

Boone 2014 Sustainability Task Force Recommendations

‘A Roadmap’

2014 Task Force Members:

Town Council: Quint David, Jennifer Peña.

Chair: Kent Walker

Vice-Chair: Sandra Diaz

Community Members: Sam Zimmerman, John Pertalion, Harvard Ayers, Kent Hively.

Council Charge to Committee:

- 1) Establish short (1-3 years) and medium term (5+years) goals and recommendations that the town of Boone may implement to improve the sustainability and resilience of our community.
- 2) Coordinate Community Input and Planning Process Integration.
- 3) The task force will also establish a yearly sustainability forum that representatives and citizens may participate in for the purpose of reporting effectiveness of current measures and receiving broad public input for new measures.

The Committee completed the bulk of these tasks by:

- Conducting a community survey, receiving over 300 responses and 100 emails.
- Meeting 2x a month since May to discuss, research, and finalize recommendations to council.
- Discussing public forum/workshop input ideas and formats.

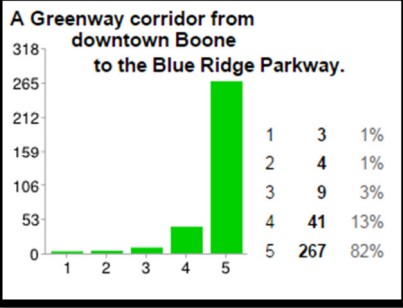
Recommended actions for Town Council consideration:

- 1) It is the recommendation of the 2014 sustainability task force that town council move to have town staff prepare a basic report investigating the costs and feasibility of integrating the following measures into the town of Boone (see below and following page) for action consideration at the December and January council meeting.
- 2) It is also recommended that town staff be free to include additional items they feel may be easily and cost-effectively achievable. (example: fast permitting for rainwater systems, expanding toilet rebate program etc.)
- 3) The final recommendation is to extend the term of the current task force, which would otherwise end Dec 31st this year, for 3 additional months until March 31st, for the purpose of working with town staff to finalize and schedule public input on the specific subject of sustainability, to finalize how that input may integrate with our budget and planning workshops of 2015, and to connect with community leaders and stakeholders to ensure their involvement during this on-going process of community sustainability is well defined and documented.

Area	Short Term Goal	Medium Term Goal
Transportation	Community Bike Initiative	Greenway Expansion Plan, and actual expansion.
Energy	Local incentives for efficiency and energy production.	Solar Covered Parking Project on Queen St. Or similar green energy initiative.
Water	Point source pollution study within TOB limits.	Watershed restoration plan in partnership with regional groups.
Food	Curbside composting program for restaurants.	Community center with a focus on winter farmer’s market and other local food initiatives.
Education and Outreach	Information and links on TOB website outlining sustainability-oriented plans and initiatives from the TOB and local community organizations.	Collaborative and yearly sustainability focused community workshop held around earth day in April. Official TOB Earth Day events.

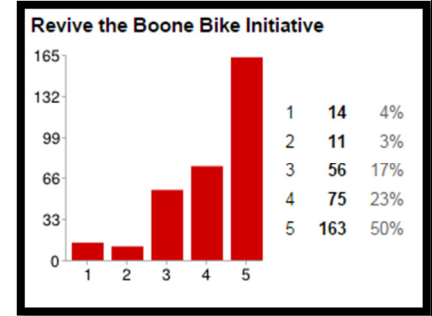
Categories and goals taken from previously adopted tenets of sustainability.
 Percentage indicates percent of 4 and 5 level responses.

Transportation:



95%

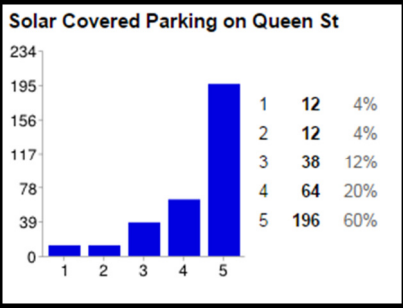
We envision the Town of Boone as a community that is a regional leader in providing a full range of safe, clean, and user-friendly transportation options. The Town will discourage fossil fuel burning vehicle use and enhance other healthier forms of transportation such as walking, bicycling, and carpooling. The Town will continue to support and improve accessibility of public transportation efforts.



73%

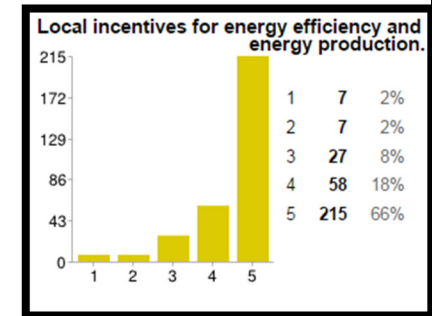
- **Revive the Boone Bike Initiative (Short-Term)** – Instruct town staff (cultural resources and public works) to coordinate with the remnants of the Boone Bike Initiative, the Boone Area Cyclist, the ASU office of Sustainability, ASU Outdoor Rec, and other applicable stakeholder groups, to identify needs and potential locations for a community bike shop. This will likely be a simple license agreement between one of these groups and the town to be able to secure bikes and tools, and host volunteers, at a yet-to-be-identified town-owned property for the purpose of community bike repair and community workshops.
- **Greenway expansion (Long Term)** – Instruct town staff (public works and planning) to work with the middle fork greenway association, the town greenway committee, and other appropriate community groups, to complete an ‘outline plan’ for complete greenway connection and improvement across the town. Establish potential priority sections and areas for improvement to bring back to council. Utilize existing town plans as part of recommendations.

ENERGY:



80%

We envision the Town of Boone to be a community whose innovative approaches to energy are upheld as leadership practices. Citizens will be aware of individual and aggregate energy use, engaged in methods for utilizing energy effectively, and educated on new and renewable means of energy production. These efforts will focus on operating our community infrastructure more sustainably while also enabling individuals to utilize these methods and knowledge in their own homes and businesses.

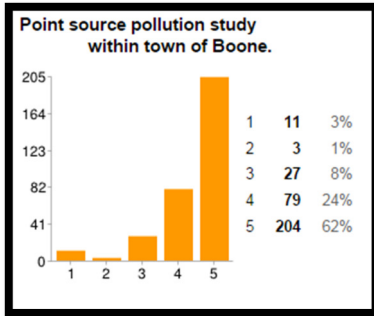


84%

- **Local incentives for energy efficiency and energy production (Short-Term)** – (planning/inspections) Have staff prepare a list of incentives other municipalities are using to encourage the adoption of energy efficiency and energy production to present to council for consideration. Permit fee discounts, permit prioritization, development ordinance density bonuses, and quick-permitting incentives for green building features were some ideas that needed further staff input.
- **Solar Covered Parking Queen St. (Long-Term)** – Instruct town staff (manager and planning) to conduct a feasibility study and report back to council including potential costs, savings, and partnerships of a photovoltaic project located in downtown Boone. Queen street and the town-owned parking lot beside the post office have been identified as potential sites, but other sites and possibilities should be considered if applicable.

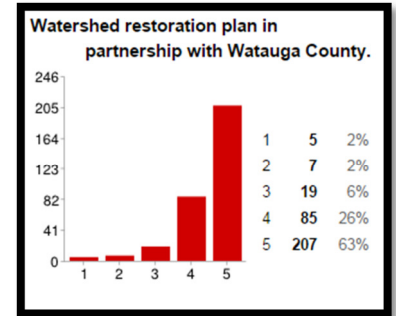
Categories and goals taken from previously adopted tenets of sustainability.
 Percentage indicates percent of 4 and 5 level responses.

WATER:



86%

We envision the Town of Boone as a community that acknowledges the precious and valuable resource that is water. The Town will implement policies and procedures that maximize water efficiency and minimize the environmental impacts of both, water extraction from and returning water to the natural environmental system.

