

Shoreline Environmental Sustainability Strategy

Draft Mission Statement

The City of Shoreline Sustainability Strategy Mission Statement establishes environmental sustainability as a framework to align the City's plans, policies, operations and actions with the direction provided in Council Goal #6, as well as the City endorsed^{1,2} goals of the Cascade Agenda³, the Green Cities Program⁴, and the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement⁵.

Mission:

We will provide management and stewardship of natural resources and environmental assets such that their value is preserved, restored, and enhanced for present and future generations. We will reduce waste, energy consumption, carbon emissions and the use of toxics in our own operations. We will lead and empower our community to make these same changes and evaluate our shared progress. We will create and foster community-based stewardship programs for our community open spaces, critical areas and urban forests. We will promote sustainable land use development, improved parks and recreation facilities and transportation solutions to enhance the ecology, livability and health of our community.

Draft Guiding Principles with High-Level Goals

The City of Shoreline has identified 10 Draft Guiding Principles as the foundation for the City's Sustainability Strategy. The Principles are not prioritized, but they are organized into two areas of emphasis – Strategy Framework (including process guidance) and Focus Areas (which deal with specific topics). Each Principle statement contains more specific high-level goals identifying specific initiatives and actions the City will take in support of that Principle. Input on the Guiding Principles will be solicited from the community and if necessary the Principles will be revised. They will serve as the defining framework for the strategy and subsequent efforts will be tied to these roots.

¹ City of Shoreline has endorsed the principles of the Cascade Agenda and declared the City's intent to participate in the "Cascade Agenda City" and "Green City Partnership" by adoption of Resolution 260 on June 11, 2007.

² City of Shoreline authorized support of the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement by adoption of Resolution 242 on April 24, 2006.

³ <http://www.cascadeagenda.com/>

⁴ <http://www.cascadeland.org/stewardship/green-cities>

⁵ <http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/agreement.htm>

1. Sustainability Will be a Key Factor in Policy Development

The long-term impacts of policy choices will be considered to ensure a sustainable legacy. All policy decision will be considered according to impacts on conservation and restoration of the natural environment. The City will develop specific tools to ensure that citizens and decision makers understand the potential impacts of our choices on sustainability. The City will establish a clear list of sustainability priorities to guide the overall sustainability strategy and evaluate them on a regular basis to ensure the efficacy and efficiency of our actions.

2. Lead by Example and Learn from Others

The City will lead by example and encourage other community stakeholders to make a similar commitment to the environment. We will learn from others and incorporate successful approaches into our efforts. The City will act as an advocate for innovative programs and approaches that embody the goals of sustainability. The City's sustainable programs, policies, facilities and practices will be designed as models that can be emulated by special districts, services providers, businesses, institutions, organizations and individuals in the community.

3. Environmental Quality, Economic Vitality, Human Health and Social Benefit are Interrelated

The City recognizes that a sustainable community requires and supports economic development. The City will encourage environmentally sustainable business. We recognize that the health of humans is inherently dependent on the health of the communities we create and the ecological framework that sustains us. In achieving a healthy environment, the City must ensure that inequitable burdens are not placed on any one geographic or socioeconomic sector of the population and that the benefits of a sustainable community are accessible to all members of the community.

4. Community Education, Participation and Responsibility are Key Elements of a Sustainable Community

The City will be a leader in the creation and sponsorship of education opportunities to support community awareness, responsibility and participation in cooperation with schools, colleges and other organizations in the community. We recognize that partnerships between governments, businesses, residents and all community stakeholders are necessary to achieve a sustainable community, and we will serve as a catalyst and facilitator of these relationships. Public participation and a transparent decision making process are essential to finding and selecting alternatives.

5. Commitment to Continuous Improvement

The City will reevaluate its priorities, programs and policies on a defined, regular basis to ensure that the best possible investments in the future are being made. We will encourage our community partners to pursue similar efforts. The evaluation of a program's cost-effectiveness will be based on a comprehensive lifecycle analysis of environmental and social costs and benefits. Performance monitoring will be achieved via a system of indicators and performance targets (e.g. a carbon scorecard). Analytical and monitoring tools will emphasize simplicity to ensure long-term utility for the City in terms of application and communication of the results for the explicit purpose of becoming more sustainable.

Focus Areas:

6. Manage Expected Growth in a Sustainable Way

We are part of a larger region and must accept our fair share of future housing needs and employment growth to achieve the goals of Growth Management and the Cascade Agenda. This growth must not come at the expense of our local environment or community livability. The City will seek innovative ideas and emerging technologies to minimize the negative impacts of growth and to leverage redevelopment to enhance environmental sustainability where practicable. Higher intensity land uses and increased density will be focused in specific areas that are environmentally suitable and served by adequate infrastructure, including transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Community access to parks and natural features will be enhanced.

7. Address Impacts of Past Practices

As a community we recognize that we must not only change the way we do things now and in the future, but we must also address the impacts of our past actions. The City will be a leader in identifying and addressing environmental degradation resulting from previous development; ongoing impacts caused by use of outdated technologies and infrastructure will be a priority (e.g. stormwater system improvements and sidewalks). We recognize that we do not live in a pristine environment, but we will seek out specific ways to improve the ecological health, including the human health, of our community.

8. Proactively Manage and Protect Ecosystems

Good stewardship demands that we both protect and actively manage our dynamic local environment. The City will seek opportunities to enhance and restore our critical areas, shorelines, urban forest, landscape hydrology and other key elements of our natural environment so that we are ready to meet environmental challenges to come. The City will manage public lands, including right-of-ways, for multiple benefits,

including ecosystem protection and enhancement. The City will promote and empower residents and property owners to improve ecosystem conditions in residential yards, institutional sites and commercial properties. Our environment is constantly changing. Lasting ecological health and environmental services cannot be achieved in a human-altered ecosystem by simply leaving the remaining natural elements alone and hoping they will fix themselves.

9. Improve and Expand Waste Reduction and Resource Conservation Programs

The City will evaluate and implement strategies for reducing volumes and types of materials that are directed into the waste stream. We will be a leader in reducing waste and conserving resources through conscientious purchasing policies and expanded recycling programs. The City will take steps to reduce water consumption in its facilities and operations, investigate water reuse technologies and promote water conservation efforts in the larger community in partnership with utility providers. Policies and contracts will reflect our commitment to reducing internal waste generation and resource consumption and enabling partner organizations to lessen impacts on the environment through waste management and resource conservation. We will evaluate all policies and decisions according to the “Cradle to Cradle” idea of reducing negative environmental impacts from initial sourcing through the end of useful product or project life.

10. Energy Solutions are Key to Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

The City will reduce the amount of energy used in facilities and operations and promote sustainable sources of energy. The City will use a carbon scorecard to evaluate energy use and carbon emissions of the Shoreline community and develop and promote conservation targets. Other ways in which the City can promote conservation goals include compact development that supports transit and walkability, non-motorized transportation improvements, and coordination and advocacy for efficient transit solutions that serve both the people of Shoreline and the region.