



## CONTACT

Cori Burbach, Sustainable  
Community Coordinator  
563-690-6038  
cburbach@cityofdubuque.org  
www.sustainabledubuque.org

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Sustainable Dubuque Task Force Wins Planning Excellence Award

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque has been awarded a “Planning Excellence Award for Innovation for Sustaining Places” for the Sustainable Dubuque Task Force planning process by the Iowa chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-Iowa). The results of the 2010 APA-Iowa Awards will be officially announced at the Awards Lunch during the APA-Iowa State Conference, which are being held from October 27-29, 2010, at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs.

Each year, APA-Iowa asks its more than 350 members to nominate plans, projects, and individuals deserving recognition by the professional organization. Award nominees can be recognized in as many as 14 categories ranging from planning excellence to distinguished leadership. Based on an independent review by a jury of professional planners from the Nebraska Chapter of the APA, Dubuque, along with five other nominees, has been selected to receive a 2010 APA-Iowa Award.

Sustainable Dubuque was a community planning process for citizens to help design a sustainability initiative for Dubuque. In 2006, in response to a growing request from the citizens of Dubuque, the Mayor and City Council identified sustainability as a Top Priority during their annual goal setting process. As part of this process the City Council approved the creation of a community task force to help develop a vision statement and principles that would further define the Sustainable Dubuque initiative.

The Sustainable Dubuque Task Force, facilitated by City staff and Durrant, included representatives from local government, schools, utility companies, religious organizations, neighborhood associations, youth organizations, non-profits, environmental organizations, and business stakeholders.

Based upon this process the following vision statement was developed: “Dubuque is a viable, livable, and equitable community. We embrace economic prosperity, social/cultural vibrancy and environmental integrity to create a sustainable legacy for generations to come,” along with a sustainability model that is focused on creating policies and programs that address economic prosperity, environmental integrity, and social cultural vibrancy. The Sustainable Dubuque program focused on educating the public on the 11 key principles to a more sustainable community. These 11 key principles include: Regional Economy, Smart Energy Use, Resource Management, Community Design, Green Buildings, Healthy Local Foods, Community Knowledge, Reasonable Mobility, Healthy Air, Clean Water and Native Plants & Animals.

APA-Iowa Chapter provides leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change. APA-Iowa members consist of planners and other professionals involved in the development and sustainability of Iowa communities.

For more information on the Sustainable Dubuque Task Force or other projects addressing the community’s sustainability vision, visit [www.sustainabledubuque.org](http://www.sustainabledubuque.org).

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