

Sustainable Development Principles – Comparison of Revised to Original

Revised (2017):	Original (1994):	Rationale for changes:
Principle 1: Recognize the interdependence of humans and the rest of nature in a common ecosystem; seek to prevent and reverse degradation of the earth, air, water, plants and animals by human activity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect the environment in both a proactive and remedial manner, with emphasis on anticipation and prevention. 2. Make decisions that recognize the interdependence of humans and nature in a common ecosystem. 	Strengthened language to refer to the need to do more than prevent, but in some cases reverse, environmental degradation.
Principle 2: Recognize the urgency of climate change and take measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt.	NA (new in 2017 version)	The SDC felt that it was very important to introduce the concept of climate change in the P&O, and to recognize the urgent need for action. This principle also reflects council's position in the Strategic Plan that climate change is a significant issue.
Principle 3: Promote conservation, stewardship and responsible use of resources. Discourage processes and practices that result in natural resources being consumed at a rate faster than they can be replenished.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Promote responsible resource use and conservation practices. 6. Promote responsible stewardship to ensure equitable use of natural and environmental resources in order to meet essential needs of both present and future generations. 	The Principle was updated to reflect the need to reduce the consumption of natural resources, especially fossil fuels, due to the resulting environmental impact. This is more than a matter of conserving resources for future human consumption.
Principle 4: Discourage the production and use of persistent and harmful substances. Reinforce proper disposal practices for such substances.	NA (was in <i>Objectives</i> in 1994 version)	The SDC felt that this concept more properly resided at the Principle level. It is now more general (rather than referring to pesticides and toxics only, it can now include GHG and air pollutants such as NOx).

Revised (2017):	Original (1994):	Rationale for changes:
<p>Principle 5: Affirm and promote practices that provide a safe and healthy environment and build resilience, and engage our community in not only meeting the economic and social needs of all citizens but enhancing quality of life.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Support responsible development that promotes efficiency and enhances the quality of life. 5. Have regard for environmental, economic and social costs and benefits in the development and use of resources, products and services. 	<p>Where decisions systemically contribute to conditions or situations (e.g. climate change and associated drought) that negatively impact peoples' ability to make a living, they will revert to practices that are damaging to the environment. For moral and practical reasons, therefore, it is crucial that broader (and global) impacts to human livelihood enter Burlington's decision-making framework/process.</p>

Sustainable Development Objectives Comparison

Revised 2017 Objective:	Original 1994 Objective:	Rationale for changes:
1. Leadership: Take a leadership position on sustainability issues both within and outside of the City of Burlington. Recognize that our local actions can have global implications.	4. Actively Promote Sustainable Development: Advocate changes at the senior levels of government, as well as in the city, in order to evolve towards sustainability.	Updated and strengthened by using the term “leadership”. Introduced the concept of local action having global implications.
2. Protection and Enhancement of Natural Features: Protect and enhance Burlington’s natural features to ensure that shorelines, natural water courses, wetlands, flood plains, woodlands and forestry tracts, as well as notable landmarks such as the Niagara Escarpment, are preserved for future generations. Improve the connectivity of natural features to enhance the natural heritage system. Preserve habitat to maintain and increase biodiversity and protect species at risk.	6. Protection and Enhancement of Natural Features: Protect and enhance Burlington’s natural features by ensuring that the physical features of shorelines, agriculture lands, flood plains, forestry tracts and notable landmarks such as the Niagara Escarpment are preserved for future generations.	Introduced concepts of connectivity and biodiversity.
3. Protection of Natural Resources: Sustainably manage and protect natural resources such as water, minerals and fertile lands. Reverse degradation of natural resources when feasible.	1. Protection of Natural Resources: Preserve and extend accessible green spaces, shorelines, natural water courses and the Niagara Escarpment for future generations.	Increased focus on natural resources vs. natural features. Combined some of the concepts from 1994 into the revised 2017 Objective 2.

