

OKOTOKS COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

the first round : 2016 – 2019





Okotoks Community Sustainability Plan 2016 - 2019

First Round 2016-2019, released April 2016.

Prepared for the Town of Okotoks by Intelligent Futures.

Town of Okotoks – Environment & Sustainability

Okotoks Municipal Centre

5 Elizabeth Street, Okotoks AB

sustainability@okotoks.ca

A Message from Town Council

We are pleased to present the **Okotoks Community Sustainability Plan**, a significant document that will help guide the Town of Okotoks towards a more sustainable and resilient future. The Okotoks Community Sustainability Plan holds within it the best thinking on how to effect positive and responsible change within municipal organizations. More importantly, it is also a made-in-Okotoks solution: with extensive public consultation, the Community Sustainability Plan reflects the good ideas provided by citizens drawn from every corner of Okotoks.

We can't predict the future but we can hope to respond to it. The Okotoks Community Sustainability Plan takes this to heart: it is a living document that is designed to change and grow with the Town of Okotoks over time. Our 'first round' of sustainability implementation will take us to 2019; from there, the Town will reassess its priorities and efforts to date to continue charting a way forward.

Each of the steps you'll find in this plan will ultimately help build quality of life, nurture community, and invest in the elements that will help Okotoks stand the test of time. We hope you'll join us in making this plan a reality, as we guide Okotoks towards a sustainable and resilient future.

Okotoks Town Council

Overview

01

SECTION ONE

INTRODUCTION

Learn more about the Okotoks Community Vision and Guiding Principles, and get acquainted with the 2015 Community Sustainability planning process.

05

SECTION TWO

SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT

Read about the topics of sustainability and resilience, and learn about both Okotoks' strengths and external forces shaping our present and future.

INFOGRAPHIC

PRESENT STRENGTHS & FUTURE FORCES

07



11

SECTION THREE

A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

Read about the first round of critical steps that will help the Town of Okotoks on its way to meet its long-term vision and realize a sustainable future.

INFOGRAPHIC

THE PLAN & PROCESS

14

3 YEARS OF ACTIONS & MEASURES

THE ACTION PLAN CRITICAL STEPS



21

SECTION FOUR CONCLUSION

24

APPENDIX A ACTION TOOL

APPENDIX B COMMUNITY ACTION IDEAS

How to use this document

The Community Sustainability Plan is designed to adapt to, grow with, and meet the challenges faced by the Town of Okotoks over time.

In 2015, the Town of Okotoks commissioned a new **Community Sustainability Plan (CSP)**, a document that will direct the future development of municipal strategies, goals, and policies using a rigorous framework for action across economic, environmental, social, and cultural sectors in Okotoks. The CSP is supported by the **2014 Community Visioning Process** that engaged hundreds of citizens to create a **new vision and set of guiding principles** that will form the basis of many municipal initiatives.

Through a phased six-month process, the Community Sustainability planning team worked with public stakeholders, municipal staff, and elected officials to identify current strengths and constraints at work in the town to create and refine a plan that will guide Okotoks toward a sustainable future.

The Community Sustainability Plan stands out from its peers. It is a living document built using an adaptive framework for action; a series of **critical steps** build upon themselves in an incremental process. Progress in each critical step is measured using a series of indicators; as success is achieved, the critical steps are renewed and replaced as necessary. This incremental approach towards sustainability planning and implementation will allow the Town of Okotoks to work towards the realization of the long-term community vision by breaking down emerging challenges into manageable pieces and overcoming them.

In the following pages, you'll reacquaint yourself with the community vision and guiding principles, learn about sustainability and resilience in practice, understand the influences affecting the future development of Okotoks, and see how the first round of sustainability planning begins a process of positive change.

WHERE DOES THE PLAN FIT IN?



