



QUALITY OF LIFE COLLABORATIONS/COMPACTS

Purpose

To measurably improve targeted quality of life by bringing together unlikely groups and facilitating formal compact agreements involving actionable commitments and targets above and beyond normal activities to move one or more community indicators and demonstrate improvement

Successful compacts have included the following [Note that results are listed for the compact time period only, unless reported otherwise]

1. Community's Natural Environment Compact [Contact: Kathy Carter, kcarter@trisage.com]

The first Quality of Life Compact was with *Washoe County* government from July 2001 – 2002 and set out to improve our community's natural resources. Washoe County was able to achieve significant *measurable* results, without increased costs to the county. Some of the results include the following.

- **Air Quality:** Increased its number of alternative fuel vehicles by 50% during the year of the compact (90% increase in alternative fuel new vehicles)
- **Waste Reduction:** With a rate of 29% in 2001, Washoe County was the first country to exceed the legislature's recycling rate goal of 25%
- **Energy Conservation:** Energy conservation measures resulted in a 21% decrease in energy use with associated cost savings of 14% in the fiscal year
- **Water conservation:** The parks department installed water conserving irrigation systems, which conserved 10 to 15% usage
- **Public Education:** Washoe County committed to serve as a mentor for other compacts (compacts #2 and #4 below)

This program was recognized by the ICMA as a best practices model for governments across the nation in 2003. The International Society of Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS) recognized TMT and Washoe County Government at their 2002 annual conference in Virginia. This recognition brought the first Community Indicators Consortium (CIC) Conference to Reno in March 2004.

Following the compact, Washoe County continued its work to improve the our natural environment by implementing a Buy Recycle Policy, increasing internal recycling efforts resulting in a 50% reduction of trash sent to the landfill, re-using effluent water for golf course irrigation, and expanded use of photovoltaic technology, among other stewardship policies.

2. Open Space Compact [Contact: Karen Ross, KarenRoss@nvenergy.com]

In addition to the goal of improving the community's natural environment, Washoe County Government's compact also served as a model for other organizations to initiate their own compacts. A consortium of nonprofits -- *Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, Hands on Northern Nevada* (a United

Way program), and the *Nevada Land Conservancy*, along with *Sierra Pacific Power Company* (now NV Energy) and the *Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada* -- partnered to also improve the environment. Their compact targeted open space from October 2001- 2002 with the following results.

- Community-wide cleanups: Removing litter and debris around Swan Lake nature study area north of Reno; and the Keystone Canyon recreation area for hikers, bikers and outdoor enthusiasts
- Educational stewardship: Morning bird and wildlife tour, including an educational overview of the Swan Lake natural resources area: and historical and current use of Keystone Canyon, including plant and animal habitats we share, and trail etiquette

3. **Parental Involvement Compact** [Contact: Elaine Lancaster, ELLancaster@washoeschools.net]

A third compact between TMT, the *Washoe County School District* and *Washoe Education Association* was launched in January 2003 to improve parental involvement in schools and completed summer 2005. A major focus of the compact resulted in the WCSD and the WEA as integral members of the Parental Involvement Council established by the Board of Trustees to coordinate all parental involvement activities and help implement the Parental Involvement Strategic Plan. The National Education Association also recognized this compact as the first cooperative management-labor model in the nation.

Stewardship following the compact, resulted in the Parental Involvement Council receiving over 16,000 parent surveys returned in 2007 with feedback on what's working or not working to involve them—including their ideas for improvement. Based on the survey results, action plans have been implemented at every school, as of spring 2009. TMT's indicator: community-wide involvement in education—which measures parental involvement through both a survey and parent-teacher conference attendance—has steadily improved following this compact.

- Each school brought their plans to increase the number of parent volunteer hours, including what worked best in the past, to parental involvement trainings held spring 2004, where different approaches were brainstormed to get more parents involved
- Professional development to better utilize parent volunteers in their classrooms and schools was completed at every school May 2004; and the same parental involvement template was then used in the *No Child Left Behind* reporting process
- Increased attendance at parent conferences and school participation in the National PTA certification program involving parent involvement
- Production and distribution of a "Best Practices" booklet on parental involvement was compiled and distributed to individual sites for the fall 2005 school year

4. **Community-wide Indicators Compact** [Contact: Karen Barsell, kbarsell@uwayreno.org]

A fourth compact was launched in May 2003 with *United Way of Northern Nevada & the Sierra* (UWNNS) to tie community funding to outcomes and indicators currently in use (how communities benefit through the work of UWNNS' partner agencies) over three years. UWNNS is extending its current evaluation model to create a new Community Learning Model where partner agencies identify the indicators they are affecting through almost \$1 million in annual UWNNS funding, as well as the beneficial impacts are a result of their activities for clients served and the community. This new model will help UWNNS, the agency partners, and TMT better understand the impact of funding, programming and measures. Compact results indicated that UWNNS partner agencies use all of TMT's quality of life indicators through June 2006, in addition to many other reported indicators and outcomes. TMT also used the results of this compact as a part of the Quality of Life Task Force process to update all the community indicators in 2006.

