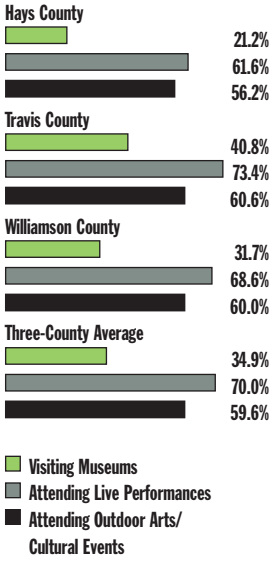
Measured by: The percentage of the regional population who report attending two or more arts or cultural activities or events in the past year.

Findings:

During 1999, roughly twice as many area residents attended live entertainment two or more times (70.0%) than made two or more visits to a museum (34.9%). In Hays County, approximately three times as many people attended live performances two or more times than made two or more visits to museums. In all three arts activities, Travis County had the highest percentage of people who attended two or more events per year and Hays County had the lowest. The survey also provided data on the public's perception of arts opportunities and arts quality: 49.2% believe there are "many" opportunities to attend live performances, 32.5% believe there are "many" opportunities to attend outdoor arts/cultural events, and 16.4% believe there are "many" opportunities to visit museums. Furthermore, when describing the quality of area arts/cultural offerings, 34.9% rated the museums "excellent" or "very good", 57.9% rated live performances "excellent" or "very good", and 47.8% rated arts/cultural events as "excellent" or "very good".

Context: In 1997, the Arts Participation in America survey reported that 50% of Americans attended at least one arts event. In reference to specific arts activities, 35% of the population visited museums, 25% attended musicals, 16% attended plays, and 16% attended classical music concerts.

THE PERCENTAGE OF HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO REPORT ATTENDING TWO OR MORE ARTS OR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS IN THE PAST YEAR



Notes

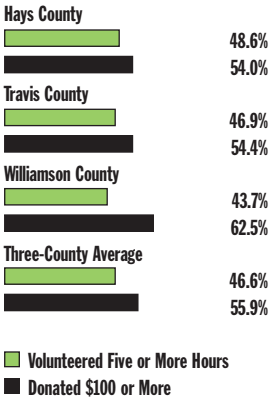
Data were obtained from a telephone survey of a random sample of 507 households in Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties. The survey was conducted in January 2000 by M. Crane and Associates and commissioned by the Sustainability Indicators Project.

11 Philanthropy and Volunteerism

Ideal State: Central Texans are engaged in their communities and participate in the civic process.

Measured by: The percentage of the regional population who report that they supported charitable organizations in the region by volunteering five or more hours in the last two months or donating $100 or more in the previous calendar year.

THE PERCENTAGE OF HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO REPORT THAT THEY SUPPORTED CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION BY VOLUNTEERING FIVE OR MORE HOURS IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS OR DONATING $100 OR MORE IN THE PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR



Findings:

Nearly half (46.6%) of area residents spent five or more hours volunteering during a two month period. Other findings from the survey (not pictured): 39.9% did not spend any time volunteering and 23.1% spent twenty or more hours volunteering. More than half (55.9%) of area residents contributed $100 or more to local charities during the prior year (1999). Other findings from the survey (not pictured): 23.9% donated $50 or less and 8.9% donated $1000 or more.

Context: According to the Independent Sector's 1998 survey, 55.5% of Americans volunteered annually and the average amount of time donated was 3.5 hours per week. In addition, 70% of American households made charitable contributions and the average contribution was $1,075. Americans gave approximately 1.9% of pre-tax income to charity in 1998. For the past three decades, Americans' level of giving has been less than 2.1% of their annual pre-tax income.

Notes
Data were obtained from a telephone survey of a random sample of 507 households in Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties. The survey was conducted in January 2000 by M. Crane and Associates and commissioned by the Sustainability Indicators Project.

Neighborliness 12

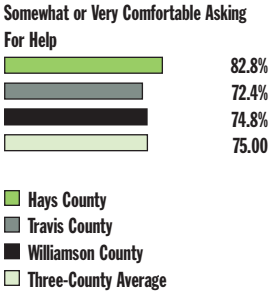
Ideal State: Central Texans know their neighbors and can call on them for friendship or help.
Measured by: The percentage of the regional population who report being comfortable asking a nearby neighbor for help or a small favor.

Findings:

Three quarters of area residents reported being "very" or "somewhat" comfortable asking a nearby neighbor for help or a small favor. Other analyses (not displayed) revealed a positive relationship between the number of years in the same neighborhood and being at ease asking a neighbor for help. Seventy percent of those in the same neighborhood five years or longer were "very" comfortable calling on neighbors for help; only 30% of those with one year or less of tenure felt that way.

Context: In King County, Washington (Seattle), 12% of people reported that they help their neighbors, 10% reported that they exchange labor/share things with neighbors, and 32% reported that they socialize with neighbors. Data from a 1994 poll conducted by Market Trends and published in "Sustainable Seattle: Indicators of Sustainable Community—1995".

THE PERCENTAGE OF HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO REPORT BEING COMFORTABLE ASKING A NEARBY NEIGHBOR FOR HELP OR A SMALL FAVOR



Notes
Data were obtained from a telephone survey of a random sample of 507 households in Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties. The survey was conducted in January 2000 by M. Crane and Associates and commissioned by the Sustainability Indicators Project.

13 Quality of Child Care

Ideal State: All children and families in Central Texas have access to high-quality early education, childcare, and family support.
Measured by: The turnover rate of child care workers.

Findings:

Under Construction - Incomplete Data

The percentage of staff replaced at accredited child care facilities in Travis County increased by approximately 50% between 1993 and 1997. In 1997, almost one third of child care staff were replaced.

Context: According to the Center for the Child Care Workforce, approximately one third of the nation's child care workforce leave their jobs each year.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION—INCOMPLETE DATA

THE TURNOVER RATE OF CHILD CARE WORKERS IN TRAVIS COUNTY

Year	Percent of Staff Replaced In One Year's Time
1993	Teachers 20% Aides, Assistant Teachers 22%
1997	31%

Notes
The 1993 data are from the City of Austin Child Care Supply and Demand Assessment and Industry Analysis, published in 1994. The 1997 data are from the Austin-Travis County Child Care Salary, Benefit, and Tuition Survey, published in December 1997. Both surveys include information only from accredited child care facilities which returned the surveys (51% return rate for the 1997 study).

Access to Child Care

14

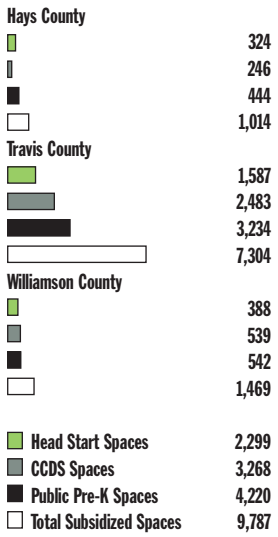
Ideal State: All children and families in Central Texas have access to high-quality early education, childcare, and family support.
Measured by: The number of subsidized child care spaces available to low- and moderate-income families.

Findings:

In 1999, the three-county area had a total of 9,787 subsidized child care spaces, with the largest number of spaces in public pre-kindergarten programs.

Context: In 1999, the Community Action Network and CENTEX Child Care Management Services reported that 16% of those eligible for subsidized child care in Austin were receiving aid. In Texas, only 7.7% of eligible children actually received subsidies from the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) in 1998. In the San Antonio four-county area, there were 6018 Head Start spaces, 9766 CCDS spaces, and 8088 public pre-kindergarten spaces. State data available from Child Care Bureau—Report on Access to Subsidized Child Care.

