DRAFT

Issue Paper on Sustainability

City of Calabasas 2030 General Plan Update

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What is “sustainable development”?

Many definitions of the term “sustainability” and “sustainable development” have been introduced over the years, but the most commonly cited one comes from the United Nations report “Our Common Future,” known as the Brundtland Report. That report defines “sustainable development” as development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Sustainable development is also often defined as development that promotes the “three E’s”: environment, economy, and equity. The chart below shows the theoretical relationship among these three.

As indicated, “sustainable” development occurs where these three overlap. This means that a decision which promotes the environment to the detriment of equity and/or the economy might be defined as “unsustainable,” whereas a decision that promotes all three “E’s” would be defined as “sustainable” (or at least more sustainable). For example, an environmental regulation that would put lots of people out of work (especially lower income people) might be considered unsustainable. On the other hand, a regulation that protects the environment while creating jobs for those who need them would be considered more sustainable.

It is important to think of sustainable development as a process rather than an end goal. This process requires ongoing analysis and reevaluation as conditions and technologies change because what may be considered sustainable under one set of circumstances may not be under another changed circumstance. Conversely, what is considered unsustainable today may become sustainable as new technologies become available or new approaches to problems are identified.

What is the current policy context for sustainability?

California general plan law does not require inclusion of a sustainability element in general Plans. However, the General Plan Guidelines encourages the promotion of sustainable development as a means of achieving environmental justice, which is defined in state planning law as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” State law requires the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to provide guidance to cities and counties for integrating environmental justice into their general plans.

What does sustainability look like on the ground?

Terms like “sustainability” and “sustainable community” mean very different things to different people. For some, sustainability is achieved by living in urban communities, using public transit, minimizing energy consumption, and recycling waste. For others, the term conjures up images of communal living in small, farming communities surrounded by open space. In reality, sustainability seems to be more of a process than a set of concrete ideas, one whose basic precepts evolve as conditions, attitudes, and technological capabilities change.

Despite the evolving understanding about what truly constitutes a sustainable community, the General Plan Guidelines state that a community developing in a sustainable manner is characterized by walkable neighborhoods that contain a mix of uses and housing types. Walkability is a function of compactness and density. Such neighborhoods, also known as neo-traditional or new urbanist development, are more likely to support efficient transit systems. The character and function of each neighborhood is then placed properly within its regional setting. This approach to planning, from the neighborhood to the regional level, is often referred to as “smart growth.”

How can sustainability be promoted at the General Plan level?

The General Plan Guidelines list the following goals and policies as promoting sustainable development:

- **Decrease urban sprawl.**
  - Promote compact, walkable, mixed-use development.
  - Promote infill development.
  - Restore urban and town centers.
  - Limit non-contiguous (leaffrog) development.
  - Promote transit-oriented development.

- **Protect open space and working landscapes.**
  - Conserve prime agricultural lands.
  - Conserve lands of scenic and recreational value.
  - Use open space to define urban communities.

- **Protect environmentally sensitive lands.**
  - Conserve natural habitat lands.
  - Preserve habitat connectivity.
- Minimize impact to watershed functions, including water quality and natural floodways.
- Avoid natural hazards.

- **Create strong local and regional economies.**
  - Encourage jobs/housing balance.
  - Provide adequate housing for all income levels.
  - Encourage the expansion of telecommunications infrastructure.
  - Provide a fair and predictable land use planning process.

- **Promote energy and resource efficiency.**
  - Support energy- and resource-efficient industries.
  - Promote waste reduction programs, such as recycling.
  - Promote alternative forms of transportation.
  - Promote energy- and resource-efficient buildings.

- **Promote equitable development.**
  - Require fair treatment in the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.
  - Promote mixed-income housing development.
  - Promote alternative transportation options to increase access.
  - Promote economic opportunity for all segments of the community.
  - Protect culturally significant sites.

**What are other cities doing to promote sustainability?**

A number of communities throughout the nation and the world have initiated “sustainable city” programs implementing their vision of what a sustainable community is. The general approach taken by three communities with highly regarded programs are described below. Most of the programs are aimed primarily at environmental sustainability, though the city of Santa Monica program considers other factors such as jobs, housing, and equity.

