

SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

The Sustainability Council Policy (Policy) demonstrates the City of Bunbury’s (the City) commitment to embedding environmental sustainability into its operations, services, infrastructure, and facilities for the benefit of our community now and into the future.

POLICY SCOPE

This Policy applies to: Elected Members, Committee Members, and staff.

The objectives of the Policy are to:

- Provide a clear definition and model for sustainability; and
- Outline sustainability principles to guide decision-making and prompt consideration of sustainability across all areas of the organisation.

POLICY DETAILS

Sustainability Definition and Model

For the City, ‘sustainability’ means:

‘Meeting the needs of the current and future generations through the integration of environmental protection, social advancement, economic prosperity and accountable and transparent governance.’

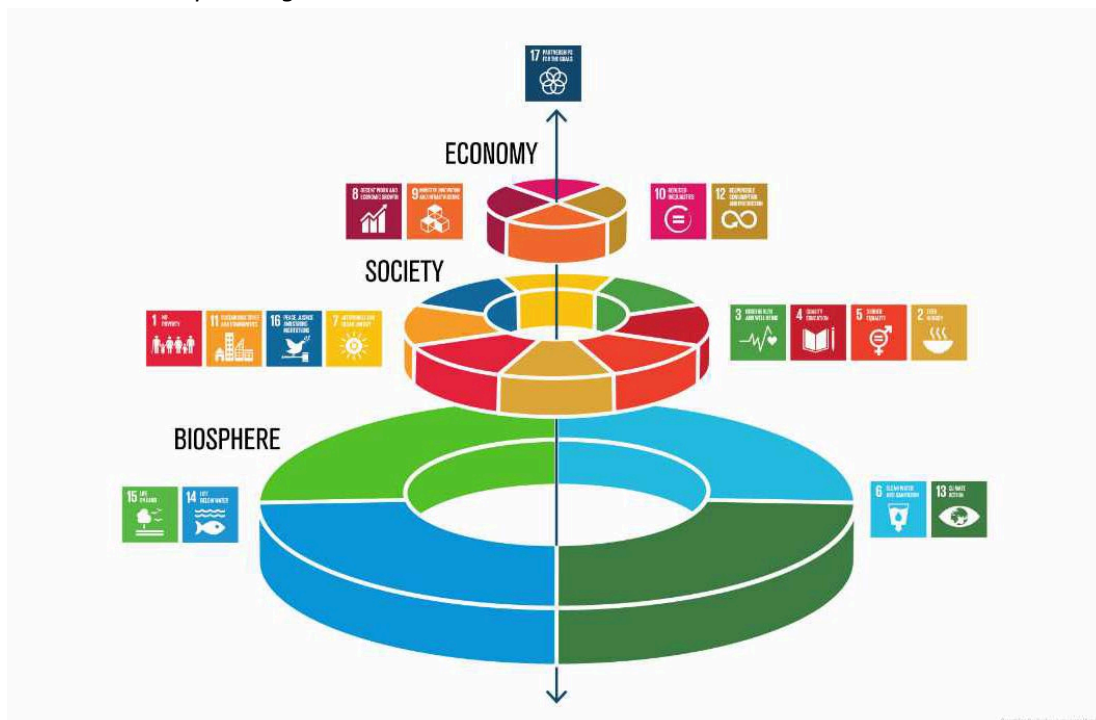


Figure 1 Sustainable Development Goals Wedding Cake Illustration

The Stockholm Resilience Centre's *Sustainable Development Goals Wedding Cake*¹(Model) (Figure 1) has been included as an illustrating Model to support the City's sustainability definition. The Model organises the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into three layers with the biosphere as the foundation, supporting society, which supports the economy. The Model recognises that societies and their economies are dependent on the biosphere's capacity to provide natural resources (clean air, water, food, materials) and to recycle or absorb waste and pollutants.

The inclusion of the Model within this Policy acknowledges that community and economy activity occur within environmental limits, known as planetary boundaries²; and the interdependence of our environment, community and economy must be considered in planning and decision-making.

Sustainability Principles

The City will apply the following sustainability principles to guide decision-making and to prompt consideration of sustainability across all areas of the organisation:

1. Inter and intra-generational equity

Acknowledge the City's responsibility to both current and future generations of our community, as well as potential impacts on communities beyond the City's boundaries. Ensure that the City works to meet the needs of the community now, without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs.

