2020 Report to the Region:
Measuring Our Progress

PLAN FOR A PROSPEROUS, HEALTHY, VIBRANT ST. LOUIS REGION

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Executive Summary

Hello!

Welcome to the 2020 OneSTL Report to the Region. In this 6th edition, we are taking the opportunity to tell you about the work that happened last year and what we have in store for 2020. On the following pages you’ll read about the status of sustainability indicators, the Sustainability Lab, general OneSTL updates, and activities of the Working Groups.

If this is your first time reading about OneSTL, it is a collaboration to encourage and support greater sustainability across the eight-county St. Louis region. We are a dynamic network of organizations and individuals sharing ideas, expertise, and resources to meet our regional sustainability goals.

Over the past three years, six Working Groups have been meeting to collaborate on increasing biodiversity, access to healthy food, transit oriented development, and healthy watersheds, and decreasing greenhouse gases and waste. Summaries of these groups can be found on pages 6 -11.

If you would like to participate in a Working Group, help communicate or organize a OneSTL activity, or simply would like more information, drop us a note: onestl.org/contact-us. If you have a particular interest in one or more of the Targets described, you can show your support by signing on to our support statement at onestltargets.org.

We would also like to take this opportunity to announce that plans are in the works to hold a regional sustainability summit in the Fall of 2020. The program will focus on topics that help to advance the efforts of the OneSTL Working Groups. Follow us on social media via #OneSTL or sign up for our email newsletter to receive updates on the summit as well as Sustainability Labs and other valuable information.

Thank you.

Aaron Young
Sustainability Planning Manager

Gena Jain
Sustainability Planner
Performance Indicators

East-West Gateway tracks 57 performance indicators measuring the region’s progress toward sustainability. These indicators are updated on an annual basis, as new data is made available. There is trend data to report on 44 of the 57 performance indicators. Of this total, 59 percent are moving in a desirable direction, 16 percent are not moving, and another 25 percent are moving opposite of the desired direction.

The metrics displayed below show progress and lack of progress made in some of the areas related to the OneSTL Working Groups. You can view much more on all of the OneSTL performance indicators by going to OneSTL.org/indicators.
The **Sustainability Lab @ T-Rex** started in May 2017 as a partnership between OneSTL and T-Rex, the downtown St. Louis business incubator. In 2019, the Sustainability Lab expanded to include events in St. Peters, MO and Alton, IL. Altogether, 23 Labs were held with a total attendance of over 500 community members.

The Sustainability Lab was created as an opportunity to meet regularly to collaborate and share successes, lessons and challenges. Each month, the Sustainability Lab looks a little different and covers a wide variety of topics including transportation, food deserts, university-community partnerships, environmental justice, recycling, climate change, green dining, solar power, biodiversity, waste reduction, and watershed planning.

The Lab Planning team works with different organizations to arrange guest speakers, panel discussions, group discussions, and tours. Two notable examples were a partnership with the American Planning Association – St. Louis Metro Section to host a City Speaker Series and the Section’s Spring Workshop; and the U.S. Green Building Council – Missouri Gateway Chapter to bring in a panel of high school students participating in the Green Schools Quest to talk about what climate change means to them.

In 2020, Labs will continue to be held the last Tuesday of the month at T-Rex and in St. Peters and Alton. We will continue to strengthen our partnership with T-Rex and the start-up community.

For more information about attending or presenting, go to onestl.org and click on the T-Rex logo!

**T-Rex is located at 911 Washington Ave. in downtown St. Louis.**

## 2020 Sustainability Lab Dates
3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

- January 28
- February 25
- March 31
- April 28
- May 26
- June 30
- July 28
- August 25
- September 29
- October 27
- December 29

Check the monthly Sustainability Lab agendas for St. Louis, Alton, and St. Peters at onestl.org/news

**Sustainability Lab @ T-Rex, courtesy of Jaclyn Jezik**
The **OneSTL Network** was started in 2014 to keep individuals engaged in the OneSTL Plan for regional sustainability. The Network took a big leap forward after a regional sustainability summit held in 2017. The Network formed six Working Groups that focus on specific topic areas to achieve a set of sustainability targets. The Working Groups and their targets are described on the following pages.