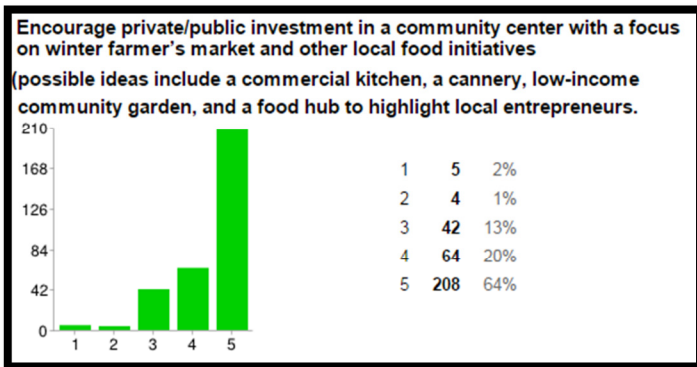


89%

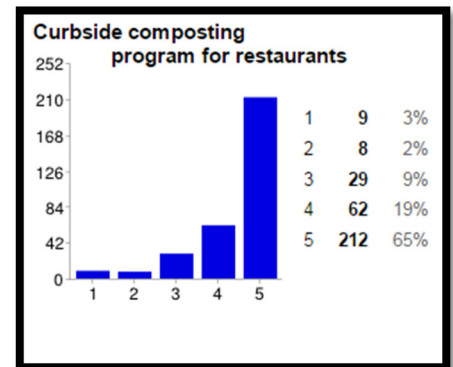
- **Point source pollution study within town of Boone (Short Term) – (manager, public utilities) As recommended by DENR. Investigate partnerships with ASU and state agencies for the purpose of identifying and addressing pollution in our river and waterways. Have town staff prepare an outline plan and cost estimates for study of watersheds within the town of Boone limits.**
- **Watershed restoration plan in partnership with regional organizations. (Long-Term) – (manager, public utilities) As recommended by DENR. Investigate partnerships with regional entities for the purpose of coordination, remediation, and general improvement of the health of our local rivers, streams, and watersheds. Have staff contact potential partners and prepare an outline plan and cost estimate for the study and remediation of issues affecting the health of our local rivers, streams, and watersheds.**

FOOD:

Food: We envision the Town of Boone to be a community where food is healthful, safe, and increasingly raised/produced locally, using sound environmental, humane & sustainable practices, available to and affordable for all.



84%



84%

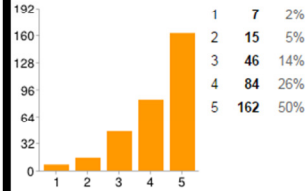
- **Curbside composting program for restaurants (Short-term) – (public works) Instruct town staff to investigate and prepare an outline plan and estimated costs for the expansion of existing recycling services to include composting for high-volume businesses, as well as a potential drop off site for residential customers.**
- **Community Center/Indoor Farmers Market Space (Long-term) – (manager, planning, cultural resources) Instruct town staff to investigate potential locations of a community center that could be utilized as an indoor farmers market space or a 'food hub' for community members. Contact community stakeholders such as the cooperative extension, farmers market etc. for input and ideas.**

Categories and goals taken from previously adopted tenets of sustainability.
 Percentage indicates percent of 4 and 5 level responses.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:

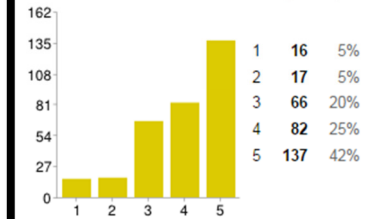
Education & Outreach: We envision the Town of Boone to be a community where our institutions and citizens share and promote sustainability freely, openly and collaboratively. The community's diverse sustainability resources will be documented and inventoried. The Town of Boone will partner with these resources to educate the community and support sustainable development activities.

Publish local sustainability oriented workshops and events on Town of Boone website. Create a page on Town of Boone website with a calendar of local events and a monthly e-newsletter to give access to programming already occurring around sustainability in identified areas.



76%

Extend green business certification and promote businesses on map of town.
 Photo: Sustainable Raleigh Map



67%

- Collaborative and yearly sustainability focused community workshop (Long-term) – Instruct staff (planning, manager) to conduct a (at least) a 1 day workshop in April to collect public input on initiatives and report on what the town is currently doing to meet and improve on the 10 tenants of sustainability. Presentations and collaborative input from community groups should be encouraged. Results should be presented to council prior to budget workshops.
- Website with town sustainability information and links (Short-term) – Instruct town staff (manager, IT) to include town sustainability oriented initiatives, the 10 tenants of sustainability, and other relevant information (green businesses, conservation oriented non-profits, river and trash cleanup days, hazardous waste days at the landfill etc etc) as part of the towns website and overall image as a 'green' and environmentally conscious community.

Other tenets not specifically addressed by this task force, but already adopted by the town:

Economic: We envision the Town of Boone as a community that utilizes tax dollars and various local resources in an efficient manner. The Town will promote, procure, and focus the economy locally, through implementing policies that support local businesses.

Environment: We envision the Town of Boone as a community that celebrates its unique and extraordinary natural environment that benefits and sustains its citizens and attracts visitors. The Town of Boone will maximize environmental protection policies to ensure that the natural environment is maintained and enhanced for all future generations.

Resilience: We envision the Town of Boone as a community that recognizes the current economy is dependent upon global systems that are increasingly dynamic and volatile. The Town of Boone will promote self reliance by encouraging policies and practices that localize markets and resource use, better preparing the community for potential resource constraints.

Social: We envision the Town of Boone as a community free from discrimination and violence, where everyone has access to: adequate housing and food, meaningful work that pays a living wage, quality healthcare services, participatory civic opportunities, education, and everyone is free from discrimination and violence. The Town of Boone will favor policies that build community and increase quality of life for all of its citizens.

Recycling: We envision the Town of Boone as a community that promotes the reduced consumption of consumer goods and natural resources. The Town of Boone will be a regional leader in providing convenient opportunities for businesses, industries and households to recycle the goods and resources that must be discarded. (KD-H)

These final tenets were not specifically addressed due to being partially included as part of the main task force recommendations. For example: A map on the town website showing which restaurants are participating in the food composting program connects recycling, community resilience, social values, supports and promotes local businesses, local food, and sustainability education.

Historical Perspective Minutes:

(Excerpt from Council minutes 5/19/2014)

DISCUSSION OF RE-ESTABLISHING THE SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

Upon a motion by Council Member Mason, seconded by Council Member Hay, Council moved to re-establish the Sustainability Task Force for a time-limited basis to end on December 31, 2014 with the following guidelines:

Task force to: establish short (1-3 years) and medium term (5+years) goals and recommendations that the town of Boone may implement to improve the sustainability and resilience of our community. The task force will conduct focus groups in various areas of sustainability issues to research methods of community improvement, and present the town council with recommendations by the normal August meeting.

Example areas for initiative (the task force may add or remove these as they see fit):

- *Transportation · Energy*
- *Local Food · Building Efficiency*
- *Internal Administration Practices · External Community/Business Support*
- *PR and Community Connectivity · Recycling/Re-use*
- *Other Public Policy*

Subject research and reporting should take the form of:

1. *Examples from other communities.*
2. *Our existing community plans and goals.*
3. *Plans/goals to be recommended by the task force.*
4. *Adoptable measure language recommended by the task force.*
5. *Timeline and way to measure effectiveness of adopted measures.*
6. *Final report that contains all initial areas and recommendations for presentation by the normal August town council meeting.*

Research should take into account measures that affect internal sustainability processes (ex. energy efficiency in town owned buildings) as well as external sustainability processes (ex. energy efficiency in private residential buildings). The final research and recommendation report should coordinate with, and provide guidance to, the Planning Board regarding sustainability principles to be adopted as part of the 2014 Comprehensive Plan review/update process in coordination with the Boone 2030 plan.

