SUSTAINABILITY

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A REVIEW OF LEADING EDGE BEST PRACTICES

TEMPLATES - BEST PRACTICES (PAGE 2-14)

In an effort towards Sustainability Planning, reviewed are various forward thinking Sustainability Plans and best practices as examples (templates) of what is on the leading edge within a Government context. Having chosen a few leaders in the field, key areas are drawn out in each plan that can be utilized to create a locally grown Sustainability Plan. Guided by a completed *Sustainability Inventory* – which outlines what Sustainability actions, programs & services have been achieved to date & what programs are currently running – any government is in a great a position to move forward on Sustainability Planning.

TOOLS & TRAININGS, REPORTS & INDICATORS (PAGE 15-16)

Also compiled are examples of tools outlining "*How to get to Sustainability*" when considering Sustainability Planning, as well as some guidance on Reporting & Indicators, with a few trainings listed.

PLANNING, FACILITATION & EDUCATION (ONGOING)

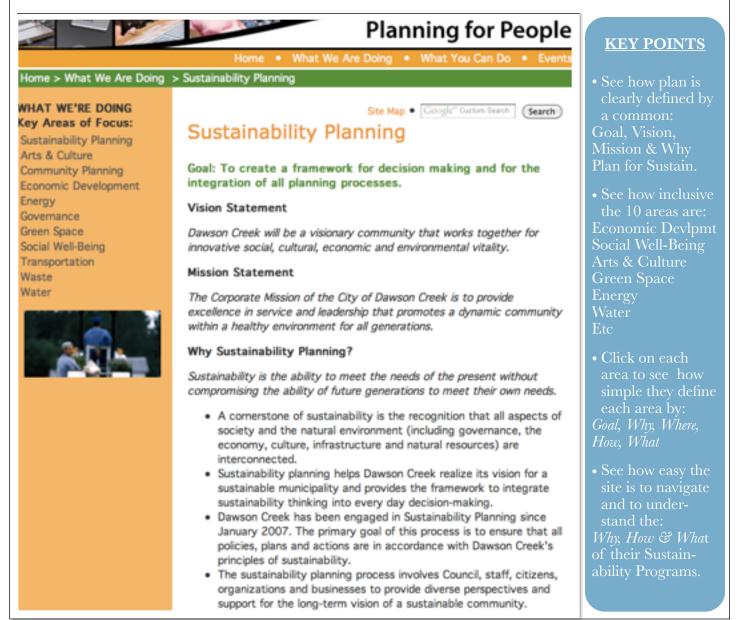
Staff with a Sustainability capacity can be of assistance in the planning and facilitation of a Sustainability Plan. A key component of success needs to be driven by a clearly defined Education and Outreach effort to ensure collaboration and common ground solutions - both during the Planning phases, as well as after the Plan is complete - in order to ensure staff and community understanding, and buy-in, and ultimately successful actions with achievements to showcase, and inspire.

Sustainability: Leading By Example

DAWSON CREEK, British Columbia

The Dawson Creek Plan is a very good fit as a template since it utilizes each department's plans as a sustainability category - see their site's left navigation bar below - where each create their own "PLAN" that fits their department's area to address sustainability. Most governments already have department plans such as Transportation Master Plan, Housing, Sustainable Energy Plan, Open Space, Land Use, Community Services, Zero Waste, etc. Simply take a completed Sustainability Inventory, and build it into an Overall Sustainability Plan.

See WebSite @ <u>bit.ly/DawsonCreekSustain</u>





Steps in the Sustainability Planning Process

Pre-planning - complete

During the pre-planning phase, Dawson Creek created its initial "roadmap" outlining how the ICSP process would unfold. As Dawson Creek's process moves forward, adaptations are continually being made to this original roadmap in order to maintain a flexible and responsive planning process.

Phase 1 - Vision - complete

The City's <u>Vision and Mission</u> (20 KB) statements were revised during Phase 1. Council crafted new statements based on input gathered through the public consultation process in 2003. While the old vision statement reflected the economic aspects of the community's priorities, the new vision emphasizes all aspects of sustainability.