To support the Working Groups and their activities, a small but dedicated team of volunteers formed to help strategize outreach and communications. Referred to as Communications Strategists, this team meets monthly to formulate and implement communications for OneSTL. One goal of the Communications Strategists team in 2019 was to help the Working Groups coordinate messaging and promote the progress for achieving the OneSTL sustainability targets in the region through social media.

Through meetings, group discussions, and engaging with the Working Groups, the Communications Strategists created and implemented a social media campaign to raise awareness and promote key concepts of sustainability to the general public. Since the start of the social media campaign in August 2019, OneSTL has posted 237 social media posts with a total of over 109,000 impressions. You can search for specific topics via the hashtags to the right.

Follow our Hashtags
#MaterialsMonday
#TODTuesday
#WaterWednesday
#BiodiversityThursday
#FoodAccessFriday
#EnergySavingSaturday
#OneSTL
Biodiversity

Why It Matters

Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth including interactions among all species. Our region depends on biodiversity, not only for the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat, but also for the basic health, livability, and economic prosperity of our region.

Target

By 2025, 100 percent of counties in the Combined Statistical Area of St. Louis are using the Regional Biodiversity Atlas (from a 2018 baseline) to actively guide their planning, policies, and practices in ways that increase habitat connectivity, ecological functionality, and quality of life for all.

Working Group Activities

2019: The Biodiversity Working Group launched BiomeSTL in 2018 as the framework to achieve the target while connecting the residents of the region to nature; and center healthy, vibrant lands and waters as how we design, plan, and sustain our communities. Individuals from several organizations met to establish sub-groups within the Working Group to focus on outreach, education, and development of a website for BiomeSTL. In addition to committee work, member organizations involved with Biodiversity contributed to a youth jobs program, a summer reading program, invasive species removal, a speaker series, and a get-outdoors challenge.

2020: The Working Group will focus on publishing the Regional Biodiversity Atlas on a BiomeSTL website, populating it with more comprehensive data, and telling local biodiversity stories through community profiles. The Group will also continue to organize biodiversity-themed educational programs and experiences.

“There is incredible collaborative energy from many sectors moving the regional vision, atlas and action plan that is BiomeSTL forward.”

Louise Bradshaw, Director of Education, Saint Louis Zoo

“Sustainability is like good manners, for one species, on a planet that is populated by so many other kinds of life forms that are all interdependent.”

Jean Ponzi, Green Resources Manager, Missouri Botanical Garden

Photo courtesy of Jenn DeRose
Why It Matters

Addressing climate change is one of the most important challenges of our generation. To avoid the environmental and economic calamities predicted, we need to greatly reduce the amount of carbon and other greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.

Target

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 28 percent by 2025 and 80 percent by 2050 from a 2005 baseline.

Working Group Activities

2019: The Working Group assisted partner initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions including the expansion of the Grow Solar residential group buy solar pilot program into St. Louis. Several members of the group contributed to the city of St. Louis Solar Readiness Ordinance, the Building Energy Performance Standards, and city of St. Louis’ report “Pathways to 100% Renewable Energy.” The group continued to collect data for completion of the regional greenhouse gas inventory.

2020: The group’s goal is to complete the regional greenhouse gas inventory. They will continue to support the city’s efforts to expand energy efficiency and renewables including an upcoming commercial solar program, phase two of the Grow Solar residential group buy program, and other local initiatives supporting greenhouse gas reductions. The Working Group will provide consultation with Washington University in the formulation of a volunteer advisory group of business, institutional, and civic leaders tasked with developing strategies for addressing global climate change.

“Energy efficiency and green construction practices are essential to reducing greenhouse gases.”

