

ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN

Issue

The draft Environmental Master Plan is presented to Council for review.

Motion Proposed by Administration

That the draft Environmental Master Plan be supported in principle and advertised for final public feedback before returning to Council on September 24, 2018 for approval.

Report, Analysis and Financial Implications

The Town of Okotoks Environmental Master Plan (EMP) is a comprehensive plan designed to help Okotoks achieve its vision as a thriving, sustainable community. The EMP recognizes that everything is connected – from the way we develop new land and create connected neighbourhoods to our river valley and the air we breathe. It addresses sustainable practices for energy, water, waste and construction, and creating accessible green spaces. It looks within and outside our borders – from the way we move in and around Okotoks, to attracting green businesses – anything that affects the natural world.

The EMP takes direction from the overarching guiding principles of the *Community Sustainability Plan* and the criteria for sustainable development and growth contained within the Town's historic *Legacy Plan*. It outlines a set of strategies targeting climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecological protection and enhancement, urban landscape design, water conservation, waste reduction, and green economic growth. Together, these strategies will set Okotoks on a clear path towards becoming a leader in environmental excellence.

The strategies contained in the EMP were selected through an iterative process of identifying best practice strategies from municipalities across the globe, refining the selected strategies through community and expert consultation, and further narrowing down the strategies to a set that addresses the Town's unique context. Over the last year, members of the Okotoks community provided input to help create the Plan, and ensure that it reflects the context of the Town and the concerns of its residents. Each strategy has been tailored to the Town of Okotoks, and is designed to meet the needs of the Town while building on existing actions and opportunities.

The Plan is organized into seven major action areas:

- **Ecosystems & Agriculture:** Enhancing and protecting local ecosystems and our connection to nature
- **Land Use & Urban Design:** Increase the diversity and liveability of our built environment while promoting ecosystem integrity and connectivity
- **Energy, Emissions & Air Quality:** Creating an energy efficient and low-carbon environment to improve the health of our environment and wellbeing of our residents
- **Waste Systems:** Reduce, recover, recycle, and repurpose waste

- **Water Systems:** Protect and enhance water quality and improve the efficiency of the water system
- **Climate Adaptation & Resilience:** Improve community resilience and the safety of vulnerable populations to extreme climate events
- **Fostering a Green Economy:** Support businesses in greening their practices and attract new environmental business

When the Plan is approved, Town Council will set the stage for the future, approving the overarching vision, principles, goals, targets and strategies to reach Okotoks' environmental goals over the next 20 years. Administration will review and implement the necessary actions to achieve the desired outcomes. Annual evaluation is required to ensure that actions remain in line with changing priorities, new technologies, shifting provincial or federal directives, and other external factors. Actions that have major cost implications will be proposed during the annual budget process for Council consideration.

Strategic Plan Goals

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Manage Community Growth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provide Strong Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide Quality Community Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhance Organizational Excellence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster Economic Vitality
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Promote Environmental Excellence

Governing Policies/Bylaws/Legislation or Agreements

The EMP was informed by the community sustainability vision of the Town's historic Municipal Development Plan (Legacy Plan) and guided by the goals and principles of the Community Sustainability Plan (CSP).

Public Engagement/Communication Strategy

Community consultation was undertaken from November 2017 to April 2018 and input was integrated into the development of the Environmental Master Plan. As the EMP is a long range plan, the draft Plan will be advertised a final time for public feedback in September.

Alternatives for Consideration

n/a

Deputy CAO Comments

The EMP establishes the long term environmental plan for the community. It is important to note that the Plan will require long term commitment and dedication to achieve. The EMP will also inform the new MDP and LUB to ensure that all are in alignment.

Attachment(s)

1. Draft Environmental Master Plan

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August 08, 2018