**Santa Monica Sustainable City Program**

In 1994, Santa Monica’s City Council originally adopted the Sustainable City Program to begin addressing issues related to sustainability in the community. A comprehensive update process to improve and expand the program and set new goals for the future was begun in 2001. The Sustainable City Plan adopted by City Council in 2003 is the result of this update process and includes goals for the City government and all sectors of the community, to conserve and enhance our local resources, safeguard human health and the environment, maintain a healthy and diverse economy, and improve the livability and quality of life for all community members in Santa Monica.

The Sustainable City Plan is founded on ten Guiding Principles that provide the basis for making “effective and sustainable” decisions. These are shown in Table 1. The Plan includes eight “goal areas” that present a vision for sustainability in the community. The areas and specific goals for each are presented in Table 2.

For each goal area, the city has developed specific “indicators” to measure progress. Indicators are tools that help to determine the condition of a system or the impact of a program, policy or action. When tracked over time, indicators tell the community whether they are moving toward sustainability. Two types of indicators are tracked as
part of the Sustainable City Plan. **System level indicators** measure the state, condition or pressures on a communitywide basis for each respective goal area. **Program level indicators** measure the performance or effectiveness of specific programs, policies or actions taken by the city government or other stakeholders in the community.

Specific **targets** have been created for many of the indicators. The targets represent milestones for the community. In many cases, the city has established numerical targets. However, no specific numerical targets have been assigned where development of a numerical target was determined to be not feasible or where limits on data type and availability made it difficult to set a numerical target. In many of these cases, a trend direction was substituted for a numerical target. Example indicators and targets are shown in Table 3.

**Portland, Oregon Office of Sustainable Development**

The city of Portland has established an Office of Sustainable Development (OSD), whose mission is to provide leadership and contribute practical solutions to ensure a prosperous community and improve the environmental, social and economic health of Portland. As indicated in the following vision statement, the emphasis is on environmental issues, though the OSD also considers such factors as urban design, jobs, transportation, and food supply.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Portland Office of Sustainable Development Vision</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We envision a Portland in which our choices and actions create a healthy and prosperous community where:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Water and air are pure and clean</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Land use productive and used in ecologically sound ways</td>
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<td>- Natural resources are used wisely</td>
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<td>- Energy is renewable</td>
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<td>- People, plants, salmon and other animals thrive in a healthy ecosystem</td>
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<td>- Rewarding work supports families</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Neighborhoods are vibrant and green</td>
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<tr>
<td>- People participate in community life as active responsible citizens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Buildings are beautiful and efficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Food is healthy, plentiful and accessible</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Residents can easily walk, bicycle, carpool, or ride public transit as their first choice of transportation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To date, OSD policies and programs have focused on:

- **Energy efficiency**
- **Renewable resources**
- **Waste reduction/recycling**
- **Global warming**
- **Green building**
- **Sustainable food systems**

Similar to the Santa Monica program, the OSD has established a number of community goals and launched several initiatives to achieve these goals. These are listed in Table 4.