Emily Andrews, Executive Director, U.S. Green Building Council — Missouri Gateway Chapter

“The St. Louis Region is poised to make great strides in greenhouse gas reductions and significantly grow our low-carbon economy. Cross-sector partnerships between local governments, the private sector and educational institutions will play a vital role in advancing climate solutions.”

Phil Valko, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Sustainability, Washington University in St. Louis

Solar Panel Installation – North Campus, courtesy of Azimuth Energy
Food Access

Why It Matters

Our current food system is not equitably feeding our people, supporting our communities, or ensuring the protection of our soil and water resources. In the city of St. Louis, 57 percent of residents live in communities that have low household incomes and live more than 1/2 mile from the nearest grocery store.

Target

By 2027, reduce by half the number of healthy food priority areas* from a 2018 baseline.

* Census tracts where residents are low-income, lack vehicle access, are ½ mile or more from a healthy food outlet, and availability of healthy food is low.

Working Group Activities

2019: The Food Access Working Group established The Food Equity Advisory Board (FEAB) in 2018 to engage with community organizations to determine the best ways to address food access. In 2019 the FEAB moved forward with multiple projects including:

• Engaging Fairground neighborhood residents to build support for a community owned grocery store.
• Launched the social media campaign “what does food equity mean to you.”
• Hosted their first pop-up film series about the food system and access.
• Supported the pilot Food Retail Audit in north St. Louis.

2020: FEAB will continue to search for funding to further their projects including a continuation of the Retail Audit. More pop-up film series events are planned and Gateway Greening will promote the events in the Fairground Park area. Through Known & Grown STL, a new project as part of the St. Louis Food Policy Coalition, the group will promote and support the work of food producers and retailers who improve our food system and educate residents about sustainable food choices.

“Through efforts such as the Food Retail Audit we continue gaining a better understanding of the many challenges communities face in access to affordable and healthy food options.”

Leslie Bertsch, Field Specialist, University of Missouri Extension

Link Market, courtesy of Bi-State Development.
Materials And Recycling

Why It Matters
The average American generates about 1,800 pounds of trash per year. Trash ends up in landfills, and it contributes to the pollution of our streets, rivers, and air. While we must collectively work on reducing the amount of waste our region generates, the majority of unwanted waste can be converted to economic opportunities through reuse and recycling. The Working Group taps into how the region can reduce the amount of waste we generate, reuse as much as possible, and recycle the right items correctly.

Target
Reduce tonnage of waste going to landfills within our wasteshed by 30 percent by 2030 from a 2015 baseline.

Working Group Activities
2019: Following the successful Recycle Responsibly campaign that has effectively reduced contamination in the recycling stream, the group was awarded a second grant from the St. Louis – Jefferson Solid Waste Management District. The funding will allow the group to continue educating the general public on the six recyclable household items and ways to reduce contamination of the recycling stream.

2020: The next phase of the Recycle Responsibly campaign will be to expand the reach of the education campaign. The group will be partnering with local retailers to promote recycling of plastic bags and wraps in an effort to prevent these items from ending up in residential recycling bins. The group will also explore avenues to reduce food waste.

“OneSTL has brought together a passionate group of people that see a vibrant future for St. Louis. With the progress we have made, I am looking forward to seeing what is to come for these working groups!”

Sarah Staebell, Health Inspector, St. Louis County Department of Health

“OneSTL has given us the opportunity to work with other cities and counties in the region to keep recycling alive.”

Jennifer Wendt, Project Manager, Department of Public Works, University City

Recycling On The Go, courtesy of Earthday365
Transit Oriented Development

Why It Matters

Transit Oriented Development (TOD) is the creation of vibrant, livable, sustainable communities within walking distance of a transit stop or station. Usually mixed-use, pedestrian oriented developments, TOD builds transit ridership; improves access to live, work and play in a community; reduces impacts of climate change, and creates opportunities for economic development.

Target

Increase the number of destinations such as jobs and residences within a ¼ mile from transit stations.

