



**SUBJECT: Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development**

**TO: Committee of the Whole**

**FROM: Capital Works**

Report Number: CW-02-17

Wards Affected: not applicable

File Numbers: 130-02

Date to Committee: May 29, 2017

Date to Council: June 12, 2017

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**Recommendation:**

Endorse the updated 2017 version of the Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development contained in Appendix A of capital works department report CW-02-17.

**Purpose:**

The Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development relate to several directions in the strategic plan, particularly environment, land use, transportation and social/cultural actions found in the following sections:

A City that Grows

A City that Moves

A Healthy and Greener City

An Engaging City

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**Background and Discussion:**

This report is written on behalf of the Sustainable Development Committee.

The original Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development were developed by the Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) in 1990, the same year that Council created this volunteer citizen advisory committee. In 1994, after utilizing the original Principles and Objectives over four years, the Committee was of the opinion that they needed to be revised and also adopted by Council to give them more weight in decision

making. Report PW-294-94 states that the Principles and Objectives were originally developed to assist the Committee to carry out its mandate as an advisory body to Council to foster dialogue and awareness of sustainable development within the community and make recommendations to Council.

The Principles and Objectives have guided the Committee through the years in its discussions and debates related to sustainable development, during the research and writing of the State of the Environment Report (5 editions), their community engagement activities, and the review of planning applications, strategic plans, and policy documents.

It is also noted that when the federal gas tax fund initially became available, the federal government required municipalities to develop and implement an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) to be eligible for the funding. The exception was in Ontario where, if a municipality could demonstrate that its Official Plan and/or Strategic Plan included principles of sustainability, then it would be exempt from the requirement of completing an ICSP. In 2008, the Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development were appended to the updated City of Burlington Official Plan.

In 2015, the Committee celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and decided that it would be an appropriate time to review and update the Principles and Objectives. The process to review and update them was a longer process than anticipated, but the final product represents a significant effort by the committee members, resulting in a thorough and comprehensive update. The final version of the Principles and Objectives are found in Appendix A to this report. A comparison of the updated version and the 1994 version, including notes about the amendments, is found in Appendix B. The original 1994 version is found in Appendix C.

## **Strategy/process**

The Committee formed a sub-group that met monthly starting in the fall of 2015. By late spring 2016, the Committee had a new draft of the Principles and Objectives to begin consulting with others within the city. The draft was first presented to the three staff who act as advisors to the SDC committees (committee of the whole and the two sub-committees), including the Sr. Sustainability Coordinator, the Sustainability Project Coordinator, and the Environmental Planner. SDC representatives then met with the Manager of Policy and Research and the Environmental Planner to review and discuss the Principles and Objectives, and how they would relate to the Official Plan. After this, the SDC chair presented them to the Building Complete Communities staff committee, which has representation from most city departments. Overall, the Principles and Objectives were well received by staff with minor amendments requested.

In addition to consulting with staff, members of the SDC's Policy and Development Subcommittee tested the revised Principles and Objectives by using them to guide their review of planning proposals to ensure that the updated version reflects current sustainable development issues.

The Principles and Objectives were then shared with the ChAT group for feedback, as was suggested by the Building Complete Communities staff team. In response to the comments and suggestions made by the ChAT group, SDC representatives felt it was necessary to meet in person with the group to address their comments. The discussion focused on how the Principles and Objectives are used by the Committee and city, the length of the Principles and Objectives, and the opportunity for public input.

The Principles and Objectives are primarily used by the Sustainable Development Committee to guide them in their review of strategies, policies and planning proposals, as well as their community engagement activities. However, they are available for reference to staff and the public as an appendix in the Official Plan, in a brochure format, on the Committee's website, and summarized on a bookmark. The Committee feels that the length and number of Principles and Objectives are appropriate and should be comprehensive given how they are used by the Committee.

A short survey was posted on the SDC's webpage for a three week period for members of the public to provide feedback. Three comments related to the draft Principles and Objectives were submitted related to:

- long term food security and local sustainable agriculture;
- communication and public education on environment and energy programs, such as energy rebates; and,
- waste reduction.

The committee considered the comments received and amended the Principles and Objectives accordingly. Most significantly, they added one new objective related to waste reduction (#5) and edited the objectives related to Agriculture and Food (#15) and Community Engagement (#17); and amended Principle #5, where 'help our community' was replaced with 'engage our community'.

As noted above, the final revised version of the Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development are attached as Appendix A for Council endorsement. Once they receive endorsement, they will replace the 1994 version appended to the current Official Plan for reference, as well as the new draft plan (Grow Bold). An amendment to the current Official Plan is not required to replace an appended document.

### **Options considered**

The SDC is of the opinion that the Principles and Objectives required a review and update to ensure that they reflect current sustainability issues. Keeping them the same without any updates may result in irrelevance in the future.

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### **Financial Matters:**

Not applicable.

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### **Connections:**

The Principles and Objectives are directly related to the city's Strategic Plan, as well as the Official Plan, Community Energy Plan, Transportation Master Plan, economic development and social/cultural initiatives.

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### **Public Engagement Matters:**

The updated version of the Principles and Objectives were posted on the SDC's webpage for three weeks for public feedback through a short survey until the beginning of March. The survey was promoted through social media including the Take Action Burlington blog ([www.takeactionburlington.ca](http://www.takeactionburlington.ca)).

They have been appended to the draft Official Plan for the community engagement process, which will also make them accessible to the public.

The final version will be appended to the final Official Plan, made available on the SDC's webpage, and included in a printed pamphlet which is handed out at special events.

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### **Conclusion:**

The Sustainable Development Committee is pleased to present the updated Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development for endorsement by Council.

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Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Robichaud

Clerk to the Sustainable Development Committee

(and Sr. Sustainability Coordinator)

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**Appendices:**

- A. Revised Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development
- B. Comparison of 1994 Version and Revised Version of Principles and Objectives
- C. Original 1994 Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development

**Notifications:**

Tim Park, Chair of the Sustainable Development Committee

**Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.