

Burlington Sustainable Development Committee

Sustainable Development Principles and Objectives

Principles:

- Support responsible development that promotes efficiency and enhances the quality of life.
- Protect the environment in both a proactive and remedial manner, with emphasis on anticipation and prevention.
- Make decisions that recognize the interdependence of humans and nature in a common ecosystem.
- Promote responsible resource use and conservation practices.
- Have regard for environmental, economic and social costs and benefits in the development and use of resources, products and services.
- Promote responsible stewardship to ensure equitable use of natural and environmental resources in order to meet essential needs of both present and future generations.

Objectives:

- **Protection of Natural Resources:** Preserve and extend accessible green spaces, shorelines, natural water courses and the Niagara Escarpment for future generations.
- **Reforestation of the City:** Promote the replanting and management of vegetation on private and public property within the city.
- **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.
- **Actively Promote Sustainable Development:** Advocate changes at the senior levels of government, as well as in the city, in order to evolve towards sustainability.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

- **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.
- **Integration of Natural Features and Green Space:** Integrate natural features and green space in all new developments and intensification projects.
- **Energy Conservation:** Promote energy conservation through efficient land use planning and building design.
- **Ecosystem Auditing:** City of Burlington should prepare an objective ecosystem audit of the entire municipality at regular intervals.
- **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.
- **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.