- Over 150 UWNNS staff and volunteers, partner agencies staff, and 25 social workers completed Advanced Outcomes Training in 2003 to learn about the indicators and how to tie them back to important work done every day with partner agency clients
- Partner agencies reported quarterly on indicators and outcomes in use during 2004
- 28 partner agencies reported using TMT indicators were formally invited to adopt each indicator in early 2005; 18 of these agencies were already TMT adopters and reaffirmed their adoptions, while two additional agencies made new adoptions, through TMT's Adopt an Indicator program

5. Voter Turnout Compact [Contact: Arnie Maurins, amaurins@washoecounty.us]

TMT announced its fifth compact in July 2004 between the *New Voters Project, Nevada Museum of Art, Washoe County Registrar of Voters* and *Washoe County Library System* to address the voter turnout indicator. Activities in this compact included reviewing national models and best practices in order to increase the number of registered voters and voter turnout, provide voter information and schedules in both English and Spanish, and work with local media outlets to publicize the availability of early voting. Washoe County received a national public participation SAVVY Award for their 2004 Election Campaign as a part of the compact. Some of the **targets** and results included the following.

500+ primary election voter turnout at various library locations and the museum

- Over 800 registered in 2004 at various library locations and the museum
- More than 2,000 citizens voted early in the September 2004 primary, beating the original goal of 500 early voters
- 3,798 voted at 3-library branches serving as polling places

2,000+ general election turnout at polling stations at various library locations and the museum

- Increase in early voting November 2004 to over 16,000 compared to 13,000 in the 2000
- 8,965 citizens took advantage of early voting at just 1 of 5 library polling places
- 1,636 people voted at the museum

Improved percentage of overall voter participation (2000 general election turnout = 56.7%)

- 33,025 early voters in the November 2004 general election equated to a 155% increase over the previous record set in the 2000 presidential election

Results at five libraries, serving as early voting locations, were so successful during the 2004 elections that the compact expanded for the 2006 election. A total of 17,161 citizens took advantage of early voting at Washoe County Library locations during the 2006 general election. This was the highest total for any early voting location in Washoe County (41% of the 41,906 early turnout). Early voting was offered at nine libraries for both the primary and general elections. In addition, Meet the Candidates events were held at three libraries: Sparks, South Valleys, and Northwest Reno.

In stewardship following the highly successful compact, Washoe County implemented a 'youth vote' initiative and a 2008 public information campaign to attract underrepresented eligible voters. Additionally, in direct response to voter complaints, Washoe County redesigned its sample ballots including establishing a dual review process for Spanish- and English-language versions to remove barriers to voting.

6. Affordable Housing Compact [Contact: Nancy Brown, Nancy.E.Brown@schwabbank.com]

TMT's housing-related compact began at the end of 2004 with *Charles Schwab Bank and partners* to address affordable housing, including secondary issues around capacity building for

Community Based Organizations (CBOs) focused on affordable housing and improving financial literacy, as well as asset accumulation. Compact partner, Reno Housing Authority's Hillboro Place, was nominated in the August 2005 issue of *Affordable Housing Finance* as 1 of 3 "best affordability housing projects" nationally.

Compact goals included the following.

- Implement a statewide database identifying housing resources and needs, including Washoe County
- Build capacity within CBOs and developers in an effort to increase those that can support and build affordable housing (several Community Investment Programs workshops have since been conducted with the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco; capacity building has occurred in hundreds of organizations that is leading to increased assistance for local families and individuals)
- Increase the number of housing grants and funding awards in Washoe County
- Provide homeownership education and down payment assistance to low/moderate (80% of median) income individuals and families
- Increase number of affordable rental housing units
- Increase the number of affordable housing homeownership opportunities

Since the community collaboration began and through 2009, over 400 units of affordable housing have been developed in Washoe County through Schwab Bank's investing and lending partnerships, equating to more than \$20 million in affordable home mortgages and \$11.8 million in loans for affordable rental housing units. Almost \$2 million has been given to nonprofits and public agencies to build infrastructure and programs to serve the housing needs of more people. The compact morphed into financial literacy-related programs in conjunction with United Way of Northern Nevada & the Sierra, with additional/ongoing programs in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

TMT Quality of Life Compact Program vs. Adopt-an-Indicator Program (Adopted 11/18/03)

Compacts	Adoptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal, voluntary agreements between TMT and 1 or more organizations/partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary adoption by individual, family, business or organization (formal agreement not required)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead organization required Actionable commitment/targets above and beyond normal activities to move 1 or more indicators and demonstrate improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable Passive adoptions OK Active adoptions typically as part of normal activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurable, action-oriented educational, service and social activities component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurement not required Educational and social activities not required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timeline defined for measurable success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timeline not required Adoptions are typically on-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliverable reporting required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting is voluntary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compact outcomes typically benefit general comm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcomes not required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stewardship typically follows compact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stewardship not required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support. for individuals/group involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group involvement not standard
<p>TMT's role -- Defined by the compact agreement but typically includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrate and publicize Compact activities Provide volunteer linkages with adoptees to support the compact partners Create and promote compact through the annual report, newsletter and Accentuate the Positive Coordinate the community compacts and provide for the critical linkages among the partners and participants for the greater good of the Truckee Meadows Coordinate data collection that supports the quality of life indicators and the compact partners throughout the Truckee Meadows 	<p>TMT's role -- Create and promote the adoption to the community through the annual report, quarterly newsletter and Accentuate the Positive.</p>
<p>Process for creating a compact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization, business, or other entity approaches TMT Compact Committee about creating a compact Committee works with entity to craft formal Compact agreement and Compact activities Committee presents proposed Compact to the TMT Board for their review and approval Compact signed by all appropriate parties Compact activities begin 	<p>Process for adopting an indicator(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization, business or other entity determines what they are currently doing and/or want to do in the community to contribute to the Truckee Meadows QOL (e.g., clean a park, read in a classroom, walking tours of the region, youth outreach, immunization of seniors) Entity then identifies indicator which best describes their activities Entity completes Adoption Sign-Up form on the Adopt-An-Indicator guide or membership form or on TMT's website and delivers to TMT Adoption activities begin