Also during Phase 1, a representative from The Natural Step Canada provided two days of training in Natural Step principles. This training created a common understanding of the principles of sustainability among the people who will play key roles in the forthcoming stages of the planning process.

Phase 2 - Baseline - June to December 2007

The City took stock of existing plans and policies. The goal of Phase 2 was to determine how existing plans and policies are working together to promote sustainability, where inconsistencies may be occurring and where gaps exist in current planning work. With the help of the Holland Barrs Planning Group information was gathered through interviews with key staff and community members, as well as document review. Through this process 10 key areas of focus were identified.

Sustainability Baseline 🖾 (4,088 KB)

Phase 3 - Strategies and Actions -January to October, 2008 In Phase 3, strategies and actions were identified to help fill in the gaps identified in Phase 2. Strategies and actions will be incorporated into existing plans, or will require the creation of new plans to ensure that each of the 10 focus areas is well on its way to increased sustainability.

Phase 4 - Indicators and monitoring - July to December, 2008 During Phase 4, a series of targets and indicators will be developed for each of the 10 focus areas. A monitoring plan will be developed that will assign responsibility for collecting indicator data and tracking progress in each area.

KEY POINTS

- See how the planning is clearly defined into Phases:
 Pre-Planning
 Phase 1 - Vision
 Phase 2 - Baseline
 Phase 3 - Strategies & Actions
 Phase 4 - Indicators & Monitoring
- Read their clear Vision & Mission PDF
- Read their Sustainability Baseline PDF
- Phase 1: Note the 2 days of training by Natural Step to create a common understanding of the process of Sustainability.
- Phase 2: See how existing plans and policies were integrated, *not* re-created.
- Phase 3: See how Strategies & Actions were identified to fill the gaps, and then Integrated into existing plans.
- Phase 4: Indicators & Monitoring are essential but never well defined.

Sustainability: Leading By Example

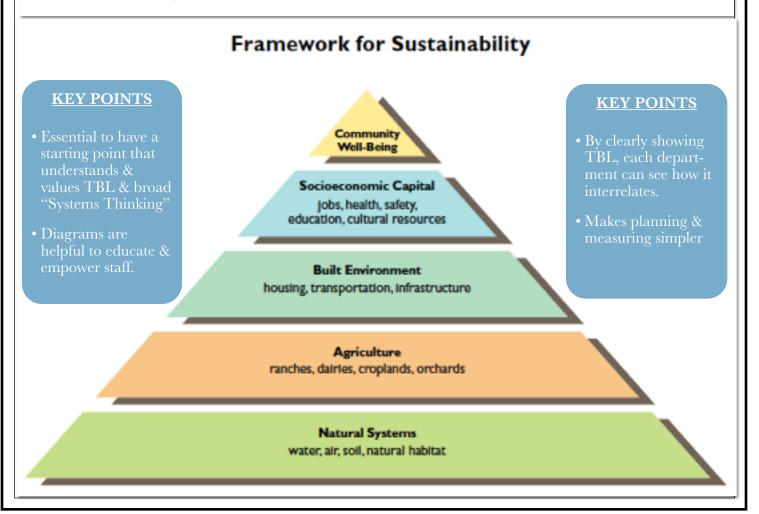
MARIN COUNTY, CA

Marin County has a clean and simple approach, guided by basic research on the knowledge that we as a society need to make actionable plans that address our Social, Economic & Environmental needs. The plan is enhanced by a clear and simple way to measure success quantifying Indicators, Benchmarks & Targets to achieve. It all starts with their clear definition of what Sustainability means, and their ability to measure their actions in each department.

See WebSite @ www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/cd/main/fm/index.cfm

What Is Sustainability?

Sustainability is about aligning our built environment and socioeconomic activities with the natural systems that support life. In the long run, sustainability means adapting human activities to nature's constraints and opportunities. Central to this definition is meeting the needs of both the present and the future.



Sustainable MARIN NATURE, BUILT ENVIRONMENT, AND PEOPLE

KEY POINTS

• As a foundation, Marin County understands the interrelation of their Environment, Social Structure & Economy.