**Austin Sustainable Communities Initiative**

The goal of the City of Austin's Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) is to help the greater Austin region achieve economic prosperity, social justice, and ecological health - the highest possible quality of life in the best possible environment. SCI programs and
Table 1: Guiding Principles for Santa Monica's Sustainable City Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The Concept of Sustainability Guides City Policy</td>
<td>Santa Monica is committed to meeting its existing needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The long-term impacts of policy choices will be considered to ensure a sustainable legacy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Protection, Preservation, and Restoration of the Natural Environment is a High Priority of the City</td>
<td>Santa Monica is committed to protecting, preserving and restoring the natural environment. City decision-making will be guided by a mandate to maximize environmental benefits and reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts. The City will lead by example and encourage other community stakeholders to make a similar commitment to the environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Environmental Quality, Economic Health and Social Equity are Mutually Dependent</td>
<td>Sustainability requires that our collective decisions as a city allow our economy and community members to continue to thrive without destroying the natural environment upon which we all depend. A healthy environment is integral to the city's long-term economic and societal interests. In achieving a healthy environment, we 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. All Decisions Have Implications to the Long-term Sustainability of Santa Monica</td>
<td>The City will ensure that each of its policy decisions and programs are interconnected through the common bond of sustainability as expressed in these guiding principles. The policy and decision-making processes of the City will reflect our sustainability objectives. The City will lead by example and encourage other community stakeholders to use sustainability principles to guide their decisions and actions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Community Awareness, Responsibility, Participation and Education are Key Elements of a Sustainable Community</td>
<td>All community members, including individual citizens, community-based groups, businesses, schools and other institutions must be aware of their impacts on the environmental, economic and social health of Santa Monica, must take responsibility for reducing or eliminating those impacts, and must take an active part in community efforts to address sustainability concerns. The City will therefore 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Santa Monica Recognizes Its Linkage with the Regional, National, and Global Community</td>
<td>Local environmental, economic and social issues cannot be separated from their broader context. This relationship between local issues and regional, national and global issues will be recognized and acted upon in the City's programs and policies. The City's programs and policies should therefore be developed as models that can be emulated by other communities. The City will also act as a strong advocate for the development and implementation of model programs and innovative approaches by regional, state and federal government that embody the goals of sustainability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Those Sustainability Issues Most Important to the Community Will be Addressed First, and the Most Cost-Effective Programs and Policies Will be Selected</td>
<td>The financial and human resources which are available to the City are limited. The City and the community will reevaluate its priorities and its programs and policies annually to ensure that the best possible investments in the future are being made. The evaluation of a program's cost-effectiveness will be based on a complete analysis of the associated costs and benefits, including environmental and social costs and benefits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. The City is Committed to Procurement Decisions which Minimize Negative Environmental and Social Impacts</td>
<td>The procurement of products and services by the City and Santa Monica residents, businesses and institutions results in environmental, social and economic impacts both in this country and in other areas of the world. The City will develop and abide by an environmentally and socially responsible procurement policy that emphasizes long-term values and will become a model for other public as well as private organizations. The City will advocate for and assist other local agencies, businesses and residents in adopting sustainable purchasing practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Cross-sector Partnerships Are Necessary to Achieve Sustainable Goals</td>
<td>Threats to the long-term sustainability of Santa Monica are multi-sector in their causes and require multi-sector solutions. Partnerships among the City government, businesses, residents and all community stakeholders are necessary to achieve a sustainable community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. The Precautionary Principle Provides a Complimentary Framework to Help Guide City Decision-Makers in the Pursuit of Sustainability</td>
<td>The Precautionary Principle requires a thorough exploration and careful analysis of a wide range of alternatives, and a full cost accounting beyond short-term and monetary transaction costs. Based on the best available science, the Precautionary Principle requires the selection of alternatives that present the least potential threat to human health and the City's natural systems. Where threats of serious or irreversible damage to people or nature exist, lack of full scientific certainty about cause and effect shall not be viewed as sufficient reason for the City to not adopt mitigating measures to prevent the degradation of the environment or protect the health of its citizens. Public participation and an open and transparent decision making process are critical to finding and selecting alternatives.</td>
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## Table 2: Santa Monica Sustainable City Plan Goal Areas and Specific Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal Areas</th>
<th>Related Goals</th>
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</table>
| **Resource Conservation**           | 1. Significantly decrease overall community consumption, specifically the consumption of non-local, non-renewable, non-recyclable and non-recycled materials, water, and energy and fuels. The city should take a leadership role in encouraging sustainable procurement, extended producer responsibility and should explore innovative strategies to become a zero waste city.  
