



# Municipal Sustainability Planning

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## Presentation Overview

1. Sustainability
2. Municipal Sustainability Planning
3. MSP Pilot Project
4. MSP Pilot Project – Lessons Learned
5. Next Steps

## What is Sustainability?

Living in a way that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- Brundtland Commissions, 1987


## Dimensions of Sustainability

1. Economic
2. Social
3. Culture
4. Environment
5. Governance



## AUMA MSP – Potential Benefits

- Cost savings. Future - proofing
- Coordinated planning. Clearer goals and rationale for decision making.
- Higher quality of life for residents.
- Improve access to funding mechanisms.
- Decrease environmental impacts.



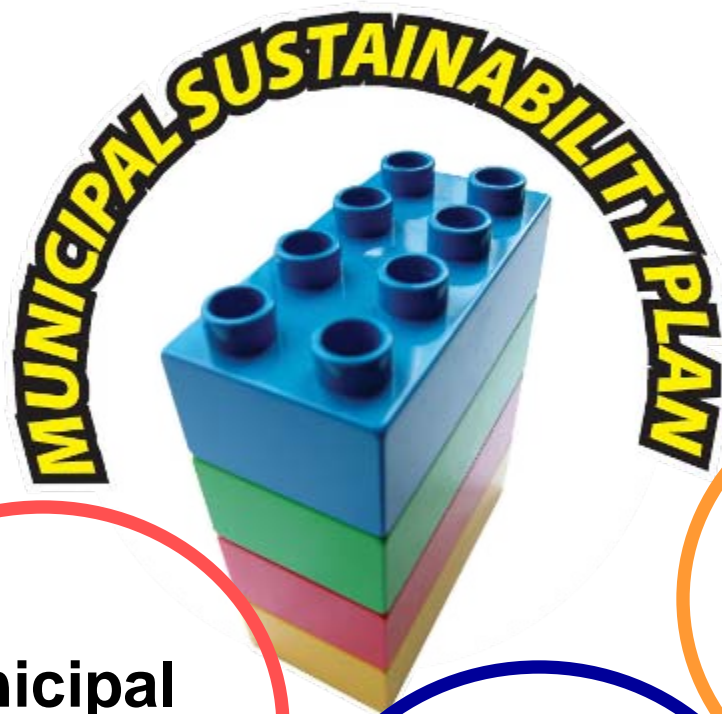
Municipal Sustainability Planning

## **MSP—What is a Municipal Sustainability Plan?**

**Provides guidance for the development or alignment of all municipal plans and documents.**

# MSP – How does it all fit together?

- 1. What is it?
- 2. What's the role?
- 3. What's the connection with the MSP?



Guide decisions as municipalities plan new communities and redevelop existing neighborhoods.

**Community Plan**

**Municipal Development Plan**

**Capital Plan**

Actions identified in the MSP process will be used to develop the capital and operating budgets

Economic Development Plan

Recreation Plan

Update the policies and vision .



## **MSP – Municipal Sustainability Plan**

### **Backcasting vs. Forecasting**

**Instead of planning based on past experience, identify a goal and create plans to reach that goal.**

# Pilot - Objectives

1. Pilot communities will have **succeeded in moving forward with municipal sustainability planning**. At the end of the term of the pilot, communities will have completed the municipal sustainability planning process as laid out in the MSP Resource Binder. The process is flexible, and the pilot community is welcome to bring other tools into the process if they work for their community.
2. **Successes, challenges and lessons learned** will be gathered and **shared** with other municipalities to build a greater understanding of how municipalities can successfully move forward with sustainability planning.
3. **Build relationships** with other organizations to assist with effective municipal sustainability planning. These relationships will continue to grow and support municipal sustainability planning in the future.