Organized Simply

The Natural Systems & Agriculture Element Focuses on nature and life-support systems

The Built Environment Element Principally addresses villages, towns, and construction-related activities

The Socioeconomic Element Focuses on people and what they do for each other.

Each Element of the Plan is organized to answer the following questions:

- ♦ What are the desired outcomes?
- ♦ Why is this important?
- ♦ How will results be achieved?
- ♦ How will success be measured?

KEY POINTS

• The Matrix of Measurement & Evaluation is SIMPLE & CLEAR

• Allows the Departments to create their own measurements based on their departments' capacities, and specific program knowledge.

How Success Is Measured

INDICATOR	BENCHMARK	TARGET
Gross county production in major economic sectors	10.5% in 2000	Increase 10% by 2020
Number of certified green businesses	0 in 2000	Increase to 250 by 2010 and 400 by 2015
Unemployment rate by county	3.2% in 2000	Do not increase unemployment rate from benchmark
Child care supply and demand	Demand exceeds supply by 42%	Supply increases until it is within 10% of child care demand by 2015
Survey of public perception of safety in unincorporated areas	89% in 2000 and 88% in 2004	No decrease through 2020
Recidivism (reoffenders) rate	61% recidivism rate	Decrease recidivism rate through 2020

Sustainability: Leading By Example

SANTA MONICA, CA

As a foundation, the plan starts with a clear indication and understanding of the balance between the Environmental, Social & Economic factors. By specifically addressing key areas of focus, and creating a clear way to measure their success, this plan is simple, easy to understand, and ACTIONABLE. The most important factor is that the leaders in Santa Monica have championed this organization structure.

See WebSite @ www.smgov.net/departments/ose/categories/sustainability.aspx

The Sustainable City Plan was created to enhance our resources, prevent harm to the natural environment and human health, and benefit the social and economic well-being of the community for the sake of current and future generations.

KEY POINTS

- The plan is well balanced into a Triple Bottom Line perspective
- Captures 8 key areas of action, through Guiding Principles with a plan on how they will achieve the results.

Sustainable City Plan Structure

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

The Santa Monica Sustainable City Plan is founded on ten Guiding Principles that provide the basis from which effective and sustainable decisions can be made. These Guiding Principles have been revised and updated from the versions initially adopted in 1994.

GOAL AREAS:

The Santa Monica Sustainable City Plan is organized into eight Goal Areas:



Resource Conservation



Environmental and Public Health



Open Space and Land Use



Transportation

Housing

Community Education and Civic Participation



Economic Development

Human Dignity



CITY OF SANTA MONICA

Indicators & Targets = Report Card

Through clearly defined simple Indicators & Targets, Santa Monica can measure their progress and determine their needs. Each section of the plan extensively completes this measurement which allows them to complete a simple and readable Report Card.

Indicators – System Level	Targets
 Modal Split Number of trips by type, citywide Average vehicle ridership (AVR) of Santa Monica businesses with more than 50 employees) 	An upward trend in the use of sustainable (bus, bike, pedestrian, rail) modes of transportation AVR of 1.5 by 2010 for Santa Monica businesses with more than 50 employees
Residential Use of Sustainable Transportation Options Percent of residents who have intentionally not used their car but have instead used a sustain- able mode of transportation in the past month	Upward trend
Sufficiency of Transportation Options	Upward trend

KEY POINTS

- Best part of this plan is the Report Card => providing a clear indication of where they are at.
- Knowing where you are at guides you to where you need to go.
- The Report Card method is *easy*, but extensively completed.
- Each department completes their own report and indicates its measures of success.

THE SUSTAINABLE CITY REPORT CARD

The Sustainable City Plan sets very aggressive goals for a sustainable city and Santa Monica has received national recognition for its sustainability efforts. This report card describes how we are doing at meeting our aggressive sustainable city goals and highlights areas of success and challenges that face our community in eight goal areas.