Revised 2017 Objective:	Original 1994 Objective:	Rationale for changes:
<p>4. Responsible Use of Natural Resources: Reduce the consumption of natural resources and ensure users are charged for the full local costs of services such as water, electricity and sanitary sewers. Provide educational programs to encourage conservation of natural resources and increase awareness of the full cost of services.</p>	<p>12. Responsible Use of Natural Resources: Encourage conservation of natural resources; the city should work towards ensuring that users are charged for the full local costs of their individual use of water, electricity and sanitary sewers. There should also be educational programs to encourage conservation of natural resources.</p>	<p>Used somewhat stronger language (e.g. reduce consumption vs. encourage conservation).</p>
<p>5. Waste Reduction: Reduce waste generation and increase resource recovery. Minimize waste in designing, building, operating, renovating, demolishing and re-purposing buildings.</p>	<p>New</p>	<p>New objective based on feedback from community consultation in Q1 2017.</p>
<p>6. Greening of the City: Promote the preservation, management and planting of trees and other vegetation on private and public property within the City. Encourage the use of native, non-invasive and diverse species.</p>	<p>2. Reforestation of the City: Promote the replanting and management of vegetation on private and public property within the city.</p>	<p>Introduced the word “preservation” and the concept of using native, non-invasive and diverse plants.</p>

Revised Objective:	Original Objective:	Rationale for changes:
<p>7. Natural Features and Green Space: Ensure natural features and greenspace are fundamental components of the City including new developments and redevelopments.</p>	<p>13. Integration of Natural Features and Green Space: Integrate natural features and green space in all new developments and intensification projects.</p>	<p>Strengthened language through use of: “Ensure...are fundamental components...”.</p>
<p>8. Superior Neighbourhood Design: Make land-use decisions considering the natural features, site characteristics and location relative to employment, transportation and amenities. Apply an ecosystem approach to assess the impacts of development and to ensure environmental integrity, diversity and resiliency. Create vibrant, equitable communities that are healthy, walkable and transit supportive.</p>	<p>5. Make the Best Use of Land: Land-use decisions based upon an ecosystem approach to ensure environmental integrity and diversity. To include, but not be limited to, promoting environmentally sensitive lands and using fertile soil for agriculture throughout the municipality.</p>	<p>Updated the “make best use of land” concept to make it more holistic.</p>
<p>9. Sense of Community: Create sustainable and appropriate forms of development that reflect the human scale, promote a sense of community, and connect and integrate urban development and natural surroundings.</p>	<p>8. Balanced Development: Provide a community plan and an economic strategy aimed at creating sustainable and appropriate forms of development that reflect human scale and a sense of community as well as representing a balance between urban development and natural surroundings.</p>	<p>Updated to include “connect and integrate” vs. balance.</p>

Revised Objective:	Original Objective:	Rationale for changes:
<p>10. Neighbourhood Connectivity: Promote community development where residents can easily access necessities and amenities, such as housing, employment, locally produced food, retail, green spaces, education, recreation, and arts and culture through active or public transportation.</p>	<p>11. Accessible Community Development: Form a new type of community development which includes readily available local community components such as commerce, shopping, employment, education and recreation within walking distance of all residences.</p>	<p>Moved away from the term “accessible”. Updated to refer to active and public transportation vs. walking only.</p>
<p>11. Sustainable Transportation System: Prioritize walking, cycling and public transit and make best use of the existing road system for the safe movement of goods and people. Support multi-modal connectivity within the City and with neighbouring municipalities.</p>	<p>16. Balanced Transportation System: Develop a balanced transportation system including transit, pedestrian, and cycling amenities and best use of the road system for movement of goods and people, with the existing facilities used to their fullest capacity.</p>	<p>Updated to <i>prioritize</i> active and public transportation. Introduced concept of connectivity with neighbouring municipalities.</p>
<p>12. Efficient Urban Design: Increase the efficiency of land use in the urban community with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas and other air emissions and provide efficient, well connected routes for active transportation and transit. Promote urban intensification and development policies, rather than suburban policies that generate sprawl.</p>	<p>9. Efficient Urban Design: Increase the efficiency of land use in the urban community in terms of energy and time; promote intensification and diversification policies rather than policies that generate urban sprawl.</p>	<p>Updated to refer to reducing GHG and other air emissions, rather than simply improving energy efficiency.</p>

