

2 PRINCIPLES FOR A VIBRANT CITY

Revised
1.5

Building a sustainable city means making informed choices that take into consideration the interrelated elements of a complex city. Every decision has implications for infrastructure, for quality of life, for growth management, for economic development, for environmental protection, for social cohesion. Therefore, decisions must be interdisciplinary, integrated and strategic to ensure economic, cultural, environmental and social rewards. Decision-making must take into account:

- economic/operational sustainability
- environmental sustainability
- social/cultural sustainability
- institutional sustainability

Through public consultation, six principles have been identified that together can help Sarnia achieve this sustainable vision:

(ICCS) Rec#1 The policies of the Official Plan are rooted in the concept of sustainability, which are based upon:

- Economic/Operational Sustainability;
- Environmental Sustainability
- Social/Cultural Sustainability;
- Institutional Sustainability.

2.1 Strengthen the Existing City Structure

- maintain an urban area boundary and reinforce existing land use patterns
- promote compact development patterns that are integrated and sustainable over the long term
- direct growth to appropriate designations in urban areas, including a network of centres and corridors, to support all residential neighbourhoods, agricultural land, natural areas, and the efficient use of existing infrastructure and services
- ensure that the City and its residents can pay for the reconstruction and ongoing maintenance of infrastructure and services, such as roads, transit, sewers, community centres, policing, fire, etc. over the long term
- incorporate disaster resilience and mitigation into decisions and actions
- support continuous reinvestment and regeneration in existing communities
- foster an attractive, dynamic and healthy downtown with a strong waterfront connection where people can live, work and play

2.2 Encourage Inclusive and Stable Neighbourhoods

- promote health, social cohesion, civic engagement and citizen participation
- respect stable areas including residential, agricultural and industrial areas
- support complete communities that provides a mix of land uses, including a balance of housing, shopping, employment, community services and parks
- promote excellence in health care, education, recreational and social services
- encourage equity, inclusion, information and participation as key building blocks in accountable and transparent decision-making, and ensure all residents of Sarnia can live and fully participate in their communities
- ensure that residents have safe, stimulating and inviting surroundings, and live

comfortably and securely in the city

- support housing choices for people in their communities at all stages of their lives
- celebrate cultural diversity and multiculturalism
- recognize aboriginal interests and improve coordination in decision making with aboriginal communities

2.3 Enhance the Protection of the Environment

- conserve and nurture ecological diversity for future generations
- protect, restore, and enhance air, water and soil resources
- make more efficient use of urban land and existing infrastructure
- protect natural areas and their ecological functions over the long-term
- avoid natural hazards to protect public health and safety
- recognize agricultural areas as working landscapes, and protect farmland for the long-term production of food, fibre, and fuel
- respect drinking water sources, vulnerable aquifers and groundwater recharge areas
- support sustainable development, including green infrastructure and local energy systems, that promote fiscal, social and environmental well-being
- manage municipal waste effectively and safely

2.4 Pursue Economic Retention and Diversification

- support a diversified economic base that helps businesses adapt to changing trends and seize new opportunities that enhance all pillars of sustainability
- retain, promote and enhance economic clusters
- promote cultural, social and natural assets and activities that support innovation and creativity
- facilitate well-paid, stable, safe and fulfilling employment opportunities for people with a range of education and ability levels
- promote opportunities for citizens to obtain the majority of their goods and services in the City
- promote a sustainable agri-food sector by protecting agricultural resources
- ensure superior educational and research opportunities in the City

2.5 Implement Good Community Design

- preserve and enhance the unique features of Sarnia
- strive for design excellence in the public and private realms to ensure attractive street proportions, pedestrian friendliness and safety
- conserve and protect natural and cultural heritage resources, features and landscapes
- promote public safety through environmental design
- animate streets as people places that support social interaction and physical activity
- preserve significant public views and focal points throughout the city
- promote arts and culture and support public art that graces public spaces

2.6 Improve Accessibility and Connectivity

- ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities regardless of ethnicity, income level, age, gender, cultural background, religion or other characteristics
- support an integrated transportation network that accommodates all means of movement including walking, bicycling, transit, vehicles and the transportation of

goods

- plan for pedestrian-oriented development that is fully accessible to all
- ensure a green space network that connects intensification areas, institutions, natural heritage, parks and open spaces
- provide public transit that is an attractive and accessible choice for travel