THE NUMBER OF SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE SPACES AVAILABLE TO LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME FAMILIES IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES



Notes
Subsidized child care spaces are funded by three primary sources: Head Start is a Federally-funded program; CCDS refers to Child Care Development Services administered by the Texas Workforce Commission; and Public Pre-K spaces are funded by the Texas Education Association (TEA) and local taxes. Data were obtained from the 1999 Texas Child Care Portfolio published by the Texas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies.

15 Civic Engagement

Ideal State: All Central Texans are engaged in their communities and participate in the civic process.
Measured by: The number of votes cast as a percentage of the total number of votes that could have been cast by registered voters—in local elections.

Findings:

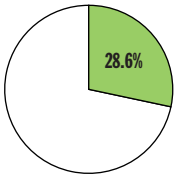
In the most recent elections for county commissioners, city council members, and school board trustees, the average percentage of registered voters casting ballots was 28.6% in Hays County, 19.23% in Travis County, and 22.34% in Williamson County. These voter participation figures are somewhat higher than the local rates that are often quoted because turnouts are higher when a local election occurs in the same time and location as a state or national election (November).

Context: Definitions of local elections vary regionally in terms of types of elections and methods of reporting. Available comparisons only included November elections (ordinarily higher in voter turnout), as opposed to the combined November-May elections for the local three-county area. In Multnomah County (Portland), 34.08% of registered voters voted in the November 1999 local elections. In Santa Clara County (San Jose), 27.6% of registered voters voted in the November 1999 local elections. In the city of Raleigh, 27.02% of registered voters voted in the November 1999 local elections.

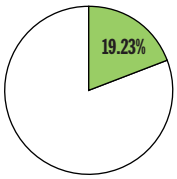
In 1998, the Texas Secretary of State estimated that 81.98% of Texas' voting-age population was registered to vote.

THE NUMBER OF VOTES CAST AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES THAT COULD HAVE BEEN CAST BY REGISTERED VOTERS—IN THE MOST RECENT ELECTIONS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

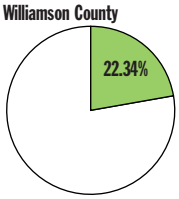
Hays County



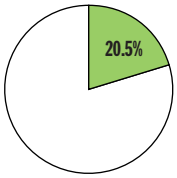
Travis County



Williamson County



Three-County Average



Notes
Local data were provided by the election authorities in thirty-two of the fifty-nine governmental entities holding elections in the three-county area. Local elections include the most recent elections for county commissioners (held in November 1998), city council members, and school board trustees (held in May 1999). Uncontested elections were not included. Data collected by Barbara Hankins, First Vice-President, League of Women Voters-Austin Area.

Our Workforce/ Our Economy

16 Government Effectiveness

UNDER CONSTRUCTION—INCOMPLETE DATA

THE PER CAPITA COST OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME—FOR PEOPLE PAYING TAXES TO TRAVIS COUNTY, AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE CITY OF AUSTIN, AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND CAPITAL METRO

1991	5.49%
1992	5.92%
1993	6.43%
1994	6.93%
1995	7.26%
1996	7.27%
1997	6.91%
1998	6.92%

Notes
This percentage takes the cost of local government per capita and divides it by the median household income. The Cost of Government Index is prepared by the Real Estate Council of Austin. Median household income is for a family of four in the Austin-San Marcos MSA (data available from U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development). Government revenues include property taxes levied by Travis County, AISD, the City of Austin, and ACC, sales taxes levied by the City of Austin and Capital Metro, and utility transfers collected by the City of Austin. Thus, these figures are accurate only for persons who reside within the jurisdictions of all five of these taxing authorities.

Ideal State: Government functions efficiently and responsively.
Measured by: The cost of local government as a percentage of median household income.

Findings:

Under Construction - Incomplete Data

As a percentage of median income, the cost of local government for people paying taxes to all of the five jurisdictions included in this study trended upwards from 1991 to 1996, but then dropped slightly in 1997. Those five jurisdictions are Travis County, Austin Independent School District, the City of Austin, Austin Community College, and Capital Metro.

Context: No comparable data to report at this time.

Cost of Living

17

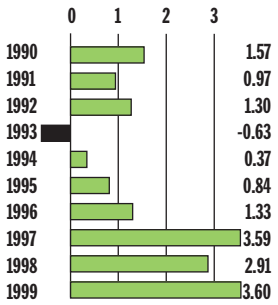
Ideal State: Central Texas is an affordable place to live, work, and play.
Measured by: The ratio of the rate of change of median household income to the rate of change of the cost of living.

Findings:

Since 1989, the median household income for a family of four in the five-county Austin-San Marcos MSA has increased 52.5% to $55,400, while the average cost of living as defined for this study has increased 32.5%. Ratios above 1 indicate that incomes increased faster for a specific year than did the cost of living, with a 2 indicating that incomes increased twice as fast as did costs. Ratios between 0 and 1 indicate that the cost of living increased faster for a specific year than did incomes. The year 1993 shows a negative ratio because incomes declined that year while the cost of living increased. The cumulative ratio for the ten-year period from 1989 to 1999 is 1.51.

Context: From 1996 to 1999, the median household income for a family of four in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington CMSA rose more than twice as fast as the cost of living.

THE RATE OF CHANGE OF THE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR IN THE FIVE-COUNTY AUSTIN-SAN MARCOS MSA DIVIDED BY THE RATE OF CHANGE OF THE COST OF LIVING CALCULATED FOR U.S. URBAN CONSUMERS



Notes
These ratios indicate the annual change in median household income divided by the annual change in the cost of living. Median household incomes are for a family of four in the five-county Austin-San Marcos MSA as reported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The cost of living is calculated using a designated "basket" of consumer goods and is reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This report relies on the established cost of living for U.S. urban consumers as local figures are not available.

18 Affordable Housing

Ideal State: All Central Texans have access to quality, desirable housing in livable communities throughout the region.
Measured by: The percentage of households that can afford to purchase a median priced home or rent a median priced rental unit.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION—INCOMPLETE DATA

THE PERCENTAGE OF HOMES PRICED AFFORDABLY* FOR A HOUSEHOLD EARNING THE MEDIAN INCOME FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR IN THE AUSTIN-SAN MARCOS MSA

1991	62.2%
1992	66.9%
1993	65.4%
1994	47.9%
1995	45.9%
1996	49.6%
1997	57.3%
1998	57.7%

Findings:

Under Construction—Incomplete Data

In the five-county Austin-San Marcos MSA, the percentage of homes priced affordably for a household earning the median income for a family of four decreased between 1991 and 1995 but then increased from 1996 to 1998. From 1994 to 1996, more than half of homes were unaffordable to households earning the median income for a family of four. Since then, both income and housing costs have risen, but income has risen faster.

Context: A different study by the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University reported that only 59% of Austin households had sufficient income to purchase the median priced home ($112,600) in 1998. The national average percentage of housing stock that was deemed affordable was 65.75% in 1998 (NAHB).

In that same year, the National Low Income Housing Coalition calculated that 59% of Austin metropolitan area renters were able to afford a market-rate, two-bedroom apartment according to federal standards. Between 1990 and 1998, the average rent in Austin increased 68%, and the average single family home price in Austin increased 71% (data available from "Through the Roof: A Report on Affordable Homes—August 1999", published by the Community Action Network).

Notes
The graph shows the Housing Opportunity Index for the Austin-San Marcos MSA as calculated by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). It identifies the percentage of the housing stock that is deemed affordable to households earning the median household income (as calculated for a family of four by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development). *The NAHB defines affordable homes as those for which the yearly payments (including mortgage, taxes, and insurance) are no more than 28% of a household's yearly earnings—this after a 10% down-payment. We were unable to calculate representative information for rental units for this report.