The task force will also establish a yearly sustainability forum that representatives and citizens may participate in for the purpose of reporting effectiveness of current measures and receiving broad public input for new measures. This forum will be a keystone to maintaining these programs and interest here in Boone. Recommendations on date/times and agenda for this forum will be given by the task force.

The task force will comprise of 5 individuals from the community at large who have a background in sustainability initiatives, along with two council representatives. Subcommittees may be formed and participation from the public highly encouraged.

VOTE: Aye – All

Nay – None

Absent – 2 (Peña, Brantz)

Historical Perspective Minutes:

Town Of Boone Sustainable Development Task Force Update 6/17/10

Task Force Members:

Town Council Members: Andy Ball and Jamie Leigh

Community Members: Patrick Beville, Kelly Jo Drey-Houck, Ged Moody, Matthew Long, Susie Winters and Rowan Cannell

Initial Meeting: Monday May 24, 2010

Present task force members appointed Patrick Beville as Chairman, Kelly Jo Drey-Houck as Vice-Chairman and Matthew Long as Secretary.

Second Meeting: Monday June 7, 2010

Mission Statement was established.

Next Meeting: Monday June 21, 2010

Mission Statement:

The Sustainable Development Task Force seeks to position Boone, North Carolina as a leader in sustainability. We identify, research, and recommend, policies, procedures and initiatives that further incorporate sustainable social, environmental, and economic values into the Town of Boone's operations, governance, and planning.

Mr. Beville stated that he will appear before the Council on a quarterly basis to present updates on the activities of the Sustainability Task Force. Upon a motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Leigh, Council moved to approve the mission statement of the Sustainability Task Force as presented by Chair Patrick Beville.

VOTE: Aye - All

Nay - None

May 17 2011

ADOPTION OF TENETS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Patrick Beville, chair of the Sustainable Development Task Force, presented the Tenets of Sustainability for review and adoption by the Town Council. He offered that these tenets be used by the Town in future decision-making. Council member Mason asked that the following terms be incorporated into the proposed tenets: "reduce", "reuse", and "recycle." Additionally, she asked that "composting" also be included. It was also suggested that the word "pays" be changed to "promotes" in paragraph 6 entitled "Social." Upon a motion by Council member Mason, seconded by Council member Leigh, Council moved to adopt the following Tenets of Sustainability and to direct Chair Patrick Beville to present the document to the Sustainable Development Task Force for review of these proposed revisions:

Sustainable Development Task Force

"Tenets of Sustainability"

3/7/11

These tenants are fundamental principles around which the Town of Boone will operate and develop policy.

Economic: We envision the Town of Boone as a community that utilizes tax dollars and various local resources in an efficient manner. The Town will promote, procure, and focus the economy locally, through implementing polices that support local businesses.

Transportation: We envision the Town of Boone as a community that is a regional leader in providing a full range of safe, clean, and user-friendly transportation options. The Town will discourage fossil fuel burning vehicle use and enhance other healthier forms of transportation such as walking, bicycling, and carpooling. The Town will continue to support and improve accessibility of public transportation efforts.

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Education & Outreach: We envision the Town of Boone to be a community where our institutions and citizens share and promote sustainability freely, openly and collaboratively. The community's diverse sustainability resources will be documented and inventoried. The Town of Boone will partner with these resources to educate the community and support sustainable development activities.

VOTE: Aye-All

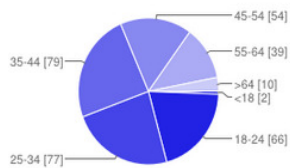
Nay-None

Absent - 1 (Brantz)

June 21st-2011 Original Committee Expired.

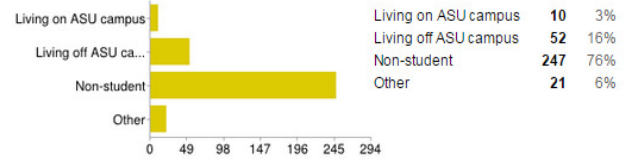
Survey Responses and Demographics:

Age

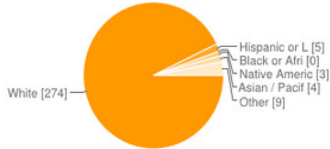


Age Group	Count	Percentage
<18	2	1%
18-24	66	20%
25-34	77	24%
35-44	79	24%
45-54	54	17%
55-64	39	12%
>64	10	3%

Are you a student...

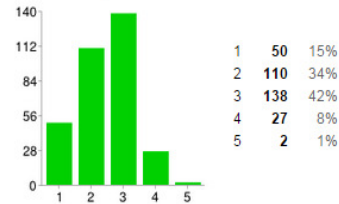


Ethnicity origin (or Race): Please specify your ethnicity.

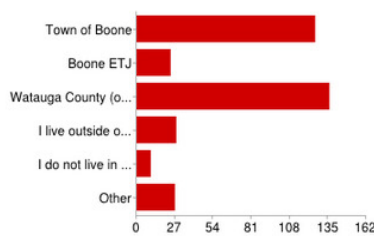


Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
White	274	84%
Hispanic or Latino	5	2%
Black or African American	0	0%
Native American or American Indian	3	1%
Asian / Pacific Islander	4	1%
Other	9	3%

How would you rate current Boone sustainability initiatives?

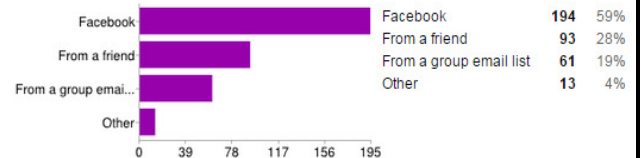


I live in.....



Location	Count	Percentage
Town of Boone	126	39%
Boone ETJ	24	7%
Watauga County (outside the Boone etj)	136	42%
I live outside of Boone, but I own property or a business within the Town of Boone	28	9%
I do not live in Boone, but I am visitor.	10	3%
Other	27	8%

How did you hear about this survey?



Averaged Score of Survey Responses:

- 4.74695122 A Greenway corridor from downtown Boone to the Blue Ridge Parkway.
- 4.495412844 Watershed restoration plan in partnership with Watauga County.
- 4.493710692 Local incentives for energy efficiency and energy production.
- 4.476489028 Fast permitting process for rainwater/greywater system installation.
- 4.449541284 Encourage private/public investment in a community center with a focus on winter farmer's market and other local food initiatives (possible ideas include a commercial kitchen, a cannery, low-income community garden, and a food hub to highlight local entrepreneurs).
- 4.444444444 Curbside composting program for restaurants
- 4.431610942 Point source pollution study within town of Boone.
- 4.411042945 A yearly festival to celebrate local foods and our farmers, with workshops for the general public and for businesses to develop skills in the culinary arts, agriculture and value-added food production.
- 4.37694704 On-bill energy improvement financing program.
- 4.346749226 New community owned renewable energy project (wind turbine or solar).
- 4.343558282 Allow the expansion of farmers markets into already existing spaces and/or help create a more "indoor" feel to the current structures.
- 4.312883436 Solar Covered Parking on Queen St
- 4.278287462 Expand of existing conservation and toilet rebate program.
- 4.27244582 Research grants for student/faculty monitoring of local streams and rivers.
- 4.216981132 Publish local sustainability oriented workshops and events on Town of Boone website. Create a page on Town of Boone website with a calendar of local events and a monthly e-newsletter to give access to programming already occurring around sustainability in identified areas.
- 4.206153846 Solar bus stop and energy usage information kiosk
- 4.194444444 Mini-grants to local food and related businesses and organizations for education initiatives on the benefits of local food, issues of food accessibility, and nutrition.
- 4.18404908 Inventory of carbon pollution for Town of Boone to identify highest energy users and savings potential.
- 4.180685358 Education & outreach initiative for conservation and/or renewable energy.
- 4.164037855 Sustainability internship program- intern for Town of Boone departments to help work on issues & sustainability.
- 4.148148148 Revive the Boone Bike Initiative
- 4.132492114 Integrate low-flow fixture design requirements into Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for new construction and renovation.
- 4.051987768 Investigate the feasibility of creating a low-cost plastic bag fee to decrease landfill waste and increase the use of multi-use bags.
- 4.042944785 Creation of a gardening tools lending library.
- 3.996855346 Extend living wage certification and promote businesses on map of town.
- 3.987654321 Public Bike Maintenance Station
- 3.975077882 Extend green business certification and promote businesses on map of town. Photo: Sustainable Raleigh Map
- 3.81595092 Electric Vehicle Receptacle/Charging Station
- 3.79204893 Bike Corral/Parking Shelter
- 3.303125 Billboard to display carbon-offsets, renewable energy, and other initiatives.
- 2.451807229 How would you rate current Boone sustainability initiatives?

