Small Town Resilience Building the Future, Surviving the Storm

Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy
Climate and Economic Resilience
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Chair, Transportation for America
Meridian, MS
Meridian, MS
Resilience depends on aspiration

“Meridian, with its depots, storehouses, arsenal, hospitals, offices, hotels, and cantonments no longer exists.”

General Sherman
February, 1864
Who You Were in the Past
Meridian’s Union Station
Who you are in the present

The storm of neglect
Who You Aspire to Be
Neglect of health

Adult obesity (*BMI ≥ 30, or about 30 lbs. overweight for 5’4” person)
Put Meridian on a diet
The storm of nature
Resiliency and how we rebuild

Building a resilient community is critical:
In a disaster it’s literally life and death
Meridian goes green
Meridian goes green

Greening Our Buildings & Offices 2008

Quicklist

- CHOOSE TO BE ENERGY EFFICIENT
  - Purchase only equipment and supplies that are energy efficient
  - Implement/use LEED® recommendations
  - Build new facilities using LEED®

- OPERATE EQUIPMENT FOR ENERGY SAVINGS
  - Set computer, monitors, printers to sleep
  - Use both sides of every sheet of paper
  - Many types of office equipment use power bars to shut them off

- CHOOSE EARTH-FRIENDLY WATER USE
  - Use city tap water instead of bottled water
  - Implement wall-mounted drinking fountains
  - Implement Healthy High Performance Water Systems
  - Buy recycled water from a local source
  - Limit water use in restrooms

- CHOOSE ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIALS
  - Gather, store and dispose of building materials properly
  - Water & Air Conditioning
    - Keep heating and air conditioning filters changed and ducts clean
    - Install programmable thermostats
    - Use blinds and drapes to keep out the sun

*The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a system developed by the US Green Building Council to encourage and sustain environmentally responsible building design and construction.

Greening Our Vehicles 2008

Quicklist

- USE ‘GREEN’ DRIVING/FUEL CONSERVATION
  - Implement vehicle idle reduction practices
  - Always speed up gently in the morning
  - Coast more as you approach stop signs
  - Go easy on the brakes
  - Use hills to your advantage on the downsides
  - Avoid long idles
  - Avoid high speeds
  - Fuel vehicles in morning
  - Fuel vehicles before tank is empty
  - Develop “visor” quicklist

- DO REGULAR MAINTENANCE
  - Implement computerized maintenance
  - Follow a maintenance and repair checklist
  - Quickly repair any energy systems

- KEEP TIRES PROPERLY INFLATED
  - Develop a system for check
  - Consider investing in tire inflation pumps
  - Make sure all tires are always inflated

- BUY MORE FUEL-EFFICIENT VEHICLES
  - Make hybrids (gas/electric)
  - Make fuel economy a top priority

- WALK THE ‘GREEN’ WALK
  - Make sure all drivers are informed
  - Have all city employees trained

*Specific to Meridian
  - Install LED light bars on all trucks

Greening Our Shop Facilities 2008

Quicklist

- RUN A GREEN MAINTENANCE SHOP
  - Store solvents, solutions, fluids, oils, antifreeze, etc.
  - Keep the shop clean and dry
  - Change fluids carefully, as far as drainable
  - Minimize and manage waste from brake fluids
  - Minimize and manage waste from solvents
  - Recycle used solvents, fluids, oils, antifreeze
  - Develop an oil life extension program
  - Invest in new squeaky brake and part-clutter reduction
  - Ensure everyone is well trained and equipped

- MANAGE SPILLS, WASTEWATER AND AIR
  - Implement Healthy High Performance Water Systems
  - Johnson with environmentally-friendly, low maintenance
  - Always keep spill clean-up equipment on hand
  - Use absorbent materials instead of water
  - Capture contaminated wastewater and dispose of it properly
  - Recycle vehicle wash water when possible
  - Dispose of non-recyclable, hazardous materials properly
  - Make sure everyone is trained to deal with spills and waste correctly

Greening Our City 2008

Quicklist

- DETERMINE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
  - Establish city’s baseline carbon footprint
  - Establish baseline rating on existing buildings using LEED® standards
  - Retrofit existing buildings to meet LEED® standards

- MAKE IT A PART OF THE CITY
  - Establish Green Department and fund it
  - Establish Green Hotline
  - Create “Greening Meridian” website link

- GREENING THE ENVIRONMENT
  - Create more green spaces
  - Maintain and upgrade current green spaces
  - Plant indigenous trees and other plants
  - Hire litter ordinance/code enforcement officer

- THINK GREEN
  - Eliminate unnecessary stop signs and traffic signals
  - Use porous paving materials

*The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria.
The aspiration of the human spirit
Yes, we can read.
A few of us can even write.

Tennessee Williams  Nicholas Roar  Willie Morris  Jill Conner Browne  Barry Hannah  Beth Henley  Shelly Fours

Eudora Welty  William Faulkner  John Grammer  Margaret Walker Alexander  Richard Ford  Richard Wright  Natasha Trethewey

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cultural change ... oh, yes, Mississippians can write.

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Smart Growth America
Making Neighborhoods Great Together
Man Kills 5 Co-Workers at Plant and Himself

By DAVID M. HALBFINGER with ARIEL HART

MERIDIAN, Miss., July 8—An assembly-line worker who had complained at his factory this morning returned moments later with a .45-caliber handgun and killed five co-workers before killing himself.

Gunman Kills 5 Co-Workers, Self

He reportedly spoke of hating blacks before the rampage in Mississippi. Nine people are injured.

July 09, 2003 | Scott Gold and Lianne Hart | Times Staff Writers

MERIDIAN, Miss. — A Mississippi man who had spoken openly about his hatred of blacks and his plans to kill black people returned to the defense plant where he worked on Tuesday morning and killed five fellow workers before killing himself.
Resilience: the strength you yield to future generations
what we are doing will directly affect their future.
Thank you

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