Sustainability: Leading By Example

VANCOUVER, British Columbia

Vancouver has a very clear breakdown of balancing the 3 pillars of Sustainability through the lens of "Green", and uses its Leadership as leverage to take the charge. See WebSite (a) <u>http://vancouver.ca/sustainability</u>

Guided by Leadership

If Vancouver expects its citizens to lower their energy consumption, it must <u>"walk-the-talk"</u> in its own operations. Thus, we have set emission reduction targets for our city operations as well as for our citizens. The City reduced greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations to 33% below 1990 levels by changing how it runs its facilities, fleets and operations, and by implementing new bylaws. Looking forward, the City has committed to make municipal operations carbon neutral by 2012.

Environmental Plan

Environmental protection is key in Sustainable Vancouver. Alongside climate protection initiatives such as <u>One Day</u> & the <u>Climate Change Action</u> <u>Plans</u> the City protects the quality of our air, water & land. The <u>Environmental Protection Branch</u> ensures the environmentally sustainable management of stormwater, hazardous waste disposal and waste entering sewers.

Economic Development

<u>Economic development</u> is the engine that creates jobs for workers, opportunity for entrepreneurs and prosperity for the community. It generates the revenue necessary to provide public services, enhance quality of life and reduce inequities. Economic development strategies (EDS) are essential elements in planning the future of a city.

KEY POINTS

- Climate Action laid out clearly with measurable results.
- Green Economy & Jobs essential.
- Website broad TBL

Social Sustainability

For a community to function and be sustainable, the basic needs of its residents must be met. A socially sustainable community must have the ability to maintain and build on its own resources and have the resiliency to prevent and/or address problems in the future.

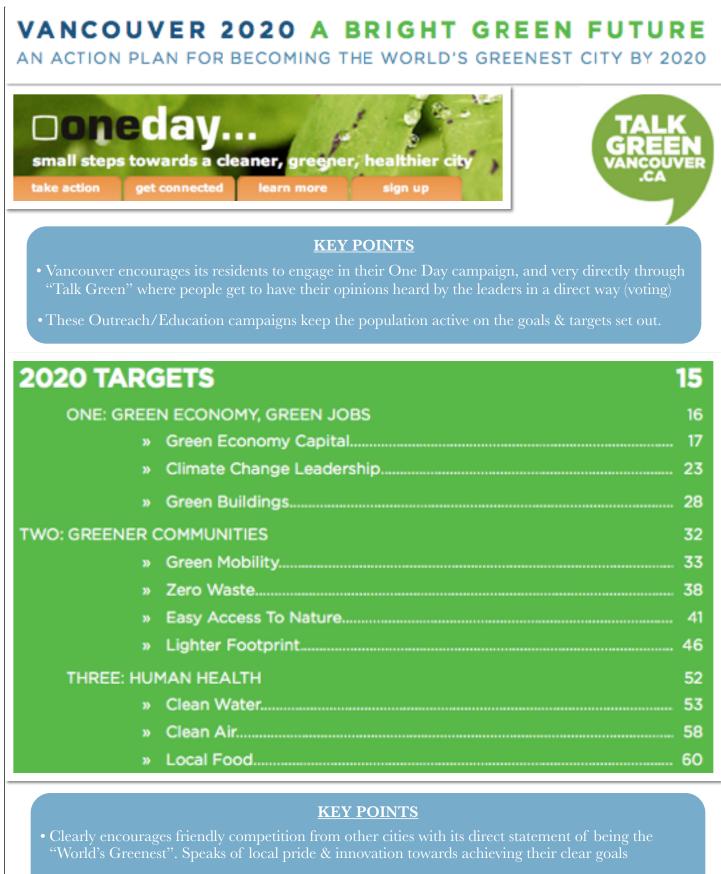
KEY POINTS

- Economic development clearly understood as a key factor
- Social aspects key including local food and planning.