Individual Responses From Public Survey OCT 2014:

If you had to choose just ONE sustainability initiative for Boone to pursue next year, what would it be?

- 1) End single-use plastic bags in Town of Boone
- 2) Plastic Bag fee
- 3) Community center and community owned renewable energy shelter.
- 4) Focus in projects that give locals something we can use right now and daily like the greenway expansion. Do not waste money on studies, research, etc. We are smart people we do not need studies to tell us what we need. Lets have something to show for the money we spend, something we can use. I am not knocking the studies but think we should focus on real and usable projects in the short term.
- 5) Encourage private/public investment in a community center with a focus on winter farmer's market and other local food initiatives (possible ideas include a commercial kitchen, a cannery, low-income community garden, and a food hub to highlight local entrepreneurs.
- 6) I believe all of these are wonderful ideas, some of them I am beyond excited about such as the Greenway Trail to the Parkway, I believe many community members will be very excited about this idea. I believe this creates a sense of ease to our everyday hectic lives and individuals can go off on a wonderful long bike ride to escape into our beautiful landscape.
- 7) Reclaiming food from restaurants/ASU cafeterias, etc., to feed the hungry (via Hospitality House, Oasis, etc.)
- 8) Watershed protection and restoration
- 9) Extending and connecting the Greenway to town!!!!
- 10) Gardening Tools Lending Library
- 11) Electric car charging station.
- 12) Green way corridor from Boone to Parkway
- 13) So many choices! Curbside composting for restaurants.
- 14) Extend the farmers market
- 15) More Greenway / Bike commute paths
- 16) Initiate or increase collaboration with the Watauga County Economic Development Commission to encourage E.D. initiatives which prioritize the commission's goals as promoting economic development activities which foster environmentally friendly, socially conscious, economically rewarding (for both employer and employee), and culturally appropriate businesses. An added emphasis must be placed on locally based business and entrepreneurship which have a proven, vested interest in the Boone, Watauga, and High Country area and should be preferred in order to sustain the long-term economic vitality of the community.
- 17) Extend sidewalks wherever the AppalCart runs - I see people walking in the ditch in the dark and rain along 421 and worry for everyone's safety!
- 18) Safe sidewalks and bike paths within downtown city limits at least. A community center would be amazing.
- 19) Solar Covered Parking
- 20) Year round farmers market like Asheville.
- 21) I don't think this could be accomplished in one year, but the thing I would most love to see would be the extension of the greenway to the downtown area (and the blue ridge parkway). It's already hard enough to bike in Boone with all of the hills, but dealing with traffic makes it even worse. As far as easier to set up initiatives, I really like the public bike maintenance station and the tool-library (could be extended to non-garden tools as well) for their usefulness and immediate potential for impact.
- 22) Charging stations
- 23) Support a community center!
- 24) Food
- 25) Winter indoor site for Farmers Market.
- 26) Maybe the one that says: Encourage private/public investment in a community center with a focus on winter farmer's market and other local food initiatives (possible ideas include a commercial kitchen, a cannery, low-income community garden, and a food hub to highlight local entrepreneurs.

- 27) this one ! Encourage private/public investment in a community center with a focus on winter farmer's market and other local food initiatives (possible ideas include a commercial kitchen, a cannery, low-income community garden, and a food hub to highlight local entrepreneurs.
- 28) Greenway expansion!
- 29) Community center / community owned renewable energy project
- 30) Education & outreach initiative for conservation and/or renewable energy!
- 31) So many wonderful and important ideas--how to choose just one? I'd suggest instead looking at several low-investment ones as well as one BIG one, How about car charging station along with sustainability workshops, sustainable map, wage map, and encouraging year-round farmers' market etc.
- 32) Get rid of the mixed-use requirement in the UDO to allow more dense student housing close to campus.
- 33) potential energy initiatives
- 34) greenway bike trail through Boone to BRP
- 35) Decrease energy use and CO2 emissions in automobile use. Encourage alternative transportation.
- 36) Incentives for residential retrofits, inuding loans and tax breaks.
- 37) Initiatives that involve research/studying/education/conservation of our water resources.
- 38) Promotion and incentives for businesses that obtain NC Green Travel recognition. Additional promotion on the TDA website and workshops for businesses on how to obtain the recognition from the state.
- 39) More walkable town! Sidewalks are grossly insufficient in many areas of this town.
- 40) Curbside Composting
- 41) greenway trails and support local farmers
- 42) Alternative energy incentives and promotions plus assistance for low-income families... weatherization, solar, etc.
- 43) Local incentives for energy efficiency and energy production
- 44) Public green community center with solar or wind, and a weekly winter farmers market space!
- 45) Water conservation
- 46) Curbside composting for restaurants or lending library for garden tools. Also, the watershed pollution identification and restoration initiative would be fabulous.
- 47) Stop the selling water bottles throughout the town and possibly the university.
- 48) I really like the idea
- 49) Increase recycling/composting
- 50) Anything to do with creating more bike lanes!
- 51) Greenway Trails
- 52) MORE SIDEWALKS!!! I almost get hit by cars speeding everywhere and it is SCARY!!!
- 53) Bike lanes. This problem is serious and needs to be addressed aggressively.
- 54) Public Utilities/Works Infrastructure.Parking in Boone is a nightmare,Sewer upgrades,storm water.
- 55) Greenway and sidewalks throughout the town.
- 56) Anything Solar or Hyrdo projects. Keep building more Greenway miles.
- 57) Either curbside composting for restaurants or a winter farmer's market (which should be allowed to occupy existing structures, for simplicity and comfort's sake).
- 58) Expansion/creation of curbside recycling and composting.
- 59) Rainwater recycling would be incredibly efficient and really a blessing to this area. With the amount of rain we get, it's silly to not be using it in our homes. Some sort of program to support this would be idea.
- 60) Local incentives for energy efficiency and energy production.
- 61) Potential FOOD initiatives OR Waste
- 62) Expand farmers market during winter and allow more parking areas.
- 63) Extend the greenway so that we can go almost anywhere in town by bicycle/feet safely.
- 64) Queen Street Solar Parking Shelter
- 65) investment in walking areas including sidewalks, bike paths, greenway, etc.
- 66) Winter farmers market, commercial kitchen community center.

