

2011
BARBER COUNTY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**CONTINUE THE RETENTION/EXPANSION OF EXISTING BUSINESSES AND THE
ATTRACTION OF NEW JOBS**

Objective 1. Promote community education and attitude by collaborating with County officials, City officials, and local organizations to provide updated information to the citizens of Barber County through the Barber County Development website www.barbercounty.net – make the website information the gateway for Barber County.

Objective 2. Encourage businesses to use the Micro Loan Fund.

Objective 3. Support the Enterprise Facilitation Program.

Objective 4. Assist the County and the Cities in establishing a presence on the Barber County Development website.

Objective 5. Seek out additional funding sources for new and existing businesses.

Objective 6. Educate city officials through seminars and individual City Council presentations about Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to promote rehabilitation and demolition in Barber County.

**ASSIST LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO FIND LONG TERM FUNDING FOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Objective 1. Educate city officials on sources of funding available through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing and Great Plains Development.

Objective 2. Provide introductions to local Government officials to representatives of the above mentioned funding organizations.

POPULATION GROWTH & STABILITY

ATTRACT NEW RESIDENTS – RETAIN CURRENT RESIDENTS

Objective 1. Create new jobs through the expansion of existing businesses and attract new businesses to keep people in our area through community partnerships and collaboration.

- a. Continue interaction with City Councils to keep updated on business changes within our communities.
- b. Compile a list of people resources from the County to exchange ideas with and get input from in order to promote the strategy of BCD.
- c. Encourage the sharing of equipment between the Cities, Townships and Cemeteries within the County.

Objective 2. Facilitate community education by continuing to promote the various projects such as the Sunflower H2O, wind farm development, transmission line upgrades, etc., and work closely with County and City officials to keep our infrastructure updated.

- a. Keep updated on all projects
- b. Inform City Council on all projects and encourage their participation.

Objective 3. Assist community organizations to continue to promote Barber County as a good place to raise a family.

- a. Compile a list of organizations and establish links to keep them updated on current events within Barber County.

Objective 4. Encourage retirees, alumni, and former residents to move back to Barber County.

- a. Develop ways to get the benefits of living in a small town published
- b. Continue to promote our school systems, churches, rec departments and chambers in order to attract new residents here.

RETAIN OUR YOUTH

Objective 1. Continue to involve the youth of Barber County in the Barber County Development educational outreach programs.

- a. Continue our poster contest on an annual basis.
- b. Invite students to attend our public outreach.

HOUSING

ENCOURAGE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Objective 1. Promote the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

Objective 2. Support the rural water infrastructure throughout the County.

Objective 3. Work together with the County and City officials to clean up our communities throughout the County in order to attract former and new residents and/or businesses to reside here.

Objective 4. Assist with the implementation of zoning compliance in our community.

WEBSITE

MAKE www.barbercounty.net THE GATEWAY TO BARBER COUNTY.

Objective 1. Form a committee to evaluate current website.

- a. Verify all information is up to date.
- b. Determine what organizations we want to link to.
- c. Work with existing Webmaster to ensure security.

Objective 2. Establish calendar for all of the events in Barber County.

- a. Determine what security measures need to be established in order for existing organizations to submit their events.
- b. Work with the County and Cities to obtain funding to implement changes to the website.

Objective 3. Work with existing tourist groups to promote Barber County.

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

PROVIDE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES TO ENABLE THE CITIES WITHIN BARBER COUNTY TO CLEAN UP AND ENHANCE THEIR PROPERTIES

Objective 1. Encourage ordinance establishment.

- a. Suggest that the County Commissioners establish a funding mechanism to support City clean up.

Objective 2. Educate the Cities on grants that are available to assist with demolition and/or renovation.

- a. Set up a public outreach with Great Plains Development to explain the applications process.

Objective 3. Work with the Cities to encourage the County to have a delinquent tax sale.