COMMUNITY VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

VISIONING PROCESS - UNDERTAKEN 2014 - 2015

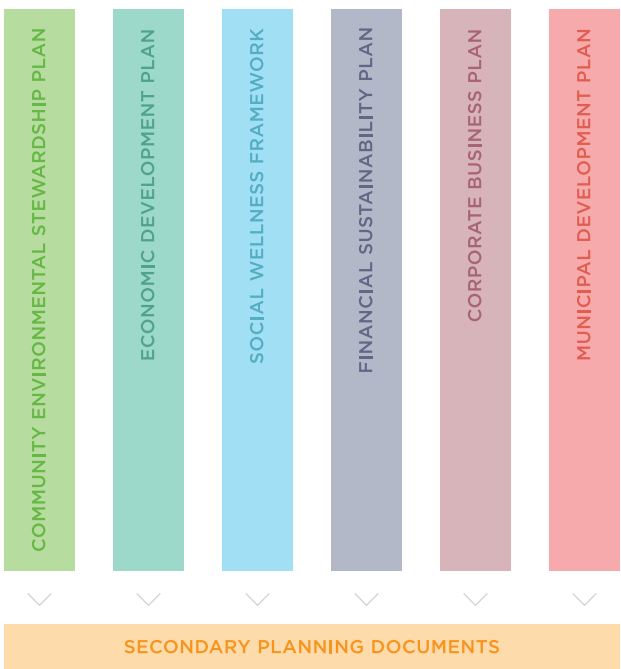
The Okotoks Community Visioning process was commissioned to create a new vision and set of guiding principles to help guide future policy and development in the Town.



COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS - UNDERTAKEN 2015 - 2016

Built on the Community Visioning process, the Community Sustainability Plan will guide the creation of new strategies, goals, and targets in support of a sustainable future for Okotoks.



THE CRITICAL STEP APPROACH

The Okotoks Community Sustainability Plan is designed to adapt to changing context over time and build on success.

- 3 years of actions & measures
- Review indicators & reflect on new critical steps
- Continue towards critical steps' future actions
- Repeat the process with new knowledge gained

Community Vision

“The Town of Okotoks is resilient, where people, businesses, ideas and sense of community thrive. Grounded by the Sheep River valley and supported by thoughtful planning and design, a strong local economy and a vibrant civic culture, Okotoks offers exceptional quality of life at every stage of life. Respect for each other and the natural environment makes Okotoks home.”

In 2014, the Town of Okotoks engaged hundreds of citizens over four months to establish a new vision for the future of the community. The result of the process was a vision and set of guiding principles that are to be used for all initiatives of the Town of Okotoks, including this Community Sustainability Plan. Everything found within this plan has a focus on moving Okotoks towards the vision and guiding principles.

LIVABLE OKOTOKS

People make Okotoks the caring, safe and welcoming place that it is. Public spaces are cherished, natural features are valued, and community needs are met. An appropriate mix of land uses, mobility options, infrastructure and accessible, affordable and equitable services provide the foundation for sustainable growth. High-quality educational opportunities support life-long learning. The transportation network is multi-modal, allowing for the environmentally responsible and cost-effective movement of people and goods.

VIBRANT CIVIC CULTURE & HERITAGE

Residents joyfully embrace Okotoks, and cultivate a rich quality of life. Okotoks provides access to a wide range of cultural resources, fostering audiences, participants and creators who contribute to community building and economic development. The strong tradition of community events is a hallmark of living in Okotoks. Residents are engaged in civic life, and Town Council and administration promote open dialogue.

INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Neighbourhoods are connected, fostering a sense of community among residents. Housing is flexible, affordable and desirable, and meets the needs of residents of all ages, income levels and family types. Design and architecture create places that reflect neighbourhood culture. Community gathering spaces are animated and anchor neighbourhoods. Streets are lively and engaging places, where people can move around in a safe and inclusive environment. New communities are permeable and connected to encourage active transportation.

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

Residents enjoy an active lifestyle that nurtures community well-being. Health and wellness facilities support the needs of residents at every stage of life. Opportunities for sport and play are accessible in high-quality recreation facilities, multi-use civic buildings and a complete parks and open space network. These public spaces strengthen the bond between residents, and to the places they share.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The places and spaces that make up Okotoks are designed with the environment in mind. Energy, air, land and water conservation are critical elements integrated into all planning and development projects. Okotoks is a leader in low-impact, environmentally conscious design. Creative resources, advanced technologies and respect for nature create a unique sense of place based on environmental stewardship. Regional and local transit provides an efficient transportation alternative and reduces vehicle use.

LOCAL ECONOMY

Okotoks-based employment and businesses strengthen the economy. Okotoks takes a collaborative approach to economic growth, creating new opportunities that complement the region. Okotoks promotes innovation and attracts green businesses and industries. A thriving downtown supports economic development. Okotoks is a place to live, work and play, where short commute times enable residents to actively engage in their community.

Guiding Principles

Sustainability in Okotoks

The development of the Okotoks Community Sustainability Plan uses both a sustainability and resilience framework.

Sustainability is about understanding the relationship amongst community systems and making decisions today that will not have a negative impact on the future. The vision and guiding principles represent the diverse systems of the Okotoks community. While created as separate principles, these systems are all interrelated. The best solutions and actions will be ones that create positive change across multiple guiding principles.