Household Income

19

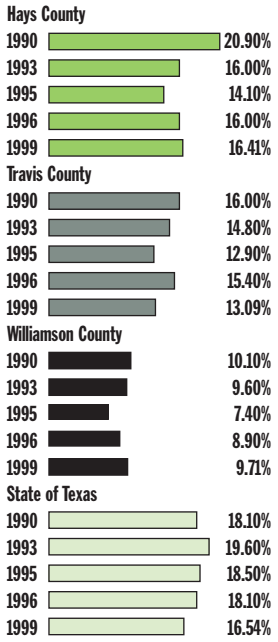
Ideal State: Central Texas is an area where workers are able to earn enough income to support their families.
Measured by: The percentage of the regional population living in households having annual incomes below the federal poverty threshold.

Findings:

The percentage of those living in poverty was lower in 1999 than in 1990, but not dramatically so in comparison to other economic trends in the region. The pattern of those living in poverty is highest in Hays County, with Travis County second, and Williamson County lowest. Poverty thresholds are updated by the U.S. Census Bureau on a yearly basis.

Context: The national percentage for those living below the poverty threshold in 1998 was 12.7%. The state percentage in 1999 was 16.54%. Currently, all three counties have percentages that are lower than the state of Texas. Nationally, the percentage of people living below the poverty threshold has decreased since 1990, with some variation.

THE PERCENTAGE OF HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTY RESIDENTS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS HAVING ANNUAL INCOMES BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY THRESHOLD

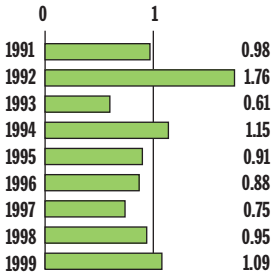


Notes
Individuals and families whose incomes fall at or under the poverty threshold are considered to be living in poverty. The poverty threshold varies according to family size. The 1990, 1993, and 1995 data are from the Federal Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. The 1996 and 1999 data are from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. In 1998, the poverty threshold for a family of four was $16,600.

20 Labor Availability

Ideal State: Central Texas has a diverse, well-trained labor supply that is in balance with employer needs.
Measured by: The ratio of the net change in the labor force to the net change in employment.

THE NET CHANGE IN THE LABOR FORCE DIVIDED BY THE NET CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT IN THE FIVE-COUNTY AUSTIN-SAN MARCOS MSA



Findings:

In six of the last nine years, the number of employed people in the five-county Austin-San Marcos MSA has increased faster than the number of people in the labor force—indicated by a ratio of less than 1. In the 1990s, the average ratio of growth in the labor force to growth in employment was 0.93. From 1990 to 1999, the Austin-San Marcos MSA labor force grew from 477,845 to 708,800 (a 48.3% increase), while the total registered, non-agricultural employment grew from 379,200 to 624,100 (a 64.6% increase).

Context: Over the past ten years, the Dallas PMSA (eight counties not including Fort Worth) labor force grew 24.7% while the registered non-agricultural employment grew 27.4%. In the San Antonio MSA (four counties) the available labor force increased 22.7%, while employment increased 27.9%. In the U.S., employment increased 20.1% for the same time period.

Notes
This ratio represents the growth in the available labor force divided by the growth in the number of persons actually employed. Where the number of available workers increases faster than the number of persons actually employed, the ratio will be greater than one. A ratio of less than one means that the number of persons actually employed is growing faster than the number of available workers, indicating a tighter labor market. The Labor Force estimates are from the Labor Market Information Department of the Texas Workforce Commission. The employment data are from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), "Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment, Adjusted Annual Average". The 1999 figure is an estimate from the TWC "Labor Market Review, August 1999".

Job Training Availability

21

Ideal State: Superior job training is available to provide Central Texans with the necessary skills and experiences that will enable them to advance in the workforce.

Measured by: The number of training slots in high demand occupations as a percentage of identified new job openings created.

Findings:

Under Construction—Incomplete Data

We have not been able to locate the total number of training slots for the high demand occupations. Sixty-nine high demand occupations for the Austin/Travis County area were identified by the Capital Area Workforce Development Board (CAWDB) with community input including the Community Action Network (CAN) partnership. Many of these occupations fall into one of the following industries: high tech, skilled trades, hospitality and food service, medical and biomedical, and administrative service.

Context: No comparable data to report at this time.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION—INCOMPLETE DATA

JOB TRAINING PROVIDERS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES

Type of Training Provider	
Larger Private Post-Secondary Education Training Institutions	750 - 1000*
Community College	16,000**
Non-Profit Providers	1125-1225***

Notes

The graph shows anecdotal information that relates primarily to applied training (training for direct job entry or job specific retraining). The table does not reflect the totality of available training slots for the area. Data compiled by Kathleen McCorquodale of the Texas Workforce Commission. *Training areas include: Auto Mechanics, Nursing, Court Reporting, Clerical; Computer: software, hardware, engineer, production. **Training areas include: Apprenticeship, Journeyworker, Business Development, Job Entry Prep, Career Advancement, Computer, Autocad, Management/Supervision, Personal Development. ***Of these 1125-1225 slots, 150 slots were in Clerical, Banking, Basic Computers, Financial Services; 275 were in Construction and Telecommuting; and 700-800 were in Construction, Environmental Sciences, Multimedia, Computer Applications, Communications Skills, Health, Employment Readiness.

22

Exporting Industries

YEARLY JOBS ADDED IN THE "EMERGING REGIONAL ADVANTAGE INDUSTRIES" IN THE AUSTIN-SAN MARCOS MSA

Ideal State: Job growth in key "primary" or "basic" industries continues to bring new dollars into Central Texas.
Measured by: The net new jobs added in industries that sell goods and services outside of the region and create "spin-off" jobs in the community.

Findings:

From 1996 through 1998, the five-county Austin-San Marcos MSA added 22,783 jobs in the "emerging regional advantage industries". These jobs, all in private firms, accounted for 28% of the 82,000 jobs added in the MSA from 1996 through 1998. Some counting errors may be included due to reclassification of firms, withheld employment information, or unintended inclusion of certain industries.

Context: Unavailable at press time.

Notes
Information calculated for the five-county Austin-San Marcos MSA. Employment data by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC Codes) provided by the Labor Market Information Department of the Texas Workforce Commission. Exporting industries are identified by the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce as those included in the three "expanding core clusters" and five "emerging industries" described in the 1998 report "Next Century Economy", commissioned by the GACC. Local basic industries that are excluded from the "clusters" include state government and higher education.

Job Opportunities

23

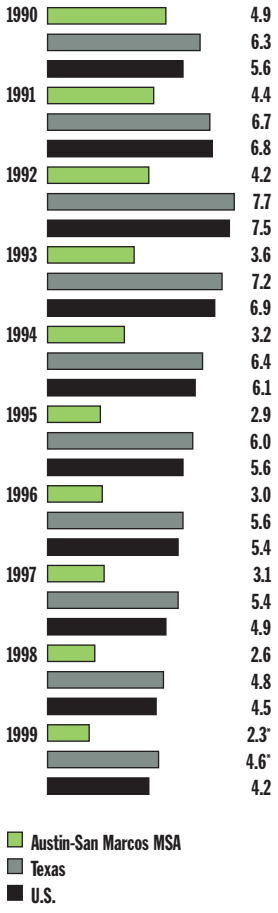
Ideal State: All Central Texas residents should have satisfactory job opportunities.
Measured by: The unemployment rate.

Findings:

The unemployment rate in the five-county Austin-San Marcos MSA has dropped steadily over the past decade. Unemployment figures for the region have consistently been substantially lower than state and national figures.

