CITY OF ST. ALBERT

CITY COUNCIL POLICY

NUMBER	TITLE
C-EUS-01	Environmental Sustainability

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE	DATE LAST REVISED
July 21, 2003	August 26, 2019

Purpose

To provide a guiding framework for setting Environmental goals and targets.

To state the City's commitment to environmental management of its Operations and to implementing initiatives that will support community and City Environmental Sustainability.

Policy Statement

The City recognizes that community Environmental Sustainability is a shared responsibility and it shall work with Stakeholders to take action to conserve, protect and enhance the natural and built Environment.

The City is committed to being a leader in environmental management and Environmental Sustainability of its Operations for the benefit of all.

The City strives for continuous improvement by implementing progressive environmental management practices.

Definitions

"Biodiversity" refers to the different types of life found on Earth and the variety of organisms present in different ecosystems;

"City" means the municipal corporation of the City of St. Albert, or where the context so requires, the area contained within the boundaries of the City of St. Albert;

"Chief Administrative Officer or "CAO" means the individual appointed by Council to the position of Chief Administrative Officer under Section 205 of the *Municipal Government Act* and pursuant to the Chief Administrative Office Bylaw;

“Council” means the municipal Council of the City of St. Albert;

“Climate Change Mitigation” means actions taken to moderate potential harm or take advantage of opportunities anticipated from current or expected climate change impacts, including extreme events. Actions could include making physical modifications to buildings, equipment, materials or services, or less tangible responses like updates to plans, policies, bylaws, and organizational structures;

“Climate Change Resilience” means the ability to prepare for, resist, respond to, and recover from the impacts of climate change (including extreme events) in a timely and efficient manner, with minimal damage and disruption to the natural Environment, social well-being and economic vitality of the region;

“Community” refers to the City, residents, businesses, schools and all other institutions and agencies that make up the City of St. Albert;

“Consultant” means an expert or an experienced professional in a specific field and has extensive knowledge of the subject matter;

“Contractor” refers to any person or persons that perform(s) part of the City’s function or undertakes a process required for the City to deliver its products and/or services;

“Environment” means the system of living and non-living things including the natural world and human constructed elements and their interactions;

“Environmental Advisory Committee” means a Committee of Council that provides strategic advice and expert information between and among the public, administration and City Council, with an ongoing focus on best practices and the development and implementation of the City’s environmental policies, strategies and initiatives.

“Environmental Footprint” means the amount of the Environment required to produce the goods and services necessary to support a particular lifestyle;

“Environmental Management System” means the management of an organization's environmental programs in a comprehensive, systematic, planned and documented manner. It includes the organizational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes, and resources for developing, implementing and maintaining policy for environmental protection.

“Environmental Performance” means an organization’s environmental outcomes evaluated by selecting indicators, collecting and analyzing data, and assessing information against outcome criteria and reporting, communicating and reviewing for continuous improvement;

“Environmental Stewardship” means to embrace the responsibility of protecting and improving the environment;

“Environmental Sustainability” means maintaining, protecting and improving the long-term health of the environment for current and future generations;

“External Influences” includes external Stakeholders and other factors that influence the setting of environmental goals as well as the local, national, and global environment and the impacts that Environment may have on the Community;

“Natural Resources” means resources that are derived directly from the environment, like water or organisms, as well as materials that need to be processed to obtain the resources such as energy. Examples are air, water, wood, oil, wind energy, hydro-electric energy and coal;

“Operations” means the day-to-day activities, processes, and management of departments, services and programs of the City;

“Pollution” means the presence or introduction of contaminants into the environment that cause adverse effects;

“Renewable Resource” means a resource that can be used repeatedly and replaced naturally;

“Stakeholders” means residents, organizations, businesses, non-government organizations and other orders of government with an interest or role in the environment;

“Waste” means a material, substance or byproduct that is unusable or unwanted. Examples include garbage, organics, recycling, and hazardous waste.