Resilience is about moving towards the community's desired future while being adaptable to the inevitable changes that will occur in the future. Building a resilient community is an ongoing process, one that requires constant growth of knowledge and capacity in the community. In this way, Okotoks can be continually enhancing its ability to deal with (often unexpected) change as we move towards our vision of the future. By integrating leading thinking and practice on sustainability and resilience, a set of criteria was used during the community sustainability planning process.

The criteria applied were:

- Protect and enhance diversity in all forms
- Establish and promote local systems
- Protect systems of natural habitat and resources
- Ensure the greatest number of people can afford needed goods and services
- Reduce gaps between rich and poor
- Eliminate waste and conserve natural resources for future generations
- Use collaborative decision-making including representatives from all sectors

Okotoks has a history of integrating sustainability and resilience into decision-making for the future. The Town of Okotoks became one of the first municipalities in the world to establish growth targets linked to infrastructure development and environmental carrying capacity when it adopted its **Legacy Plan** in 1998. The Town, dependent on the Sheep River for its water and its ability to treat and dispose effluent, faced a crossroad in 1998 – it could continue to “grow” and plan accordingly, or it could take a “road less traveled” and choose to live within the carrying capacity of the Sheep River watershed. Okotoks’ carrying capacity in 1998 was identified as approximately 30,000 people. A build-out municipal boundary was established, with a set of targets and initiatives identified to ensure build-out population could be reached in an environmentally, economically, socially, and fiscally responsible way.

In 2012, due to external growth pressures in the region, the Town of Okotoks, after three years of public consultation, transitioned from the finite growth model of the 1998 Legacy Plan to one of continued managed growth. This decision was grounded in sustainability and resiliency; progressing our town’s desire to responsibly manage our physical form and protect our community atmosphere while being adaptable to inevitable changes and external forces.

Present strengths and future forces

Building and maintaining a sustainable and resilient community is an ongoing process, one that requires continuous growth of knowledge and capacity within the community, including an understanding of what is working well today and what external forces may impact our community.

When navigating a course towards our desired future, it is vital to understand that Okotoks does not exist in a bubble. There are a variety of forces that will influence the community, regardless of what Okotoks does. The key is how the community responds and adapts to these changes over time, while still productively working towards our vision for the future.

As part of the process to develop the CSP, the project team also asked the community to share their thoughts on what assets exist today in Okotoks that are already working towards the Vision and Guiding Principles. This provides important information as the community works towards its desired future, as these are strengths that can be built upon.

These elements of the community help to build an excellent quality of life in Okotoks today. As we move into the future, we will continue to build on these assets and address other elements that need to be enhanced over time.

Turn to the next
page to read
more about
these strengths
and forces >

PRESENT STRENGTHS and FUTURE FORCES

FORCE OF THE FUTURE • LOCAL

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Over time, the community's infrastructure will increasingly require upgrades. This puts pressure on the Town to keep up with maintenance and replacement, in addition to a variety of other competing priorities.



FORCE OF THE FUTURE • GLOBAL

PRICE OF OIL

A sustained hike in the price of oil could have significant implications for the economy and lifestyles in Okotoks.



FORCE OF THE FUTURE • REGIONAL

LACK OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Being close to an economic engine like Calgary creates potential limitations for economic development in Okotoks.

CURRENT STRENGTHS

EXCELLENT RECREATION FACILITIES



CURRENT STRENGTHS

GREAT PARKS AND PATHWAYS



CURRENT STRENGTHS

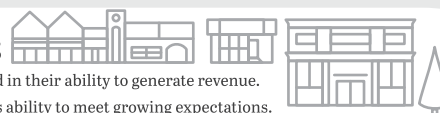
SMALL BUSINESSES



FORCE OF THE FUTURE • LOCAL

FUNDING CHALLENGES FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Municipalities in Alberta are very limited in their ability to generate revenue. This has significant impact on the Town's ability to meet growing expectations.



SHEEP RIVER

CAR



FORCE OF THE FUTURE • REGIONAL

LACK OF TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

The region has evolved to focus primarily on moving private vehicles around. This creates limited mobility options for smaller municipalities like Okotoks.



