

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM



GREENSBURG GREENTOWN

Greensburg, Kansas was devastated by an EF-5 tornado in May of 2007. The 1.7-mile wide tornado destroyed over 90% of the homes and commercial buildings and took the lives of 11 people. Given the blank slate that was left by the storm, the community made the far-thinking decision to rebuild for the future - as a sustainable model town. GreenTown is the private nonprofit organization that was established independently after the storm to help local business owners and residents incorporate green building practices into their new buildings and homes. The organization has an official relationship with the City and represents the community in matters pertaining to the Green Initiative.

The decision to “go green” by this small, conservative Kansas community has caught the attention of the world, and we host thousands of visitors each year: eco-tourists, journalists, documentary makers, students, researchers, civic leaders from other disaster communities, and many more groups make their way to Greensburg. Through GreenTown’s Green Visitors Center we have been providing customized tours, answering a multitude of requests for information about the town’s re-visioning, giving interviews, coordinating volunteer activities, and creating and disseminating educational tools on a variety of topics related to sustainability. Through our two local Eco-Homes we are able to offer an immersion experience in green building and living. All of this has been a vital part of the extraordinary comeback of the town as both an international beacon of hope and a model of what is practical and possible in building in an environmentally-friendly way. Check out our website for more details on what we do:

www.greensburggreentown.org

GREENTOWN JOPLIN

From the outset, it has been an important value for the Greensburg community to share what we have learned from the tragic event that was the tornado with other people who have had similar experiences. After the tornado in Joplin in May of 2011, Greensburg was one of many communities that sent aid and volunteer help to our neighbors in Missouri. GreenTown staff have been working with the City of Joplin and the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce to offer technical assistance related to sustainable rebuilding, and help them craft a vision for the future. We have been meeting with local people, established a local GreenTown chapter, and are implementing several strategies there. We have a presence in two locations where residents and business owners can get unbiased, third-party resources and consultation related to sustainable building. We are raising money to build a demonstration Eco-Home/Green Visitors Center similar to what we have in Greensburg. And we are exploring several other exciting, cutting-edge projects that will be unique to Joplin, including extremely energy-efficient low-income housing, a model “green” neighborhood, solar demonstration projects, and others. The intent is to help the community come back sustainably and with a re-visioned identity as a town for the future.

GREENTOWN NATIONAL

GreenTown staff have been hard at work for over a year conceptualizing a GreenTown National organization, the mission of which is to make green living accessible and understandable to all people. We have a vision for a national presence through developing an interactive website, establishing GreenTown “franchises” throughout the country, and encouraging local people interested in sustainability to work together to provide leadership in their communities. After the disaster in Joplin happened, it made sense in the short-term to begin our work there, and attend focus on sustainable disaster recovery. (In partnership with Green Builder Media, we are developing a handbook for distribution in post-disaster areas.) In the long term, the organization’s vision is to work nationally to address issues related to energy conservation, retrofitting of homes and businesses, and overall to inspire people to take action.

Greensburg is a community showcasing cutting-edge technologies and practices, and is an international focal point of sustainable building. Joplin is aiming for projects that will put it on the map in this area as well. These projects offer donors a unique opportunity to champion green living and support the innovative efforts of these two Midwestern towns. You are leaving your mark on projects that will last lifetimes, making our world a better place. Thank you for your support!