Responsibilities

1. Council shall:

    a. Approve bylaws, policies, and community long-term plans that support the Environmental Sustainability Policy;
    b. Use this Environmental Sustainability Policy to inform decisions on environmental-related issues;
    c. Provide strategic direction on environmental priorities;
    d. Ensure implementation of this Council Policy is resourced appropriately; and,
    e. Lead by example.

2. The Chief Administrative Officer shall:

a. Implement this Council Policy by identifying resource requirements and establishing goals, targets and initiatives in the Community long-term plans and associated administrative policies, procedures, and practices for City Operations;
b. Take action and lead by example in partnership with Stakeholders, to advance Environmental Sustainability;
c. Utilize Environmental Management Systems to identify environmental risks and opportunities relevant to City Operations, promote continuous improvement of Environmental Performance, and proactively address changing circumstances including new legislation and External Influences; and
d. Propose initiatives and required resources to Council.

3. Environmental Advisory Committee shall:

   a. Provide strategic advice, input and the public perspective on environmentally related issues, programs and initiatives to Council; and
   b. Provide feedback to Administration on environmentally related topics.

Service Standards / Expectations

City Environmental Performance

The City shall:

1. Identify and comply with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations and develop and uphold best management practices.

2. Implement Environmental Management Systems to ensure conformance to compliance obligations, identify environmental risks and opportunities and enhance Environmental Performance.

3. Integrate environmental policy standards into decision making and strive for continuous improvement.

4. Establish and refine Environmental Performance monitoring, measuring and reporting processes and share the results with the community, other municipalities, orders of government, and interested organizations.

5. Promote environmentally sustainable urban planning, development, and construction principles.

6. Establish and pursue performance targets and design programs for Climate Change Resilience and Climate Change Mitigation and minimize the use of Natural Resources in City facilities, fleets, and services.

7. Require employees, Contractors, and Consultants to identify the potential environmental impacts associated with the work they do on behalf of the City.

Employees and Contractors are expected to responsibly use Natural Resources, minimize Waste and control Pollution through reduction or avoidance.

8. Communicate this Council Policy, performance targets and programs to the corporation and Community by issuing regular updates such as an annual environmental report.

Community Environmental Sustainability

The City shall:

1. Minimize the Community's Environmental Footprint by ensuring neighbourhood focus on people and provide connections to parks and natural areas as well as active and public transportation opportunities.

2. Provide services and programs that promote improvements in air quality, energy efficiency, Renewable Resource use, climate resiliency, leadership in Waste reduction and recycling, river health, and water conservation.

3. Protect and restore City ecosystems by engaging in regional collaboration to maintain essential habitat and wildlife corridors to enhance Biodiversity.

4. Establish partnerships that support this Council Policy through collaboration, use of shared resources, integrated public awareness campaigns and a unified approach to advocacy.

5. Provide opportunities to foster Environmental Stewardship through community events and programming, education, capacity building, and incentives.

6. Ensure an environmentally resilient community is built, in part by understanding and adapting to climate change and anticipating future environmental challenges.

Legal References

Alberta Land Stewardship Act
Alberta Wetland Policy
Canadian Environmental Protection Act
Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act
Fisheries Act
Migratory Birds Convention Act
Municipal Government Act
Navigation Protection Act
Public Lands Act

Water Act
Wildlife Act

Cross References

Council Policy C-CC-23 – Civic Granting
Council Policy C-CG-06 – City of St. Albert Strategic Framework
Environmental Advisory Committee Bylaw 35/2015
Idle Free Bylaw 16/2007
ISO 14001 Standard
Land Use Bylaw 9/2005
Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 20/2020
Water Conservation Bylaw 22/2015
Parks Bylaw 7/2022
White Spruce Forest Bylaw 31/2011

DATE REVIEWED	NEXT REVIEW DATE	REVISIONS
June 2019 – Utilities and Environment	**2027 – Government and Indigenous Relations and Environment**	**Date – Resolution No.** **Jan. 5/09 C6-2009** **July 13/15 C342-2015** **Jan. 21/19 AR-19-003** **Aug. 26/19 POL-19-011**