(Method under review)

Working Group Activities

2019: Through the work of its TOD Committee, Citizens for Modern Transit (CMT), the regional transit advocacy organization, accepted the leadership role of OneSTL’s TOD activities in 2019. CMT’s TOD Committee is comprised of developers, transit professionals, real estate lawyers, community organizations, and local stakeholders. In 2019, the committee explored the opportunities to support existing activities to enhance the built environment in proximity to transit.

2020: The TOD Committee will focus on coordinating and supporting developers and communities interested in exploring opportunities around both MetroLink and MetroBus transit stations. In addition, the committee will focus on education opportunities, advocacy efforts, and possible funding opportunities for TOD developments. The committee is working on outreach to communities interested in transit station enhancements as well.

“"The benefits of public transit in the St. Louis region goes well beyond the ride from point A to point B. It provides access to jobs, healthcare and education; provides social equity; creates jobs and opportunities for economic development. TOD takes those benefits one step further giving people the opportunity to live, work, and play in a vibrant, sustainable neighborhood while building ridership on our transit system.”"

Kim Cella, Executive Director, Citizens for Modern Transit

“"In today’s urban living environments, residents demand mobility — to civic assets, work, restaurants and services. And in today’s modern world, mobility means access to multi-modes of transportation including walking, bikes, scooters, buses, rail and to an ever decreasing amount — vehicles. Pearl continues to seek out sites where we can leverage the great transportation infrastructure in place in St. Louis and partner with communities on how to best integrate new housing options. These developments further Pearl’s vision to execute “Irreplaceable Buildings in Irreplaceable Locations.”"

Jeff Tegethoff, President, Pearl Capital Management, Developer at Forest Park Station and UMSL South Station totaling more than $160 million in investment along transit

Cortex MetroLink Station, courtesy of Paul Sableman
Why It Matters

Healthy watersheds improve the quality of water in our lakes, creeks, and rivers thus improving our health, and wildlife habitat as well as recreational and economic opportunities.

Target

100 percent of land in the St. Louis region has active organizations and quality watershed plans in progress by 2025 and plans completed by 2030.

Working Group Activities

2019: The Working Group continued to collect and evaluate data on watersheds and watershed planning in the region. Several members of the group assisted the St. Louis Aquarium Foundation with educational programming on watersheds and water quality.

2020: The Working Group will work with the Biodiversity Working Group to include watershed data in the BiomeSTL Atlas, provide technical assistance to communities conducting watershed plans, and develop messaging and educational materials for water quality and watershed planning.

“Clean water is vital for our health, well being and the local economy. We should be doing everything we can to protect this valuable resource.”

Rachel Bartels, Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper, Waterkeeper Alliance

St. Louis Green Business Challenge tour of Cortex Green Infrastructure, courtesy of Rob Kennedy
OneSTL Network Member Organizations

