

Sustainability Policy Directions

Themes of the Plan

The over-arching theme of this Plan is *sustainability*. We will work towards *sustainability* through a *sustainable development* framework which will provide a holistic approach to planning, action and measurement. The concept of *sustainable development* is important given the need to address impacts of climate change and the role that development can play in working towards sustainable society. By adopting the framework below, the Plan will guide the Region in its quest to become and remain a sustainable community.

1. Environmental imperative of protecting and enhancing, fostering self-sustaining biodiversity, reducing and measuring the impact of development on the ecosystem based on a systems approach, reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and other pollutants, promoting best practices in *sustainable development* including use of green development standards, and living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems.
2. Social imperative of creating conditions conducive to healthy citizens and healthy communities committed to achieving social harmony and social inclusion so that basic needs are met. The Region will strive to have a society that encourages healthy lifestyles and fosters respect for one another; inclusiveness, kindness and human dignity; that includes newcomers with grace and speed; and that ensures a civil and peaceful society for all people.
3. Economic imperative of promoting a vibrant economy that operates within the *sustainability* theme while providing for appropriate infrastructure and services to support a diverse and growing economy including local employment and sustainable livelihoods.
4. Cultural imperative of promoting arts, culture and heritage, and quality of place that will attract and retain talented people, and encourage creativity and entrepreneurship; create buildings and public spaces that are beautiful and accessible; build on our distinctive human, cultural, historical and natural characteristics, where people take personal responsibility for the success of our community; and promote civic engagement and social cohesion, placing great value on the many diverse ethnic, religious, cultural groups that make up the rich fabric of Peel's population.

This *sustainable development* framework will allow for integration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural imperatives throughout the Plan. Each imperative approaches planning issues from a different perspective and has a different primary focus. Also, each imperative has its particular strengths when applied to regional planning for an area like *Peel*. Viewed together, the imperatives provide an integrative and flexible overall basis for the formulation and analysis of policy and decision-making. These four imperatives also reflect the vision in the Council approved Corporate Strategic Plan (referred to hereafter as the Strategic Plan): Peel will be a healthy, vibrant and safe community that values diversity, and quality of life.

Therefore, this Plan contains integrative yet flexible goals and objectives that promote *sustainable development*.

Goals of the Plan

In applying the policies in this Plan, the overall goals of *Regional Council* are:

To create a healthy regional *community* of communities for those living and working in *Peel* which is characterized by physical, mental, economic and social well-being; minimized crime, hunger and homelessness; a recognition and preservation of *the region's* natural and cultural heritage; and an emphasis on the importance of *Peel's* future as a caring *community*.

To recognize, respect, preserve and enhance the importance of *ecosystem* features and functions and enhance the environmental well-being of air, water, land resources and living organisms.

To recognize the importance of a vital and diverse economy and a sound tax base, and manage and stage growth and *development* in accordance with the financial goals and overall fiscal sustainability of *the Region*.

To *support* growth and *development* which takes place in a sustainable manner, and which integrates the environmental, social, economic and cultural responsibilities of *the Region* and the Province.

The implementation of policies and strategies detailed in this Plan is subject to the fiscal constraints of the Province, *the Region*, the area municipalities and agencies directly or indirectly involved. However, both the short and long-term economic, social, cultural and environmental implications of inaction must be seriously considered.

Green Development Standards

The Region prepare green development standards that address Regional interest and promote *sustainable development* addressing matters including the optimum and effective use of Regional infrastructure and human services, water conservation and efficiency measures, waste reduction and recycling and other innovative waste management technologies and practices, the use of advanced energy-efficient technologies for Regionally owned buildings and infrastructure, adaptation to the long-term impacts of climate change, contribution towards health and walkability and working towards a culture of conservation.

The area municipalities be encouraged to prepare green development standards, addressing land use and transportation issues, including the reduction of stormwater flows, energy efficiency and district heating as well as other renewable energy opportunities, innovation in the area of planning for green spaces and addressing issues related to the impacts of climate change.

The Region encourage the area municipalities to require proponents to submit a *sustainability design brief* as part of the development and/or redevelopment process in order to achieve *sustainability* principles.

Climate Change

Enable the Region to reduce the effects of climate change and minimize adverse impacts, the Region will prepare in consultation with the Conservation Authorities, the area municipalities, and stakeholders, a climate change strategy to address mitigation and adaptation aspects of climate change including establishment of targets and modelling the impacts on the Region.

Corporate Sustainability

The Region of Peel apply best *sustainability* practices in its own operations and institutional, corporate decision-making that embodies *sustainability* values and principles.

The Region of Peel prepare a *sustainability* strategy that provides for the most effective and efficient use of Regional resources. As part of the strategy, the Region will develop a *sustainability* lens to be utilized in reviewing the Region's programs and services.

Glossary Definitions

Sustainability: meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Sustainable Development: the pursuit of integrating environmental, social, economic and cultural considerations in decision-making. Applying this framework to policy formulation and analysis favours an integrated approach in which these elements are brought together as a forethought in planning and decision making.

Sustainability Design Brief: a report, prepared by an expert that illustrates how the Region and area municipal green development standards will be incorporated as part of the development process.

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