2. Within renewable limits, encourage the use of local, non-polluting, renewable and recycled resources (water, energy – wind, solar and geothermal – and material resources). |
| **Environmental and Public Health** | 1. Protect and enhance environmental health and public health by minimizing and where possible eliminating:  
  - The use of hazardous or toxic materials, in particular POPs (persistent organic pollutants) and PBTs (persistent bioaccumulative & toxic chemicals), by residents, businesses and city operations;  
  - The levels of pollutants entering the air, soil and water; and  
  - The risks that environmental problems pose to human and ecological health.  
2. Ensure that no one geographic or socioeconomic group in the city is being unfairly impacted by environmental pollution.  
3. Increase consumption of fresh, locally produced, organic produce to promote public health and to minimize resource consumption and negative environmental impacts. |
| **Transportation**                  | 1. Create a multi-modal transportation system that minimizes and, where possible, eliminates pollution and motor vehicle congestion while ensuring safe mobility and access for all without compromising our ability to protect public health and safety.  
2. Facilitate a reduction in automobile dependency in favor of affordable alternative, sustainable modes of travel. |
| **Economic Development**            | 1. Nurture a diverse, stable, local economy that supports basic needs of all segments of the community.  
2. Businesses, organizations and local government agencies within Santa Monica continue to increase the efficiency of their use of resources through the adoption of sustainable business practices. The city takes a leadership role by developing a plan by 2005 to increase the adoption of sustainable practices by Santa Monica businesses and encouraging sustainable businesses to locate in Santa Monica. |
| **Open Space and Land Use**         | 1. Develop and maintain a sufficient open space system so that it is diverse in uses and opportunities and includes natural function/wildlife habitat as well as passive and active recreation with an equitable distribution of parks, trees and pathways throughout the community.  
2. Implement land use and transportation planning and policies to create compact, mixed-use projects, forming urban villages designed to maximize affordable housing and encourage walking, bicycling and the use of existing and future public transit systems.  
3. Residents recognize that they share the local ecosystem with other living things that warrant respect and responsible stewardship. |
| **Housing**                         | 1. Achieve and maintain a mix of affordable, livable and green housing types throughout the city for people of all socio-economic / cultural / household groups (including seniors, families, singles, and disabled). |
| **Community Education and Participation** | 1. Community members of all ages participate actively and effectively in civic affairs and community improvement efforts.  
2. Community members of all ages understand the basic principles of sustainability and use them to guide their decisions and actions - both personal and collective. |
| **Human Dignity**                   | Santa Monica will be a community in which:  
  - All its members are able to meet their basic needs and are empowered to enhance the quality of their lives; and;  
  - There is access among community members to housing, health services, education, economic opportunity, and cultural and recreational resources; and;  
  - There is respect for and appreciation of the value added to the community by differences among its members in race, religion, gender, age, economic status, sexual orientation, disabilities, immigration status and other special needs. |
Table 3: Example Indicators and Targets – Santa Monica Sustainable City Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Citywide Solid Waste Generation, Diversion &amp; Disposal</th>
<th>Economic Output by Business Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Generation: Poor, Diversion: Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trend</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>Stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>One of the city’s goals for solid waste is to reduce its generation. Given a baseline solid waste level, the city further seeks to increase the percentage of that waste which is diverted from landfills. Any increase in diversion percentage results from recycling, composting, reuse and reduction of use. Accordingly, the city looks at solid waste in terms of the total amount generated, the amount landfilled, and the amount diverted from landfills. The target for generation is to stay at or below the year 2000 baseline through 2010. The target for diversion is to increase the amount diverted to 70% of total generated by 2010.</td>
<td>Economic diversity is promoted as a means to achieve stability. A diverse economic framework creates strength in the community because the community does not rely on a single economic sector too heavily. This insulates the community from negative repercussions should any significant segment of the economy experience a serious downturn. Santa Monica measures economic diversity as a percent of the total economic activity/output by business sector. It is expressed as a percent of total wages. The target for this indicator is for no single sector to be greater than 25% of the total economic activity/output in the city. Additionally, the target is for the top three sectors to not be greater than 50% of the total economic activity/output.</td>
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| Performance Summary | After a few years in which waste generation stabilized at levels below the 2000 baseline, 2004 saw a dramatic increase in volume of solid waste generated. Between 2003 and 2004, volume increased almost 45 Million tons, a 14% increase. Sixty seven percent of that waste was diverted from landfills. | The business environment in the city is diverse. Between 2001 and 2004 no single sector of the economy represented more than 25% of the total. The top three sectors were Professional, Science and Technology, Information and Health Care and Social Assistance. The Professional Science and Technology Sector has represented between 17% and 18% of payroll during that period. The Information Sector has remained stable at 16-17%. The Healthcare Sector has varied from 11% in 2001 to 14% in 2002, back down to 9% in 2004. The other sectors represent about 56% of the total payroll of businesses in the city. |