Context: The national unemployment rate for 1999 was 4.2%, down from 5.6% in 1990. The rate for Texas was 4.6% down from 6.3% in 1990. In the last decade national unemployment reached a high of 7.5% in 1992, while Texas unemployment reached a rate of 7.7% in that same year. The Dallas Primary MSA (eight counties not including Fort Worth) unemployment rate declined from 5.1% in 1990 to 3.1% in 1999*. The 1999 unemployment rates for other American cities include Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill MSA at 1.5% and San Jose MSA at 3.1%*.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE AUSTIN-SAN MARCOS MSA, TEXAS, AND THE U.S.



Notes
The unemployment rate is the ratio of the number of unemployed persons to the civilian labor force, expressed as a percentage. Unemployed persons are those who are available for work and made specific efforts to find employment some time during the four-week period prior to the survey data. The data are from the Texas Workforce Commission.
*State and local 1999 rates are calculated as the average of the first eleven months of 1999.

24 Diversity of Industries

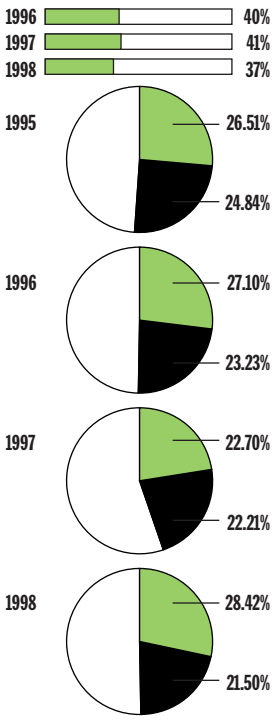
Ideal State: The Central Texas economy is diverse enough to minimize the negative effects of cyclical downturns and changing market conditions.
Measured by: The percentage of total yearly job growth occurring in each year's ten largest private industry sectors.

Findings:

While the ten largest industrial sectors have accounted for decreasing percentages of the new jobs in the five-county Austin-San Marcos MSA (40% down to 37% over three years), their share of the total regional employment has climbed slightly from 26.5% in 1995 to 28% in 1998. This is because the number of jobs added yearly is a relatively small portion of total regional employment. With little variation, the industrial sectors with the most employees in the region have been eating and drinking places, manufacture of electronic components and accessories, manufacture of computer and office equipment, grocery stores, and personnel supply services. Government's share of total regional employment dropped slightly from 25% in 1995 to 22% in 1998.

Context: Unavailable at press time.

THE PERCENTAGE OF NEW JOBS ADDED IN EACH YEAR'S TEN LARGEST PRIVATE INDUSTRY SECTORS AND THE PERCENTAGE OF JOBS IN THE LARGEST PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INDUSTRIES —IN THE AUSTIN-SAN MARCOS MSA



Notes
Industry sectors are defined here as the third level of specificity (out of four) of the national industry classification system (SIC codes). The data includes private sector employment for the five Austin-San Marcos MSA counties (Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, Williamson). Employment data were provided by the Labor Market Information Department of the Texas Workforce Commission.

Diversity of Employers

25

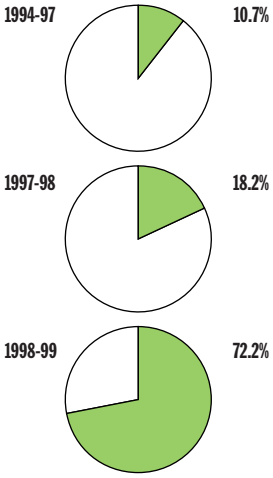
Ideal State: The Central Texas Economy is diverse enough to minimize the negative effects of cyclical downturns and changing market conditions.
Measured by: The percentage of yearly job growth accounted for by the ten private firms with the most employees in the region.

Findings:

The percentage of yearly job growth accounted for by the ten largest firms in the three-county region increased substantially from 1994 to 1999. During this time, 17,974 new jobs were created in these top ten firms. Of those increased numbers, 9,000 jobs came from Dell Computer Corporation alone. Other major increases came from Walmart, HEB Grocery, and Seton Healthcare Network. Over the past five years, the top ten firms have been growing larger and making up a larger proportion of the total jobs for the area. In 1999, the top ten firms accounted for 11.1% of the total employment for the five-county Austin-San Marcos MSA, up from 7.5% in 1994.

Context: According to the Business Journal's Book of Lists and the Oregon Employment Department, Portland's top ten firms accounted for 41.8% of the yearly job growth in the region during the 1998-1999 time period. In 1999, the top ten firms accounted for 7% of the total employment in Portland.

THE PERCENTAGE OF YEARLY JOB GROWTH ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE TEN PRIVATE FIRMS WITH THE MOST EMPLOYEES IN THE FIVE-COUNTY AUSTIN-SAN MARCOS MSA.



Notes
The percentage represents the job growth in the top ten firms divided by the job growth in the Austin-San Marcos MSA in a single year. Job additions for these companies are calculated from the list of ten in the current year (individual companies move in and out the top ten list). Data are somewhat inconsistent because the methods for gathering data vary both over time and regionally. In addition, some companies report all employees, while others report only full-time employees. Local data were obtained from the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Workforce Commission.

26 Entrepreneurship

Ideal State: Central Texas is a region where entrepreneurship flourishes.
Measured by: The percentage of new businesses that survive to their third year.

THE PERCENTAGE OF NEW BUSINESSES THAT SURVIVE TO THEIR THIRD YEAR IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES

Findings:

Throughout the 1990s, approximately three-fourths of new businesses in Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties continued to operate three years after first incorporating. In per capita terms, there were 2.15 surviving three-year old businesses per 1,000 residents in 1998. That number has grown steadily from 1.70 in 1995.

Context: The new business survival rate for the 1996-98 period in the Dallas Primary MSA (eight counties not including Fort Worth) was 77.9%. For the San Antonio MSA (four counties), the rate was 79.2%. In 1998, the number of surviving 3-year old businesses per 1,000 residents was 2.20 in Dallas and 1.29 in the San Antonio.

Notes
Data based on franchise taxpayers (incorporated, for-profit businesses) that are still filing returns as ongoing entities after initially filing two years earlier. Data collected by the Texas State Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Technological Innovation

27

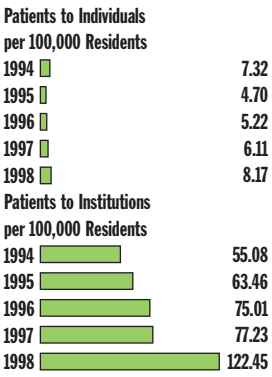
Ideal State: Central Texas is a region where innovation flourishes.
Measured by: The number of utility patents issued to institutions and individuals.

Findings:

The number of utility patents issued in the five-county Austin-San Marcos MSA has grown 141% in the last five years. Most of that increase has been accounted for by patents to institutions, notably IBM and Dell. In 1998, individually owned patents accounted for 6.3% of the total, down from 11.7% in 1994.

Context: The number of patents issued in the Raleigh, Portland, and San Jose areas have also increased over the past five years. From 1994 to 1998, the patents issued in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill MSA increased by 107.5%, in the Portland-Vancouver MSA they increased by 140.6%, and in the San Jose MSA they increased by 134.9%. During the same time period, the total number of patents in the U.S. grew by 43.1%.

THE NUMBER OF UTILITY PATENTS ISSUED PER 100,000 RESIDENTS IN THE AUSTIN-SAN MARCOS MSA—BY INSTITUTION OR INDIVIDUAL



Notes
Only utility patents (patents for inventions) are included in this report. A patent is associated with a particular MSA based on the inventor address on the patent. Data obtained from the Office for Patent and Trademark Information—Technology Assessment and Forecast (TAF) Program, Washington, D.C.

Our Health/ Our Environment

28 Individual Health Status

Ideal State: All Central Texans are physically and mentally healthy.
Measured by: The percentage of adults who report that their health status is excellent or very good.

