

CITY OF SASKATOON COUNCIL POLICY

NUMBER
C02-036

POLICY TITLE <i>Environmental Policy</i>	ADOPTED BY: <i>City Council</i>	EFFECTIVE DATE <i>December 18, 2006</i>
		UPDATED TO <i>October 26, 2015</i>
ORIGIN/AUTHORITY <i>Clause 8, Report No. 17-2006 of the Administration and Finance Committee and Item 8.4.2. of the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services – October 26, 2015.</i>	CITY FILE NO. <i>CK 375-1 and 7550-1</i>	PAGE NUMBER <i>1 of 4</i>

1. PURPOSE

This document serves as a statement of intentions and objectives in relation to the desired overall performance of the City of Saskatoon towards community sustainability.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Biodiversity

The variety of life in the Saskatoon region, particularly species, habitats and ecosystems typical to the Canadian prairie.

2.2 Environment

The surroundings in which a community is located and an organization operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelations. The environment in this context extends from within the community of Saskatoon to the prairie region and the broader global system.

2.3 Environmental Management

Those elements of the overall planning and management function of the City of Saskatoon that develop, implement, and maintain its environmental policy and objectives.

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2.4 Environmental Requirements

2.4.1 Regulatory Requirements - The collection of laws such as: Acts, Regulations, Guidelines, Standards, Permits to Operate, and Bylaws, as enacted by any federal, provincial, municipal, territorial or Aboriginal governments that specifically apply to the plans, constructed works, operations, maintenance, and services of the City of Saskatoon that pertain to the environment;

2.4.2 Non-regulatory Requirements - The collection of non-regulatory items such as: industry codes of practice, agreements with public authorities, internal Council or Administrative policies or requirements or any other non-regulatory guideline pertaining to the environment to which the organization subscribes to.

2.5 Environmental Sustainability

Maintaining qualities that are valued in the natural environment by living within the Earth's limits through:

- Energy efficiency and reliance on renewable energy sources;
- Preventing waste;
- Transportation and land-use patterns that protect the environment;
- Maintaining the capacity of the environment to sustain living conditions for people and other species.

2.6 Sustainability

Employee recognition of the connections between actions and the resulting impacts, considering a four pillars framework. This framework focuses on ecologic (the natural environment), social (society and justice), cultural (values and perspectives), and economic factors, today and into the long-term future.

2.7 Sustainable Community

Thriving in harmony with nature to ensure that citizen quality of life today does not negatively affect the ability of future generations to live by the same or improved standards.

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3. POLICY

3.1 General

The City of Saskatoon is committed to becoming an environmentally sustainable community. As a result, the organization encourages and expects environmentally responsible behaviour from all employees and contractors working at civic facilities and grounds. Achieving the ultimate goal involves shared responsibility between the community at large and our organization. As such, the City of Saskatoon has a responsibility to facilitate and provide programs and services that move toward sustainability.

3.2. Objectives

The following environmental performance objectives guide the development and implementation of programs, initiatives, and services.

- 3.2.1 To promote and engage in the protection, enhancement, and responsible use of natural areas and resources; through attention to: biodiversity, protection of soils as a valued resource, climate change, water and air quality, land use, transportation patterns, and civic development.
- 3.2.2 To ensure asset and financial sustainability through life cycle accountability, risk management, and responsible environmental management.
- 3.2.3 To continually improve overall environmental performance through ongoing research and appropriate revision to objectives and targets, as well as transparent plain language reporting.
- 3.2.4 To seek the commitment of all internal staff, management, council members, businesses, and citizens to environmental stewardship and safety by building relationships and understanding through communication, education, training, and support.

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- 3.2.5 To design, construct, retrofit, and operate new and existing City facilities so that reduced environmental impacts are considered through all phases of life by incorporating: energy efficiency, water conservation, waste minimization, energy generation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, pollution prevention, and investments in indoor environmental quality.
- 3.2.6 To comply with environmental requirements and meet or exceed other performance targets the City has committed to meet.
- 3.2.7 To create meaningful stakeholder partnerships and civic collaboration through consultation and integration with programs and initiatives.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 General Manager, Corporate Performance - is responsible for administering this policy and recommending updates to this policy.
- 4.2 City Council - is responsible for reviewing this policy and any recommended changes on an annual basis, as well as final approval.
- 4.3 Reporting
- 4.3.1 Environmental and Corporate Initiatives – is responsible for annual reporting on environmental performance objectives. Reports are to be made available internally for City Council and Administration as well as externally to the general public.
- 4.3.2 All City of Saskatoon Employees – are responsible for including Environmental Implications in all reports being put forward to Committees and City Council.