

Table 12.1

Social and environmental assessment matrix (Citizen organizations – PCT: Pullman Civic Trust; CSL: WSU's Community Service Learning Programme; PCEI: Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute; FOG: Friends of Gladish; MSA: Main Street Association; and GSF: Greystone Foundation). (Source: Bartuska, 1997.)

Proposed sustainable strategies by scale:	Citizen initiatives	City governance
A Regional scale strategies:	(14 points)	(3 points)
1. Develop greenbelt to contain sprawl and save agricultural-resources	*	
2. Annexation of land for low-density sprawl	** (against)	(has approved)
3. Extensive tree planting programs (30,000 trees per year)	** (PCT & CSL)	*
4. Water impoundment and flood mediation	** (PCEI)	
5. Artificial wetlands and stream restoration	** (PCEI & CSL)	
6. Pullman-Moscow bike trail (rail banking)	*** (PCT, etc.)	*
7. R/UDAT proposal (Regional/Urban Design Assist Team)	**	*
B City scale strategies:	(15 points)	(9 points)
1. Updating Pullman's Comprehensive Plan	**	**
2. Accessible public transit (free for educational community)	* (PCEI)	**
3. Centrality of community focus	** (PCT & FOG)	(+/-)
4. Downtown improvements committee	** (PCT & MSA)	**
5. Third grader's downtown proposal	**	*
6. Purchasing old high school for a community centre	*** (FOG)	
7. Koppel Farm developments (community gardens)	** (GSF)	
8. Downtown farmers market	*	**
C Neighbourhood and district scale strategies:	(8 points)	(4 points)
1. Accessible neighbourhood parks and schools	*	**
2. Pedestrian/bike priority streets and greenways	*	*
3. Traffic calming strategies	*	
4. Implementation of bike/pedestrian recommendations	**	*
5. WSU Arboretum/greenways development	**	
6. Convenient public transit	(B.3 above)	(B.3 above)
7. Creating neighbourhood planning groups	*	
D Clustering residential strategies:	(2 points)	(3 points)
1. Increased clustering	*	*
2. Increased density	*	**
E Dwelling Unit Strategies:	(9 points)	(3 points)
1. Development of demonstration housing projects	*	
2. Implementing State Energy Code (50% improvements)	*	**
3. Reduction in housing unit and lot size	*	*
4. Implement 'Eco-Team' programme	** (PCEI)	
5. Recycling and composting versus disposal emphasis	**	(* +/- billing)
6. Water conservation/service billing	**	(* +/- billing)
Assessment totals:	48 points	22 points

Assessment score card: scale: *acknowledgement; **progress; ***sustainable (1 point per*).

more sustainable growth directives, and marks an important change in the direction for the city. Although there are many past decisions by city governance that support auto-driven sprawl and are not sustainable, there are many others that are being implemented by citizen organizations that are sustainable. The citizen and university student groups denoted in the above assessment matrix have made remarkable sustainability changes to the community. For example, citizen groups are planting some 20–30,000 trees per year, enhancing the waterways, helping to reanimate the historic downtown, have implemented an extensive bike/greenway system along an abandoned railway, sponsored a greenway levy and other programmes to extend these pedestrian pathways throughout the community. A citizens group even purchased an old centrally located high school and converted it into a very active community centre. Internal densification is occurring but unfortunately auto-driven sprawl still outpaces the more sustainable clustered developments.

Conclusion

Pullman's Sustainable Regenerative Proposal is based upon a holistic, ecological model – a critical first step in creating sustainable communities, locally and globally. Modelling human–environmental interchanges was found to be a powerful and useful concept, fundamental to sustainable design and planning processes. Although this methodology is applied to a relatively small community in a rural setting, it is transferable to larger urban places, which are generally composed of sub-units similar to this community. The proposed model is inherently a powerful research, educational, and marketing tool for sustainable community planning and development. It can be used by any city as a guide for developing a comprehensive and sustainable urban regeneration programme. Specific policies and strategies will vary with local conditions, but the methods for demonstrating human–environmental interchanges and benefits are universally applicable.

The continued implementation of these regenerative strategies will require collaboration between government, civic organizations, and private individuals. Pullman's new comprehensive plan reflects many sustainable principles. Sustainable initiatives are being implemented by grassroots efforts from civic organizations and the community continues to be proactive in regards to sustainable development.

The future of the 'Paradise Called the Palouse' looks promising (Austin, 1982). But yes, as Charles Dickens once pronounced, it is still the best and worst of times, it is still an age of wisdom and foolishness; but hopefully Pullman and other communities will continue to nurture successful sustainable cells of urbanism.