THE PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS REPORTING THAT THEIR HEALTH STATUS IS EXCELLENT OR VERY GOOD IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES

Findings:

Since 1995, between 61% and 67% of Hays, Travis, and Williamson County adults reported that their health status was "excellent" or "very good". This in response to a telephone survey asking the question: "In general, would you say your health is poor, fair, good, very good, or excellent?"

Context: While the three-county region reported a relatively stable level of health status over the five year reporting period, the Texas level dropped slightly in that time. In 1998, almost a third more people in Central Texas reported having excellent or very good health compared with Texas overall.

THE PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS REPORTING THAT THEIR HEALTH STATUS IS EXCELLENT OR VERY GOOD IN TEXAS

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
% responding "excellent" or "very good"	55.2%	53.6%	51.7%	51.0%	no survey

Notes
Data are based on a standard self-reported health status survey question: "In general, would you say your health is poor, fair, good, very good, or excellent?" The three-county telephone survey was conducted by Health Partnership and Seton Healthcare Network. The Texas data come from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey conducted by the Texas Department of Health. This survey indicator was chosen over death/disease rates because it measures overall health, a factor that can be addressed by community initiatives.

Physical and Mental Health

29

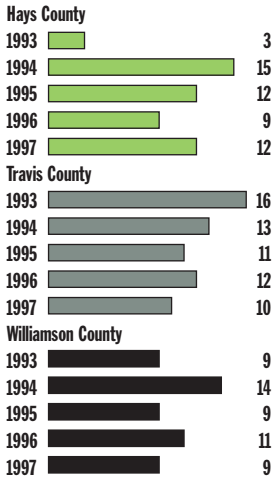
Ideal State: All Central Texans are physically and mentally healthy.
Measured by: The number of suicides per 100,000 residents.

Findings:

The total number of suicides per 100,000 residents in Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties has remained fairly stable over the last five years, although there has been some variation from county to county.

Context: In 1997, the total number of suicides per 100,000 residents for both Texas and the nation was 11. The 1997 rate of suicide for Central Texas is similar to statewide and national rates.

THE NUMBER OF SUICIDES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES



Notes
Data obtained from the Texas Department of Health and from Texas State Data Center Population Estimates.

30 Health Insurance Coverage

THE PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES WHO REPORT HAVING HEALTH INSURANCE

Ideal State: All Central Texans have access to quality health care.
Measured by: The percentage of adults who report having health insurance.

Findings:

The data, derived from a survey of Hays, Travis, and Williamson County residents aged 18-64, show that approximately four-fifths of the three-county area population have health insurance. Though percentages are borderline for statistical reliability, there was a significantly higher proportion of uninsured in Hays County in 1998 (22.1%), compared with Travis County (13.9%) and Williamson County (8.5%).

Context: In 1998, the proportion of uninsured for the state of Texas was 24%. On the national level, the U.S. Bureau of the Census reports that 16.3% of Americans lacked health insurance in 1998.

THE PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS IN TEXAS WHO REPORT HAVING HEALTH INSURANCE

Survey date	May 95	May 96	May 97	May 98	May 99
respondents having health insurance	82.0%	76.9%	75.3%	76.0%	

Notes
The sample of residents was primarily random, but was stratified to achieve a more appropriate representation of low income, Hispanic, and African-American people. Results were also weighted by age, sex, and residence zip code. The three-county telephone survey was conducted by Health Partnership 2000 and the Seton Healthcare Network. Texas data are from Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (telephone) conducted by the Texas Department of Health. U.S. data are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Air Quality

31

Ideal State: Central Texas residents are not exposed to levels of air pollutants that are hazardous to their health or their environment.
Measured by: The number of days local air quality fails to meet national, health-based standards for ozone.

Findings:

The five-county Austin-San Marcos MSA experienced a significant (233%) increase in the number of violation-days from 1998 to 1999. The primary factors contributing to that increase include extended periods of very hot, still weather and increased motor vehicle traffic in the region. Ozone is not the only air pollutant of concern; however, it is the most problematic in this region.

Context: The Oklahoma City MSA failed to meet the national standard for air quality 3 days in 1997 and 8 days in 1998. The Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill MSA failed to meet the national standard 15 days in 1997 and 21 days in 1998. The Kansas City MSA failed to meet the national standard 6 days in 1997, 6 days in 1998, and 5 days in 1999.

THE NUMBER OF DAYS AIR QUALITY FAILED TO MEET NATIONAL, HEALTH-BASED STANDARDS FOR OZONE IN THE AUSTIN-SAN MARCOS MSA

Notes
Number of days in which ground-level ozone readings exceeded the federal eight hour standard of 85 parts per billion. Data collected from monitoring stations in the Austin-San Marcos MSA by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC). According to the Federal Clean Air Act, regions that fail to maintain acceptable air quality must submit a plan for addressing air pollution and may lose federal subsidies, especially transportation-related funds.

32 Hazardous Materials

ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASES IN POUNDS*

	Hays	Travis	William.	Total
1992	55,278	706,275	124,474	886,027
1993	47,455	429,810	113,423	590,688
1994	65,251	324,535	68,000	457,786
1995	66,518	359,051	55,719	481,288
1996	78,485	401,995	99,606	580,086
1997	70,039	243,296	32,519	345,854

OFF-SITE TRANSFER IN POUNDS*

	Hays	Travis	Williams.	Total
1992	250	7,863,128	109,251	7,972,629
1993	250	4,465,469	239,905	4,705,624
1994	134,101	4,108,779	87,312	4,330,192
1995	700,233	4,112,621	105,831	4,918,685
1996	39,648	3,287,893	207,334	3,534,875
1997	76,667	4,242,802	160,888	4,480,357

Notes
The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is a federally-mandated accounting of specified chemicals released or moved from specified locations. Environmental releases are point-source discharges of material into the air, water, or the ground via landfills or underground injection. Off-site transfers are the movement of specific hazardous materials from one site to another for treatment, storage, disposal, recycling, or burning. Data are collected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Information available at <www.scorecard.org>. *©2000 Environmental Defense—used by permission.

Ideal State: Central Texans are not exposed to harmful levels of toxic or hazardous materials.
Measured by: The Toxics Release Inventory.

Findings:

From 1992 to 1997, the three-county region experienced a significant reduction in the amount of TRI-listed, toxic materials that were released into the environment—from 886,027 pounds down to 345,854 pounds. Hays County experienced a 30% increase, but still accounts for only 20% of total regional releases. The movement of listed toxic materials in the region was reported as nearly 8 million pounds of off-site transfers in 1992. Between 1993 and 1997, that number has fluctuated between 3.5 and 4.9 million. In 1997, Travis County accounted for 94% of the transfers in the region.

Context: The pounds of environmental releases in 1997 for other counties were as follows: Bexar County—892,294; Tarrant County—1,476,923; and Wake County, North Carolina (Raleigh)—957,550. The pounds of off-site transfers in 1997 for other counties were: Bexar County—1,415,144; Tarrant County—2,807,287; and Wake County—686,927.

Water Quality

33

Ideal State: All Central Texas residents have access to clean drinking water and waters (lakes, rivers, and streams) that support environmental and wildlife habitat needs as well as human recreational uses.

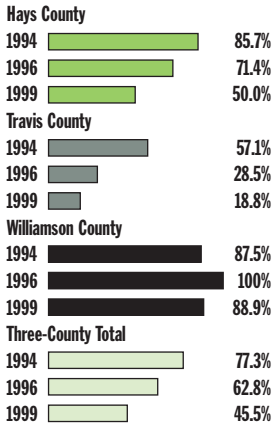
Measured by: The percentage of monitored water bodies that meet (are not in violation of any) state water quality standards.

