

GREEN CARD QUESTIONS to City Council Members and Mayor Hanks
From Green Rapid City forum, May 3, 2009

TRANSPORTATION

What can the city do to have more influence on transportation issues? For example, state plans to widen streets cut off ideas for sustainable living such as walking or bicycling.

RECYCLING

When are we going to get serious about recycling and make it mandatory—or, at the very least, provide strong incentives for residents, businesses, schools, and the city itself to do so?

URBAN SPRAWL

Is there anything being done to promote restoration and development of existing structures in and near downtown (to limit urban sprawl/focus on growth inward)?

Portland has an Urban Growth Boundary. Can you explain to the community what this is, what it is accomplishing so far as sustainability and community is concerned and what it could do for Rapid City?

ENERGY

How will Rapid City develop landfill methane? Will we clean up that gas before it is sold?

Does the city have an energy manager for the entire city and an energy reduction plan with goals and timetables?

ECONOMICS

Will Rapid City be receiving any stimulus money from the recent stimulus package to undertake green projects or green jobs?

What will you do to change the public perception that being green will hurt the economy?

SUSTAINABILITY DEFINITIONS

Using a community's resources in a manner that ensures those resources remain healthy and abundant in the future

Actions that can be repeated for hundreds of years without negative effects on people or the environment

Practices that are economically feasible in the long term as well as short term that effectively reduce, reuse, and recycle anything or everything that is respectful and good for the environment Bill Keck

Looking forward to ensure continued growth and prosperity into the distant future

To do something, to keep something going that needs to be kept going, for the city of Rapid City to use wind energy and solar energy to keep our city powered

Making choices in every activity that keeps in mind the best interests of future generations

Living in a way that we do not use more of the earth's resources than the earth can regenerate—or at the lowest cost possible

Achieving a balance, or as near to a balance as possible, between needs and lifestyle choices and maintaining a healthy environment