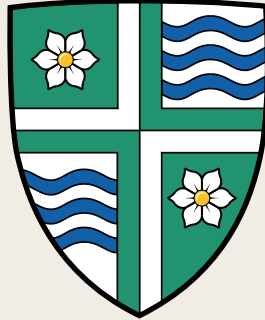


Township of
Langley



Est. 1873

Sustainability Charter

“BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE LEGACY”



SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Sustainability Goals represent the key aspects for the Township of Langley to achieve, in order to realize the Sustainability Vision.

Social/Cultural Goals

- celebrate our heritage
- protect our people and properties
- build corporate and community capacity
- provide and support community based leisure opportunities
- nurture a mindset of sustainability

Economic Goals

- achieve fiscal stability and fiscal health
- develop livable and vibrant communities
- strengthen our economy
- invest in effective infrastructure
- integrate transportation into community planning

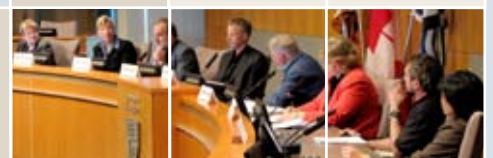
Environmental Goals

- conserve and enhance our environment
- increase biodiversity and natural capital
- respect our rural character and rural heritage
- reduce energy consumption
- promote stewardship

THE SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

The Sustainability Charter provides a high level policy framework for Council to integrate and balance competing community expectations. The Sustainability Framework aims to integrate strategic municipal initiatives on three levels:

1. Sustainability Integration: Sustainability occurs when social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects are in balance. The Framework provides a structure to consider a wide range of community initiatives in a comprehensive manner.
2. Corporate Goals Integration: Linking the Corporate Goals to the Sustainability Framework allows Council to focus on key community initiatives through responsible planning and management of interdependent social, cultural, economic and environmental capacities.
3. Policy-Action Integration: The Framework allows for corporate “mind mapping” and for providing better alignment of corporate goals, objectives, strategies to sustainability initiatives.



SOCIAL/CULTURAL GOALS

Goal: celebrate our heritage

Objectives:

- identify, protect and manage heritage resources
- promote awareness of heritage values
- support unique community heritage events
- partner with the City of Langley, Kwantlen First Nation and heritage societies to further heritage interests

Goal: protect our people and their properties

Objectives:

- prevent crime and reduce the effects of crime
- prevent fire and minimize losses
- prepare for emergencies and disasters
- foster a preventative approach to personal and community safety
- provide consistent and effective bylaw enforcement

Goal: build corporate and community capacity

Objectives:

- commit to good governance by democratic means
- maintain a high performance work force
- recognize our cultural and ethnic diversity
- encourage and promote active volunteerism
- monitor changes in community values, aspirations and needs
- respond to community and social needs

Goal: provide and support community based leisure opportunities

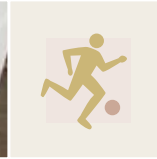
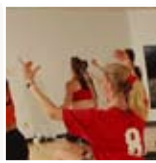
Objectives:

- provide parks, open space and recreation facilities
- nourish the arts as an expression of cultural value
- improve personal well-being and celebrate community spirit
- deliver recreation programming and support community services
- form partnerships to maximize leisure opportunities

Goal: nurture a mindset of sustainability

Objectives:

- reward sustainability innovation
- practise green purchasing
- incorporate a sustainability mentality into the community
- heighten the awareness of sustainability initiatives
- provide leadership for sustainability practice and innovation



ECONOMIC GOALS

Goal: achieve fiscal stability and fiscal health

Objectives:

- develop effective financial strategies and plans
- practice responsible fiscal management
- develop non-taxation funding sources
- promote continuous improvement and operational efficiency
- manage risk and minimize liability
- engage citizens on funding of services and program needs

Goal: develop livable and vibrant communities

Objectives:

- focus on compact urban form and mixed use neighbourhoods
- manage growth consistent with overall community needs
- encourage high quality design
- provide flexible, affordable and mixed housing options
- make communities pedestrian and bicycle oriented

Goal: strengthen our economy

Objectives:

- promote Langley's reputation as a great place to live, work and play
- establish Langley as a centre of excellence in education and training
- strengthen the agricultural economy
- maximize the tourism potential in Langley
- increase jobs and revenue from major events and venues

Goal: invest in effective infrastructure

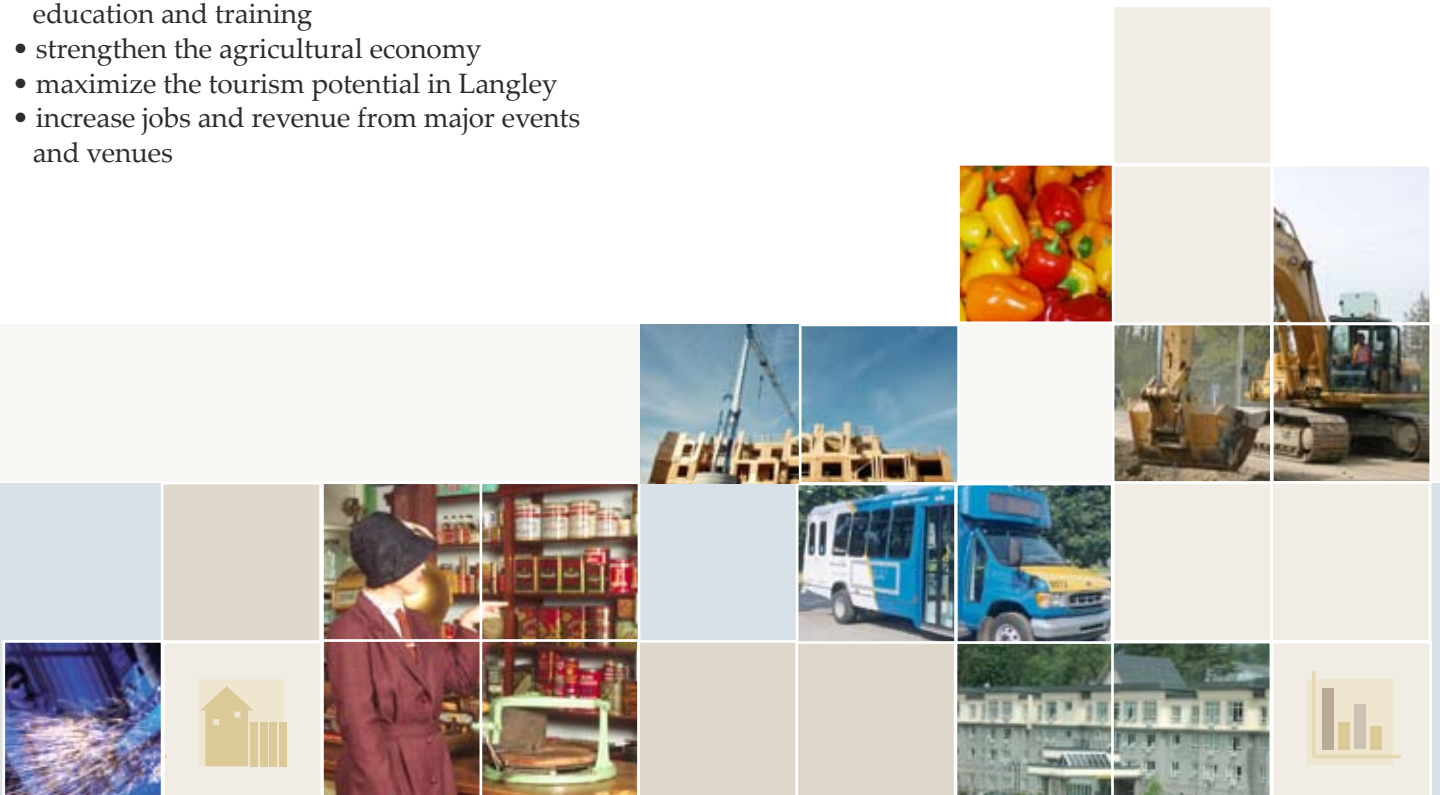
Objectives:

- ensure quality construction and best value for our investment
- manage and maintain our assets to maximize their service life
- be innovative in making "green" investments

Goal: integrate transportation and community planning

Objectives:

- encourage and facilitate transit oriented developments
- provide safe and affordable transportation infrastructure
- coordinate with other agencies and groups to improve transit and road services
- increase passenger traffic at local airports



ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

Goal: conserve and enhance our environment

Objectives:

- conserve water
- improve stormwater quality
- reduce air pollution

Goal: increase biodiversity and natural capital

Objectives:

- protect and enhance rivers and streams
- protect and enhance environmentally significant areas
- protect endangered species and enhance wildlife habitats
- use native plants in parks and greenways

Goal: respect our rural character and rural heritage

Objectives:

- recognize the rural character as an essential community feature
- protect views, characteristic landscapes and rural roads
- preserve the agricultural land base for food production

Goal: reduce energy consumption

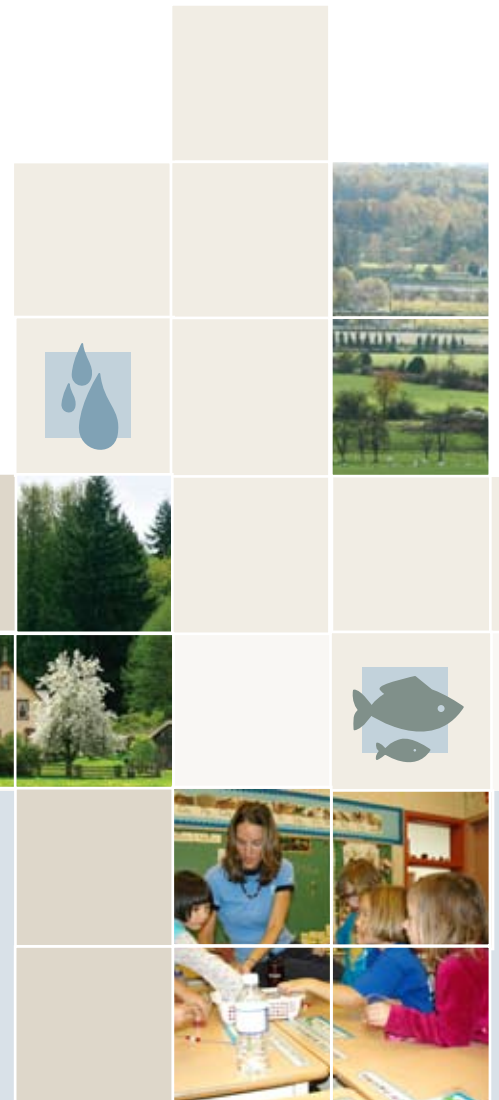
Objectives:

- promote energy efficiency in new and retrofit buildings
- promote use of local renewable energy

Goal: promote stewardship

Objectives:

- practise 3Rs – reduce, reuse and recycle
- establish and strengthen stewardship partnerships
- plant trees



SUSTAINABILITY MONITORING AND REPORTING

It is important to measure and assess the progress being made towards sustainability. An on-going monitoring and reporting program should be established as one of the first steps of implementing the Sustainability Charter. The monitoring and reporting program should consider the following:

Existing Indicators: Many agencies maintain sustainability indicators ranging from neighbourhood scale to the international level. The Township of Langley should select existing indicators that are appropriate to local issues and initiatives, and thus facilitate integration, measurement and assessment at various levels.

Innovative Indicators: Innovative or “made-in-Langley” indicators may be necessary to recognize the various unique aspects of the Township of Langley.