Sustainability

CITY OF VANCOUVER

One Day EcoDensity Green Buildings Electric Vehicles



• Measurable results are determined by EACH department through their work plans

Sustainability: Leading By Example

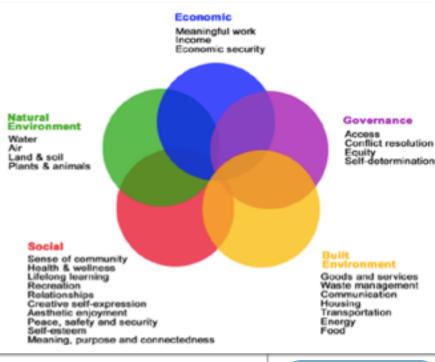
CALGARY, Alberta

The "Imagine Calgary" Plan is directly focused on the Triple Bottom Line (TBL), and is extensively organized into a 100 year plan utililizing the <u>Melbourne Principals</u> and <u>Systems Thinking</u>. The framework is useful as it highlights key areas of focus with clear Strategies & Targets, but since it is so vast, it feels unattainable.

See WebSite @ bit.ly/CalgarySustain

KEY POINTS

- structure its work.
- Building on Brundtland, this approach is valuable in 2
- over time and
- Possible concern is that this plan is *very* extensive, and feels unattainable, even with the



imagineCALGARY Working Groups:

Built environment

- Dr. Andrew Pattulio
- Gerry Barron
- Michael Nyikes
- Kate Easton
- Geoff Dyer
- David Lawlor
- Mike Saley
- Don Mulligan
- Neil McKendrick Steve Wyton
- Amy Alexander
- Glen Radway
- Stephanie Jackman
- Eileen Stan
- Jesse Row

Economic

- Christopher Bruce
- Derek Cook
- Tom Heffner
- Wanda Dalla Costa Ramona Johnston Jake Kuiken
 - Michael Kerford
 - Kevin Le
 - Adam Legge
 - Larissa Muller
 - Patrick Walters
 - Richard White
 - Michael Wilmott
 - Sharon Small

Social

Governance

J. B. Isaacs

Bob Miller

Byron Miller

Anila Umar

Sharon Wood

Bob Morrison

Michael Gretton

Barbara Kinnie

Valerie McLean

Ellen Humphrey

- Mario Siciliano
- Michael Embaie
- Michael Ireton
- Natalie Odd
- Donna Rubenstein Paul Fesko
- Beth Evans
- Joanne Steinmann Terry Rock
 - Greg McKenzie
 - Allison MacKenzie Pat Kinnear
 - Joanne Stalinski
 - John te Linde

 - Cameron

Natural

- Halyna

 - Chris Manderson

 - Carolyn Bowen
 - Mark Bennett
 - Lynn Sveinson
- Pat Letizia
- Brian Pincott
- Karen Young
- Trish Bond

KEY POINTS

- targets, and ensure
- Possible concern are

- environment
- Skala-Tataryn
- Joyce Van Deurzen Norm Carlson
 - Noel Keough
 - Mark Harrigan

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imagine CALGARY Plan

for Long Range Urban Sustainability

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Energy System

Section 1: 100-Year Vision and Goals 1

KEY POINTS

• It seeks direct action using concrete Visioning & Targets

• Strategies & Initiatives are extensively outlined, along with Target Development and Methodology.

