

! 2019 BROOKINGS SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Sustainability Council is to investigate, propose, educate, communicate, and advocate investment strategies and policies that will improve our future quality of life while still meeting the needs of the present. The Brookings Sustainability Council has 12 members and an annual budget of \$5,000.

Key Projects

Description	
1	Solar Energy Research – conducted background research on solar energy options for Brookings as well as other potential renewable energy sources.
2	Plastic Bag Reduction Research – gathered information for the City Council on ways to reduce plastic bags in our community.
3	Brookings Bonanza - Handed out 150 reusable bags, LED light bulbs, and sustainable tips flyers at the community wide event.

Successes

- Recycling bins were placed in City Hall.
- Awarded Carrot Seed and SDSU Photovoltaics Project the Mayor’s Sustainability Award in the social/quality of life and environmental resilience categories respectively.
- Supported the Assistant City Manager in the grant submission for an electric car charging station.
- Committee member served on the 2018-1 housing standard change committee.
- Members of the committee visited a waste-to-energy facility.
- Met with the City Engineering, Landfill, and Parks & Rec departments to learn about their efforts.
- Co-hosted Stephanie Arne for an Earth Day Celebration with the Children’s Museum of South Dakota.

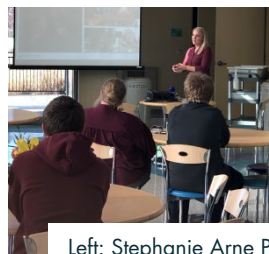
- Two members attended the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference held in Dubuque, IA.
- Reviewed local and urban ag ordinances.
- Assisted with signage for downtown recycling trial.
- Food Co-op – set up a board of directors, fundraised, and moved forward with next steps for opening a food co-op in Brookings.

Challenges

- Finding committee volunteers to help with committee tasks
- Keeping meetings under 1.5 hours.

Looking Ahead

[SEE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC PLAN](#)



Left: Stephanie Arne Presentation
Right: Carrot Seed at Mayor’s Award Ceremony