Langley Tomorrow Surveys: Since 1990, the Township of Langley has been conducting surveys to track changes in community perceptions on various municipal issues. The Langley Tomorrow Survey should be incorporated as part of the monitoring program for the Sustainability Charter.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Township of Langley welcomes explore strategic partnerships with agencies such as:

- International Institute for Sustainable Development,
- Canadian Sustainability Indicators Network,
- Centre for Sustainable Community Development (Federation of Canadian Municipalities),
- First Nations,
- Fraser Basin Council,
- Metro Vancouver, and
- City of Langley.

SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Township of Langley has been on a pathway to sustainability for almost 20 years, with the following key milestones:

Langley Tomorrow Program

In 1990, the Township initiated the Langley Tomorrow Program, a community goal setting process that led to the development of a Corporate Mission Statement, Community Value Statement as well as Corporate Goals and Objectives. The Corporate Mission Statement committed the community to a lifestyle that is socially, culturally, economically and environmentally balanced. The commitment is consistent with the concept of sustainability, which requires integration of three aspects of community development: social/cultural, economic and environmental. In other words, the Langley Tomorrow Program laid the foundation for a healthy, sustainable community.

Langley Tomorrow Surveys

As part of the Langley Tomorrow Program, a telephone survey was conducted to obtain a statistically valid reading on residents’ goals and values, responses to municipal service levels and recreation needs. The survey results were analyzed and used as a foundation for the formulation of the Corporate Mission Statement and the associated Corporate Goals & Objectives. Similar surveys were conducted in 1993, 1995, 1996, 2002 and 2006 to update base line information and keep a pulse on changing community values and aspirations.

Towards Sustainability

In 2005, Township of Langley Council received a publication titled Towards Sustainability. As a summary of background information, the publication highlighted many of the successful steps made and some of the challenges that lay ahead for the Township of Langley to achieve sustainability amidst planned growth.

Sustainability by Design (SxD)

In 2006, the Township of Langley participated in a six-month process led by the Design Centre for Sustainability, University of British Columbia to create a 50-year sustainable vision for the 200 Street corridor. Presented as a case study of a sustainable community at the World Urban Forum, the design ideas form a building block of the Sustainability Vision.

Sustainability Expert Panel

A Sustainability Expert Panel was held in May, 2007 to provide information and insights on Sustainability. The Panel was composed of seven critical thinkers and practitioners in sustainable development and was attended by 120 people. The proceedings of the event were aired on Shaw TV in Langley and were available as a streaming video on the Township website.

Sustainability Community Workshop

A Sustainability Community Workshop was held in June, 2007, with 80 people participating in conversations that matter with our families, friends and colleagues. Workshop participants suggested ideas and desired outcome statements for the community to pursue sustainability. Many of these ideas have been incorporated into the Sustainability Charter as action items.

Sustainability Open Houses

In 2008, a series of Sustainability Open Houses was held to raise the awareness of sustainability initiatives in the community and to obtain feedback on the draft Sustainability Charter from Langley residents.

Sustainability Charter Adoption

The Township of Langley Council adopted the Sustainability Charter on June 23, 2008.

The Sustainability Charter is considered to be an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) as defined in the Gas Tax Agreement. The Sustainability Charter emphasizes strategic planning approaches such as long-term thinking, integration, collaboration, public education, community engagement, monitoring and evaluation.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Sustainability Charter is a high-level policy to guide the organization and the community towards a sustainable future. Accordingly, implementation of the Sustainability Charter will rest with corporate instruments such as the Official Community Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Master Transportation Plan and Five Year Financial Plans.

The Sustainability Framework will be used to assist in preparation of future work plans and budgets. The Sustainability Goals and Objectives will become the basis for the 2008 - 2012 Work Plans. In addition, the 2009 - 2012 Five Year Financial Plan will be aligned with the Sustainability Goals and Objectives.

Future implementation will include partnerships and commitments from other community partners.

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