

2015 Report to the Region: *Measuring Our Progress*



PLAN FOR A PROSPEROUS, HEALTHY, VIBRANT ST. LOUIS REGION



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OneSTL may seem like it's been around for a long time, but it's just getting warmed up. This document briefly explains OneSTL's progress thus far, and gives a glimpse of what can be done in the days, months, and years ahead. We are thankful for all of your interest and involvement in OneSTL, whether you were here from the start, joined along the way, or just now are discovering this collaborative regional effort.

Development of OneSTL was funded by a federal Housing and Urban Development grant intended to better coordinate spending and policies concerning housing, transportation, and environmental concerns.

From 2010 to 2013 we gathered information, gauged public input, and analyzed issues in preparation for the creation and release of the first St. Louis plan for regional sustainable development—OneSTL. We spoke with hundreds of residents, met with experts, and studied housing, transit-oriented development, bicycling, transportation, local economics, and any issue that affects how people live in the St. Louis region.

OneSTL is an ongoing effort to help all communities become economically vibrant and environmentally sustainable. By increasing efficiency and being alert to the real environmental and social cost of policies, the goal is to focus on long term benefits by stressing the efficient and equitable management of resources, both natural and financial.

Eleven consortium partners led the planning for OneSTL, all providing input and information on the process. The partners remain involved and now nearly 200 Network Members support the plan. In this report we summarize the overall progress identified through regional performance measurements and selected stories that highlight what OneSTL accomplished in 2014.

In the upcoming year, we will work on a leadership structure that will have more outreach to partners to identify what they are doing and what they want to do. Additionally, we will focus on two key areas that were identified as priority topics in a survey of local government and other organizations in the region—equitable economic development and sustainable water (blue, gray and green) infrastructure.

For those voices we didn't hear—let us know. Join the OneSTL Network, get involved in your community or in an organization that addresses a topic of interest to you, and let us know what you are doing to increase the sustainability of St. Louis at OneSTL.org.



What is in the Report to the Region?

The Report is Organized by OneSTL Themes

- ✓ The themes define sustainability for the St. Louis region.
- ✓ They are based on public engagement with thousands of residents who attended public meetings and with over 200 local leaders and experts who participated in committees as well as dozens of technical reports that were compiled to inform the plan.
- ✓ They are an organizational structure for the goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures of OneSTL.

Spotlight Boxes Highlight Examples of What is Happening in the Region

OneSTL Network Members—Stories highlighting projects and initiatives taking place across the region that are helping the region meet our goals, some of which have moved forward because of OneSTL.

Resources Available at OneSTL.org—A sampling of some of the reports, data, and case studies that are available at OneSTL.org to help the region meet our goals.

What's Next—A few of the initiatives partners continue to work on as the region moves into the second year of implementation.

MEASURING PROGRESS

Is the St. Louis Region Making Progress?

The Measuring Progress boxes highlight some of the data that is tracked to measure the region's progress.

Over 50 measures are used as indicators of the region's sustainability. In this report, information is provided on measures for which data are available for both the baseline year (2010) and a more recent year.

Analysis of the indicators will better equip the region to make data driven decisions, set priorities, evaluate the effectiveness of the plan, and revise the plan to achieve success.

Want more on the region's performance?

Additional information on the measures in this report, including data sources, and data for additional measures is available at OneSTL.org/indicators

58%
of indicators
are moving in
the desired
direction

COLLABORATIVE

Promote inclusive and on-going efforts that involve communication, cooperation, and action among local and regional leaders and residents.