2. Precautionary principle³

Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. In the application of the precautionary principle, decisions should be guided by:

- a) careful evaluation to avoid, where practicable, serious or irreversible damage to the environment; and
- b) an assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options.

3. Integrated and long-term decision-making

Apply a long-term view to decisions and actions, through considering the long and short-term implications on our community, environment, and economy.

4. Biological diversity and ecological integrity

Sustainably manage, conserve, and enhance the biological diversity and integrity of native species and local ecosystems within the City.

5. Leadership in innovation and sustainable practices

Commit to continuous learning on innovation and sustainable practices. Lead by example through demonstrating innovations in policy and practice; empower community to take a shared leadership approach to sustainability challenges and opportunities; and advocate for increased community access to innovative sustainable solutions.

6. Strive for a circular economy

Ensure responsible resource management, procurement, and impact reduction through striving

¹ [The SDGs wedding cake - Stockholm Resilience Centre](#)

² [Planetary boundaries - Stockholm Resilience Centre](#)

³ [Statement of Environmental Principles, factors and objectives Dec16 1.pdf \(epa.wa.gov.au\)](#)

towards a sustainable, low waste, circular economy.

7. Protect and conserve water

Conserve and sustainably manage local water resources for current, emerging and future generations.

8. Action on climate change

Respond to climate change by working to reduce emissions and build community and corporate resilience through appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

9. Environmental lifecycle costing and planning for reduced impact and quality of life

For future City developments:

- Understand the environmental lifecycle costs in early planning.
- Incorporate Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD); sustainable landscape and urban design; and use of sustainable construction materials and processes, to minimise environmental impacts, and deliver positive environmental, social and economic outcomes.
- Facilitate safe, resilient and inclusive communities.

For existing City-owned buildings, prioritise retrofits to reduce environmental impacts and deliver positive environmental, social and economic outcomes.

10. Inclusion and diversity for sustainability

Provide the opportunity for all members of the community to be part of the conversation, planning and decision-making to improve sustainable outcomes for the City and our community. To ensure the process is inclusive, take into consideration the needs for people to adequately participate, for example people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with disability, access to transport or technology.

Acknowledge the Traditional Owners, Knowledge Holders and Elders' past, present and ongoing connection to country, both land and waterways. Ensure engagement is undertaken and approval sought as required as part of planning and decision-making.

11. Good governance

Apply good governance principles in the provision of its services and facilities as outlined in the City's Governance Framework. Good governance ensures that the City is able to manage its many complex responsibilities effectively and in the best interests of the community.

12. Support the City's Strategic Community Plan Aspirations

In alignment with the City's Strategic Community Plan 2032, commit to promote and facilitate the achievement of the 5 Core Performance areas:

					
ASPIRATION	People A safe, healthy and connected community.	Planet A healthy and sustainable ecosystem.	Place An integrated, vibrant and well planned City.	Prosperity A strong and diversified economy.	Performance Leading with purpose and robust governance.
DESIRED OUTCOMES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A safe community. 2. A growing hub of culture and creativity. 3. A healthy and active community. 4. A compassionate and inclusive community. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. A natural environment that is cared for and preserved. 6. An aware and resilient community equipped to respond to natural disasters and emergencies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. A community with high quality urban design and housing diversity. 8. A place with attractive and welcoming community spaces, where people want to live. 9. A city that is easy to get around safely and sustainably. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. The premier city of regional Western Australia. 11. A strong, resilient and diverse economic hub for the South West. 12. A unique and desirable destination within the South West region. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. A leading local government. 14. A well-informed community that is deeply engaged in decision making.

Figure 2 Core Performance Areas – City’s Strategic Community Plan 2032

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

LEGISLATION

- Local Government Act 1995

ORGANISATIONAL

- Strategic Community Plan 2032
- Sustainability and Environmental Strategy 2023-2028
- Local Planning Strategy 2018
- Long-term Financial Plan
- Corporate Business Plan
- Climate Change Council Policy
- Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country Council Policy
- Purchasing Council Policy
- Governance Framework

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