KEY POINTS

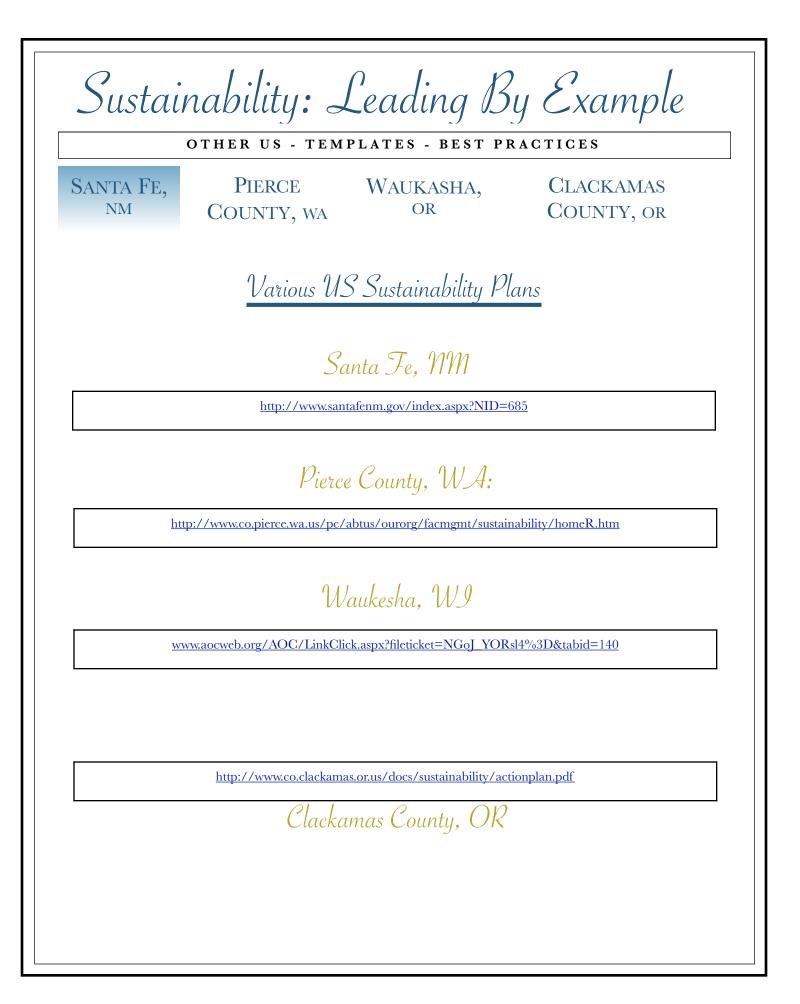
- Seeks clear actions using concrete Targets and Strategies.
- Possible concern is that the content is very broad, guided by clearly laid out Targets & Visioning:
 - although the layout is clear, the document is extensive & confusing.
- Possible concern is that many of their Targets are visioning dreams, rather than actionably attainable.
- Possible concern is that this is a 220 page document, and fairly academic in nature:
 - Not very accessible to the public for review
 - Too long for staff to easily grasp and create actions around

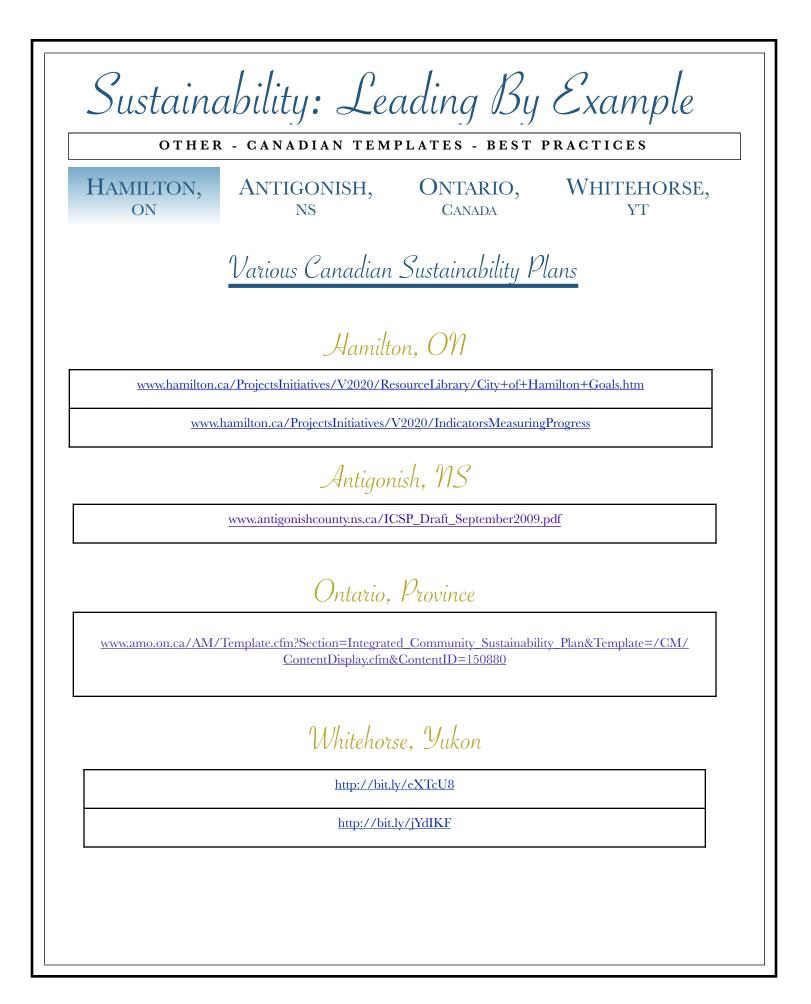
Goal The energy used by Calgarians comes from a diverse portfolio of resources that are renewable, have a low-impact on the environment and contribute to the positive development of our society. Calgarians use energy in an efficient and responsible manner.