| Analysis | Solid waste generation exceeded the ceiling set by the Sustainable City Plan by 10%. Solid waste generation is a derived figure, thus it is difficult to pinpoint reasons for change One explanation might be the surge in remodeling and construction in 2004, and resultant increase in construction and demolition debris. Certainly the resurgence in tourism at that time impacted waste generated from restaurants and hotels. Whatever the cause, there is some indication, based on fluctuations in volumes measured at the Recycling Center, that waste generation may come down to 2002-3 levels again in 2005. Still, this extreme variance from the previous year demonstrates the need to focus on source reduction, not just percentage diverted from landfills. | • Santa Monica is an economically successful city with generally high-paying jobs. The average wages are more than 25% higher than that of Los Angeles County. • $2.6 billion in annual sales are generated in the retail sector. • There are an estimated 73,000 jobs in Santa Monica, generating a combined payroll of more than $4 Billion. • Santa Monica has a large resident workforce of skilled "knowledge workers." Over 60% of Santa Monica residents work in managerial, professional, and related occupations. |

<p>| What Can the City Do To Improve? | Continue to emphasize a reduction in generation of solid waste, while not slacking off on recycling. | NA |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>2050 Goals</th>
<th>2006 Goals</th>
<th>Major Initiatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solid waste</td>
<td>All materials in Portland are recovered or reused.</td>
<td>• Recycle 60% of solid waste communitywide</td>
<td>In early 2005, OSD launched a commercial food composting program that turns food scraps into compost that is sold in retail and wholesale markets. When it reaches full volume, the program will divert an estimated 45,000 tons of food waste from landfills annually.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Ensure efficient and safe collection of solid waste and recycling</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Recycle 65% of solid waste in City government facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>All Portland energy needs are met through renewable resources and energy efficiency</td>
<td>• Reduce per capita energy use in residential and commercial buildings by 8% from 2000 levels</td>
<td>The 10% of all energy from renewable resources goal was accomplished through a combination of onsite generate (fuel cell at the local wastewater treatment plant) and purchased wind power. To supply 100% renewable power to city facilities, OSD has invited proposals from utilities and renewable energy providers to optimize financial and environmental benefits.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Provide 10% of all energy from renewable resources</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Achieve $2.2 million in annual savings on City government energy bills compared to 1990</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Provide 100% renewable electricity for City government operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenhouse gases</td>
<td>Portland generates zero net greenhouse gas emissions</td>
<td>• Reduce communitywide greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels</td>
<td>In 2005, OSD issued a request for proposals for green building projects to be funded with a $2.5 million Green Incentive Fund. OSD also provided technical assistance to more than 200 construction projects in 2005.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Reduce City government greenhouse gas emissions by 10% below 1990 levels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food systems</td>
<td>Healthy, regionally produced food is available to all Portland residents</td>
<td>Metrics currently in development</td>
<td>The Portland-Multnomah Food Policy Council will convene hunger relief programs, government agencies, community partners and neighbors to collaborate on nutrition and food security initiatives for individual neighborhoods. The Food Policy Council will also work on improvements at existing farmers markets and the development of new public plazas to house additional markets.</td>
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</table>
policies are intended to respond effectively to the real limits of ecological systems while fostering the opportunities of a democratic society in which all people are able to develop to their fullest potential. To these ends, the SCI’s role is to be a resource for City staff and area residents by advocating, creating tools, and providing expertise concerning sustainability - from the global to the local perspective. The SCI’s mission statement is shown below.

### Austin SCI Mission Statement

The City of Austin's Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) exists to help the greater Austin region achieve economic prosperity, social justice, and ecological health - the highest possible quality of life in the best possible environment. SCI programs and policies will respond effectively to the real limits of ecological systems while fostering the unprecedented opportunities of a democratic society in which all people are able to develop to their fullest potential. To these ends, the SCI should become a valuable resource for City staff and for area residents by advocating, creating tools, and providing expertise concerning sustainability - from the global to the local perspective.

According to the SCI, sustainable community is one whose prospects for long-term health are good. Its residents do not deplete the resources that they depend on faster than those resources are replenished. Specific characteristics include:

- **Respect for basic rights and recognition of basic responsibilities**
- **Living within ecological carrying capacity**
- **Equal opportunities for individual development**
- **A diverse economic base**
- **A vibrant democracy - with an informed, involved citizenry**
- **Protection of natural diversity**
- **Improving the minimum standard of living**
- **Maximizing the use of people’s abilities while minimizing the use of natural resources**

Rather than implementing specific programs or serving as a regulatory body, the SCI’s role is generally advisory. To that end, the SCI serves as a clearinghouse of information for city staff, residents, and businesses on a wide range of topics relating to sustainability. Topics and specific resources are listed below.