- 67) Combine these: Encourage private/public investment in a community center with a focus on winter farmer's market and other local food initiatives (possible ideas include a commercial kitchen, a cannery, low-income community garden, and a food hub to highlight local entrepreneurs. New community owned renewable energy project (wind turbine or solar). Part education center, part tourist attraction, part energy source. Space could be used for events or to house a food hub or other sustainability initiatives. PHOTO: The Green Britian Community Center hosts events for 200, along with a full scale wind turbine containing an observation deck at the top. Since 2004, over 150,000 people have made the 20-story climb to the observation deck.
- 68) Curb side composting
- 69) Mini grants to local food and related businesses.
- 70) Greenway Corridor from downtown to Blueridge Parkway.
- 71) Solar array above queen street parking
- 72) Reduce the excessive amounts of waste bags used.
- 73) Work on extending the Greenway to get more people outdoors.
- 74) Motivation for shops & companies to aggressively reduce energy use. Use education and competition to get local businesses to be energy star rated.
- 75) Expansion of the greenway.
- 76) Creek restoration
- 77) Farmers make a inclosed area for market.
- 78) Bike Maintenance Station
- 79) Working on food Education and more support for the Farmers Market.
- 80) GREENWAYS
- 81) fee for plastic bag
- 82) So many great ideas here! In the next year, I'd love to see plastic bags be taxed or removed from town.
- 83) Town wide restaurant composting pickup
- 84) Too hard! But I would say either the plastic bag initiative, or one of the water reduction encouragement measures (low-flow requirements on new construction + better incentives for retrofitting existing buildings, especially hotels and restaurants).
- 85) Electric vehicle charging stations!! And, because i think this is equally important, I would LOVE to see curbside composting for EVERYONE!!!
- 86) Solar
- 87) greenway trail - boone to blowing rock! Would love to have this for running and biking
- 88) sustainable power. Wind and solar.
- 89) Greenway expansion
- 90) To become a bike friendly community, offering more bike paths to ride for children and adults.
- 91) "Community center and/or community owned renewable energy project." This project is large but I think a community center devoted to sustainability and community events is a much-needed community resource that is lacking in Boone. A place for people to gather, learn, grow, and share. A highly visible (by residents, tourists, and students) commitment to long-term sustainable development and practices in Boone. Plus, such a community center could be home to many of the other projects listed on this survey (education, festivals, gardens, tool lending library, Boone Bike Initiative).
- 92) I think that the transportation initiatives would be very beneficial in a few ways: 1) it will decrease the carbon footprint of the town and individuals, 2) decrease air and noise pollution, and 3) it will alleviate traffic problems, promoting more sustainable transportation choices because of increased safety (and general kindness). Several of the options seem like low-cost, high-benefit initiatives and the town could knock several out very quickly. Additionally, once people become conscious of the cost of transportation to the environment and how to improve quality of life, more initiatives could gain more support due to automatic/free education and outreach. Everyone travels, transportation is a good start.
- 93) Initiatives to educate the community on bike laws, put bike racks downtown and expand the reach of bike lanes in the community
- 94) A community center with all of the above listed possibilities would be nice.
- 95) More pedestrian friendly cross walks, more bike friendly. Both would encourage more in-town residents to consider walking. I honestly do not feel safe crossing Blowing Rock Rd in front of campus, or River's St. I would also like to see

the Farmer's Market, Boone Jaycee Park, Horn in the West, Daniel Boone Native Gardens, Strawberry Hill Arboretum get an entire makeover.

- 96) water conservation
- 97) Bike Maintenance Station in downtown area
- 98) Anything that can improve the town's usage of alternative energies and/or educational programs to incentivize and encourage using less energy. So the town can use less and be greener about when it does.
- 99) Bike lanes, bike paths, more greenway and bike safety around town along with pedestrian walking paths and shortcuts marked and mapped to help folks get out and explore neighborhoods.
- 100) alternate energy programs
- 101) A close and walking distance farmer's market. I'd be much more willing to buy farmer's market food if I could get to it easily.

Please tell us your thoughts, ideas, suggestions etc in the space below.

- 1) Traffic flow/transportation
 - 2) Community centers offer an opportunity for all ages to recreate & educate. Together we can move forward w/ our goals of sustainability!
 - 3) All of these ideas are so exciting. We can do them all. I would be/am so proud to live in such a place...
 - 4) I love the efforts by the county to shred plant waste for mulch. I'd like to see it divided into leaf waste (for garden compost), small wood waste (for mulch), and large hardwood waste (for use as firewood).
 - 5) We should start from the ground, or underground, up. Let's fix the sewer pipes in Boone. We could improve the power lines or put them under ground when addressing the crumbling sewer pipes. Let's get some more lights on kings street (it's dangerously dark!). Let's give the people back that other lane on Howard street and take imminent domain on the stretches where folks would not let us put a side walk before. No one uses that "sidewalk" properly anyway. It's totally stupid! We also need to build all our parking lots up...at least 2 stories, if not three. We could use some of this money to take back our parking meters. If Boone owned and operated the meters we would have enough money in a year to build up the decks and so on and so forth. And finally, let's enforce downtown Boone landowners to either improve their properties so that they can be rented, or condemn them. The town looks half abandoned!! It's embarrassing. Thanks for asking.
 - 6) EDUCATION TOB website should be an up-to-date source of information on Town related information. It should also provide links to other non-government initiatives or events within the town that is accurate and representative of all efforts within the community. It's identity should be clear as a site for the government role of the TOB. If it is to serve as a public relations site for the town and the area it should do so by having links to ongoing postings of other organizations rather than trying to represent them directly. Our website was improved upon but has a long way to go in representing the latest and greatest ways to provide information to community residents.
 - 7) Please, please make Boone easier for bikers. This town is small and it wouldn't be hard to make it bike friendly (like Carrboro). Anything to encourage people to drive less. Think of how much less congested 105/321 intersection would be if we had less cars constantly going around! Or even if App made it more appealing for students to bike!
 - 8) Bolivia just passed the "Law of Mother Earth" which gives rights to our planet as a living system. It would be a step in the right direction if communities could draft their own laws that reflect what Bolivia has done. I believe this is something we should do in Boone. Perhaps one day the state and country could also back these laws. Here is a link to the article. <https://www.minds.com/blog/view/370619333145006080/bolivia-passes-law-of-mother-earth-which-gives-rights-to-our-planet-as-a-living-system>
 - 9) This survey detailed some great initiatives with many potential projects which can certainly help improve the sustainability of Boone. But the 'highly approve'/'highly disapprove' options did not exactly allow the survey-taker to express exact sentiments for the individual project. For example, while I certainly approve of bicycle maintenance stations, I do not believe that placing these as a high priority on the town's list will do a great deal to enhance the sustainability of the community. While they will certainly improve quality of life and provide a service to certain residents it does not necessarily address the basics of sustainability. Also, I believe a greater emphasis must be placed on the local built environment and promoting infill growth and walkability of existing neighborhoods. While I completely understand that property owners' rights to develop their property is an extremely strong right that they have to exercise, codification and policy can help to promote new urbanism type growth which doesn't promote urban sprawl. Also, coordination with the Watauga County Planning Officials can help to mitigate this impractical pattern
- Boone Sustainability Task Force Report Nov. 2014

of development. The suggestions focusing around water resources are a great starting point and contain a nice foundation for promoting sustainability.