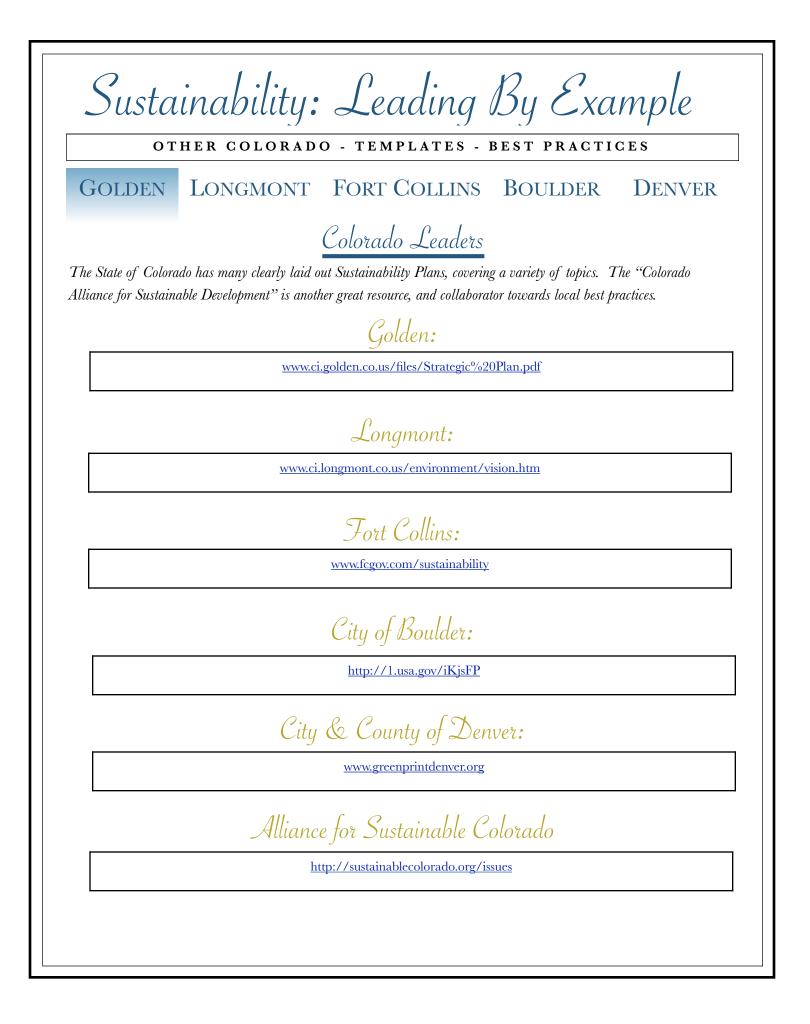
Built environment and infrastructure

1	TARGET By 2036, 30 per cent of Calgary's energy derives from low-impact renewable sources.	
	STRATEGY 1 Support local low-impact, renewable energy generation within the Calgary area. •Establish energy reserves for future needs. •Enable energy derived from renewable sources to be put on the local grid (distributed energy). •Develop standardiaed regulatory and planning processes that are not overly onerous. •Promote heat exchangers within buildings. •Explore the use of geothermal technology for heating and cooling buildings. •Use energy micro-production. •Explore the use of local improvement charges to fund building renewable energy upgrades. •Review the option of using revolving, low-interest loan funds to support the development of low-impact, renewable sources of energy.	
Suttern Freemis		

