



**To:** Mayor Boley, Commissioners Soden, Larsen, Herbert, and Ananda; and Tom Markus, Lawrence City Manager

**From:** Sustainability Advisory Board of the City of Lawrence (SAB)

**Re: City of Lawrence Sustainable Building Policy**

December was quite a big month for conversations around future development projects like a new police facility and convention center. We understand that these would be major projects with significant community impact and would like to address the environmental perspective around such projects.

In July 2017, we submitted a letter to you addressing city staff's recommendation for a LEED Silver municipal building policy as well as an increased incentive for private development. We recommend requiring a LEED Gold certification standard for new municipal buildings with some additional requirements to accommodate regional climate change impacts.

Looking to the city's most recent projects like the public library and Rock Chalk Park, it's clear the city's dedication to environmentally responsible building practices is inconsistent. While the library achieved LEED Gold and has received recognition and awards, the construction of Rock Chalk Park didn't address LEED measures at all. Building well from the beginning goes a long way in preventing frequent and/or costly upgrades later. Implementing a LEED Gold policy will prevent this inconsistency. Additionally, it aligns with the following:

Draft Comprehensive Plan	STAR Community Rating System
6.5 Promote sustainable building practices by leading and promoting green building standards and practices and by creating incentives to improve opportunities for distributed generation of renewable energy sources.	Climate & Energy, Climate Adaptation Action 5: Adopt zoning code, building code, or other legally binding regulations that address future climate change threats
6.6 Promote responsible use and conservation of energy and natural resources by enhancing current building codes to increase energy efficiency of new construction and significant remodels.	Climate & Energy, Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure Action 3: Adopt codes or design standards for new public infrastructure that will increase energy and water efficiency.

We already know that sustainability is a Lawrence community value and we consider ourselves leaders in this arena. However, 142 other cities already have various LEED initiatives in place (legislation, ordinances, policies, etc.) including our neighbors Johnson County, KS and Kansas

City, MO (both have LEED Gold municipal building policies). We would like to put our sustainability leadership into practice once again with a policy of our own.

This initiative is a priority for our board and we are looking forward to continuing the conversation with you this year as our new Sustainability Director comes on board.

Sincerely,

Sustainability Advisory Board, City of Lawrence

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Ritchie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Ritchie, Chair