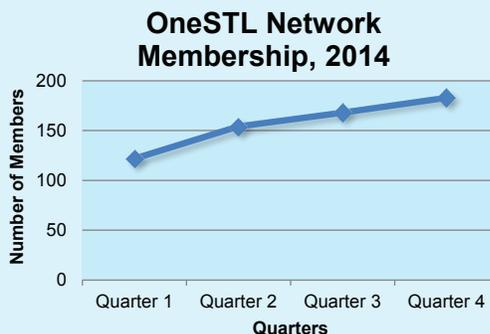
OneSTL Network Members Learn from Each Other and Determine How to Meet Regional Goals

Involvement in conferences connects Network Members, expands OneSTL Network membership, and provides a forum for sharing information about issues important to the St. Louis region. In the first year, OneSTL Network Members took part in multiple conferences that focused on topics important to the sustainability of the region, including:

- Earth Day Symposium—Regional Sustainability: Vision and Reality
- Creating Collaborative Opportunities: Meeting the Fair Housing Challenge
- Missouri American Planning Association State Conference—Building Sustainable Communities
- St. Louis Association of Community Organizations Annual Neighborhood Conference
- Webster University 3rd Annual Sustainability Conference—Critical Conversations on Sustainability: Energy

MEASURING PROGRESS

Almost **200** organizations and individuals signed on as OneSTL **Network Members** in 2014.



See Page 8 for more on the OneSTL Network and visit OneSTL.org/get-involved to show your support for the plan by becoming a member.

PROSPEROUS

Coordinate economic development efforts to create high quality employment and development opportunities and build a diverse, innovative, and entrepreneurial economy.

Maplewood Establishes First Green Dining District

Business owners in Maplewood took green dining to the next level and earned the designation as the first Green Dining District. Eight restaurants along Manchester Avenue, in collaboration with the city of Maplewood, earned St. Louis Earth Day's green certification, helping the region meet the goal of promoting resource-efficient business practices.

The Green Dining Alliance is a St. Louis Earth Day program that helps interested diners find restaurants that operate in a sustainable fashion. Requirements to earn the green designation include: the restaurant recycles and composts, reduces waste overall, serves organic food options, and raises public awareness.

More on the Green Dining Alliance at greendiningalliance.org



DISTINCTIVE

Maintain, develop, and enhance the unique places and communities in our region through investment that reflects local values, diversity, and character.

City of Belleville Builds on What Was Learned in OneSTL Planning Process

The city of Belleville was an active partner throughout the OneSTL planning process, serving as a location for public engagement meetings and the focus of a pilot study. In 2014, the city adopted an updated comprehensive plan. The plan, *Imagine Belleville*, built on the engagement initiated for OneSTL by expanding the conversation to include more residents and a greater focus on local issues.

Imagine Belleville was awarded the Daniel Burnham Comprehensive Plan Award by the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association. The award recognizes and honors plans that advance the science and art of planning. *Imagine Belleville* provides a great example of how a local plan can incorporate and build on OneSTL.

View the plan at OneSTL.org/resources/reports/sustainability-plans

MEASURING PROGRESS

Economic Resilience

increased from 2010 to 2012 due to greater diversity in jobs by sector, making the region more adaptable to change.

\$45,992, the personal income per capita in 2013, is **4% higher** than in 2010.

Employment increased 1.8% from 2010 to 2013 but remains below pre-recession levels.

Unemployment is at 7.2% (2013), a **decrease** from 9.7% in 2010.

The **regional economy grew 2%** with a gross metropolitan product of \$136.5 billion in 2013.

335,000 people live in poverty, **UP 1%**

At **\$61,254** white median household income is **twice** black median household income (\$31,214), a gap that **increased** from 2010 to 2013.

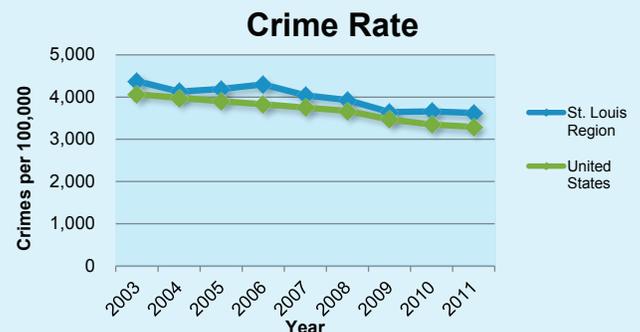
from 2010 to 2013. Poverty for a family of four is an income of **\$23,834** or less.