#### Building and Construction

- Re-use and recycle by shopping at the Austin RE-store - a building materials recycling center. See [www.re-store.com](http://www.re-store.com)
- See the website of Austin Energy's Green Building Program for lots of helpful information. Go to [Austin Energy Green Building Site](http://www.austintexas.gov/greenbuilding)

#### Food

- Austin Organic Gardeners - [www.main.org/aog](http://www.main.org/aog)
- Local Growers and Farmers’ Markets - [www.main.org/aog/local](http://www.main.org/aog/local)
- National Organic Consumers Association - [www.purefood.org](http://www.purefood.org)
- Sustainable Agriculture Program at Texas A&M - [sustainable.tamu.edu](http://sustainable.tamu.edu)
- Sustainable Food Center/Austin Community Gardens - [www.sustainablefoodcenter.org/](http://www.sustainablefoodcenter.org/)
Community Involvement

- Volunteer! The United Way/Capital Area volunteer center can guide you to just the organization you're looking for. Go to http://www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org/volunteer/index.cfm
- To learn about elected officials of the City of Austin, go to www.ci.austin.tx.us/council
- To learn about elected officials of Travis County, go to http://www.co.travis.tx.us/commissioners_court/default.asp
- Practice your rights as a citizen. The League of Women Voters, Austin Area is a great resource. Go to www.leaguewv.austin.tx.us
- The City of Austin Neighborhood Planning Program is helping residents write plans to guide the development of their neighborhoods. Find out more at www.ci.austin.tx.us/neighborhood

Home Energy Use

- Choose renewable energy! Sign up for GreenChoice from Austin Energy. Go to www.austinenergy.com/Energy%20Efficiency/Programs/Green%20Choice/index.htm
- See the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Home Energy Saver website at www.homeenergysaver.lbl.gov
- Energy efficiency information for consumers from the Alliance to Save Energy www.ase.org/consumer/index
- Austin Energy has information on energy saving programs and rebates in the area. Go to www.austinenergy.com
- Find energy-efficient appliances at the EPA's Energy Star website. Go to www.energystar.gov
- Here's an easy one, reduce your computer's energy use by turning off your screensaver and turning on power management. See www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/youandyourscreensaver

Indoor Air Quality

- The EPA provides information on indoor air quality in your home at www.epa.gov/iaq/homes/index.html
- The Federal Consumer Information Center also publishes information on indoor air hazards at www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/housing/indoorair-hazards/main

Landscaping

- Use less water. See the City of Austin Water Conservation Division's website at www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon
- Landscape with native plants. See the City of Austin Grow Green Program at http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/ and the "Native Plant Clearinghouse", an on-line service of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Research Center at http://www.wildflower.org/
- Use trees to shade your home. See this Green Living factsheet on Windows and Shading at www.ci.austin.tx.us/greenbuilder/glfs_windows.htm
Local Economy
- To learn more, read "The Benefits of Doing Business Locally" from the Boulder (Colorado) Independent Business Alliance at www.boulder-iba.org/why/index
- The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce promotes economic development in Austin. See www.austinchamber.org

Smart Shopping
- The Green Pages™ is a directory of thousands of socially and environmentally responsible businesses, products and services. See www.coopamerica.org/
- Responsible Shopper is an Internet tool designed to help you learn more about the companies whose products you may use. See www.responsibleshopper.org
- The Center for a New American Dream has its "Guide to Environmentally Preferable Purchasing" on-line at www.newdream.org/

Sustainable Lifestyle
- Green Living - from the Union of Concerned Scientists www.ucsusa.org
- Buy safe products greenhome.com

Transportation
- The Union of Concerned Scientists can help you buy a greener vehicle, see www.ucsusa.org/clean_vehicles/
- When it comes to converting energy to motion, the bicycle is the most energy-efficient form of transportation ever devised, and Austin is rated as one of the best cities in America for cycling. Get pedaling with help the Austin Bicycling Coalition. Go to www.austincycling.org/. The City of Austin also has a Bicycle/Pedestrian Program. Go to www.ci.austin.tx.us/bicycle
- Get on the Bus! For information on routes and fairs from Capital Metro, go to www.capmetro.com
- Learn more! We recommend the website of the Surface Transportation Policy Project. Go to www.transact.org

Waste Reduction
- Recycle! See the City of Austin Recycling website at www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/recycling or Ecology Action at www.ecology-action.org
- Compost! Get local composting information at www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/compost

Övertornea, Sweden Sustainability Program
Approximately 70 of the 290 municipalities in Sweden have decided to move toward becoming sustainable through The Natural Step (TNS) model (see Table 5). Many other Swedish municipalities, including Stockholm, Göteborg, and Kalix, are moving toward a sustainable future as well, but using a different framework and have joined SEkom – the National Association of Swedish Eco-Municipalities--to share sustainability ideas and learn from one another.

