



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**MAYORS DECLARE APRIL 2012 AS SUSTAINABILITY MONTH FOR MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY**

In order to highlight the momentum around sustainability initiatives in the community, Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. and City of Memphis Mayor AC Wharton, Jr. are jointly declaring the month of April 2012 as Sustainability Month in Memphis and Shelby County.

April will mark the anniversary of the formation of the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability, which was created in order to execute the Sustainable Shelby Implementation Plan and coordinate sustainability initiatives throughout the region. Over the course of the past year, there have been a number of notable successes achieved by City and County governments, including:

- Formed a Green Building Task Force made up of real estate professionals who are working to advise government officials on ways to encourage increased use of green practices in Memphis and Shelby County;
- Documented the utility consumption of major government-operated buildings on the facility level in order to target future energy efficiency improvements that will maximize energy savings;
- Created more than 35 miles of bicycle facilities by the City of Memphis Division of Engineering with more than 50 miles planned over the next 2 years;
- Secured the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant of \$2.6 million on behalf of Shelby County Government. With this grant, the region will focus on developing a regional greenprint plan to establish a unified vision for a regional network of greenspace areas; and
- Created a citizen Sustainability Advisory Committee that works to keep the public engaged and government informed on sustainability related issues.

During April, the Mayors would like to encourage the public to participate in a number of events celebrating sustainability in our community. The calendar of events includes: IgniteSustainability on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM at the FedEx Institute of Technology on the University of Memphis campus; TVA Solar Conference on April 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> at the Cook Convention Center; Shelby Farms Down to Earth Festival on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Shelby Farms Park; and the Green Up Memphis Festival on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Downtown Memphis Farmers Market to name a few. The full event calendar for the month can be viewed at <http://www.sustainableshelby.com/event-calendar/2012-04>.