43% of jobs pay a median wage that is enough to meet daily needs, **unchanged from 2010 to 2013.**

MEASURING PROGRESS

50% of adults meet the recommended exercise standard in 2011, down from 52% in 2009.

Crime decreased 15% from 2010 to 2013. St. Louis has the 13th lowest crime rate among 33 peer regions.



View the sources and more information on these and other measures of "Prosperous" and "Distinctive" at OneSTL.org/indicators

INCLUSIVE

Engage all citizens in regional civic and cultural life by providing quality, equitable services and opportunities.

Addressing Racial Disparity is a Priority for OneSTL

Inclusiveness became an obvious priority for the St. Louis region this year. Racial disparity in the region is not a new phenomenon, yet its consequences became clearer after recent social unrest. The heightened awareness of the region's challenges is focusing attention on the underlying issues in the region.

OneSTL research and initiatives, such as the *Fair Housing Equity Assessment*, performance measures, and the Linking Research and Practice Conference, will help guide efforts by identifying what we need to know and what we need to do to achieve greater equality in the St. Louis region.

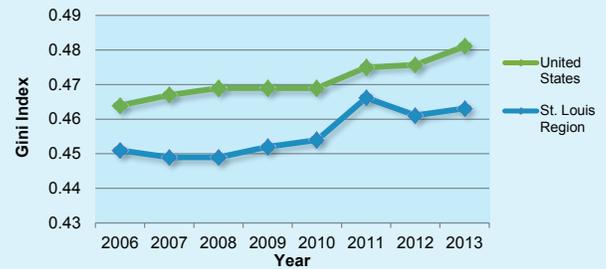
Check out OneSTL.org/resources for more on relevant reports and join the OneSTL Network at OneSTL.org/get-involved to be engaged in creating the change St. Louis needs.

MEASURING PROGRESS

\$173,974 vs \$11,698 Average income for the richest 20% is **15x** larger than the average income for the poorest 20% of St. Louis households.

Income Inequality is up 2% from 2010 to 2013, measured by the Gini Index, a measure of the distribution of income.

Gini Index of Income Inequality



View the sources and more information on these and other measures of "Inclusive" at OneSTL.org/indicators

GREEN

Protect and enhance the quality of water, air, land, and biodiversity in order to maintain a healthy population, economy, and ecosystem.

Partners Collaborate to Address Water Quality

As of 2012, 36 percent of assessed streams and rivers in the St. Louis region are impaired (polluted). Healthy watersheds are necessary for protecting water quality.

A watershed is the area of land where rainwater runoff drains to a particular stream, river, wetland, or other body of water. There are nine major watersheds in the St. Louis region that drain to major rivers such as the Mississippi, Missouri, Meramec, or Kaskaskia and many smaller watersheds located within those that drain to smaller creeks and streams.

A strategy outlined in OneSTL for addressing healthy watersheds and clean water is a comprehensive approach called Blue, Gray, Green Infrastructure. OneSTL Network Members will collaborate on a new regional Blue, Gray, Green Infrastructure initiative to address water quality by linking projects that address sewers, drinking water and green space.

Become a OneSTL Network Member to receive updates as this initiative moves forward. Onestl.org/get-involved

MEASURING PROGRESS

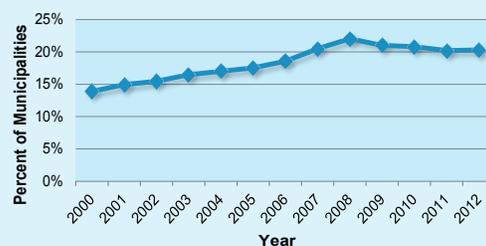
Air quality worsened with an average of **25 days** per year of poor air quality (2011-2013), up from an average of 17 days (2007-2009.)