Findings:

The reported percentage of water bodies that meet the water quality standard for the three-county region has decreased significantly, from 77.3% to 45.5% over the five-year period. A mitigating factor may be the increased number of monitoring stations in 1999. The percentage of water bodies that meet the water quality standard has been lowest in Travis County and highest in Williamson County.

Context: In the San Antonio MSA, in 1999, fifteen of nineteen (79%) monitored water bodies passed all state water quality standards, with one designated stream lacking sufficient data. In Portland, six out of seven monitored streams were ranked as "poor" or "very poor" for the time period of 1989-1998.

THE PERCENTAGE OF MONITORED WATER BODIES IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES THAT MEET (ARE NOT IN VIOLATION OF ANY) STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

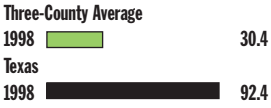


Notes

Quality standards consider human uses, aquatic life uses, temperature, algae growth, dissolved solids, and various chemical and biological criteria. If a water body violates just one of these individual standards, it is listed as being out of compliance. Monitored bodies include the largest lakes, rivers, and streams in the region, with multiple monitoring sites along several rivers (e.g., Lake Travis, Lake Austin, Town Lake, and below Longhorn Dam on the Colorado). Data are available from the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission.

34 Energy Use

THE PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES



Ideal State: Non-renewable energy use in Central Texas is minimized in order to reduce pollution and energy costs to consumers.
Measured by: Per capita consumption of non-renewable energy.

Findings:

In the study period, residents of Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties used the annual equivalent of 30.4 barrels of oil per person in non-renewable energy sources. Actual energy sources for power, heat, and propulsion included coal, natural gas, oil, and uranium. Non-renewable energy is defined as energy that is generated from sources that cannot be replenished within a time frame meaningful to humans. This figure may be somewhat low due to the researcher's inability to include wholesale natural gas use at facilities other than power plants, some industrial energy use, and off-road motor fuel use.

Context: Texans' average yearly consumption of energy derived from non-renewable sources has remained between 92 and 96 barrels of oil through the 1990s. The energy-intensive petro-chemical industries elevate the state average consumption considerably. In 1995, Texas had the second highest per capita energy consumption at 92.5 barrels of oil. Louisiana had the most at 146.85 and Rhode Island had the least at 39.61 (source: Virtus Energy Research Associates and U.S. Census Bureau.) The comparatively low energy consumption in Central Texas indicates that there is little heavy industry here. The local figure would be greater if it accounted for goods and services consumed here but produced outside of the region.

Notes
Local data relies on reported energy consumption information from 1997, 1998, and 1999 and on population data from 1998 (Texas State Data Center estimate). It is also assumed that, for power plants generating electricity, gas produces 11,300 BTUs per kilowatt-hour (kwh), coal produces 10,120 BTUs per kwh, and nuclear produces 10,000 BTUs per kwh. Motor fuel consumption is a statewide average of gasoline, diesel, and propane used to propel on-road vehicles and jet-fuel. A barrel of oil is equal to 55 gallons. Statewide, industry uses approximately 60% of total energy. Source for Texas and national data: U.S. Department of Energy—1995 State Energy Data Report and Virtus Energy Research Associates.

Solid Waste

35

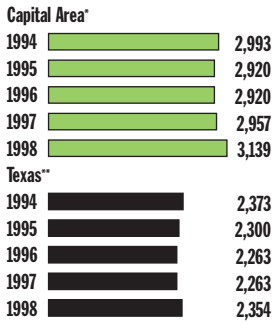
Ideal State: Central Texas's solid waste is managed so that it does not contribute to pollution.
Measured by: The estimated weight of solid waste sent to local landfills, per capita.

Findings:

In the Capital Area Council of Governments planning area that includes Hays, Travis, Williamson, and seven other surrounding counties, the amount of solid waste sent to local landfills remained between 2,920 and 2,993 pound per capita from 1994 and 1997. From 1997 to 1998 that number increased to 3,319 pounds. For the state of Texas, the municipal solid waste sent to landfills remained between 2,263 and 2,234 pounds per capita from 1994 to 1998. The amount of solid waste sent to landfills in Central Texas was consistently higher than in the state as a whole. This is partially due to the fact that our per capita figures include waste sent to our landfills from other regions.

Context: Only limited comparisons can be made with other regions in the nation because each state has a different definition of solid waste and a different method for calculating disposal rates. According to the King County, Washington Department of Natural Resources, the waste disposed per capita in King County (Seattle area) was 1,800 pounds in 1998. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality reports that the waste disposed per capita in the Portland region was 1,608 pounds in 1998.

THE ESTIMATED POUNDS PER CAPITA OF SOLID WASTE SENT TO LANDFILLS IN THE TEN-COUNTY CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS PLANNING AREA



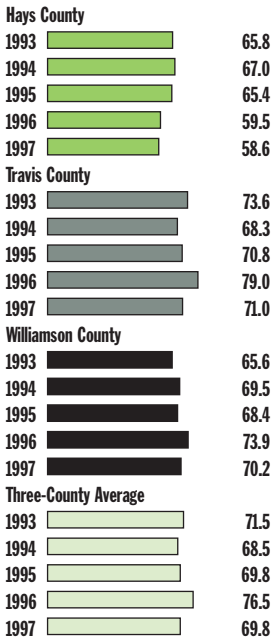
Notes
Data are available from Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC), Waste Planning and Assessment Division. Because local landfills often import waste from other counties, the amount of waste sent to local landfills can be greater than the amount of waste generated by area residents. *Based on the per capita disposal rate for the Capital Area Council of Governments as reported by the TNRCC. The TNRCC calculates per capita disposal figures at the Council of Governments level, thus county figures were unavailable. **Based on the state's municipal solid waste per capita disposal rate as reported by the TNRCC.

36 Future Water Availability

Ideal State: Central Texans residents and businesses conserve water to ensure adequate and affordable long-term supplies and to reduce the demand for new water sources.

Measured by: Per capita water consumption.

THE PER CAPITA WATER CONSUMPTION IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES – IN 1,000S OF GALLONS



Findings:

Per capita water consumption from 1993 to 1997 decreased slightly in Hays and Travis counties and increased in Williamson County. Average water consumption in the region remained fairly stable except for the 1996 high of 76,510 gallons. Water consumption tended to be highest during years of low rainfall.

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Rainfall in inches Austin—Camp Mabry	26.50	41.16	33.98	29.58	47.06

Context: Of the three comparable counties listed below, Dallas County had the highest water consumption per capita, while Bexar County had the lowest. The Austin area counties as a whole are closest to the water consumption rates of Dallas County. In the three comparable counties, the amount of water consumption per capita varied from year to year, but no significant trend was apparent from 1993 to 1997.

Year	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Dallas County	75.3	67.7	73.6	74.4	72.6
Tarrant County	61.7	58.1	60.2	63.6	61.1
Bexar County	54.8	56.8	57.7	57.6	55.5

The table shows per capita water consumption in 1,000s of gallons.

Notes
The Texas Water Development Board collects consumption information in an annual survey. All suppliers except small private wells are included in the survey. Population estimates were obtained from the Texas State Data Center.

Our Land/ Our Infrastructure

37 Attractiveness of the Landscape

Ideal State: Central Texas residents enjoy a beautiful natural and constructed environment.

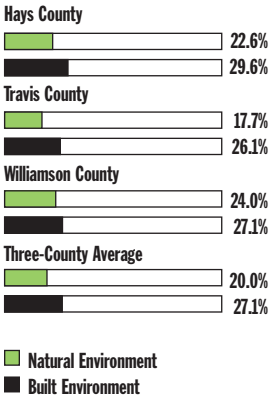
Measured by: The percentage of the regional population who report that the natural and built environments in their neighborhoods have become more appealing in the last 2-3 years.

