This self-guided 2-mile walking tour of downtown Raleigh spotlights aspects of the three spheres of sustainability: Economic Strength, Environmental Stewardship and Social Equity.

Sustainability concepts include protecting the natural environment; employing local labor and materials; public/private partnerships; reused and repurposed buildings; economic development; equal access to economy, goods and service; health and nutrition; social inclusion; integration of education; use and maintenance of greenways and open spaces; water conservation; energy efficiency and renewable energy (such as solar).

1 Raleigh Convention Center
   (500 S. Salisbury Street)
   LEED® Silver Certified. Sustainability features include rainwater harvesting systems, recycled paper products, light dimming systems, restroom occupancy light sensors, perimeter parking Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs), and low-flow toilets and faucets. The exhibit hall connects to a 100% LED-lit underground parking deck. A 500-kilowatt (KW) roof-top solar photovoltaic (PV) array is under construction. (0.00 miles)

2 The R-LINE
   These hybrid electric buses connect riders to restaurants, retail, entertainment venues, museums, hotels, and parking facilities in downtown Raleigh. Cost: FREE. (919) 485-RIDE. (0.08 miles)

3 Big Belly Solar Trash Compactor
   (Corner of S. Salisbury & W. Lenoir Streets)
   Powered by solar energy and holds four times as much trash as regular containers. “Smart” technology transmits a message to Solid Waste Services when the compactor is full. Fewer trash truck pick-ups mean less wear on the road, reduced fuel use and reduced carbon emissions. (0.04 miles)

4 Solar EV Charging Stations
   (614 S. Salisbury Street)
   Level I & Level II electric vehicle (EV) charging stations with integrated solar photovoltaic cell equipment and battery storage capability. The solar stations are connected to the grid so extra energy can be sold back to Progress Energy. The two solar panels are a 2.88 kilowatt (KW) array combined, and are from different manufacturers to allow direct comparison of panel production. This is an example of a private/public partnership. (0.08 miles)

5 Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts
   (2 E. South Street)
   An example of building re-use; originally a Depression-era arena for basketball games, etc. The glass lobby added in 1980s. Both wings with 3 theatres were added in the 1990s. Other sustainability features: Light Emitting Diodes (LED) lighting, occupancy sensor lights, “Green Certified” cleaning supplies, low-flow toilets and faucets, and low-emissions carpets. (0.16 miles)

6 Shaw University
   (118 E. South Street)
   Founded 1865; first historically Black college of the South. Shaw University is a private liberal arts college that awards degrees at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Two university buildings are listed in the National Registry of Historic Places: Estey Hall, erected in 1873 as the nation’s first dormitory to house women on a coeducational campus; and the Leonard School of Medicine, founded in 1885. In the realm of sustainability, Shaw University is an example of integration of education into downtown economic development. (0.23 miles)

A sustainable walk through downtown Raleigh...
City of Raleigh is a 21st Century City of Innovation focusing on environmental, cultural and economic sustainability...  
— City Council Mission Statement

16 Level II EV Plug-in Charging Stations
(Southwest corner, toward Davie Street)
These are the first Level II electric vehicle (EV) charging stations installed by City of Raleigh; they are Level II. As with all City-installed EV charging stations, patrons pay to park but charge for free. (1.6 miles)

9 Downtown Raleigh Farmers Market
(Fayetteville Street Plaza)
Operates each Wednesday, April through October, from 10am until 2pm. The market, organized by the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, features local farmers, ranchers, bakers, artists and specialty food producers. These are examples of the sustainability concepts of promoting and using local produce and resources, as well as providing local access to healthy nutrition. (0.48 miles)

15 Solar Panel LED Street Lights
(Corner of Dawson & Morgan Streets)
These are temporary fixtures in the parking lot for Campbell University School of Law. The solar LEDs (light emitting diodes) were installed to avoid underground infrastructure costs. Since the LEDs are not connected to the grid, they can easily be moved elsewhere when the property is redeveloped. (1.54 miles)

12 North Carolina State Capitol Building
(Front of Capitol Bldg., 1 E. Edenton Street)
Completed in 1849 and is Greek Revival architecture style. Sustainability concepts of utilizing local resources and local labor were used in the construction of the building. The exterior walls are built of granite, a form of granite. The stone was locally quarried in southeastern Raleigh and hauled to the site on the horse-drawn Experimental Railroad, North Carolina’s first railway. Today, the governor, lieutenant governor, and their immediate staff occupy offices on the first floor of the Capitol Building. This is an example of the sustainability practice of building reuse. (1.02 miles)

13 Green Square
A 2-block, multi-use, sustainable, LEED Gold Certified development; a cooperative venture with N.C. Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources and the State Employees Credit Union. The centerpiece is the major expansion of the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences (172 W. Jones Street) headquarters and the Daily Planet feature solar energy, daylighting, LED-lit parking deck, urban stormwater management, cisterns to capture rainwater, low-emissions paint and carpet, and locally produced building materials. (1.31 miles)

18 Nash Square Park
One of five open spaces designed in 1792 as part of the original layout of the State Capitol City. Two spaces, Nash Square and Moore Square, remain as parks without buildings. The current landscape design dates back to 1940. (1.68 miles)