40 Municipalities are certified as tree cities by the Arbor Day Foundation, a net decrease of 1 municipality since 2010.

Rainscaping increased. Through the use of best management practices, the number of acres treated for stormwater overflow **doubled** from 2010 to 2012.

17 watersheds have plans in 2013, an increase from 8 in 2010.

Tree Cities



View the sources and more information on these and other measures of "Green" at OneSTL.org/indicators

PREPARED

Equip the region's communities with the infrastructure, knowledge, communications, and partnerships to be safe and resilient.

Communities Work Together to Prepare for Disasters

No community is immune to disasters such as tornados, flooding, heat waves, and earthquakes. In 2015 local governments in Missouri, in partnership with the State of Missouri Emergency Management Agency, STARRS and East-West Gateway, will complete an update to the regional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

One of the ways the plan will improve preparedness is by promoting collaboration among local municipalities and Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COADs). A COAD is a network of organizations that work together to coordinate their responses to disasters. By increasing these collaborations the capacity and effectiveness of shared disaster response will be increased.

The All-Hazard Mitigation Plan helps move the region forward on many OneSTL goals, including protecting communities, strengthening capabilities for shared disaster response and responding quickly to emergencies.

View the OneSTL goals and strategies for a "Prepared" St. Louis region at OneSTL.org/plan

MEASURING PROGRESS

Government participation in programs that help **prepare for disasters** is mixed.

- **4 participate** in the Community Rating System floodplain management program, an increase from 2010 to 2014.
- **4% participate** in StormReady, an increase from 2010 to 2013.
- **10%** are addressing climate change, unchanged from 2010 to 2012.
- **73% participated** in hazard mitigation planning, a decrease from 2010 to 2012.

38 people died of heat and cold related deaths in 2013, an **increase** since 2010 and the **6th** highest rate among 35 peer regions.

As of 2011, **16%** of development is in a potentially **hazardous area** (such as a flood zone), up from 15.5% in 2006.

View the sources and more information on these and other measures of "Prepared" at OneSTL.org/indicators

CONNECTED

Develop and maintain a safe, accessible, multi-modal transportation system that connects local communities and links the region to the nation.

OneSTL Study Aids Metro in Securing \$10.3 Million Grant

In 2014 Metro Transit was granted \$10.3 million to build a new MetroLink station in the Cortex Innovation Community. The station is expected to help the Cortex district meet its goals of creating 13,000 technology-related jobs and a 4.5 million square foot mixed use development by improving connections within the district and to the rest of the region. The station is also expected to increase connectivity, mobility and access for the existing 25,000 residents and 50,000 employees in the immediate area.

Cortex is a hub of bioscience and technology research and startup programs. A transit-oriented development (TOD) feasibility study was completed as part of OneSTL. With the study in hand and a regional goal of increasing transit ridership, Metro was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

View the Cortex TOD study and other reports on increasing TOD in St. Louis at OneSTL.org/resources

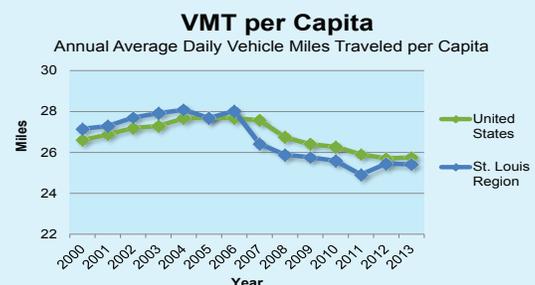
MEASURING PROGRESS

12% of residents commute via walking, biking, transit, or carpool, a decrease from 2010 to 2013.

8% of local governments have Complete Streets policies, an increase from 2010 to 2014.

49.6 million boardings on transit in 2012, a 15% increase since 2010.

The average resident drives **25 miles per day**, a decrease from 2010 to 2013.



