



# connections

## FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Linking Greenville's Neighborhoods to Jobs and Open Space

City of Greenville, South Carolina

May 2014, Issue No. 26

### Sustainability Spotlight

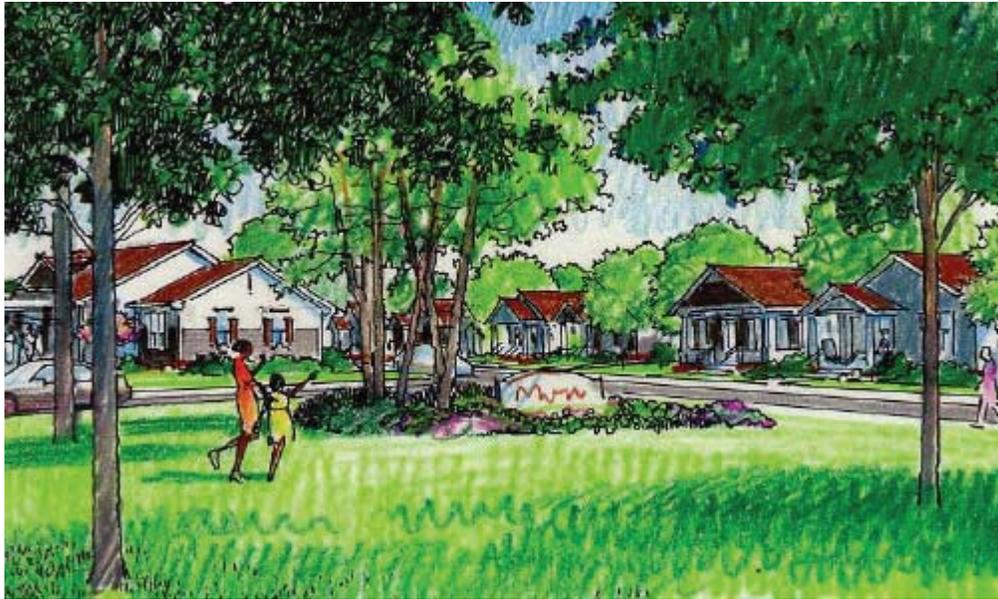
#### *Sustainable: Local*

by  
Jaclin DuRant

The term local is one of those tricky concepts, much like sustainability or community, where we all know what it means, but everyone's definition is just a little bit different. For some people, local means in the same city or town, while to others it means a 100 or 200 mile radius. We can probably all agree that local refers to something that is close by, and that being locally minded has an important role to play in the realm of sustainability.

Here are just a few ways to "think local":

- 1) Supporting local businesses and buying local products. Local food has its own movement associated with it, but food isn't the only commodity that South Carolina produces. Patronizing local businesses and buying locally made items supports our local economic and social fabric. Local businesses pay taxes that keep your roads smooth and your sewer systems in repair. Local businesses also hire local workers, so spending money with local business is one way to support the people who work there; your friends and neighbors.



## Neighborhood Vibrancy Taskforce

Tuesday, May 20  
6:00 - 7:00 pm

Allen Temple / West End Community Center

You are invited to join your neighbors and leadership from the City's Special Emphasis Neighborhoods to set the direction for the Neighborhood Vibrancy Taskforce. The taskforce will develop affordable housing and resident-driven community improvement strategies to preserve and enhance the dynamic diversity of Greenville's historic neighborhoods. This meeting is free and open to the public. Bring your ideas and a neighbor!

Please click [here](#) to add this event to your calendar.





**Sustainability in SC**  
**Monday, May 19**  
**6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**  
**Kroc Center**

What does local sustainability look like here in South Carolina? Come learn some of the amazing things we're doing right here in our home state to be more sustainable. We always have a good time at Sustainable Cinema, so join us at the Kroc Center, next Monday evening at 6:00 at the Kroc Center! Popcorn will be served!

**[Add this event to your calendar.](#)**



The West Side now has a logo that celebrates the textile heritage and bright future of this community.

## Community Branding Workshop

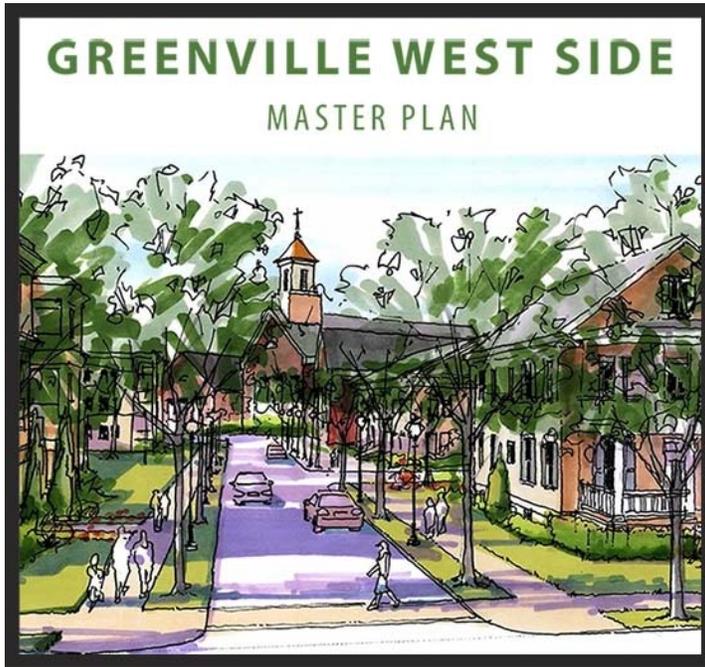
The Community Branding Workshop was held in March 2014 over three days. More than 100 people shared stories about the West Side and the three neighborhoods it includes: West Greenville, West End, and Southernside. The brands were unveiled at a lunch and learn in late March, and then traveled to these neighborhood association meetings during April and May. Community comments lead to the final versions now be used on banners, t-shirts, or anything else the community wants to use to celebrate their neighborhood!

2) Spending time close to home; taking a bike ride around your neighborhood, having a picnic in a local park, or hosting a neighborhood potluck are just a few ideas for spending some free time close to home. Spending time locally can reduce transportation expenses and use less energy. Social benefits to spending time in your neighborhood include a safer and closer knit community.

3) Protecting or restoring your local environment. Natural systems are an important part of a healthy society, providing us with benefits that range from clean air and water to food products and recreation opportunities. Removing invasive species, picking up trash, installing a rain garden or planting a tree are all simple ways to help protect the local environment.

4) Becoming involved. Whatever you are passionate about, chances are, there's a local group that you can be a part of. Volunteering your time to be a citizen scientist, an activist, or a philanthropist isn't just good for your community, but it's also a great way to make friends and feel great. When we make our little piece of the world a better place, the whole world can become just a little bit brighter.

There's a reason that "think globally, act locally" is such a great catch phrase. We can all be a little more locally minded, and reap the benefits in a healthier, safer, more economically and environmentally sustainable community.



Click this image to download a copy of the plan (file size is 30 MG).

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[connections@greenvillesc.gov](mailto:connections@greenvillesc.gov)  
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## West Side Comprehensive Plan Published

The West Side Comprehensive Plan is complete, and available [here](#) for download as an entire document or by chapter. The plan focuses on three core principles:

1. Make the west side a child-friendly community,
2. Create a ladder of opportunity, and
3. Engrain a culture of healthy living.

Download your copy today, or check out information about the process on the Connections [website](#). The plan is available there by chapter, and the website covers some of the extensive public input that led the process. The plan presents a catalogue of ideas for improving the West Side, including information about cost and how to get it done. It's a great resource for anyone interested in the future of the West Side.

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