Why did Yellow Wood create Green Community Technologies?

“The American Society of Civil Engineers released a report card for America’s Infrastructure, giving the U.S. an average grade of ‘D’ … As a society, the nation continues merely to patch up outdated and fragmented systems or focus efforts on ‘end-of-the-pipe’ solutions.”


Yellow Wood began developing the Green Community Technologies service in 2000 because we were struck by the adverse impacts of deteriorating infrastructure on communities throughout the United States on the one hand, and the many opportunities for improvement offered by rapid ongoing advances in alternative technologies on the other. Green Community Technologies is a logical extension of our mission which is to help our clients discover their development choices.

“Inadequate public infrastructure is viewed as the most significant roadblock to economic development in small town and rural America.”

— The Pulse of Small Town and Rural America, Report from the National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation eForum (August 30, 2004 national focus group of 210 regional development professionals supported by the Kellogg Foundation)

Green Community Technologies can also help communities understand how to become more sustainable by changing behaviors that contribute to climate change and by reducing their dependence on fossil fuels and non-renewable resources by making strategic investments in local resources and conservation.

Yellow Wood’s Green Community Technologies process uses a systems approach to assess a community’s infrastructure assets. For example, when we look at wastewater, we begin by looking at where the water comes from and what it has in it. Then we look at water conservation opportunities to reduce the wastewater stream. Next we look at how the wastewater is collected and how far it travels. Finally, we consider a range of centralized and decentralized treatment options, management options, greywater reuse, and sludge disposal options based on current and future needs and the goals of your community. We look at all the components of a possible solution including equipment and hard technologies, behavioral changes, and integrated approaches like low impact development.

Green Community Technologies helps decision-makers find sustainable solutions. Yellow Wood does not design, sell, or install technologies and can therefore provide an objective assessment of a wide range of infrastructure solutions.

“Every construction or rehabilitation project, no matter what size, should be evaluated for long-term cost benefits, even if more effort and funding must be expended in the selection process. The benefits of a thorough technology assessment are significant when the right technology is chosen for public investments.”

— Richmond Town Administrator, Ron Rodjenski

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