

For Immediate Attention:
December 6th 2012
Media Release

For More Information Contact:
Mayor William A. Flanagan
(508)-324-2600

Fall River makes World News publishing 1st ever GRI Report on Sustainability in the United States

Fall River today became the first city in the United States – and, possibly, the world – to publish a sustainability report that meets the top application level of the world’s most widely used standard for such documents. By communicating over 67 measures of economic, environmental, and societal progress, the city of *Fall River 2012 Sustainability Report* meets the requirements to be called an A level report according to the Global Reporting Initiative’s G3 standard.

“We’re proud of being first in the nation - and possibly the world - in achieving this benchmark, but more importantly, we’re proud of the transparency that we’re demonstrating – and most importantly, the tangible, measurable progress in terms of Fall River becoming a better place to live and work,” said Mayor Flanagan.

Tangible measures of progress include, for example, a 40% reduction in solid waste flows to landfills. The city is also revitalizing neighborhoods through efforts such as the Building Blocks Program.

The Global Reporting Initiative (or GRI) is an organization that has developed the standards that over 4,000 organizations around the world now use, including 80% of the world’s largest companies. There are many drivers of sustainability reporting, among them the need to communicate with financial backers and other stakeholders that an organization has plans and is making real progress in becoming efficient and reducing harms while generating more benefits.

The GRI report was prepared by MBA students at UMass Dartmouth led by Robert C. Muller of the Net Impact student group and Associate Professor Adam J. Sulkowski. Data was collected from various City departments.

“I’d like to thank Professor Sulkowski and his students at UMass Dartmouth for their hard work in documenting the innovative and sustainable practices we have been pioneering here in Fall River,” said Mayor Flanagan.