



City of Lakewood SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

- 2020 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS -

1. When are applications due?

- All application materials are due by or before **Monday, March 2, 2020**.

2. What constitutes a “neighborhood” for this program?

- We do not have firm requirements for boundaries of a sustainable neighborhood. If you have an existing Homeowner’s Association or Neighborhood Association, that would be a great place to start, and might help you build a network of support. (You can see registered Neighborhood Associations and Homeowner’s Associations on the city’s website: www.lakewood.org/NeighborhoodOrganizations.) If you do not have an established neighborhood association, that is ok, just do your best to determine an area that you think would work, and if you are accepted to the program we can work with you to refine details and boundaries.

3. Is there a size requirement for a neighborhood to apply and be a Sustainable Neighborhood?

- No- we currently have neighborhoods ranging from 75 homes to 4000 homes; we can have a variety of sizes of communities involved in the program.

4. What is your selection criteria?

We are looking for applications with these types of characteristics:

- **Community support** and investment in becoming a Sustainable Neighborhood (you can demonstrate this through your signature sheets).
- **Initial project ideas** and why those projects would be helpful, successful, or useful specifically for your neighborhood (you’ll have space to include this in your application).
- We’re looking for places where the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program will serve as a **catalyst for community involvement** (this includes neighborhoods that already have good things happening and helping make them great, or helping neighborhoods that are just getting started at building strong communities.)

- We recommend you have a few people read through your answers to proofread and edit your application.
- Don't let last-minute technical difficulties cause stress in your life—submit your online application early! 😊

5. What is the level of time commitment involved in being a Sustainable Neighborhood?

- **It all depends on how much time you have available;** the neighbors in existing Sustainable Neighborhoods commit varying levels of time to the program depending on their availability, interest, and what events are going on. Some current neighborhood volunteers and leaders work full-time jobs, some are retired, and some are stay-at-home parents.
- **Team Meetings:** usually once a month or once a quarter.
- **Events:** usually around one event a month or every other month.
- **Planning time for events and initiatives:** depends on what is coming up.
- **Planning time for the team leaders:** usually a few hours of administrative work each month (emailing, planning, coordinating, etc.).

6. What do we get for being in the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program?

- **Recognition from the City:**
 - Neighborhoods earn credits for each activity, event, and initiative they plan. When you earn 100 credits, your neighborhood receives certification as an Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood, you'll get signs posted in your neighborhood identifying the neighborhood as an Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood, and your team will be recognized at a City Council meeting.
- **Knowing You're Making a Difference:**
 - You can make a difference in your neighborhood and community (helping neighbors get to know each other, helping build a sense of belonging and community, etc.).
 - You can make a difference for the Earth (informing neighbors about and building a culture of sustainable practices and lifestyles).
 - Participants in the program report that the program has made a huge difference to them personally (meeting and getting to know new friends and neighbors, building leadership skills, learning new information, etc.).

7. Is there funding available for projects?

- The City provides funding for mailings, office supplies, and can loan equipment like a projector and sound system. We have limited funding available for programmatic needs and can help you find other sources of funding and donations.

8. I am a renter in a multi-family unit, can I submit an application?

- Yes, we are happy to have renters and home-owners involved in the program.