

Community Goal # 7

GOAL STATEMENT: **Our communities will be economically viable places for our citizens to live.**

Leadership Team

Mr. Bill Painter, Community Volunteer (Chair)

Mr. Don Woodward, Spartanburg Development Association (Co-Chair)

Mr. Steve Wunder, Duer Carolina Coil (Facilitator)

Approach & Methodology

This Taskforce was composed of four individuals who held extensive and detailed meetings. In addition, a larger group of community leaders was developed, and consulted with as appropriate. The larger group stands ready to assist as we move forward.

Early on, it was determined that this goal relates directly to wealth creation. It was also realized that the complexity of the issue is far too broad for effective large group discussion. The smaller Taskforce reviewed large amounts of existing data in an effort to define a more manageable plan of work for a large Taskforce. In other words, we worked to find a better focus for our effort.

Our Taskforce eliminated three of the five indicators used in Community Indicators VI. “Unemployment Rates,” “Cost of Living,” and “Wages by Sector” were eliminated. We feel these are *outcomes* of “Employment by Sector,” and “Job Creation”.

Our Taskforce recommends the following as more accurate measures/indicators of economic viability:

- Employment by sector (by year)
- Number of new jobs created by existing businesses and number of new jobs created by new businesses (by year)
- Total number of jobs available in the county (by year)

We have not developed targets for these recommended indicators.

Strategic Recommendations

Short-Range Recommendations

- The development and completion of a community business climate survey (separate proposal to be submitted)
- Fully develop the measures recommended by the Taskforce
- Initiate a better understanding of roles, responsibilities, outcomes, and collaboration demonstrated by the existing economic development organizations

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Long-Range Recommendations

- The development of a unified, comprehensive economic development strategy and plan for Spartanburg County. The business climate survey will serve as a fundamental cornerstone for this plan.
- The development of a strong marketing effort to brand and position Spartanburg for the future

CONCLUSIONS

Needed collaborations

It is the opinion of our Taskforce that our current approach to economic development can be improved. All credible measures of economic vitality show that our County's economic development is stagnant. We believe that the existing economic development organizations can together create a "turnaround plan" for our County. To do this, these organizations must come together in a unified approach and leverage their respective resources. Additionally, they should pay close attention to the sectors (or clusters) that currently exist versus those that are desirable for sustained economic viability.

TASKFORCE PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1. Ben Davis	S. C. Employment Security Commission
2. Bill Painter	Community Volunteer
3. Don Woodward	Spartanburg Development Association
4. Steve Wunder	Duer Carolina Coil

In addition, the Taskforce is grateful to Harold Long and Ellen Saltzman of the Strom Thurmond Institute at Clemson University for their assistance.