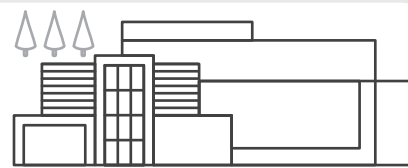
CURRENT STRENGTHS

SENSE OF COMMUNITY



CURRENT STRENGTHS

A SAFE COMMUNITY



FORCE OF THE FUTURE • LOCAL

INCREASED EXPECTATIONS FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

Citizens seem to continually expect more and more from their municipality. Keeping up with these expectations is difficult in light of limited funding.

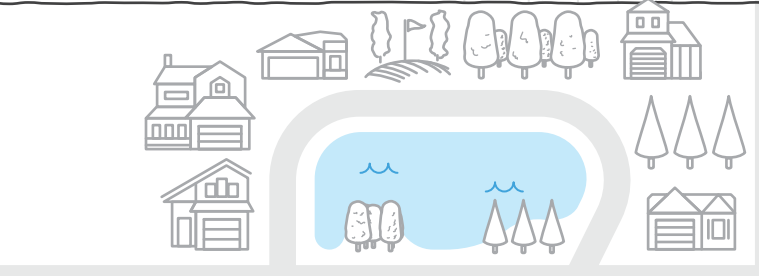


FORCE OF THE FUTURE • GLOBAL

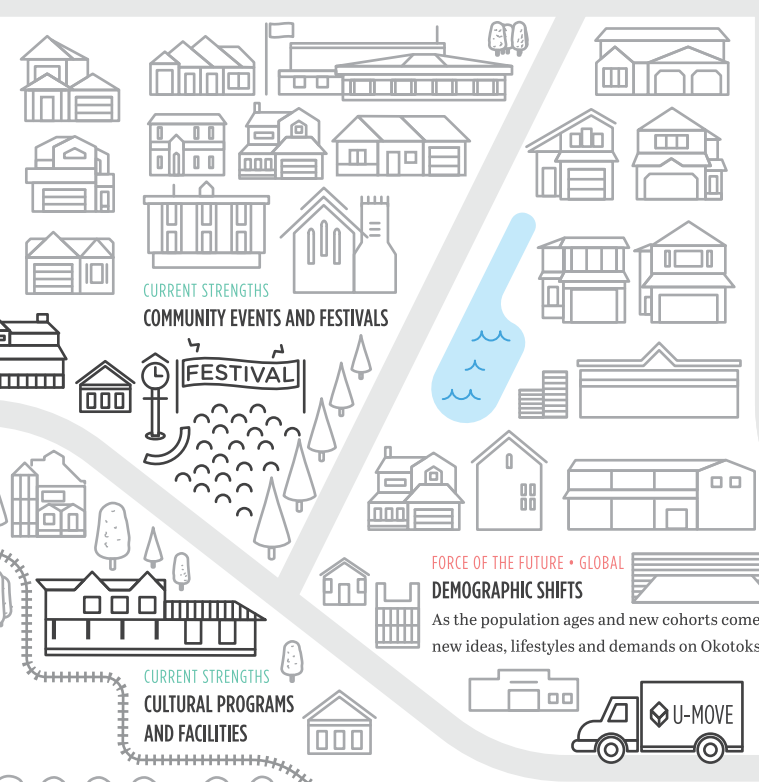
POPULATION GROWTH

With an ever-increasing population, accommodating new individuals to the community will be an ongoing challenge.





FORCE OF THE FUTURE • REGIONAL
COOPERATION AMONG REGIONAL PARTNERS
 Different needs and viewpoints, together with limited funding, can result in challenges to the coordination of efforts among partners in the region.



FORCE OF THE FUTURE • LOCAL
CULTURAL RESISTANCE TO CHANGE
 Life today in Okotoks is very good. In making change to realize our long-term vision, there will likely be resistance and an attempt to maintain the status quo.



FORCE OF THE FUTURE • GLOBAL
DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS
 As the population ages and new cohorts come into their own, new ideas, lifestyles and demands on Okotoks will be made.



FORCE OF THE FUTURE • LOCAL
MARKET RESISTANCE TO CHANGE
 The Town's ability to create urban form that aligns with our vision relies on the market and the development industry to build these communities. Often times, there is significant resistance to these kinds of changes.



FORCE OF THE FUTURE • LOCAL
AFFORDABILITY
 The relative lack of housing diversity / affordability makes it difficult to attract a diversity of community members.



Sustainability Planning Process

The development of the Community Sustainability Plan built upon the extensive community engagement during the visioning process in 2014. From this starting point, the process comprised 4 key phases.

