

FALL RIVER 2012 GRI-GUIDED SUSTAINABILITY REPORT FAQs:

Q: What is sustainability?

A: *Meeting the needs of today without destroying our ability to meet tomorrow's needs.*

Q: What is sustainability reporting?

A: *Reporting on an organization's economic, societal, and environmental impacts.*

Q: Is sustainability reporting widespread?

A: *95% of the largest 250 companies in the world publish sustainability reports as well as 1,000s of other companies and organizations.*

Q: What is the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)?

A: *An international network of stakeholders and companies that develop standards for sustainability reporting. Over 4,000 organizations, including 80% of the largest 250 companies in the world, use GRI standards.*

Q: Why do organizations use the GRI standards?

A: *Following a widely used standard makes such reports credible, comprehensive, and comparable.*

Q: What is the G3 standard, and what does it mean to be an "A level" report?

A: *The G3 is the most widely used and current standard for sustainability reporting. The level of the report indicates how many standard disclosures were made. To declare a report as "A level," an organization must report at least 62 metrics. The Fall River report contains 67.*

Q: What are the reasons sustainability reporting has become popular?

A: *There are many reasons. First, people (citizens, stakeholders, managers of organizations) are seeking transparency and accountability and to adapt systems to survive over the long-term. Managers that engage in sustainability reporting find that sustainability reporting (among many other benefits) attracts and motivates talented people and assures financial backers and everyone impacted by an organization that it is making positive and necessary adaptations. Sustainability reporting helps an organization to track progress toward goals of eliminating harms while generating benefits, communicate what is being done to improve, and plan next steps. While sustainability reporting is now normal for large companies, it is a "cutting edge" practice for cities.*

Q: Whom to contact with questions or feedback about the report?

A: *NetImpactUMD@gmail.com*

Q: Whom to contact with questions about the goals and activities of the City of Fall River?

A: *Office of Mayor William A. Flanagan at 508-324-2600.*