View the sources and more information on these and other measures of "Connected" at OneSTL.org/indicators

EFFICIENT

Promote regional energy and resource efficiency to maintain the health, safety, and economic vitality of our communities.

Wash-U Students Study Renovation of Historic Buildings to Reduce Costs, Save Energy, Make Better Use of Space

Buildings account for almost 40 percent of energy use in the United States, impacting the environment and pocketbooks. An interdisciplinary team of researchers and students from Washington University is figuring out how to reduce this energy use through the *Green Rehab Project*. The team is determining how to renovate historic buildings to increase the efficiency of building energy use while making the space the most comfortable for those who live there.

Over the last year, the team developed an experimental framework for testing sustainable redevelopment strategies in a group of university-owned apartment buildings north of the Delmar Loop. In the coming year they will measure the outcomes of their framework, which can be applicable to other building renovations in the St. Louis region.

Find out more about the Green Rehab Project at sustainability.wustl.edu

EDUCATED

Strengthen learning, education, and training opportunities and increase public support for the region's education, research, arts, and cultural institutions.

Starkloff Disability Institute Connects Employers to Persons with Disabilities

Only 34 percent of working age adults who have a disability in the region are employed. The Starkloff Disability Institute (SDI) is taking steps to increase that number. One of SDI's programs, *The Next Big Step*, connects people with disabilities and employers by working with companies to identify barriers within the hiring process and train people with disabilities to be more competitive job seekers. Eighty percent of program participants are offered a job of their choice.

In 2014 the U.S. Department of Labor adopted a policy that requires federal agencies to work toward 7 percent of their workforce being comprised of persons with disabilities. Nationally recognized for their empowerment of persons with disabilities, SDI takes center stage in enabling such policies to come to fruition and helping the region meet the goal of building a globally competitive talent pool.

Learn more about SDI at starkloff.org



MEASURING PROGRESS

Residents used **4.3% less energy** (gas and electric) in 2011 than they did in 2010 but energy use in the region remains higher than the national average.

4.2% of electricity was from renewable sources in 2012, an increase since 2010.

56% of waste is diverted from landfills, an increase from 2010 to 2012.

22% increase in green building space verified by LEED, Energy Star or Sustainable Sites from 2012 to 2013.

View the sources and more information on these and other measures of "Efficient" at OneSTL.org/indicators

MEASURING PROGRESS

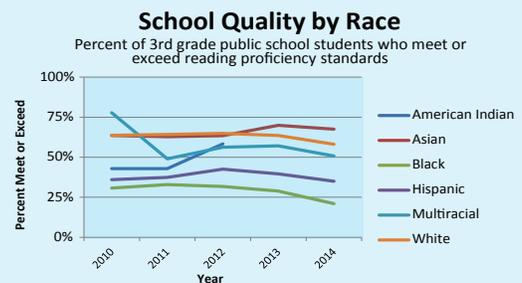
28% of residents volunteer, higher than most peer regions, but a decrease from 2010 to 2012.

Revenue for Cultural/Arts Institutions **increased** from 2010 to 2011.

Voter turnout decreased from 70% of registered voters in the 2008 presidential election to 68% in the 2012 election.

47% of 3rd graders in St. Louis meet or exceed reading proficiency standards in 2014, a 7 percentage point decrease since 2010.

The high school **graduation rate** increased from 79% in 2011 to 87% in 2014.