Phase 1 : Understand Success MAY - JUNE 2015

The project team reviewed the vision and guiding principles to establish a list of potential indicators that could be measured in the future. Measurement provides the community with real yardsticks of progress as actions build over time to realize the vision. This also provides a level of specificity on the broad statements found in the vision and guiding principles. Using sustainability and resilience criteria, the key indicators for each guiding principle were identified.

The results of this work are the **Sustainability Indicators** (to be finalized in 2016 - 2017).

Phase 2 : Forces of the Future JUNE - JULY 2015

Working with a diversity of staff from the Town of Okotoks, important future trends and threats were discussed, in order to understand the vision in context. Insights gained from this work provided the project team with an appreciation for the range of possible impacts on Okotoks, from a range of scales. Using sustainability and resilience criteria, these forces were prioritized based on their level of potential impact on the community into the future.

The results of this work can be found in **Present Strengths and Future Forces** on page 7.

Phase 3 : Action Planning

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2015

With an understanding of potential indicators and external forces that could influence Okotoks, the team engaged with the community on their ideas for actions that could take us towards our desired future.

Ideas were gathered through:

- A stakeholders workshop
- An online feedback forum at okotoks.ca
- A Ideas Fair held at the Okotoks Recreation Centre

In addition, a workshop was held with a diversity of staff from the Town of Okotoks to understand organizational perspectives and capacity. A Council workshop was also held to identify key opportunities for initial action on the plan.

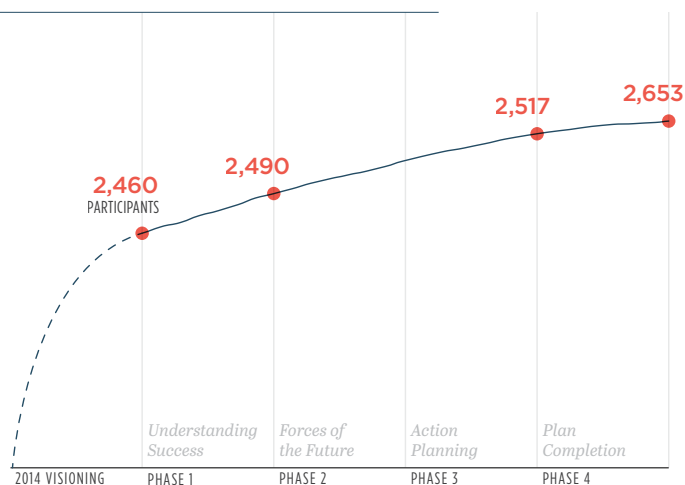


Figure. Participants engaged through the Community Sustainability Planning process.

The results of this phase provided important insights into areas of priority action for the present and ideas for longer-term actions in the future. Using sustainability and resilience criteria, along with an assessment of priority action criteria, a set of critical first steps was established.

The results of this work can be found in **Section Three – A Framework for Action** on page 11.

Phase 4 : Plan Completion

NOVEMBER 2015 - JANUARY 2016

The results of phases 1-3 were integrated into a draft Community Sustainability Plan, which was presented to the community. Citizens were able to share their thoughts on the plan through:

- An online feedback forum at okotoks.ca
- A public Ideas Fair held at the Okotoks Recreation Centre

The results of this work is the **Okotoks Community Sustainability Plan**.

Getting to Work

The challenge of moving towards a sustainable future is that there are too many options to take. As a result, focus is diluted. The Okotoks Community Sustainability Plan aims to take a different approach.

The Okotoks Community Sustainability Plan is focused on the actions that require initial focus, have the most impact and set the stage for future success. In order to facilitate constant learning and evaluation, it is also critical to consistently measure progress over time.

Arriving at the Actions You See Today

During the action planning phase of the project, the community provided a wide variety of ideas on how to move towards our guiding principles. These ideas ranged from the small and immediate to the longer term and ambitious. Each idea was considered and evaluated against two key filters: our sustainability and resilience criteria and our critical steps criteria. The result is the six critical steps identified here.

While not every idea is reflected in these initial steps on our way to a sustainable future, all of the ideas for action are shown in **Appendix B: Community Action Ideas** and will be part of the review for the next round of action planning in three years time.



Critical Steps

After engagement with the community and Town staff, a variety of options for action were identified.

Appendix B: Community Action Ideas illustrates all the actions that were identified during the engagement. This array of actions was narrowed down to 6 Critical Steps, using the following criteria:

- The actions are achievable in the first 3 years of implementing the Community Sustainability Plan
- The actions establish a foundation for future actions
- The actions contribute to the future resilience of the community
- The actions address current gaps in the community
- The actions have concrete measures of success – both in terms of actions and results
- The actions contribute to multiple guiding principles.