Many Swedish communities have identified two primary concerns that have led them to move toward "sustainability": (1) rapidly increasing human population; and (2)
Table 5:
The Natural Step System Conditions and Practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guiding Conditions</th>
<th>Types of Policies and Practices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Eliminate our community’s contribution to fossil fuel dependence and to</td>
<td>Transit and pedestrian-oriented development; development heated and powered by renewable energy;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wasteful use of scarce metals and minerals.</td>
<td>alternatively fueled municipal fleets; incentives for organic agriculture that minimize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>phosphorus and petrochemical fertilizers and herbicides.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Eliminate our community’s contribution to dependence upon persistent chemical and</td>
<td>Healthy building design and construction that reduces or eliminates use of toxic building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wasteful use of synthetic substances.</td>
<td>materials; landscape design and park maintenance that uses alternatives to chemical pesticides</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>and herbicides; municipal purchasing guidelines that encourage low- or non-chemical product use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Eliminate our community’s contribution to encroachment upon nature (e.g., land,</td>
<td>Redevelopment of existing sites and buildings before building new ones; open space, forest and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>water, wildlife, forest, soil, ecosystems).</td>
<td>habitat preservation; reduced water use and recycling of wash water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Meet human needs fairly and efficiently.</td>
<td>Affordable housing for a diversity of residents; locally based business and food production;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>using waste as a resource; eco-industrial development; participatory community planning and</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>decision making.</td>
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</table>


increasing carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentrations as a measure of global warming. One reason that Sweden is on the forefront of this discussion on a world-wide basis is their lack of fossil fuels. While the country has an abundance of natural resources, oil and coal are not part of that resource base.

Övertorneå, Sweden’s northernmost eco-municipality, is a community of about 5,200 people that covers 917 square miles and includes a part of the Arctic Circle. Övertorneå became Sweden’s first “eco-municipality” in 1983. The municipality’s initial focus was working with farmers on organic and other alternative agriculture methods. Over a 20-year period, the municipality received grants for and implemented education and training programs, fish inventories, the planning and construction of an eco-village, a recycling program, green purchasing, green building, energy planning, a solar heated community swimming pool and green schools.

Today, the community uses no fossil fuels in municipal operations. Övertorneå has transformed all five of its heating plants to use biomass. Many municipal buildings not part of the district heating system also have switched from oil to wood-based fuel. The municipality also transformed its truck, bus and car fleet to biofuels, such as ethanol and bio-diesel. The municipality produces about 50% of its electricity from wind using seven turbines.

WHAT CALABASAS CAN DO

As can be seen in the previous discussions, most of the communities that have adopted sustainability programs emphasize environmental concerns and sustaining the overall health of the planet. How Calabasas approaches sustainability depends upon what the
The community wants to sustain. If the objective is to minimize the City’s contribution to such issues as global warming, rainforest destruction, and buildup of chemicals in the atmosphere, one set of policies and approaches might be appropriate. On the other hand, if the objective is to create a more self-contained community that provides jobs, housing, shopping and recreational opportunities, and other amenities with the City borders, a different set of policies and approaches might be more appropriate. Finally, if the goal is to achieve some of both objectives, another approach would be most effective. Ways in which any of these objectives could be met are discussed below.