View the sources and more information on these and other measures of "Educated" at OneSTL.org/indicators

OneSTL Network Member Organizations

Access Engineering, LLC	Gateway Greening	Planning and Community Design Commission, City of Olivette
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community	Grace Hill Settlement House	Pollution Prevention Regional Information Center (P2RIC)
Ameren Missouri Pure Power	Gray Design Group	Public Water Supply District #2 of St. Charles County
Applied Research Collaborative	Great Rivers Greenway	Real Estate Solutions
Backstrom McCarley Berry & Co., LLC	Green Dining Alliance	Rise
Better Family Life, Inc.	Green Spiral Tours	River des Peres Watershed Coalition
Brightside St. Louis	Harris-Stowe State University Center for Neighborhood Affairs	Saint Louis FORWARD
CBB Transportation Engineers and Planners	HeartLands Conservancy	Saint Louis University
CDBG OPERATIONS CORPORATION	Hellmuth + Bicknese Architects, LLC	Sierra Club
CDM Smith	Home Builders Association of St. Louis and Eastern Missouri	Southwestern Illinois College
Center for Sustainability at Saint Louis University	Institute for Urban Research - SIUE	St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO)
Citizens for Modern Transit	International Institute of St. Louis	St. Louis Chapter, NECA
City of Belleville	Jones Lang Lasalle	St. Louis Clean Cities
City of Festus	Justine Petersen Housing and Reinvestment Corporation	St. Louis Council of Construction Consumers
City of Granite City	LCMS Foundation	St. Louis County
City of Jennings	Lilian Circle Neighborhood Development Association	St. Louis County Soil & Water Conservation District
City of Maryland Heights*	Logue & Associates, Inc.	St. Louis Earth Day
City of St. Louis Department of Health	Ludus Inc.	St. Louis Mental Health Board
City of St. Louis Office of the Mayor	Madison County Employment and Training	St. Louis Regional Chamber
Community Builders Network of Metro St. Louis	Metro East Community Air Project, University of Illinois	StL Black Leadership Roundtable
Community Development Administration	Metro East Park and Recreation District	Stone Carlie & Company, LLC
Compass Strategic Business Consulting	Metro Water Infrastructure Partnership (MWIP)	Trailnet, Inc.
Deer Creek Watershed Alliance	Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council	US Department of Housing and Urban Development*
EarthDance Farms	Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District	U.S. Green Building Council - Missouri Gateway Chapter
East-West Gateway Council of Governments	Midland States Bank	University of Missouri Extension, St. Louis County
Edwardsville Township	Missouri American Water	University of Missouri, Environmental Assistance Center
Energy Resources Group	Missouri Botanical Garden	Urban Strategies
Energy Systems Group	Missouri Department of Conservation	USGBC-Missouri Gateway Chapter
FOCUS St. Louis	Missouri Department of Natural Resources	Youth Education and Health in Souard
For the Sake of All	Missouri Department of Transportation	YouthBridge Community Foundation
Forest ReLeaf of Missouri	Missouri Water Infrastructure Partnership	

* Denotes public agency liaison

OneSTL Network

Residents, public agencies, not-for-profit organizations, businesses, private funders, and community groups all have an important part in building a sustainable future for the St. Louis region. OneSTL invites all to get involved in working toward a prosperous, healthy and vibrant St. Louis region.

The OneSTL Network provides members a structure for communication and a way of showing their support for the plan's vision and goals. Network Members are recognized as supporters of OneSTL and will receive regular updates. Membership is free and open to all organizations and individuals.

During 2014 nearly 200 organizations and residents signed on as Network Members. This Report to the Region provides a few examples of the many initiatives that members are pursuing that are helping the region attain our goals. Visit OneSTL.org to learn more about what members are doing, join the Network, and share what you are doing to make the St. Louis region more sustainable.

To join the Network go to OneSTL.org/get-involved

OneSTL Resources

Resources created during the planning process and maintained at OneSTL.org include:

Sustainable Solutions Toolkit OneSTL.org/toolkit

Resources Library OneSTL.org/resources

Web-Based Plan OneSTL.org/plan

News OneSTL.org/news

St. Louis Regional Data Exchange stlouisdata.org

OneSTL
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St. Louis, MO 63102
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East-West Gateway Council of Governments fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see <http://www.ewgateway.org/TitleVI/titlevi.htm> or call (314) 421-4220 or (618) 274-2750.



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