Measuring Progress

While the Critical Steps are the focus of initial activity, the Town of Okotoks will still continue delivering services to its citizens in all areas, working towards the vision and guiding principles.

In order to evaluate progress, a set of indicators related to the guiding principles will be developed and monitored. In this way, the Town can continually reflect on where progress is being made and where new efforts are required.

The indicators will be built on the following:

- The indicators are aligned to guiding principles
- The indicators are focused on large-scale community results
- The indicators reflect sustainability & resilience to work to “future proof” Okotoks

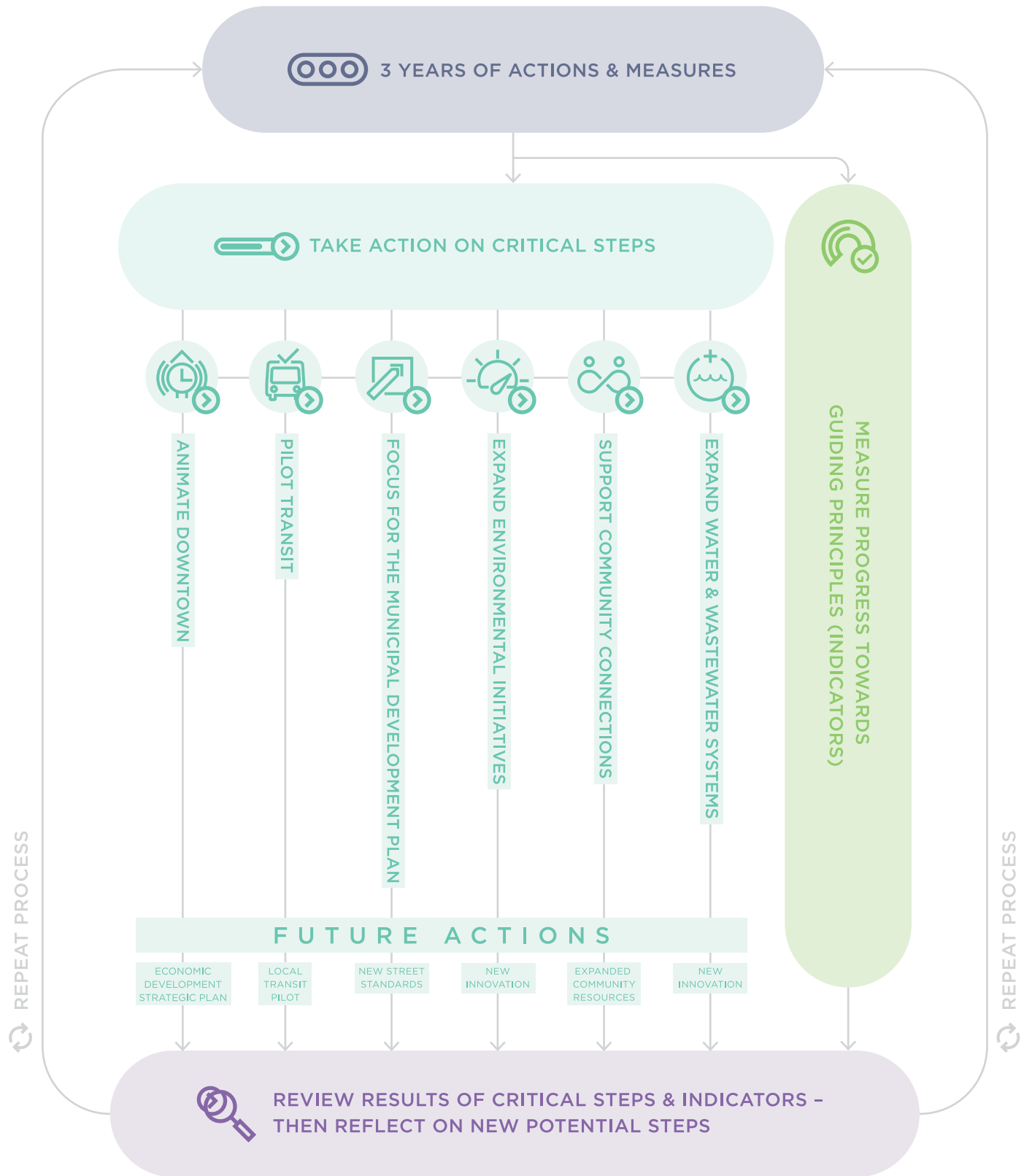
The Town will use the indicators to evaluate how its various business centres can contribute to progress on these indicators, allowing for more action towards the Vision beyond just the Critical Steps.

