

SUSTAINABILITY ELEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

Sustainability is generally defined as meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations. For the purpose of local planning, the citizens of Chelan have developed the following vision statement:

We envision Chelan as a community in which sustainable living is a way of life.

There are many ways in which the City can act to foster sustainability. For example, the City can lead by its own behavior in delivering services, building and operating its facilities, and managing its land in an environmentally sustainable manner. And, the City can support education and awareness that help residents and visitors make sustainable choices. This Sustainability Element has been developed as an optional element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, in accordance with Washington's Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.080).

OVERALL SUSTAINABILITY GOAL: Provide for economic enhancement, environmental stewardship, and social well-being in Chelan and its Urban Growth Area (UGA).

Sustainability Policy 1: Consider the effect of actions and decisions on the natural environment and human health and, where fiscally feasible, favor sustainable choices and avoid or offset potential unsustainable effects.

Sustainability Policy 2: Consider the effect of actions and decisions on the economic and social well-being of the community and on the freedom of choice of the people who live, work, and own property in Chelan.

Sustainability Policy 3: Foster and promote choices that will address local causes of imbalances in natural, economic, and social systems, rather than just the symptoms of those imbalances.

II. GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Everyday City operations have direct effects on sustainability. Choices about internal practices and purchasing can make government more cost- and resource-efficient. In addition, sustainable operations serve as an example to residents and businesses.

GOAL: Conduct City operations in a way that provides quality municipal services to the community while encouraging resource conservation and minimizing adverse environmental impacts.

Sustainability Policy GO-1: In everyday operations, promote conservation of energy, water and material resources.

Sustainability Policy GO-2: Encourage employees to reduce use of toxic materials, prevent pollution, reuse existing resources, recycle when practical, and minimize waste.

Sustainability Policy GO-3: Consider the environmental, economic, and social costs and benefits of City policy, regulatory, operating, and service decisions; where feasible, use sustainable practices and technology. In evaluating costs and benefits, consider immediate, long-range, and cumulative implications.

III. LEARNING and AWARENESS

Individual choice is vital to sustainability. The City recognizes that everyone is constantly learning and becoming more aware of the consequences of their actions and that knowledge empowers people to make informed choices.

GOAL: Increase community understanding of and engagement in how to create and maintain a sustainable community, and recognize actions that make our community more sustainable.

Sustainability Policy LA-1: Focus on education that clearly conveys the economic, environmental, and social consequences of individual, group, business, institutional and municipal choices.

Sustainability Policy LA-2: Evaluate partnerships and, when appropriate, collaborate with local and regional organizations and schools to increase opportunities for sustainability learning and awareness.

IV. AGRICULTURE

Home and community gardens have the potential to contribute to a secure food supply, promote agricultural independence, increase food safety, improve nutrition and fitness, and enhance urban ecology. The ability of a community to produce a part of its food needs, as well as to contribute towards the food needs of others, is a desirable end.

GOAL: Foster a community in which all citizens have access to adequate amounts of nutritious and safe foods.

Sustainability Policy Ag-1: During both long-range planning and permitting, consider the role of urban agriculture in providing a safe food supply for the community.

Sustainability Policy Ag-2: Participate in local and regional food security planning, and incorporate the outcomes in local land use plans and regulations.

V. WASTE REDUCTION and RECYCLING

Waste reduction means reducing the amount of waste that is generated—for instance, by reducing overall consumption. Waste reduction may also address reducing the toxicity of the waste that is generated. The term recycling is most often used to mean reducing the amount of waste that is disposed of by separating reusable materials from the waste stream. It can also include conversion and reuse of waste materials into useful products, including energy.

This section of the Sustainability Element does not directly address moderate risk or special wastes, but it does encourage support for and participation in implementation of the Chelan County Solid Waste Management Plan.

GOAL: Reduce the costs (environmental, economic, and social) associated with solid waste management.

Sustainability Policy WR-1: Increase waste reduction through reuse, recycling, and composting.

Sustainability Policy WR-2: Safeguard public health when considering reuse, recycling, and composting of organic wastes.