

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

Sustainability is something that has been around for decades but most of us if honest have not been practicing sustainability to our full potential. Simply put, sustainability is *“Enough for Everyone Forever.”*

The Natural Step organization defines sustainability as development that meets the needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainability is essentially a “Supply and Demand” concept. The issues of decreasing supply of our natural resources coupled with the decreasing capacity on our planet to provide from our ecosystem services such as climate regulating and water filtering. The Carbon or Ecological footprint that measures the amount of land and water area a human population uses is one of the ways we can measure this.

What is a Municipal Sustainability Plan?

A Municipal or Community Plan is a high level overarching document that guides a Community into the future. It can best be viewed as a strategic business plan for the community that identifies short, medium and long term actions for implementing, tracking and monitoring progress. A MSP, therefore, provides guidance for the development or alignment of all municipal plans and documents, and is reviewed and revised on an annual basis.

We Need to:

- ✓ To leave the world in a better state for our children, grandchildren and future generations.
- ✓ To reduce the amount of water we use.
- ✓ To reduce the amount of greenhouse gas we produce.
- ✓ To save money by making good financial decisions.
- ✓ To save the environment by making good business decisions.
- ✓ To allow everyone to meet his or her basic needs.
- ✓ To allow people the opportunity to reflect on what they want in their communities and help them to develop strategies to help them maintain their quality of life.
- ✓ To protect the physical environment, increasing financial efficiency, building social and cultural capacity and doing more with less in the long term.
- ✓ We need to prevent the continual depletion of our Social, Economic, Environmental and cultural resources and replenish them at a satisfactory rate.