An Ongoing Process

By acting on early priorities while monitoring progress on the Guiding Principles, the Town will create an ongoing process to move towards the vision that Okotoks has created for itself. Every three years, the Critical Steps will be evaluated, along with a review of the indicators.

With this level of learning and understanding of how the community is moving towards its desired future, a new round of Critical Steps based on sound measurement and reflection can be identified. In this way, a regular process of acting, assessing and adapting can occur, making Okotoks more sustainable and resilient over time.

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN: THE FIRST ROUND 2016-2019



*“Cultures and climates differ all over the world, but people are the same.
They’ll gather in public if you give them a good place to do it.”*

- Jan Gehl



Animate Downtown

PURPOSE

Bring more people downtown through tactical experiments, setting the stage for larger scale, more permanent interventions in the future.

CONTRIBUTION TO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

LIVEABLE OKOTOKS

VIBRANT CIVIC CULTURE

INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

LOCAL ECONOMY

3

ACTIONS

- Night and/or farmers’ market downtown
- Parklet, patio & sidewalk display pilot program
- Façade improvement program
- Downtown Redevelopment Plan
- Implement community branding program in the Downtown Redevelopment Plan
- Moveable furniture
- Landscape/display beautification program
- Municipal heritage designation for historic buildings
- Visitor / event information kiosk & blade sign program

LINKS TO FUTURE ACTIONS

- Implement the Economic Development Strategic Plan – specifically the goal of making Downtown Okotoks a vibrant gathering place for visitors and locals

MEASURES OF PROGRESS

- Number, new events downtown
- Number, performances & public art spaces
- Number, visitors downtown
- Number, patios and parklets

*“An advanced city is not one where even the poor use cars,
but rather one where even the rich use public transport.”*

- Enrique Peñalosa



Pilot Transit

PURPOSE

Experiment with transit use through the Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) pilot project, then take a thoughtful look at transit for the Town of Okotoks.

CONTRIBUTION TO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

LIVEABLE OKOTOKS

VIBRANT CIVIC CULTURE

INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

LOCAL ECONOMY

6

ACTIONS

- Promote and participate in CRP regional transit pilot program
- Conduct an independent local transit feasibility study in 2017

LINKS TO FUTURE ACTIONS

- System and user-based learning for a local service

MEASURES OF PROGRESS

- Ridership, new transit line
- User feedback, experience

*“Designing a dream city is easy;
rebuilding a living one takes imagination.”*

- Jane Jacobs



Focus for the Municipal Development Plan

PURPOSE

Clarify some of the big questions and priorities on the built environment of Okotoks through a rigorous Municipal Development Plan process.

CONTRIBUTION TO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

LIVEABLE OKOTOKS

VIBRANT CIVIC CULTURE

INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

LOCAL ECONOMY

6

ACTIONS

- Clear definition of the unique physical and built landscape of Okotoks
- Updated road and streetscape standards to better facilitate active transportation
- Establish a roadmap for diversifying housing throughout a neighbourhood
- Clear performance criteria for new development

LINKS TO FUTURE ACTIONS

- Provides clear direction for new development to make Okotoks unique

MEASURES OF PROGRESS

- Updated road standards
- New development scorecard established
- New policies for housing diversification
- New standards and policies to create unique built language for Okotoks

“The only way forward, if we are going to improve the quality of the environment, is to get everybody involved.”

- Richard Rogers



Expand Environmental Initiatives

PURPOSE

Implement community-wide environmental initiatives to build momentum for environment and energy conservation efforts throughout Okotoks.

CONTRIBUTION TO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

LIVEABLE OKOTOKS

VIBRANT CIVIC CULTURE

INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

LOCAL ECONOMY

3

ACTIONS

- Implement universal residential recycling and organic waste cart collection program
- Implement the MyHEAT Energy Efficiency Information Platform
- Creation and delivery of a new renewable energy program in Okotoks

MEASURES OF PROGRESS

- Number of households participating in the program
- GHG emissions saved through the program
- Dollars saved in utility bills by participating households

LINKS TO FUTURE ACTIONS

- Sets the stage for a suite of environmental initiatives for new-build and retrofit projects in the community

*“A community is like a ship;
everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.”*

- Henrik Ibsen



Support Community Connections

PURPOSE

Facilitate increased connections by providing resources to enable resident ownership of life in Okotoks.