- 10) Transportation issues including the legality of human powered transportation and promotion of sustainable transportation options including the infrastructure for bike lanes, sidewalks, appalcart, and other methods of alternative transportation
- 11) Would like to see a bigger effort to educate folks on the fact that we CAN recycle all forms of plastic in this county at the Watauga service center (including hard plastics aka 3-7). Many folks, even more sustainably-minded ones, do not know this, and I think it's vital to keeping our rivers and oceans clean. Also, start recycling process for plastic BAGS, like Lowes Hardware offers (and encourage to recycle not just plastic grocery bags, but plastic bag wrap on food products and other packaging).
- 12) Make sure this survey goes beyond the "sustainably minded" Boonies! We need understand the opinions of those who might be adverse to sustainability to keep the movement moving forward.
- 13) We should build a new recreational facility that is energy efficient as possible, unlike the current pool complex that runs multiple heaters all winter long in an attempt to keep an uninsulated, metal building of mostly sliding glass doors swelteringly hot.
- 14) Also look into financing and green investments for the town. Many towns and cities have chosen to divest their monies out of coal/fossil fuels, etc. (ie Seattle <http://mayormcginn.seattle.gov/next-steps-on-fossil-fuel-divestment/>) There is an on-campus club Fossil Free App State working on a campaign to get the university to either divest or create positive sustainable investments, and we would love to work with you! Contact: Olivia Sanders and other officers at fossilfreeappstate@gmail.com
- 15) Not a big fan of the plastic bag initiative alone. If there were bring-your-own-bag bags being given out for free then it might be more feasible. As it is, people would just get mad that they have to pay for their plastic bags, whatever the cost.
- 16) Not anything to crowd already crowded public spaces such as solar panels over King Street parking. What is the cost vs. benefit of this? How many years of solar energy in this cloudy region will it take to offset the resources spent to construct solar panel parking awning and other similar structures? Electric Vehicle chargers - seems like would be waste considering low number of rechargeable cars, and don't think this installation would increase chance of a user to purchase a car. I like the community based ideas - a real change/movement will sprout from connection within the community - cooperation and idea spread. greenway trails - how many habitats will this fragment?
- 17) More community gardens.
- 18) Great job!
- 19) More greenways!!!!!!!!!!!!
- 20) I believe the 11th tenet should be beautification. Through all of our new construction and retro- and upfits, we need to keep a keen eye on making our town beautiful. Our overhead powerlines are hideous. They block so many gorgeous views of our mountain viewshed. Daylighting Boone Creek. All. The. Way. Through. Town. Wind turbine on Howard's Knob, which I realize is the county's land but still a feasible project that appears to be attributed to the TOB. Create a low-rise ordinance to prevent gargantuan buildings from altering the viewshed, or at least allow TOB to be able to nix a project due to its viewshed impact, including App State. Separate biking paths from roadways. People have too many other things to pay attention to these days. We need to up the safety game! Have the TOB make a commitment to go carbon neutral by X date. Cover buildings in PV. Make Howard Street a walkable pathway with green and communal space from Appalachian Street to Water Street. Make business owners that have dilapidated buildings pay a fine for unimproved spaces, and earmark that money for TOB beautification projects ONLY. I'm not a fan of giving money to research project b/c too often the research doesn't get built upon nor does it see the light of day (get shared). This is a comment about one of the prior initiatives in the survey. Create a "craft" center that is co-owned by the TOB and all businesses that choose to be located within it's walls. This craft center would be a LEED certified building with LOTS of natural light and provide a view to nature. It would house the farmers market and other local craft vendors and be open all year long. Connect sidewalks ALL THROUGH town. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide feedback about the place we call home! All statements are rooted in love of humanity and our shared environment. Thank you!
- 21) PUT IN BIKE LANES!
- 22) There was no mention of tailgating.
- 23) Grants for renewable energy and efficiency improvements to be made on local downtown Boone business buildings. Rooftop community gardens. Indoor community greenhouse facility.

- 24) Recycling (curb side). Larger bins. Boone now picks up all types of recycling (they recently added aluminum, plastics #3-6). The blue bins are too small. We now need larger recycle bins and smaller trash bins. 2) I believe you got one of the transportation initiative wrong. Before we build bike maintenance stations and bike shelters we need bike lanes on the road or a bike corridor/greenway that serves/weaves the whole town not just a section. Boone is not very "biker friendly" at this time. 3) Recreation is major reason folks visit out area and is a sustainability concept. Can we include more recreating areas in Boone to serve locals and visitors? I.E. Hiking trails in Town to Howards Knob, etc, a Frisbee golf course, a tubing trail on the New river, a network of trails (bike and hiking) to link all sides of town (interconnection). Maybe partner with other groups to work on this???
- 25) Advertise where to get money from aluminum cans, other recyclables.
- 26) The most important thing to me is to improve the water infrastructure so that there isn't a need for another intake on the New River. Ending leaks in the supply of existing water systems, implementing effective water conservation efforts for all connected to the water system and strongly encouraging less water use by subscribers to the system to make the best use of the current water supply. No water for non-residents unless the ETJ is brought back where controls can be placed on growth.
- 27) I believe these initiatives will also provide economic advantage to the community(jobs, etc...)
- 28) I think rain water collection is going to be the way forward to help solve Boone's water issues.
- 29) The bike initiatives look great. They all need to be paired with making both bike and pedestrian use in/around Boone re roads, paths more safe and enjoyable, and to find ways of further reducing autos (possibly like ASU limiting cars to older students; expanding/incentivizing Appalcart and PART bus use). Tuition/fees break for ASU students who leave cars behind? Proactive strategies desperately needed for outreach and sustainable community conversations to help address/bridge political, socioeconomic, generational, "town-gown," and "native-non-native" divides in the community. A facilitated "our common future" series? Figure out ways to include unemployed and homeless populations in dreaming up and implementing initiatives. Investigate/propose cooperative businesses.
- 30) I really like the idea of having the farmer's market available all year. A large part of our individual footprint originates in our diets and I'd love to see the local food movement continue to gain momentum.
- 31) The town could really make a name for itself as a green travel destination, which would help our local economy! We need to have regulations in place that protect the natural beauty of our community. I didn't see any initiatives for purchasing green space for the sake of having green space in our community, for example. Again, Boulder, CO has done this with an open space tax. Residents and tourists pay it because they love the natural beauty of their community and they understand that their tourism economy DEPENDS on protecting that beauty! That's why we have tourists and the students at App who fuel our local economy in so many ways, and it is so frustrating that local developers don't seem to understand that if they make Boone ugly, we will not be a big tourist destination, and we will miss the opportunity to brand our town as a sustainable tourist destination and as a healthy, caring community that attracts students and faculty to the university! It's for our children that we need to take this seriously, for the land and the people.
- 32) The bike ideas are good but I think the first step is providing a more bike-friendly environment through bike lanes and paths and some driver education.
- 33) Bike Lanes!
- 34) Town of Boone can save electricity by not having so many streetlights.
- 35) Some of the things mentioned here are already underway. It would be great to see the Town of Boone supporting these already existing initiatives. Thanks for putting this survey together! Great work!
- 36) Local food and helping our farms is very important. Finding places for farmers markets that are affordable for local farmers and stay dedicated to our farmers is crucial. Greenways are a great way to get people into our environment. I hope that we continue on a sustainable path. We need to catch up!
- 37) One thought, concerning the billboard: I think a really cool place for such a thing would be above the Footsloggers raft shop. They have a very visible rooftop space that, at the moment, acts simply as a stage for a brick wall and ventilation/exhaust systems. I think it would give a cool urban appeal if we had a billboard in that location, which also happens to be very central.
- 38) The bike corral and maintenance station is a nice idea, but we really need to address the lack of bike lanes before going there. Also, surely there are communities who capture and filter rainwater for drinking. Has this been explored?
- 39) Appalcart is great. Boone is a horrible place to ride bicycles. The recent addition of sidewalks has been fantastic.