## AUMA MSP Project Phases

Phase 1: Develop Guidebook

Phase 2: Training opportunities (Cochrane Workshop, 2 President Summits, E-learning)

Phase 3: Pilot communities, Conference (sharing challenges, successes, lessons learned)

Phase 4: Expand implementation



2005 2010 2015 2020 2025 2030 2035 2040 2045 2050

*just imagine*

Municipal Sustainability Planning

## Pilot – Partner Group

1. AUMA
2. 5 Alberta Towns and Villages
3. Municipal Affairs and Housing
4. Alberta Environment
5. The Natural Step Canada



## **MSP – What is the process?**

- Phase 1**      **Structure the Planning Process**
- Phase 2**      **Create Shared Understanding of Sustainable Community Success**
- Phase 3**      **Determine & Analyze Strategies for Community Success**
- Phase 4**      **Identify Initiatives to Move from Current Reality to Success**
- Phase 5**      **Ongoing Monitoring and Implementation**



## **MSP – Flexibility**

There is no one way to prepare a Municipal Sustainability Plan.

The tools and process provided within the pilot provide a broad overview of a process. Each community will determine how best to utilize the tools and resources to move forward in their sustainability planning.



## **MSP – Sample Sustainability Principles**

- 1. People are not subject to conditions that undermine their ability to meet their basic human needs.**
- 2. Nature is not subject to systematic increases in:**
  - Concentrations of substances extracted from the Earth's crust.
  - Concentrations of substances produced by society.
  - Degradation by physical means.

## Pilot – Consultation – Example Theme Areas

- Learning
- Communications
- Affordability & housing
- Built environment
- Food
- Health and Social
- Water
- Energy
- Governance & Partnership
- Materials & Solid Waste
- Natural Areas
- Arts/ Culture/ Heritage
- Rec. & Leisure.
- Economic Dev
- Transportation

# Example Theme: Affordability & Housing

## Current Reality

- “Subdivision mentality
- High Service Costs
- Urban Sprawl

## Description of Success

- Accessible range of housing choices and locations
- Cluster housing
- Inclusive community

# Pilot Activities

- Community Development Officer training
- The Natural Step – Facilitator Training
- MSP website: 38,326 visits in 2007  
(Average per day 105)
- E- learning course
- 2 MSP Workshops
- Pilot communities completing process & MSPs

**When considering the content covered, what is the one idea that you will share with your colleague's /family/ friends when you return home?**

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“Many ideas that our community could and should consider. Seemed overwhelming - but was good to hear from others that it does not happen overnight - takes years.”

“To reconcile economic growth and environmental sustainability is our job.”

“There are numerous communities and many enthused leaders who are ready to move on sustainability planning.”

“Leap outside of the box. Sustainability isn't a project; it is a way of doing business.”

“Would your grandchildren be happy with your decision?”

## Available Resources

- Municipal Sustainability Planning Guide
- Website links and resources  
[www.msp.auma.ca](http://www.msp.auma.ca)
- Planning documents from other communities.
- MSP Conference 2008

## Pilot – Lessons Learned – Staff Capacity


- Staff time and commitment to develop capacity must be provided.
- Increasing capacity through use of community development officers can be very helpful.
- Consultants can be helpful to build capacity (Clear expectations, commitment to process and community, staff and elected official leadership crucial, implementation)

## Pilot – Lessons Learned – Creating a Vision

- It is imperative that elected leaders talk about the idea of sustainability and help their constituents see what is possible and how it will benefit them.
- Leaders benefit from purposefully thinking about and practicing how to explain sustainability. The right stories, the right connections for constituents.

## Pilot – Lessons Learned – Patience

- There will be challenges.
- Education is key to changing understanding among council, administration and community.
- Build on successes.
- Focus on what makes sense in your community now.
- It is an ongoing process.



Municipal Sustainability Planning

## **Pilot – Lessons Learned – Strategic Direction**

- Indicator of effective long-term planning.
- Makes good business sense.
- Provides a method for coordinating different aspects of municipal government based on an agreed to outcome.



## Pilot – Lessons Learned – Implementation

- To embed the MSP and the ideas it stands for in a municipal organization, specific operational actions must be taken.
  - Update MDP, inclusion in budget process, training of staff, leaders must show commitment to signal staff, etc.

## MSP Project – Next Steps

- 2008 Municipal Sustainability Conference (April 21, 2008)
- Update toolkit
- Encourage municipalities to develop MSP
- Rural Development Fund Project
- Explore connection to provincial MSI
- AUMA/ AMSC Sustainability Plan





## Questions?

*"The future is not  
something we enter.  
The future is  
something we create."*

- Leonard Sweet

