

Over 100 Philadelphia organizations have united around a high-impact, feasible set of recommendations to create healthy, sustainable neighborhoods for the third time since 2007. To be truly great, Philadelphia needs a new Mayor who will lead Philadelphia forward with Next Great City 2015's six key initiatives and get us to the finish line on key initiatives already underway.



Repair Substandard Housing Conditions that Make Philadelphians Sick

ISSUE Aging and deteriorated houses are making their occupants sick, particularly residents with chronic conditions like asthma.

ACTION Prioritize repair and improvement of existing affordable housing in policy and practice. Expand city pilot that removed asthma triggers in the home and improved children's health and school attendance dramatically within 6 months.

BENEFITS Lowers illness exacerbated by housing conditions; preserves affordable housing we can't afford to rebuild; reduces school and work absenteeism; lowers displacement of homeowners; decreases energy use; and lowers health costs.



Create Clean, Litter-Free Streets, Parks and Rivers

ISSUE Filthadelphia says it all. We have too much litter on our streets and polluting our parks and rivers.

ACTION Improve regulation, charge for single use plastic and paper bags, and implement a street cleaning program.

BENEFITS Removes blight and unattractive trash; increases neighborhood and riverfront attractiveness; decreases crime; improves water quality; encourages neighborhood investments; and saves millions of dollars.



Protect Vulnerable Residents and Infrastructure in Extreme Weather

ISSUE Extreme storms endanger residents and core infrastructure from hospitals to the electrical power grid

ACTION Create an extreme emergency response plan for residents, establish a flood task force and make storm vulnerabilities a required factor in infrastructure and new development decision-making.

BENEFITS Protects vulnerable residents in dangerous situations; preserves key infrastructure; protects water quality and improves city's resilience and sustainability.



Strengthen Small Business Climate

ISSUE Neighborhood businesses are not growing as they should and feel burdened, rather than helped, by city government.

ACTION Lower license and tax obstacles, offer gap financing, integrate non-profit supports and improve inspection process.

BENEFITS Creates jobs; restores commercial corridor vitality; eliminates unnecessary trips to city hall; and fosters start-ups and long-term business viability.



Connect Neighborhoods to our Trail and Bicycle Network

ISSUE Many neighborhood residents do not have safe, convenient access to the city's trail and bike lane network.

ACTION Improve connections to and between trails and bike lanes, create uniform signage, and extend Bikeshare to neighborhoods.

BENEFITS Creates neighborhood assets; provides safe, equitable access to a city asset; reduces traffic and traffic-related injuries and fatalities; increases mobility; lowers obesity; improves air quality; attracts tourism; and improves mobility of residents without a car.



Provide Free Drinking Water and Nutritious Food to Students

ISSUE Many Philadelphia students do not have easy access to drinking water or nutritious, appealing meals during the school day.

ACTION Offer modern water stations near cafeterias and throughout the school, incubate local business to provide appealing nutritious pre-plated lunches, and create school gardens.

BENEFITS Improves childhood nutrition; raises student performance due to better hydration and nutrition; improves student behavior; lowers obesity; teaches healthy food eating habits; improves fresh food access; and enhances local economy.

For more, visit nextgreatcity.org

These six recommendations will help to ensure that every Philadelphia neighborhood is healthy, clean and safe and served by an effective city government.

The Next Great City has jointly created and implemented two ambitious agendas for the City. All 15 of our past recommendations are in progress.

ABOUT NEXT GREAT CITY

The Next Great City coalition is made up of over 100 civic associations, labor unions, businesses, public health organization, environmental nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and social service groups. Together, we are dedicated to creating a positive future for Philadelphia by advocating for common sense cost-effective policies that enhance environmental quality, strengthen neighborhoods, and increase our economic competitiveness.

To view the entire 2015 Next Great City agenda, visit: nextgreatcity.org

For more information or to join the coalition, please contact Bartolotta@pennfuture.org

2007 Recommendations



ADOPT MODERN ZONING



MAINTAIN HEALTHY PARKS



REPLANT NEIGHBORHOOD TREES



IMPROVE TRANSIT STOPS



STOP SEWER BACKUPS & FLOODING



REDUCE ASTHMA FROM DIRTY TRUCK EXHAUST



CREATE PUBLIC WATERFRONTS



5% CLEAN, LOCAL ENERGY USE



CLEAN AND GREEN VACANT LOTS



EXPAND AND IMPROVE RECYCLING

2011 Recommendations



SELL OR TRANSFER PUBLICLY-OWNED VACANT LOTS



MAKE STREETS SAFE FOR WALKING AND BIKING



REUSE & RECYCLE CONSTRUCTION & FOOD WASTE



DISCLOSE ENERGY COSTS TO PROPERTY BUYERS



IMPROVE ACCESS TO FRESH, LOCAL FOOD