- 40) We are a green business that has been trying to do business in the town of Boone for two years! We have tried to get help from council members and the current mayor when he was a council member. We rent goats for weed control, but due to the livestock ordinance have been denied the clearance to rent to customers within the town limits. The goats are only there for a short time and make no noise nor do they cause any pollution. We would like to speak to someone about a way to make this possible in 2015. We are a sustainable business and feel that maybe the focus and funds of this initiative should be focused on ways to increase tourism and help businesses survive.
- 41) Wide spread, creative use of public, commercial and ASU spaces (greenway, parks, street medians, open spaces, lawns at public & commercial buildings, etc) for planting & growing edibles openly available for anyone. Use public dollars to create initiatives in public space; ASU dollars for ASU spaces; some kind of grant mechanism for private commercial property owners to do the same. "Bee Safe" Campaign particularly toward lawn care companies & their residential & commercial customers to shift mindsets around what a beautiful lawn should look like. Include real dangers of weed eradication and shifting notion to reality that a beautiful lawn is one full of "weeds" clovers, and other natural habitats for pollinators and other critters.
- 42) Stop painting stripes on roads for bikes. I'm a cyclist, and they are dangerous. We need to construct bike paths that are physically separated from the road.
- 43) I installed (direct) solar water heaters, and they work more than expected. Working on solar air heaters (all low tech, but easy to build and install by oneself)
- 44) Let's buy the land above Boone and make a great green space overlooking town. Land is for sale now! Allow bouldering, play and fun at the park already there- that not a lot of folks visit. Now is our chance. We missed the opportunity 15 years ago let's fix that problem now.
- 45) Don't get so carried away with spending money on energy efficiency that you spend more money than you get back. Additionally, try to make an effort to reach out to the county for sustainability options. There is a lot of untapped knowledge from farmers that have had to live simply for generations. You would be surprised... Simple is better!
- 46) I would like to see the Town quit spending so much of our tax money on the Town Attorney, and fighting with the County, ASU, and Developers. The money saved could be spent on the above items or improving Howard Street. I think the Town needs to spend less time on drafting new regulations to limit development they don't want. The time would be better spent developing initiatives for the type of development they want.
- 47) Outreach seems the most important to me to create a foundation for all of the other projects to be built off of. The more people involved, the more likely the projects will succeed!
- 48) Community gardens, monthly clean-ups and volunteer days, tons of King at business owners also live downtown --- ask them!!
- 49) I hope one day we might get a YMCA.
- 50) everything on this survey is a fantastic idea, ecologically, but also economically. Personally, i believe any of these ideas could become a very successful business with the right business plan.
- 51) Adequate Downtown parking! Instead of building a solar sheltered parking area on Queen St. which does nothing to elevate the lack of parking, maybe the focus should be on adding a solar sheltered parking DECK which would provide the Downtown area with more parking spaces. Just a thought.
- 52) We need to become an earth friendly community. We should offer more pesticide free food and a more chemical free environment.
- 53) safe ways for non-motorized transportation,
- 54) This isn't on the list and I know I am jumping in maybe too late to make a new suggestions, but....I think it would be great if we had park and ride parking lots in strategic areas of the county outside of downtown, that the appalcart would pick people up from. So that you could drive only a few minutes from home to a semi-central location out in the county and get picked up by the bus and take the bus around town (or to a central location in town where you can jump on a different bus).
- 55) Watauga County needs to do everything it can to be self sufficient.
- 56) Most of the items in your survey could/should be done by private businesses, groups and individuals. Quit forcing the taxpayers to pay for your hippy fantasies.
- 57) As a runner, I really like the idea of extending the Greenway and I like the idea of community gardens. Everything else that I was asked to rate above should not be paid for with tax dollars. Private investments should be how these ideas germinate, and if they don't, it's because the interest isn't there.
- 58) Local incentives for energy efficiency and energy production. OR Community Center

- 59) While I love many of the projects, if teaching about energy/energy-use to college freshman has taught me anything, it is that they are thoroughly uninformed, even misinformed at times, about their impacts on the environment through their use of energy. Education is ESSENTIAL to moving forward. We can have all the pretty RE projects you could think of, but until people understand WHY they are important, and HOW they will help foster a cleaner, greener, more sustainable community, I don't feel that their effect will be that great. Other than leading many to complain about the "waste of money" on some solar panels, or bike stations, etc.
- 60) No mention of native plant initiatives. This is critical to keeping habitats, preventing erosion and to saving energy costs (fewer lawns and more native plantings = less mowing). Thanks for doing the survey. Cool ideas!
- 61) Improvements to bus routes - expanded bus routes would be great. Ban on bottled water? Enhancing beekeeping infrastructure to support new beekeepers? Banning certain pesticides or pesticide forms from use in the area? Building up a farm land trust so that people can afford to farm land that's here without paying developer's land prices.
- 62) Queen street solar canopy sounds like a great idea, same with the bus stops. Great stuff, best of luck y'all!!
- 63) A park for kids near King Street.
- 64) Would love to see existing stream beds restored and integrated into the beauty and active lifestyle of the town rather than diverted into storm drains. For example, incorporating open streams and green-space with a Greenway Trail rather than underground storm system (like from Boone Mall, past McDonalds all the way to campus on 321).
- 65) More opportunities to access the farmers market, including a small winter market.
- 66) Don't just choose projects or systems that will get good press for the Town of Boone, or visually look good for tourists. Choose projects that you think would be the best for the town of Boone, its residents, and the environment. Focus more funding on the Farmer's Market (i.e. staying open later, better parking, better location, and above all making it more profitable for the farmers!). Bike lanes and biker safety are very important! Making biking longer distances (i.e. on 421 or 321) safer, so people aren't afraid that they'll be hit by cars (it happens all the time!) Just don't green-wash everything, throw PV panels up in high-traffic places, get an electric car station just to say you have one. How many people in this town actually have electric cars anyways? More farm to school initiatives with elementary, middle, and high schools. Involve the ASU students.
- 67) As you can see by my answers, I believe that the majority of these initiatives should be pursued. Anything that helps our community become better stewards of our resources is worth consideration and action.
- 68) Food and agricultural land issues are most important to me.
- 69) Watauga county and Boone is doing well with beginning to incorporate wind and solar power energy. Keep it up!!! I would really like to see more of it in town and give locals discounts and incentives for using these.
- 70) Storm water runoff is a huge issue that needs to be addressed. Flood events in the past few years have been dangerous and resulted in excessive erosion largely due to the overly culverted and constrained Boone Creek.
- 71) I think it is awesome that we are finally making changes towards the sustainability movement!
- 72) Bike parking (simple metal frames)
- 73) Increased recycling education
- 74) Soup kitchens and pantries
- 75) The greenway trail and year round farmers market would be the most visible and practical of the initiatives in my opinion. The greenway could decrease parking congestion downtown
- 76) I'm always amazed at the amount of litter along our roadways and waterways. Much of it could be recycled. Maybe an anti litter campaign. Also more recycle barrels in parks and green ways.
- 77) I have nothing against bicycle travel, but people riding need to obey the same traffic laws as others. There needs to be more policing of this problem that bicyclists do not obey traffic laws.
- 78) Since the sustainability movement relies on education to spread, whichever ones Boone decides to go with should be highly advertised and should actually make a difference. Seeing small changes here and there really get to people.
- 79) An important aspect of this is to make it inclusive - too much in Watauga County I see the "tree-huggers vs. locals" dynamic. Education in the schools, community outreach, and non-partisan communication that addresses how these initiatives benefit every citizen in the community are important to gain long-term support.
- 80) More education for the entire public...young and old, so all can understand fully how we as a community can save the beauty of our beautiful mountain town, county and region ..
- 81) Conservation initiatives for energy, water, food need to be promoted widely. Town of Boone needs to get over its inactivity. We have been waiting for example for Howard Street improvements for 20 years. We need something

people can see in the way of imagination and creativity. Too many run down lots/buildings along Blowing Rock Road and Howard St. tell people the town is stagnant.