18 Wake County Justice Center
(Corner of Martin & McDowell Streets)
LEED certification pending; built with erosion-control practices, basic pollution prevention, water efficiency, refrigerant management, storage and collection of recyclables, improved indoor air quality, safer building construction materials and products, use of natural daylight, recycled stormwater for irrigation, bike racks and digitally controlled thermostats. (1.81 miles)

19 Poole’s Diner
(426 S. McDowell Street)
Although recently renovated, Poole’s opened in 1943. It still maintains its “retro-chic charm” with original double horsehoe bar and red leather banquettes. Seasonal produce from local Raleigh farms dictates the menu, which uses local, seasonal produce. (1.97 miles)

11 Sir Walter Raleigh Hotel
(400-412 Fayetteville Street)
This 10-story Neoclassical Revival building dates back to 1924. It was long a center of Raleigh’s social scene and was once known as the “Second House” because so many legislatures gathered there. The hotel was renovated as apartments for the elderly in the late 1970s. These are examples of sustainability concepts of building reuse and social equity. (0.52 miles)

17 Electric Vehicle Charging Station
(McDowell & Cabarrus Streets)
Located on the southwest corner of this City-installed Level II station allows patrons to charge electric vehicles for free. They must pay to park. (2 miles)

10 Progress Energy
(Fayetteville Street, toward Davie Street)
This local electric provider is the catalyst for much of the downtown Raleigh redevelopment and economic revitalization. The company committed to construction of its corporate headquarters in downtown Raleigh if the City undertook a major infrastructure overhaul like the reopening of Fayetteville Street. Additional ventures led to Red Hat, Inc., the world’s leading provider of open source technology, moving its new global headquarters to downtown Raleigh at 100 E. Davie Street. The resulting influx of business, commerce, major events and visitors to downtown Raleigh are examples of sustainability concepts of public/private partnerships and economic development. (0.51 miles)

7 Marriott Hotel
(500 Fayetteville Street)
This is an example of local business embracing sustainability concepts. Features include paperless check-in and check-out, recycle bins, water conservation methods, low-flow toilets and faucets, and occupancy sensor lights in administrative areas. Underneath is a City-owned 100% LED-lit parking deck with an EV charging station. The deck connects to the Raleigh Convention Center. (0.42 miles)

8 LED (Ornamental) Light Towers
(Fayetteville Street Plaza)
These public art pieces include Light Emitting Diodes (LED) lights, which use less energy and are lower cost to the City. At night, the multi-colored LED lights add excitement, fun and dimension to City Plaza. (0.45 miles)

20 Electric Vehicle Charging Station
(1.6 miles)
These are the first two electric vehicle (EV) charging stations installed by City of Raleigh; patrons pay to park but charge for free. (1.64 miles)

14 Solar Panel LED Street Lights
(Dawson Street, between Morgan & Hargett Street)
The 2nd level of the deck features LED lighting. It is the City’s LED pilot project in partnership with Cree, Inc. of Research Triangle Park and was completed January 2007. This is one of the first installations of LED lights, launching City of Raleigh’s role as “First LED City in the World.” LEDs are less expensive, brighter, and safer despite casting about 11% less lumens. The deck also features two wall-mount Level II Electric Vehicle charging stations. (1.6 miles)

19 Electric Vehicle Charging Station
(2.21 miles)
These are the first 56 square-foot LED lights on art. The wall is made up of 79,464 light and dark aluminum squares powered by wind. The 56 LED fixtures flash and display the design in multiple colors. (2.03 miles)

21 Cree Shimmer Wall
(West side of Raleigh Convention Center on McDowell Street)
This is an example of a public/private partnership with a focus on art. The 284-square-foot wall depicts an oak tree in homage to Raleigh’s “City of Oaks” designation for its many oak trees. The wall is made up of 79,464 light and dark aluminum squares powered by wind. The 56 LED fixtures flash and display the design in multiple colors. (2.03 miles)

13 Permeable Pavement
(Lenoir & McDowell Streets)
Located on the right side of the street, this City-owned deck features a Level II Electric Vehicle charging station. Patrons charge for free, but must pay to park. (2.09 miles)

22 Raleigh Amphitheater
(500 S. McDowell Street)
In addition to the entire west block having been a brownfield redevelopment site, other sustainability features include LED lights, concrete used instead of asphalt to reflect the sun, 60% of the trash recycled, use of green-friendly cleaning products, and use of recycled products. (2.07 miles)

23 Performing Arts Parking Deck
(Lenoir & McDowell Streets)
Located on the right side of the street, this City-owned deck features a Level II Electric Vehicle charging station. Patrons charge for free, but must pay to park. (2.09 miles)

12 Level II EV Plug-in Charging Stations
(205 W. Hargett Street)
These are the first two electric vehicle (EV) charging stations installed by City of Raleigh; they are Level II. As with all City-installed EV charging stations, patrons pay to park but charge for free. (1.64 miles)

Tour ends where it began: Raleigh Convention Center, 500 S. Salisbury Street (2.21 miles)