A Major University
Access to Nature
Access Engineering, LLC
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
Ameren Missouri Pure Power
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
Anderson Associates
Applied Research Collaborative
Backstorm McCarley Berry & Co., LLC
Better Family Life, Inc.
BJC School Outreach
Bi-State Development
BM3 Technology
Brightside St. Louis
CBB Transportation Engineers and Planners
CDBG Operations Corporation
CDM Smith
Center for Sustainability at Saint Louis University
Charitable Foundation USA
CI Select
CleanLA
Citizens for Modern Transit
City Energy Project
City Farm
City of Belleville
City of Festus
City of Granite City
City of Jennings
City of Maryland Heights*
City of Richmond Heights*
City of St. Louis Department of Health
City of St. Louis Office of the Mayor
City of University City*
Climate Reality Chapter of St. Louis
Community Builders Network of Metro St. Louis
Community Development Administration
Compass Strategic Business Consulting
Corepoint
CWE Farm
Davey Resource Group
Deer Creek Watershed Alliance
Donald Danforth Plant Science Center
EarthDance Farms
East Side Aligned
East-West Gateway Council of Governments
EDC of St. Charles County
Edwardsville Township
Energy Resources Group
Energy Systems Group
Fair Food Network
Filtrexx
FOCUS St. Louis
For the Sake of All
Forest ReLeaf of Missouri
Gateway Greening
Good Steward Energy
Grace Hill Settlement House
Gray Design Group
Great Rivers Greenway
Green Dining Alliance
Green Spiral Tours
Harris-Stowe State University Center for Neighborhood Affairs
HeartLands Conservancy
Hellmuth + Bicknese Architects, LLC
Holt High School
Home Builders Association of St. Louis and Eastern Missouri
Housing Options Provided for the Elderly
Institute for Urban Research - SIUE
International Institute of St. Louis
Ioby
Jefferson County Department of Solid Waste
Jennings High School
Jones Lang Lasalle
Justine Petersen Housing and Reinvestment Corporation
Kaleidoscope Network
Kash & Baer
LCMS Foundation
Lilian Circle Neighborhood Development Association
Logue & Associates, Inc.
Ludus Inc.
Madison County Employment and Training
Madison County Planning
McCartney Wealth Management
Maternal, Child & Family Health Coalition
Metro East Community Air Project, University of Illinois
Metro East Park and Recreation District
Metro Water Infrastructure Partnership (MWIP)
Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council
Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District
Midland States Bank
MidAmerica Teen Community Response Team
Mid America Transplant
Missouri American Water
Missouri Botanical Garden
Missouri Commission on Human Rights
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Department of Transportation
Missouri Interfaith Power & Light
Missouri Historical Society
MRC Recycling
Naspiregreen, LLC
Next City-GW Properties
Planning and Community Design Commission, City of Olivette
Pollution Prevention Regional Information Center (P2RIC)
Positive and Productive Innovations
Public Water Supply District #2 of St. Charles County
Real Estate Solutions
Renew Missouri
RideFinders
Rise
River des Peres Watershed Coalition
Saint Louis FORWARD
Saint Louis University
Sierra Club
Sitton Energy Solutions
Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville
Southwestern Illinois College
Spinmaker St. Louis
St. Charles Community College*
St. Clair County Department of Health*
St. Clair County Transit District
St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO)
St. Louis Chapter, NCEA
St. Louis Clean Cites
St. Louis County Department of Health*
St. Louis Community Foundation
St. Louis Council of Construction Consumers
St. Louis County
St. Louis County Soil & Water Conservation District
St. Louis Economic Development Partnership
St. Louis Earth Day
St. Louis Mental Health Board
St. Louis Regional Chamber
SIL Black Leadership Roundtable
St. Louis Lambert International Airport*
Stone Carlie & Company, LLC
Sugar Creek Gardens
The Green Center
The Living City Corporation
TetraHeed, LLC
Thomson Printing
TMZ Marketing
Trainet, Inc.
Trivers Associates
United Way of Greater St. Louis
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*
U.S. Green Building Council - Missouri Gateway Chapter
University of Missouri Extension, St. Louis County
University of Missouri, Environmental Assistance Center
Urban Forestry Consortium
Urban Strategies
Urban Waters Federal Partnership*
Washington University
Webster Groves Nature Study Society
Webster University
Youth Education and Health in Soulard
YouthBridge Community Foundation

Get Involved

Join the OneSTL Network with no commitment to receive updates on our events and progress: onestl.org/component/kiosk/message-join.

Request information on a Working Group: onestl.org/contact-US.

If you would like to assist with our communications effort or help organizing the Sustainability Lab @ T-Rex, send a message at onestl.org/contact-US.

Show Your Support

If you have a particular interest in one or more of the Targets described in this report, show your support by signing on to our endorsement statement at onestltargets.org. Whether you are a student, a corporate executive, a community activist or just a concerned resident, we want to know that you care.

OneSTL
1 Memorial Drive, Suite 1600 • St. Louis, MO 63102

www.onestl.org

EWG fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Nondiscrimination Complaint Form, see www.ewgateway.org/titlevi or call (314) 421-4220 or (618) 274-2750. This publication was supported, in part, by a grant provided from the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Transportation. The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, or the Federal Transit Administration.

Denotes public agency liaison

* Denotes public agency liaison