

New committee moving sustainability planning forward

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Within three months, officials hope to have a plan ready to take Carstairs sustainably into the next 20 years.

AECOM, a company contracted by the town to help develop the plan, presented an update to council last Monday.

A new, 10-person committee, supported by the multi-discipline engineering firm, anticipates having concrete short and long-term actions in the areas of social and cultural, natural environment, built environment, economics, and governance by June.

These five areas of concentration, are said by officials to act as pillars upon which the physical and ideological fabric of a community is built.

The committee is defining sustainability as a process that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet

their needs.

The committee has drafted a vision for sustainability as

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Over the coming weeks, the Carstairs Courier will be showcasing each of the five pillars of sustainability.

Next Week:

Social: Developing innovative social and community services while still preserving the historic and cultural foundation of Carstairs by ensuring co-operation between neighbourhoods, tolerance of different cultures, establishing safe communities and introducing accessible housing.

Cultural: Preserving the town's existing cultural events while encouraging new opportunities for cultural expression and fostering growth in multiple art forms (visual, dramatic, musical, etc.)

well as detailed statements describing what a sustainable Carstairs would be by 2030.

Among the goals, is to have a wide range of jobs and training opportunities, social inclusion and opportunity, a strong sense of community heritage, and a variety of mixed-use durable buildings available in the community.

"For me it boils down to a closer look at behaviours and attitudes about our resources," said AECOM sustainability planner Hugh MacKenzie.

According to the town's sustainability coordinator Jan Thompson, it's about "enough for everyone, forever."

The public is being asked to help create actions to achieve the ultimate goal of sustainability through an upcoming workshop on April 22.

The workshop falls within Carstairs' first ever Sustainability Week April 20-24.

Once the town's sustainability plan is in place, \$340,000 will be available through the province for infrastructure projects such as sewer and roads.