

**Action Requested/Required:**

- ☐ Vote/Action Requested  
☒ Discussion or Presentation Only  
☐ Public Hearing  
Report Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hearing Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Voting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** Public Works **Presenter(s) & Title:** Kelly Pendley - Operations Manager

**Agenda Item Title:**

Discussion of the City's Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Board.

**Summary:**

The Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Board was established to provide guidance, recommendations, and public engagement on environmental programs and sustainability initiatives. However, in recent years, the board has experienced a persistent lack of attendance and participation from appointed members, resulting in the inability to meet quorum, hold regular meetings, or effectively fulfill its mission.

Due to ongoing inactivity, staff recommends dissolving the board and transitioning sustainability oversight and program development to an internal Sustainability Committee composed of City staff. This committee will ensure continuity in environmental efforts, departmental coordination, data tracking, and pursuit of sustainability certifications. City staff are best positioned to integrate sustainability initiatives directly into municipal operations and capital projects, ensuring meaningful and measurable progress.

**Budget Implications:**

Budgeted? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Total Cost of Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Check if Estimated ☐

Fund Source: General Fund ☐ Water & Sewer ☐ Sales Tax ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Staff Recommendations:**

Staff Recommends Council consider whether the City's sustainability efforts would best be handled using the current advisory board model, or if an internal Sustainability Committee would be more productive.

**Reviews:**

Has this been reviewed by Management and Legal Counsel, if required? ☐ Yes ☒ No

**Attachments:**

Canton Sustainability Committee

## **Canton Sustainability Committee**

In an effort to streamline operations, align with strategic goals, and enhance the implementation of sustainability initiatives, the City is establishing a **Sustainability Committee comprised of City staff**. This internal committee will replace the existing resident-led Environmental and Sustainability Advisory board.

City staff members are uniquely positioned to lead sustainability efforts due to their direct involvement in policy implementation, operational decision-making, and coordination across departments. Their expertise and access to real-time data and regulatory requirements make them essential in advancing initiatives such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, sustainable infrastructure, and environmental compliance.

This transition also supports the City's pursuit of environmental certifications such as the **ARC Green Communities** designation, as many of the actions required for such certifications involve ordinances, programs, and operational changes that can only be implemented by staff.

The City remains committed to public transparency and engagement, and will continue to welcome community input through public meetings, surveys, and special events related to sustainability and environmental programs.

Kelly Pendley

Environmental and Sustainability Board

Staff Liaison

## **Canton Sustainability Committee**

City Staff involvement:

1. Cross Departmental Collaboration
  - Bring together key departments, (Public works, Engineering, Community & Outreach, Community Development, Building and Safety Service, and Utilities/Water Department).
2. Data Collection & Reporting
  - Tracking energy and water use, waste diversion, and other sustainability metrics.
  - Compile reports for certifications such as ARC Green Communities, Tree City USA, and other environmental initiatives.
3. Program Development
  - Launch and manage internal initiatives such as recycling programs, energy conservation efforts, and sustainable purchasing practices.
  - Develop outreach programs for residents or businesses, led by staff but supported by public engagement.
4. Strategic Planning
  - Contribute to Sustainability Plan and Canton Green Plan, ensuring actions are realistic and aligned with City capacity
5. Certification & Recognition
  - Coordinate efforts to meet benchmarks for programs like ARC Green Communities, Clean Water/Stormwater Certifications, and Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
  - Maintain Documentation, submit applications, and respond to audits.
6. Community engagement Support
  - Provide Technical expertise and public events, workshops, or council meetings
  - Create educational material and support public outreach campaigns