# International Parking Institute's Framework on Sustainability for Parking Design, Management, and Operations

Revised April 2017

Sustainability in parking means meeting "the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.<sup>1</sup>" To be successful, transportation solutions and sustainable practices should balance economic feasibility, public health and welfare, and consideration of environmental impacts. Sustainable practices in parking operations work to reduce fossil fuel use and carbon emissions, reduce air and water pollution, and reduce land use.

The International Parking Institute (IPI) serves as a thought leader, information clearinghouse, and driving force for increasing sustainability practices in the parking industry.

<sup>1</sup>Definition of Sustainability from the Brundtland Report, United Nations, 1987.

Committed & educated leadership
Transportation alternatives
Energy efficiency
Use of renewable energy
Support for rating systems

Carbon emissions & pollution Waste generation Harmful chemical use Potable water use

SUSTAINABILITY GOALS:

IPI's Framework on Sustainability identifies several goals which are organized into three primary categories:

### **Knowledge and Research:**

- Gather data, conduct research, and document case studies to create a body of knowledge about best practices in parking and transportation.
- Identify innovative technologies that support sustainability goals.
- Increase education, awareness and information sharing to disseminate the gained knowledge widely throughout the profession.

### **Programs and Operations:**

- Prioritize transportation demand management (TDM), access and mobility management programs which decrease single occupancy vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled.
- Decrease reliance on fossil fuels by increasing energy efficiency, using alternative fuels, or generating renewable energy as part of daily operations.

 Protect water quality by reducing potable water use, using biodegradable cleaning products, and implementing storm water control practices.

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**DECREAS** 

### Planning, Design, and Construction:

- Promote practices in planning, design and construction of parking facilities that reduce the long-term environmental impacts of land use decisions.
- Encourage alternative energy sources and energy-saving technology, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and accommodate alternative fuel vehicles.
- Make informed decisions based on long-term environmental impacts related to material and technology selection, including effective natural resource management and waste reduction.



### **ACTION ITEMS:**

### IPI supports this framework through nine action items:

- Developing and maintaining a comprehensive library of online and faceto-face training offering both CAPP and USGBC credit on topics related to sustainability, including learning opportunities at the annual IPI Conference & Expo.
- 2. Developing and maintaining our Strategic Partnership with the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI), and the Parksmart Program, the only sustainability rating system designed for structured parking facilities.
- **3.** Publishing through a variety of media, including *The Parking Professional*, related trade publications, the blog, and social media on solutions that reflect a balance between economics, public health and welfare, and reduced environmental impacts.
- 4. Encouraging and recognizing achievements and improvements in sustainable parking and transportation through recognition, press, awards programs and exhibitor visibility.
- Providing essential content on sustainability as part of education and professional development programs, online training modules, the CAPP credential, and the Parksmart Advisor program.
- **6.** Creating forums for peer-to-peer sharing and best practices on sustainable parking design, management, and operations.
- 7. Developing and sharing research, tools, and resources that result in energy efficiency, informed material and technology selection, the availability of multi-modal transportation options, effective natural resource management, and the use of waste reduction strategies.
- **8.** Forging strategic partnerships with government agencies and non-profit organizations to facilitate goal setting, information sharing, and funding incentives that encourage investing in sustainable parking solutions.
- **9.** Communicating with media, influencers, and the public to create awareness of the positive impact parking professionals can have on sustainability.





## Parksmart and the USGBC

Parksmart defines and recognizes sustainable practices in parking structure management, programming, design and

technology. Industrydriven and field tested, Parksmart distinguishes the forward-thinking parking facilities



shaping tomorrow's sustainable mobility network. Certification is both a roadmap and an assessment tool for real estate owners, developers, planners, architects, tenants, parking operators, and other. Learn more at http://parksmart.gbci.org/

IPI is the USGBC's exclusive provider of Parksmart Advisor Training. Offered in person and online, these courses educate Parksmart Advisors on the Parksmart program and how to guide owners through the certification process. Find out more: http://www.parking.org/professional-development/parksmart





# **Order the Book**

Sustainable Parking
Design & Management: A
Practitioner's Handbook is
available in a hardcover
and Kindle version. Order
at parking.org/greenbook.

Special thanks to IPI's Sustainability
Committee and the USGBC's
Sustainable Transportation Advisory
Council for their ongoing dedication to
promoting sustainability in the industry.