Global Environmental Sustainability

If the City’s goal is to contribute to global environmental sustainability similar to a community like Övertorneå, then the community focus should probably be on policies and programs that promote energy efficiency and/or the use of alternative energy. Such programs might include items from the General Plan Guidelines, such as:

- Attracting and supporting energy- and resource-efficient industries
- Promoting waste reduction programs – for example, requiring a diversion rate higher than the state-mandated 50%
- Promoting alternative forms of transportation, including alternative fuel City fleets
- Promoting energy- and resource-efficient buildings – requiring LEED certification, for example
- Facilitating compact development that minimizes vehicle trip lengths, allows for use of alternative transportation modes, and reduces pressure for development in environmentally sensitive areas at the periphery of the community

The City might also consider several of the programs discussed in the Greenhouse Gas Issue Paper. In addition, additional programs to direct consumer choices similar to the recent polystyrene ban might be considered. Programs could involve:

- Preferential purchases for “environmentally friendly” items – non-toxic cleaners, for example
- Providing incentives for local residents and businesses to reduce or alter consumption patterns – providing rebates for installation of solar panels or drought tolerant landscaping, for example
- Outright bans on items that the City believes are environmentally unacceptable

Creating a Self-Contained (Sustainable) Community

In an overall sense, it probably is not possible (or perhaps even desirable) for Calabasas to become an entirely self-contained community. The lack of agricultural land to provide a food source for City residents by itself means that the City cannot meet all of its needs within its own borders. Nevertheless, if the City’s goal is to create a more self-contained community where residents can meet many of their basic needs (including employment, shopping, and recreation) within the City limits, the focus would be quite different than if the goal is to simply reduce the community contribution to global environmental problems.
As indicated in the Economic Development Issue Paper, although there is a high level of compatibility between the jobs-by-industry that Calabasas residents hold and the jobs-by-industry that are present in Calabasas. Nevertheless, there are more manufacturing, wholesaling, administrative, and food service jobs in Calabasas than residents to fill those jobs, and not enough jobs in real estate, health care, and other services for residents. Consequently, adding jobs in the real estate, health care, and other service sectors may allow more Calabasas residents to work in Calabasas, thus reducing commutes and making the community more self-contained.

Similarly, the Retail Issue Paper indicates the City would need to add between about 338,000 square feet and 463,000 square feet of retail space in Calabasas by 2018 to prevent “leakage” of retail dollars to other communities. Such development may make the community more “sustainable” insofar as it would avoid reliance on other communities to provide needed retail services; however, providing development could be at the expense of other environmental and quality of life concerns.

Finally, as indicated in the Recreation Facilities Issue Paper, the City would need to add an estimated 14 sports fields (10 soccer fields, 3 baseball fields, and 1 softball field) in order to meet projected citywide demands. Adding this number of fields, either through development of new facilities or use of existing facilities, would make the City less reliant on neighboring communities to meet residents’ recreational needs. Again, however, the development of new facilities could be at the expense of other concerns.

The Three E’s

If the City’s goal is to develop a “holistic” program that emphasizes all of the three E’s of sustainability (environment, economy, and equity), then development of a program similar to Santa Monica’s would probably make the most sense. Such a program would not need to be as elaborate as Santa Monica’s, but could involve the development of some basic indicators of sustainability that address each of the three E’s, goals for improvement, and mechanisms for tracking of progress toward those goals. A set of possible indicators for Calabasas is shown below.

Possible Sustainability Indicators for Calabasas

Environment
- Acres of designated open space
- Per capita greenhouse gas emissions
- Per capita solid waste generation/recycling
- % of buildings that are LEEDS certified

Economy
- Economic diversity
- Jobs/housing balance
- Quality job creation (for example, jobs that meet community needs and pay “living” wages)

Equity
- Voter participation
• Affordable housing development
• School graduation rates
• Access to public transit

Once a set of basic indicators is established, the City could then set up targets and some sort of tracking system and, if determined necessary, development programs that would achieve the desired results. This would be very similar to Santa Monica’s program, which started with a relatively simple list of indicators that has grown into a much more involved program that is now an integral part of the City’s planning process.

Summary

As mentioned above, how sustainability is integrated into the General Plan depends on what the City is trying to sustain and what goals it is trying to accomplish. There is no single definition for sustainability and, therefore, no “one size fits all” approach that will work in every community. For the General Plan, the approach would probably entail either:

• Incorporating sustainability principles into other components of the General Plan in a general sense (for example, incorporating ideas from the General Plan Guidelines or other sustainability programs into the various General Plan elements); or

• Establishing some guiding principles that define sustainability for Calabasas and including an action item in the General Plan to create a sustainability program similar to what some other cities have initiated in order to implement the established principles.

Obviously, the first approach would be simpler and would not involve a specific commitment of funds or staffing. The latter approach may ultimately accomplish more of a shift in the overall approach to planning and City governance, but would likely require some commitment of funds and staff time.
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