- 82) Making our town more walking and bike friendly will also improve the health and sustainability of our residents. See previous answer about neighborhood walking paths and shortcuts.
- 83) Earlier I said that I support electric vehicle charging stations, but that is only the case if renewable energy is expanded. EVs only switch from using oil to coal, and that is not enough.
- 84) Teaching the old guys new permaculture stuff, like Gorilla's gardening.
- 85) Re: publicizing education initiatives, relying on town's website is insufficient--need to make it easier for people to see. In addition to e-newsletter, have a dedicated facebook page and be sure to publicize on Todd's calendar, newspapers, etc.
- 86) Please find another spot for recycling besides the Daniel Boone Native Garden parking lot. It is very difficult to access on Saturday mornings, when I typically take out my garbage due to my work schedule.
- 87) We need more green space that is readily accessible from downtown and more green space to connect the whole town together. A greenway from downtown to the existing one would be great. Also, the current greenway seems to have a lot of space that is heavily managed, i.e. just a big swath of grass... Can there not just be trees there
- 88) I work for WAMY Community Action, Inc. and we get calls almost every day from folks who need their homes weatherized, but do not qualify for our grant program. We do offer energy audits to anyone based on a sliding scale, but many cannot afford to get the work done.
- 89) Boone isn't a bike friendly town. If we are going to invest in bike promotion we should increase bike lanes, bike safety and walkability first.
- 90) If we can choose the source of the electricity, such as coal, nuclear, solar, wind, etc. (since the cost is different from each other, say, if someone choose 30% as coal, 40% as solar, 30% as wind, the person pay accordingly and visibly supports renewable energy movement, or someone who cannot afford to high cost energy can choose low cost combination.), and show the statistics, we will see the affordability of town. Encouragement such as tax reduction often lead unfair movement of tax money.
- 91) I think the festival would be a good start to make people aware of the issues and what Boone can do to counter these issues. This would also be a great opportunity to emphasize local farmers and community members who are trying to make changes and make Boone sustainable.
- 92) Many good ideas shared here.
- 93) I learned a little about what's ailing the world through the Sustainable Development program here at App. I don't claim to have all the answers but I'm led to believe that the root of all solutions is based in the agricultural system. By addressing the means by which an individual and a town's food is procured, you address all of the Tenets of Sustainability included above. The amount of resources it takes to provide food for a community has increased drastically over the last century and that is the major difference between self-reliant communities of the past and those we have now. I don't mean we need to revert to turn of the century style agriculture, just that since then, the amount of water, energy (primarily from fossil fuels), pollutants, and transport time needed to complete the agricultural cycle has increased. The sustainability crisis arises from this increase. By reducing the inputs needed and the physical distance between the production of food and the people who will eat it, we can reverse this trend, revive the better parts of community life from the past, while maintaining the advances in technology and civil rights our generation prides itself on. I suggest and will work for any systematic readjustment of Boone's food network that favors small-scale, organic methods of agriculture. The town provided composts bins, which is excellent- what about recycled rain barrels? More partnership with the ag center to incentivize teachings on sustainable farming techniques. More opportunities like the farmers market to make a living from sustainable agriculture. Provisions for urban and rooftop agriculture in the zoning ordinances. Partner projects between appropriate tech retrofit businesses and gardeners for whole house/yard renovations. Thank you for providing this survey, I look forward to seeing what's going on and would love to help how I can. I'm glad the town is looking at these issues seriously and I encourage you to look at these problems as a connected whole instead of individual obstacles to achieve.
- 94) More pedestrian friendly cross walks, more bike friendly. Both would encourage more in-town residents to consider walking. I honestly do not feel safe crossing Blowing Rock Rd in front of campus, or River's St. I would also like to see the Farmer's Market, Boone Jaycee Park, Horn in the West, Daniel Boone Native Gardens, Strawberry Hill Arboretum get an entire makeover.
- 95) Make the Appalcart bus fleet 100% hybrid buses.

- 96) Reduce / stop wasteful spending on "research" and "initiatives" ... Either do or don't do. Encourage more public support of these "initiatives" - there's no reason for everyone to pay for projects used by few... Solar parking roof??? Solar bus stops?? Those who bike are already equipped and relatively few (outside of college kids) - they can buy cell phones and laptops, let them fix their own bikes. Stop trying to make Boone fit into some metro-fantasy.
- 97) I think that it is important for the town to quit dressing the part of a sustainable community and start acting on it. The university takes up much of the town's priorities, and it is not fair for Boone to label itself as a progressive community when the priorities do not reflect that.
- 98) Elkland Art Center is seeking to develop a local food/sustainability puppet show. Let's work together!

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Summary

Potential TRANSPORTATION Initiatives

Bike Maintenance Station

Public Bike Maintenance Station



Bike Corral Shelter

Bike Corral/Parking Shelter



Boone Bike Initiative

Revive the Boone Bike Initiative



Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Electric Vehicle Receptacle/Charging Station



Greenway Trails

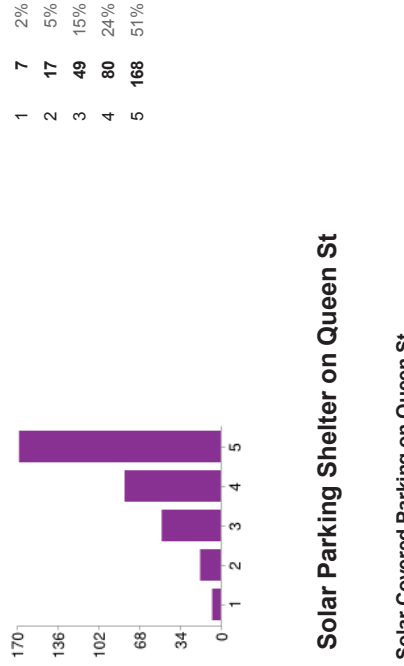
A Greenway corridor from downtown Boone to the Blue Ridge Parkway.



Potential ENERGY Initiatives

Solar Bus Stop

Solar bus stop and energy usage information kiosk



Solar Parking Shelter on Queen St

Solar Covered Parking on Queen St



Inventory of carbon pollution for Town of Boone to identify highest energy users and savings potential.



Local incentives for energy efficiency and energy production.



Community center and/or community owned renewable energy project.

New community owned renewable energy project (wind turbine or solar).

11/14/2014

Town of Boone Sustainability Survey - Google Forms



Education & outreach initiative for conservation and/or renewable energy.



Potential WATER Initiatives

Expand of existing conservation and toilet rebate program.



Point source pollution study within town of Boone.

11/14/2014

Town of Boone Sustainability Survey - Google Forms



Watershed restoration plan in partnership with Watauga County.



Research grants for student/faculty monitoring of local streams and rivers.



Fast permitting process for rainwater/greywater system installation.



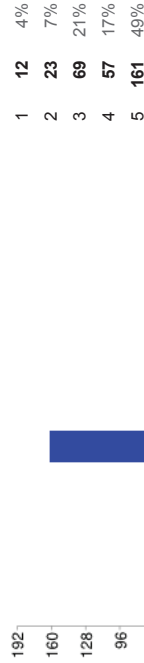
Integrate low-flow fixture design requirements into Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for new construction and renovation.



Potential FOOD initiatives

Garden tools lending library

Creation of a gardening tools lending library.



Mini-grants to local food and related businesses and organizations for education initiatives on the benefits of local food, issues of food accessibility,

and nutrition.



A yearly festival to celebrate local foods and our farmers, with workshops for the general public and for businesses to develop skills in the culinary arts, agriculture and value-added food production.



Allow the expansion of farmers markets into already existing spaces and/or help create a more "indoor" feel to the current structures.



Encourage private/public investment in a community center with a focus on winter farmer's market and other local food initiatives (possible ideas include a commercial kitchen, a cannery, low-income community garden, and a food hub to highlight local entrepreneurs.



Investigate the feasibility of creating a low-cost plastic bag fee to decrease landfill waste and increase the use of multi-use bags.



Curbside composting program for restaurants



Potential Education Initiatives

Publish local sustainability oriented workshops and events on Town of Boone website. Create a page on Town of Boone website with a calendar of local events and a monthly e-newsletter to give access to programming already occurring around sustainability in identified areas.



Billboard to display carbon-offsets, renewable energy, and other initiatives.



Promotion of sustainable practices on map/ walking tour.

Extend green business certification and promote businesses on map of town. Photo: Sustainable Raleigh Map



Extend living wage certification and promote businesses on map of town.



Sustainability internship program- intern for Town of Boone departments to help work on issues & sustainability.



And Finally....

If you had to choose just ONE sustainability initiative for Boone to pursue next year, what would it be?

Opportunities for residents who live in apartment buildings and other places where composting is unrealistic to compost and dispose of it (to a community garden?)

A Greenway corridor connecting downtown Boone.

Solar Bus Stop

Any of the bike measures- especially one to incorporate a way to get students/community members second hand, street, Boone appropriate bikes and teach them how to maintain that bike.

expansion of farmers market the greenway corridor

Curbside composting. Period.

Increase walking and bike paths

Food Education Initiative

The Greenway to the BRP project