Findings:

Hays, Travis, and Williamson County residents who lived in the same residence for two years or more described recent changes in the surrounding natural environment and the surrounding built environment. Twenty percent of survey respondents reported that the natural environment surrounding their neighborhoods was improving, 49.6% said it was "about the same", and 30.4% noted a decline in appeal. When asked about the built environment, 27.1% of area residents surveyed reported that their neighborhood was improving, 40.8% described it as "about the same", and 32.0% noted a decline in appeal.

Context: No comparable statistics were available.

THE PERCENTAGE OF THE REGIONAL POPULATION WHO REPORT THAT THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE BECOME MORE APPEALING IN THE LAST 2-3 YEARS



Notes
Data were obtained from a telephone survey of a random sample of 507 households in Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties. The survey was conducted in January 2000 by M. Crane and Associates and commissioned by the Sustainability Indicators Project.

Rural Land in the Region

38

Ideal State: Residential and commercial development in Central Texas is encouraged in appropriate areas to ensure affordable infrastructure, preserve open space and ecosystem health, minimize pollution, and support economical and efficient transportation.

Measured by: The percentage of crop, ranch, and other undeveloped land approved for conversion to residential and commercial use.

Findings:

Under Construction—Incomplete Data

The percentage of residentially developed acres was only available for 1990; new percentages will be available in 2000. This chart shows the percentage of new platted lots in 1998 (which will most likely be developed in the next three to four years) and the 1990 baseline. This chart does not show the land that was developed/platted for development between the years of 1990 and 1998. In 1998, 0.68% of the total land in the three-county region was platted for new residential subdivisions. Just over 1% of the total acreage of Travis County was approved for new residential units in that year. Hays had much less total development: 0.06%. In 1990, 4.3% of the total land in the region was devoted to residential development.

Context: The U.S. Bureau of the Census reports that 5% of non-federal land is classified as "developed".

UNDER CONSTRUCTION—INCOMPLETE DATA

THE ACREAGE OF 1998 NEWLY PLATTED RESIDENTIAL LOTS AND 1990 TOTAL RESIDENTIAL LOTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL LAND IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES

Acreage of New Platted Residential Lots as % of Total Acreage—1998	
Hays County	0.06%
Travis County	1.06%
Williamson County	0.71%
Three-County Averages	0.68%

Residentially Developed Acres as % of Total Acreage—1998	
Hays County	1.63%
Travis County	8.29%
Williamson County	2.30%
Three-County Averages	4.30%

Notes
Information on platted lots obtained from American METRO/STUDY Corporation, Mike Inselmann, Houston Office.

39

Public Open Space

ACRES OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER 1,000 RESIDENTS IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES*

Ideal State: Central Texas parks and public green spaces provide affordable public recreational opportunities to a growing population while protecting wildlife habitat and environmental quality.

Measured by: The acres of publicly-owned land in Central Texas devoted to parks, recreational areas, preserves, and wildlife protection areas-per 1,000 residents.

Findings:

From 1994 to 1998, the number of acres of public open space per 1,000 residents in the three-county region dropped slightly from 62.9 to 60.3. While new public lands were added in that period, the population increased more rapidly.

Context: The National Recreation and Park Association recommends 39.6 acres of parks and open space per 1,000 residents.

Notes

For this study, the open space acreage includes publicly-owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife preserves (some of which are closed to the public for research), and hunting grounds. This study does not include privately-owned open spaces that are available for public use. Data sources for open space acreage include: Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Travis County Parks, Hays County, City of Round Rock Parks and Recreation Department, City of San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department, City of Kyle, City of Buda, City of Dripping Springs, City of Leander, City of Georgetown, Pflugerville Parks and Recreation, City of Taylor, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, and the Nature Conservancy. The acres of open space do not include Lake Georgetown lands or parks and recreational lands belonging to Cedar Park.

*Population estimates are from the Texas State Data Center.

Density of New Development

40

Ideal State: Residential and commercial development in Central Texas is encouraged in appropriate areas to ensure affordable infrastructure, preserve open space and ecosystem health, minimize pollution, and support economical and efficient transportation.

Measured by: The number of people per developed residential acre.

Findings:

Under Construction—Incomplete Data

In 1990, the three-county region had 10 people per developed residential acre. Travis County had the highest density at 10.63, while Williamson County had the lowest at 8.36.

Context: No context information was available at press time.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION—INCOMPLETE DATA

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER DEVELOPED RESIDENTIAL ACRE IN 1990 IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES

Hays County	9.19
Travis County	10.63
Williamson County	8.36
Three-County Average	10.01

Notes

Data on developed residential acreage was obtained from the Texas Natural Resource Information System. Population estimates were obtained from the Texas State Data Center. New data is expected to be available in 2000.

41 Vehicle Miles Traveled

Ideal State: Central Texans have access to affordable and reliable transportation alternatives that allow them to travel efficiently throughout the region.

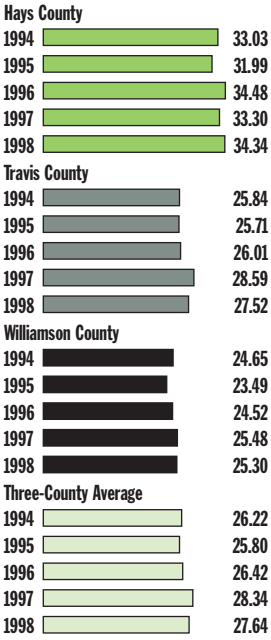
Measured by: Daily vehicle miles traveled per capita.

Findings:

The average number of vehicle miles traveled per capita in the three-county area increased from 26.22 to 27.64 between 1994 and 1998. The highest numbers consistently occurred in Hays County, with the lowest in Williamson County. In 1983, the daily vehicle miles traveled per capita for the three-county area was 23.32; in 1988 that figure was 25.60.

Context: In the four-county Dallas-Fort Worth area, the number of daily vehicle miles traveled per capita was 27.61 in 1994 and 28.07 in 1998. In the four-county San Antonio MSA, the number of daily vehicle miles traveled per capita increased slightly from 23.39 in 1994 to 25.54 in 1998.

THE DAILY VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED PER CAPITA IN HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES



Notes

The Texas Department of Transportation estimates daily vehicle miles traveled for all highways, city streets, and county rounds. The data are calculated by counting the number of vehicles on designated road segments and calculating the distance for each segment. Vehicles are counted with electronic counters. Population estimates for 1994 through 1998 are from the Texas State Data Center. Population estimates for 1983 and 1988 are from the U.S. Bureau of Census and the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University.

Time Spent Commuting

42

Ideal State: Central Texans have access to affordable and reliable transportation alternatives that allow them to travel efficiently throughout the region.

Measured by: The average commute time.

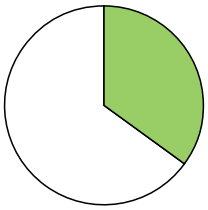
Findings:

The average one-way commute time was 21.4 minutes. Departing trips tended to take slightly longer (20.6 minutes) than returning trips (22.2 minutes). The vast majority (91.9%) travel by private passenger vehicle. The remainder rely on various other modes: carpool—less than 1.4%; public transportation—4.2 %; on foot or by bicycle—1.8%. When asked how their travel times had changed in the last year, 40.0% said that their daily trips took longer, 51.2% said "about the same", and 8.8% said that their daily trips were taking less time. The survey did not include enough respondents to provide statistically valid travel time estimates for modes of transportation other than private passenger vehicles.

Context: The average one-way commute time in Multnomah County, Oregon (Portland) in 1996 was 22 minutes, up from 21 minutes in 1990. The average one-way commute time in Santa Clara County, California (San Jose) in 1998 was 26.5 minutes. The average one-way commute time in Charlotte, NC in 1998 was 23 minutes. The average one-way commute time in the Houston area in 1998 was 25 minutes. In 1998, the percentages of commuters using mass transit were: 14% in Multnomah County, 3.9% in Santa Clara County, and 2% in Charlotte.

