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How to Educate Elected  
Public Officials Through  
Accountability  
January 2019

**ACTION PLAN**

# ***Action Plan: How to Educate Elected Public Officials Through Accountability***

## **Problem**

Many elected city councils; mayor's and planning commissions claim that they are ignorant regarding Sustainable Development (SD) aka, UN Agenda 21/UN2030. Put them on record by critiquing city documents and policy. Put the facts in writing and put them on public record; then, follow up, forcing them to take a position on the issue.

## **Cause of Problem**

They are not being truthful or they are truly ignorant. Cure their ignorance by putting them on public record and building a paper trail. This serves to hold elected officials in your city accountable for their words and actions.

## **Solution**

Educate them and hold them accountable to their oaths of office; level the playing field. They will know what you know, so that you can discuss the subject with them.

## **Action Steps**

- Start a local Citizen Action Committee and/or you can review your city General Plan or Comprehensive Plan.
- Obtain a copy of your city's General Plan. Most cities have these posted on their Web sites. These are multi-chapter documents containing thousands of pages. Most are in PDF format, which allows people to search documents for key words.
- Look for *Sustainable*, or *Green* key words. See pamphlet: *An Overview of U.N. Agenda 21, Sustainable Development and How Public Officials can Recognize Agenda 21*. Also, get familiar with your city Web site. Look for foundations the city is involved with including: community foundations, community partnerships, library foundations and public private partnerships (PPP). Find out how these entities are financed and what contributions your city is making to them. Is grant money involved? Ask to see the grant application(s). This will allow you to review the terms of the grant application the city agreed to.
- Critique the General Plan. Note, it is costing cities tax payer money to comply with agency mandates to develop General Plans and maintain them. Ask your city about these costs. Ask to see the grant applications, which will denote what the city must do to be in compliance with the grant. Money from grants typically provide for hiring a consultant and planning on paper and outreach meetings. Typically, continuing operations and maintenance of programs fall to property owners through increased taxes and fees. Example: Bicycle lanes and decreased

parking in high-density developments. What are the ongoing costs of bicycle lanes and what is the increased costs of traffic congestion because of overflow parking on streets?

- Publish your critique in a paper/report. This will become the basis for all your arguments and campaigns on the issue. Draft a cover letter for your report. Highlight and summarize your key findings arguments as most elected officials don't read reports. Also, ask your city council member(s) what their position is regarding an issue in writing. Include a deadline date. If you do not get a response, call the official and ask for a face-to-face meeting. If they do not get back to you, make sure that the local paper social media know about it. Make your report public and start a public information campaign.
- Deliver your document to the city clerks and get evidence that the information was received. You can email a PDF copy. If you do this ask that clerk confirm receipt and distribution of your document in an email. Most clerks will respond. This email will serve as proof. You can also visit the clerks off ice in person. Delivery the appropriate number of documents. For example, provide one copy for each council member, and two copies for the public record; have the clerk stamp one copy as your proof of receipt. You can also deliver your report to the local public library.
- Finally, you can attend a city council meeting and state that you have delivered your report to the council and that you are awaiting a timely response. You can read your summary page and announce that there are copies of your report via the clerk's office and at the public library. Provide copies of your "speech" (one copy for each council member, two copies for the public record and one copy with clerk's stamp and/or signature for proof) to the city clerk before the council meeting starts. Be sure to include your organizations name and contact information so that people at home can contact you as council meetings in many cities are video tapped and rebroadcast. Also, have someone video tape your speech. This is important because you can compare what is published in the meeting minutes of the city with what you said. If it is inaccurate, you can insist that the public record be set straight with the clerk's office.

### **To summarize:**

1. Setup a Local Citizen Action Review Committee
  2. Review city documents by critiquing them .
  3. Deliver your critique to the city clerk for appropriate distribution and proof of public record.
  4. Follow up and hold officials accountable. Insist they take a public position on your issue.
- As mentioned, the goal is to educate public officials. Once they are educated, they can no longer claim they are ignorant.
  - If they are educated and vote against the people, the people have just cause to recall them or vote them out of office. Conversely, those elected officials that support your efforts should be thanked for their efforts.

## **Other Educational Tools**

Visit <http://iagenda21.com/pdfs/>

for updates to this document and to get more resources to assist you.

Email: FutureEarthUS@gmailcom if you have questions.