Revised Objective:	Original Objective:	Rationale for changes:
<p>13. Natural Storm Water Management: Protect water courses in their natural state and encourage the restoration of water courses that have been degraded. Encourage low impact development design and use of best practices to improve storm water quality and reduce the quantity of storm water sent to traditional storm water infrastructure.</p>	<p>7. Natural Storm Water Management: Protect water courses in their natural state and for those water courses that have been significantly altered, restoration to a more natural state will be encouraged as opportunities arise.</p>	<p>Introduced concepts of low impact design, improving storm water quality and reducing the quantity of storm water sent to traditional infrastructure.</p>
<p>14. Energy Conservation, Efficiency and Generation: Promote net zero carbon energy generation and usage. Increase energy conservation through efficient land use planning and building design. Encourage sustainable local thermal and electrical energy generation and the supporting distribution network. Adopt low emission forms of transportation. Take all opportunities to switch from fossil fuel to renewable and electricity-based technologies.</p>	<p>14. Energy Conservation: Promote energy conservation through efficient land use planning and building design.</p>	<p>This is one of the more significant updates to the objectives. It introduces concepts of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Net zero carbon; transition to less carbon intensive forms of energy; - Lower emissions forms of transportation; - Increasing local energy generation and the supporting distribution network (community resiliency).

Revised Objective:	Original Objective:	Rationale for changes:
<p>15. Agriculture and Food: Promote policies that improve long-term food security with sustainable local agriculture in urban and rural communities. Increase the supply of local, accessible, affordable, culturally diverse and nutritious food. Protect agricultural land from loss and fragmentation.</p>	New	<p>Introduced to reflect the importance of Burlington's rural lands and community. Local production of food can help to create jobs, reduce energy consumption associated with the transportation of food, and improve resiliency. Some additional concepts (e.g. food security, urban community, accessible) added as a result of community consultation (Q1 2017).</p>
<p>16. Healthy Lifestyles: Promote and support healthy and active lifestyles through the development of complete neighbourhoods, active transportation infrastructure, recreational facilities and parks.</p>	New	<p>Introduced for consistency with other SD objectives, and for consistency with the Strategic Plan 2015-2040.</p>
<p>17. Community Engagement: Seek and encourage public participation and education, and consider public input in city decision-making. The economic, environmental and social aspects of proposed developments should be considered. Decisions should address all aspects and build consensus among stakeholders.</p>	<p>3. Full Public Participation in Development Decisions: Allow the public to be part of all planning decisions. Economic, environmental and social impacts of proposed developments should be considered.</p>	<p>The SDC feels that it is crucial that decisions reflect all three pillars of sustainable development (SD). It is very important to take the time to do a thorough analysis and consider public feedback in order to make the right decision. It may mean more analysis and a longer timeline but a better outcome. Based on community consultation (Q1 2017), "public...education" was added.</p>

Revised Objective:	Original Objective:	Rationale for changes:
<p>18. Evaluation of Development: Continuously monitor and evaluate community development to assess its sustainability in relation to social, environmental or economic impacts.</p>	<p>17. Evaluation of Development: Continuous monitoring and evaluation of development should take place to ensure that it does not have adverse impacts on the city's finances and the environment.</p>	<p>Minor rewording to refer more generally to the three pillars of SD.</p>
<p>19. Sustainability Assessment: To assess progress towards sustainability, the City of Burlington should prepare a performance review of the entire municipality at regular intervals and develop and implement an action plan based on the findings.</p>	<p>15. Ecosystem Auditing: City of Burlington should prepare an objective ecosystem audit of the entire municipality at regular intervals.</p>	<p>Updated to refer to progress towards the three pillars of SD vs. ecosystem only. Now emphasizes need to act on findings.</p>
<p><i>Moved to Principles</i></p>	<p>10. Minimal Discharge of Toxic Pesticides and Other Toxic Chemicals: Promote the elimination of private and public use of toxic pesticides and other chemicals that have negative effects on the environment, particularly those known to be persistent.</p>	<p>The SDC felt that this concept more properly resided at the Principle level. In the Principles, the concept has been made more general (e.g. rather than just referring to pesticides and toxics, the revised wording can now include GHG and air pollutants such as NOx).</p>