



**Suburban Transit Network, Inc.
Sustainability Plan
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2028
(Updated 4/1/2022)**

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1.0 Background

Scientific studies assert that human activities contribute to the greenhouse effect and, if left unaltered, this will cause climate change posing serious risks to our health, economy, and environment. TransNet plans to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to reduce its contribution to climate change.

The Greenhouse Effect

The climate on Earth is determined by a balance of naturally occurring gases dispersed in the atmosphere that trap solar heat. The phenomenon is known as the greenhouse effect. As sunlight passes through our atmosphere, the incoming solar radiation is re-radiated from the earth's surface as heat energy. Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, chlorofluorocarbons, and water vapor trap some of this re-radiated energy. This trapped heat warms the earth, much as the glass of a greenhouse traps re-radiated energy from sunlight and, thereby, warms the interior of the structure.

Global Warming

Natural levels of greenhouse gases play a vital role in maintaining the necessary conditions for life on Earth. Yet human activities have increased the amount and concentration of these gases resulting in a rise in global temperature. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that water vapor is the most abundant greenhouse gas; it occurs naturally and makes up about two-thirds of the natural greenhouse effect. Fuel burning and other human activities have added additional greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. The gases of greatest concern are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

These gases are generated as waste products primarily from:

Burning fossil fuels: Carbon dioxide is produced when gasoline is burned in automobiles and when coal and natural gas are burned to produce electricity, heat, and power.

Deforestation: When vegetation is cleared, burned, or left to decay, carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere. Vegetation helps reduce greenhouse gases because the growing process absorbs carbon dioxide. When vegetation is gone, less carbon dioxide will be absorbed out of the air.

Decomposition of organic matter: When organic wastes decay in a landfill, they release carbon dioxide and methane gases. Methane is more than 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

Livestock: Animals such as cows and sheep also release methane.

2.0 Vision

At TransNet, we believe that a sustainable business is dependent on economic vitality, social equity, and a healthy natural environment. We do not see these goals as mutually exclusive, but inextricably linked. As business leaders, we are committed to develop sustainable business practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the welfare of future generations. We pledge to develop strategies that enable us to move toward sustainability while enhancing the value offered to our customers. Our shuttle service options help our corporate partners and colleges "go green", and enable their employees, students, and tenants to reduce their environmental footprint.

3.0 Activities and Impacts

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction
 - Reduce consumption of fossil fuel
 - Reduce carbon footprint
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation
 - Reduce consumption of fossil fuel
 - Reduce carbon footprint
- Transportation
 - Reduce consumption of fossil fuel
 - Reduce carbon footprint
 - Promote public transit and sustainable transportation
- Recycling and Waste Management
 - Reduce consumption of fossil fuel
 - Reduce carbon footprint
 - Conserve landfill space
 - Reduce consumption of natural resources
- Communication
 - Educate employees
 - Share experiences and practices with others through publications, presentations, and networking to promote the adoption of successful actions

4.0 Sustainability Goals and Targets

- Transition fleet to alternative fuel vehicles
 - 30% of fleet converted to Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV's) by June 30, 2023
 - 60% of fleet converted to Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV's) by June 30, 2028

- Continue to promote the use of public transit and alternative sustainable transportation
 - Increase Shared Ride Program usage by 5% in FY 2022-2023
 - Increase corporate shuttle service systems by 10% in FY 2022-2023
 - Promote our travel training to consumers to increase use of public transit
 - Investigate the development of a microtransit system in low density portions of our service area
- Increase efficiencies in our system through use and management of Ecolane transportation software
 - Increase the average number of trips per hour / per vehicle
 - Decrease the average deadhead mileage percentage of total miles
 - Move to a 100% paperless pre-trip inspection process for drivers utilizing their tablets
- Continue participation in the PECO A/C Energy Savings Program
- Achieve a 75% office recycling rate
 - 50% by June 30, 2023
 - 75% by June 30, 2028
- Resource Consumption
 - Reduce copy/printer paper consumption
 - 20% by June 30, 2023
 - 30% by June 30, 2028
 - Paper used meets the EPA procurement and recovered material guidelines
 - 75% by June 30, 2023
 - 100% by June 30, 2028
 - 100% of all All-Staff meetings contain a sustainable operations update or discussion topic

5.0 Planned Actions, Timeline, Responsibilities and Measures

Target Area	Planned Actions	Intended Purpose	Measures of Success	Responsible Party	Timeline
Alternative Fuel Vehicles	Continue to purchase and convert service vehicles to Propane	Reduce carbon footprint and contribution to climate change	Reduction in emissions in tons of carbon per year	Risk Management Director	Ongoing – 50% of Bus Fleet by June 30, 2028
Promote use of public transit /sustainable transportation	Hire a Marketing Coordinator	Promote sustainable services	Increase in number of trips per year	Marketing Manager	November 30, 2021
Increase operating efficiencies through Ecolane	Analyze data and manage Ecolane to improve efficiencies	Reduce carbon footprint and contribution to climate change	Reduction in dead mileage and increase in trips per hour	Operations and Technology Administrator	Ongoing and 100% elimination of paper pre-trips by June 30, 2022
Office recycling	Increase staff engagement and training – include education /discussion in every “all staff” meeting	Conserve landfill space, reduce carbon footprint, reduce consumption of natural resources	Increased use of recycling containers	Executive Director	75% of total waste by June 30, 2028
Resource consumption	Reduce copy/printer paper consumption	Reduce consumption of natural resources	Reduction in paper consumption in number of sheets per year	Office Coordinator	30% reduction by June 30, 2028
Resource consumption	Paper purchased/used meets the EPA procurement and recovered material guidelines	Reduce use of virgin fiber and associated release of toxins, strengthen recycled paper markets	% of 30% recycled paper compared to total paper use	Office Coordinator	100% meets EPA guidelines by June 30, 2028

6.0 Memberships and Partnerships

- ***GVF Transportation*** – TransNet works with GVF to provide sustainable shuttle transportation to businesses, colleges, municipalities, and others. TransNet has received GVF's sustainability award for the past four years. TransNet is a supporting member of GVF and will continue to work with GVF to promote additional sustainable transportation services throughout Montgomery and surrounding counties.
- ***Eastern Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Transportation (EP-ACT)*** – TransNet is a sustaining member of EP-ACT and has worked with EP-ACT on a grant to convert vehicles in our fleet to Compressed Natural Gas. Although CNG was not an optimal alternative fuel for our organization due to lack of sufficient fueling infrastructure, TransNet continued to work with EP-ACT to study our operation and determine an appropriate path forward. Following the study, and a recommendation of propane as an appropriate alternative fuel, TransNet proceeded with purchasing and converting our first 12 vehicles and installing fueling infrastructure in two locations. TransNet will continue to work with EP-ACT on other sustainability efforts.
- ***Roush Cleantec*** – TransNet worked closely with Roush in transitioning some existing vehicle to propane and in our planning process to add new vehicles to our fleet. Roush has been a valuable partner in our alternative fuel initiatives.
- ***Sharp Energy*** – Sharp Energy has been instrumental in helping TransNet achieve our propane alternative fuel objectives, by assisting with the design and installation of our two fueling stations.
- ***RideECO Select*** – TransNet participates in the RideECO program upon staff request. The program is a simple, economical, efficient, and flexible way to provide employees with a transit benefit.