THE AVERAGE ONE-WAY COMMUTE TIME FOR RESIDENTS OF HAYS, TRAVIS, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES

Year	One-Way Average Commute Time
2000	21.4 Minutes



Notes

Area residents estimated the time required to travel between their home and workplace (or another regular destination). Data were obtained from a telephone survey of a random sample of 507 households in Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties. The survey was conducted in January 2000 by M. Crane and Associates and commissioned by the Sustainability Indicators Project.

Appendix

Indicators Suggested but not Adopted

Our Community/Our Children

- percentage of inmates who are repeat offenders
- number of young people with learning disabilities
- percentage of minorities in all public schools
- percentage of schools that have a program on the Bill of Rights
- participation by parents in schools
- high school drop-out rate
- adult education opportunities
- number of home-schooling families
- number of church-based schools
- number of children being home-schooled
- number of children attending church-based schools
- average class size
- average training level of teachers
- number of discrimination complaints
- number of race-related complaints filed against police officers/department
- residential segregation index
- number of lawsuits per capita
- optimism
- connection to place
- connectedness to others / social support / reciprocity
- social capital index
- civic involvement
- number of arts/cultural institutions serving young people
- number of non-governmental programs for social problems
- availability of basic needs assistance
- change in the percentage of land area within established neighborhood boundaries
- ratio of neighborhoods to neighborhood associations
- degree of integration of neighborhoods in local land planning decisions
- number of active, registered neighborhood associations
- number of 2-parent households
- regional population by race/ethnicity and age
- number of households who attend church on a regular basis
- number of churches per capita
- divorce rates
- number of teen pregnancies
- number of unwed mothers
- percentage of child support paid
- number of families where one parent is able to stay home with the children
- number of joint planning projects
- number of uncontested local elections

Our Workforce/Our Economy

- gap between rich and poor
- per capita income / weekly wages
- gross metropolitan product
- housing ownership
- housing crowding
- housing plumbing
- change in median home value
- housing units priced below median
- occupancy rate of housing supply
- percentage of residential units with quality ratings A, B, or C
- number of home-based businesses
- growth of large-scale, highly-capitalized, labor-intensive businesses
- growth of medium-sized businesses
- number of small businesses
- economic value added locally
- number and value of business loans in low income area
- ratio of dollars spent in locally-owned to externally-owned businesses
- percentage of residents employed in locally-owned businesses
- percent of population earning a “living” wage

Our Health/Our Environment

- number of young people with respiratory illness
- total number of people with respiratory illness
- number of illnesses/deaths due to air pollution
- estimated health care costs associated with illnesses/deaths due to air pollution
- number of people with diabetes
- number of people with cancer
- number of people with heart disease
- chronic disease mortality rates
- tuberculosis cases per capita
- number of young people with weight problems
- number of abortions performed per year
- local industrial emissions of ozone-forming pollutants
- mobile source emissions of ozone-forming pollutants
- industrial emission of other criteria pollutants
- industrial emission of air toxins
- pollution transported from other regions of the state
- total volume of toxic emissions
- total amount of hazardous waste produced, stored, and transported in region

- total amount of hazardous chemicals/materials being used and stored in region
- number of accidents involving hazardous chemicals/material/waste
- toxic materials sold in region
- swimmability and fish-edibility rating for Town Lake
- fishable/swimmable river miles/lake acres
- percentage of watersheds defined by the state as "water quality impaired" for which total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) have been identified and watershed clean-up plans implemented
- percentage of rivers, creeks, lakes and other water bodies in which water quality has declined in past year, based on an environmental integrity index for watersheds.
- watershed erosion assessments
- percentage of population that knows watershed lived in
- soil erosion
- percentage of surface area impervious, by watershed
- housing starts in water quality protection zone
- native wildlife populations
- number of native plants and animals considered threatened
- population of Barton Springs salamander
- number of nesting pairs of black-capped vireos and golden-cheeked warblers
- per capita tons of solid waste recycled
- total water consumption by customer type
- per capita wastewater produced
- total energy consumption by customer type
- percentage of new buildings/renovations earning 3 or more green building stars

Our Land/Our Infrastructure

- local agricultural diversity
- percentage of food consumed locally that is grown or produced locally
- amount of acreage farmed in region
- average distance from public green space
- percentage of population within 1/4 mile of full service (facilities/connected) public park
- condition of public parks and green spaces
- average number of trees per acre / tree cover
- total or per capita acreage of land used for roads and parking
- ratio of population increase to infrastructure (water lines and road lanes) increase
- ratio of square footage of infill construction and building reuse to square footage of new construction beyond existing service areas
- ratio of population growth to growth of "urbanized" area
- number of new jobs inside city limits v. outside city limits
- amount of new development inside city limits to outside city limits
- residential units per acre proposed in new subdivision plats filed
- ratio of population growth to new subdivision plats filed
- change in the ratio of suburban population to city population
- change in average commute time and / or distance
- miles of system components per capita
- number of people using each system component
- miles traveled per hours of use for each system element
- number of people carpooling
- number of people telecommuting
- trips by mode (walking, biking, public transit, driving)
- average amount of residents' time devoted to non-recreational travel
- per capita automobile use (annual miles of travel)
- percentage of commuters biking or walking
- transit ridership
- portion of residents with transit service within 1/4 mile
- quality of mobility services for residents with special mobility needs
- affordability of public transit service by lower income residents
- ability of non-drivers to reach employment centers and services
- quality of pedestrian and bicycle environment
- quality of public transit service—measured by number of service hours, service frequency, average speed relative to automobile traffic speeds, safety, comfort (including number of standees during peak periods, number of bus shelters and other waiting facilities), availability of information, and integration with other modes
- quality of delivery services
- average number of major services (grocery, library, school, playing fields, etc.) within walking distance of residents
- average walking distance between residences and public services such as schools and retail centers
- residents' participation in transportation and land use decision-making
- average portion of household expenditures devoted to transportation, including direct expenditures on vehicles and fares and indirect expenditures such as residential parking and taxes spent on transportation facilities
- per capita transportation non-renewable energy consumption
- per capita transportation pollution
- medical costs attributed to transportation system
- portion of transportation related costs paid for by public funding
- proximity of residential, commercial and employment land uses to each other
- creation of linked transportation systems
- number of auto-pedestrian accidents
- number of auto-child accidents
- number of auto-cyclist accidents
- number of auto-auto accidents
- number of auto-stationary object accidents
- motor vehicle accident fatalities and accidents
- traffic fatalities
- traffic accidents with serious injuries

The Challenge

The Sustainability Indicators Project's first annual report is a call to action and accountability. It is a tool for this community to use. We hope that this report will achieve the following goals:

- help this community see where opportunity is calling;
- engage committed people to advance these issues in positive directions;
- stimulate the inclusion of diverse opinions concerning how we should move forward; and
- serve as a reminder of the interdependence of the economy, the environment, and social equity when we make important community decisions.

We have received generous cooperation from many organizations in developing this project. As we go forward to year two, we welcome additional assistance to refine these indicators and make them more useful for this community. The stronger this metric can become and the higher our community's commitment to accountability, the further we can move toward quality of life for all.

Beginning in April 2000, our project will have a new administrative home. Austin Community College has generously "adopted" us, and we will be happy to have a stronger infrastructure. The Indicators Project will still be governed by a Community Advisory Board and Executive Committee.

One final thank you: the "Acknowledgements" attempt to capture the major contributors over the past two years. The community's support has been impressive. Thank you also for your patience—this has been a learning process. We believe we can build on this first effort as we go forward.