

Priorities Committee Meeting_Apr08_2025

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

Environmental Framework 2024 progress update

Report Purpose

To provide Priorities Committee with an update on the Environmental Framework (January to December 2024).

Our Strategic Goals

Goal 3 - Responsible Development

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Goal 4 - Municipal Excellence

Goal 3 Priority - Environmental stewardship that addresses climate change and demonstrates responsible use of land and natural resources

Goal 3 Priority - Investment in our infrastructure that supports development and complete communities

Goal 4 Priority - Relationships with all levels of government and key stakeholders that are strategic, purposeful and productive

Report

The Environmental Framework supports a coordinated approach between administrative departments and external stakeholders, by enabling them to work together, leveraging people and financial resources, and responding to community needs in context of our air, water, land, biological diversity, waste, and energy. Each topic area has a clear outcome, and specific objectives identified that prioritize healthy ecosystems and set a foundation for healthy citizens.

Environmental Framework Integration Team (EFIT)

Members of EFIT are subject matter experts within our administration that are actively working within the topic areas and assist in the implementation of the Framework. The team meets quarterly to report on existing programs, plans, and policies and to review new opportunities and strategic initiatives. This helps us plan, document, and share collective efforts.

Strategic initiatives – January to December 2024

The EFIT prioritized several strategic initiatives for 2024. A brief summary of those initiated, continued and/or completed in 2024 is below:

- **Air** – Hosted Clean Air Forum, Zero Emission Hydrogen Transit Bus in active service, Airshed partnerships, Tree Replacement Program
- **Water** – Wetland Replacement Program – Strathcona Regional Park proposal, stormwater management facility water quality monitoring and naturalization programs, Drought Management Plan, Outdoor Watering Survey, community engagement events
- **Land** – Agriculture Master Plan substantial completion, Agriculture and Food Sector Development Strategy, Land Use Bylaw refresh, Drainage Charter, Weed Control Charter, Wildland Urban Interface park inspections, FireSmart inspections
- **Biodiversity** – Bird-Friendly Community recertification, Human-Wildlife Coexistence Program, Urban Coyote Monitoring Program, Wildlife education refresh, Wild Boar Monitoring Program, Biocontrol pilot projects

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- **Waste** – HodgePodge Lodge, Catch the Cow campaign, recycling receptacles, Community Garden organics, community engagement events
- **Energy** – Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP) Year 1 completed, Climate Resilience Plan approved, Solar grant for 17th Street pumphouse reservoir

Council and Committee History

April 16, 2024	Priorities Committee was presented with an update on the Environmental Framework for 2023.
March 7, 2023	Priorities Committee was presented with an update on the Environmental Framework for 2022.
March 8, 2022	Priorities Committee was presented with an update on the Environmental Framework for 2021.
June 29, 2021	Council approved the Environmental Framework.
April 20, 2021	Priorities Committee received an update on the draft Environmental Framework.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Financial/Budget: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: All

Master Plan/Framework: Environmental Framework

Communication Plan

A communications strategy has been developed to support the Environmental Framework. A StoryMap is a tool being used to reinforce the story telling within the Environmental Framework. ArcGIS StoryMaps allow us to use custom maps and project-specific photos that inform and inspire. Our collective story telling can have a sense of place and be more interactive.

Enclosure

- 1 Environmental Framework 2024 year in review presentation