System Economic All Calgarians have sufficient income and other resources to meet their current and Goal future needs and to provide for healthy lives. TARGET By 2036, 95 per cent of all people living in Calgary are at or above Statistics Canada's Low-income Cut-off (LICO) rates; there is no child poverty. STRATEGY 1 Enhance programs and supports that help unemployed and low-income people achieve economic self-sufficiency. · Urge the not-for-profit sector, industry and government to use a collaborative and shared investment approach to develop and implement · adequate training, education, life skills development, job preparation and job placement services · various employment supports, including transportation subsidies, child care and eased eligibility levels for health benefits. · early childhood development supports that help parents provide children with healthy environments for full development; and · affordable housing supports, including eased eligibility levels for mortgages and subsidized interest rates. STRATEGY 2 Urge all public sector institutions and non-profit sector employers, including all subcontractors, to adopt livable wage policies.







Sustainability: Leading By Example

imagineCALGARY Plan

for Long Range Urban Sustainability

CITY OF SAMA MONTON SUSTAMABLECTY Best Practices Converge

Planning...

Sustainable

JRE. BUILT ENVIRONMENT. AND PEOPLE

There are many city & regional plans to draw from. The above plans are leaders in the field, while in each plan, key areas of success we be specifically drawn from to create a locally grown County Sustainability Plan based on local needs and current programming. Guided by an inventory - which outlines what has been achieved to date & what programs are currently running any Government is in a great a position to lead.

Next Steps

What is critical is to define the Next Steps for our Sustainability Office, led by the clear direction of the Commissioners & Department Heads. To do so, Phases such as in the Dawson Creek plan, with a clear Mission, & Vision for Sustainability must be championed by the leaders in order to be clearly taken up by all staff at a Program, and ultimately at an organizational level.

Sustainability Office

The Sustainability Office can lead the charge forward by facilitating this process, to clearly define our Path, our Strategies & Targets, and producing Report cards, while building relations internally & externally and leading the Sustainability charge in Colorado. Through a Managed approach, the Sustainability Office can hold the direction set forth by the leaders by creating the documents we will all stand by.



Sustainability: Planning

TOOLS & TRAININGS, REPORTS & INDICATORS

WHAT WE NEED TO GET US THERE

There are numerous ways to evaluate progress towards stated Sustainability goals; a few Tools & Trainings were researched, as well as Reports & Indicators that can help measure and evaluate progress as organizations move forward with Sustainability Planning.

Specific examples of Tools & Training outlining "*How to get to Sustainability*" when considering Sustainability Planning, as well as some guidance on Reports & Indicators were compiled and listed below.

TOOLS & TRAININGS

Creating an Effective Plan for Your Sustainability Efforts: www.axisperformance.com/S29SustPlan.html

Tool Kit for Sustainability Planning:

www.icleiusa.org/action-center/planning/sustainability-planning-toolkit

ICLEI's Sustainability Planning Toolkit, based on the model pioneered by City of New York's PlaNYC, contains comprehensive, step-by-step guidance to develop a sustainability plan for cities, towns, and counties of all sizes. It follows a proven, straightforward, and flexible process to create a successful, long-term plan that brings together environmental, economic, and social initiatives under one holistic vision to improve the livability of communities and create lasting benefits.

The toolkit is available only to ICLEI member local governments. If your municipality is not a member, learn more about the benefits of joining. There are two ways to access the toolkit.

Integrated Community Sustainability Planning: www.crcresearch.org/files-crcresearch_v2/File/ICSP-Planning-Tool.pdf

Integrated Community Sustainability Planning (ICSP) Course: www.naturalstep.org/en/canada/integrated-community-sustainability-planning-icsp-course-online-sessions-and-vancouver-bc

Smart Planning BC http://smartplanningbc.ca/ Library/docs/1 1 g Community Sustainability Planning.pdf

REPORTS & INDICATORS

Sustainability Institute: "Indicators & Information Systems for Sustainable Development" www.hku.hk/sdindic/images/Sustainable%20Development%20Indicators_Index.pdf

The Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities: www.iclei.org/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/ANZ/WhatWeDo/TBL/Melbourne_Principles.pdf