CONTRIBUTION TO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

LIVEABLE OKOTOKS

VIBRANT CIVIC CULTURE

INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

LOCAL ECONOMY

3

ACTIONS

- Advertisement and booking mechanism of publicly accessible facilities
- Development of a ‘meeting/workshop kit’ that can be signed out by community members
- Procurement of a ‘block party kit’ that can be signed out by community members
- Neighbourhood park summer concert series
- Advertisement of block party
- Enhance the Neighbourhood Ambassador program

LINKS TO FUTURE ACTIONS

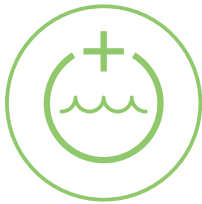
- Builds connections and capacity in communities, which can set the stage for variety of future initiatives.

MEASURES OF PROGRESS

- Percentage, booked time for facilities
- Number, times the ‘kit’ is used
- Number, block parties held in Okotoks

“Infrastructure is about investing not to solve the problems of today but to anticipate the issues of future generations.”

- Sir Norman Foster



Expand Water & Wastewater Systems

PURPOSE

Improve existing water and wastewater infrastructure (treatment, distribution, and collection) to accommodate community growth.

CONTRIBUTION TO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

LIVEABLE OKOTOKS

VIBRANT CIVIC CULTURE

INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

LOCAL ECONOMY

2

ACTIONS

- Begin construction of a Okotoks / Calgary potable water pipeline
- Increase interim licence through additional license procurement
- Increase interim raw water capacity (to meet demand until the pipeline is operational)
- Research and implement first phases of a long-term wastewater treatment solution (pipeline, upgrade, or regional)
- Research sanitary collection upgrade strategy and implement first phases of improvements
- Define water pressure zones and reservoir placement strategy for annexed lands.

LINKS TO FUTURE ACTIONS

- Wastewater treatment infrastructure improvements
- Wastewater collection infrastructure improvements
- Water distribution system infrastructure improvements

MEASURES OF PROGRESS

- Sufficient peak water treatment, wastewater collection system to meet growth demands
- Complete long term infrastructure strategies for distribution, collection, and treatment.

A Final Word

Thanks for taking the time to read the Community Sustainability Plan. Now let's get to work.

Making our community more sustainable and resilient over time is no small task. As Okotoks grows, it is essential that we keep an eye towards our vision while making sure that we are taking actions today that will get us there. By consistently taking short-term actions and monitoring progress towards our vision, we are able to learn and adapt as the world around us changes.

We have set a vision for our community. It is time to get to work to realize this bright future, together.







Plan Appendices

APPENDIX A

Community Sustainability Plan Action Tool

APPENDIX B


Community Sustainability Plan Action Ideas 2015


Community Sustainability Plan


Action Tool


This tool is intended to provide Town staff with a consistent method of planning and evaluating actions related to our critical steps. In both the planning and evaluation of actions, please use this form in order to keep track of our progress.


PLEASE IDENTIFY THE CRITICAL STEP ON WHICH ACTION IS BEING TAKEN:


 Animate Downtown

 Pilot Transit

 Focus on the Municipal Development Plan

 Expand Environmental Initiatives

 Support Community Connections

 Expand Water & Wastewater Systems

DESCRIBE THE ACTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES CONTRIBUTING TO THIS CRITICAL STEP:

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY

MEASURES OF SUCCESS FOR THIS ACTION	IMPACTS ON FUTURE ACTIONS
<div>ACTION-RELATED MEASURES (ie. # events held, # new policies, etc)</div> <div>RESULTS-RELATED MEASURES (ie. \$ saved, waste diverted from landfill, etc)</div>	<div>What results and lessons learned do we need to consider as we conduct a 3-year review of our Critical Steps in the Community Sustainability Plan?</div>

Community Sustainability Plan

Action Ideas

These actions were identified during the action planning phase of the CSP process. These ideas formed the starting point to identify the first actions we will take. As we review our critical steps in 2019, we will use this list as a starting point for considering our next steps.

Assets

Livable Okotoks

- Sense of community
- Good, friendly residents
- neighbour connection program
 - safe community
- Outdoors spaces
 - great and sustainable parks
 - paths
 - outdoor rec facilities (i.e. arenas)
 - river valley
 - greenspace
- Schools
- Rec Centre, stadium and arena
- Close regional amenities
 - mountains and K country
- Cultural Draws
 - Okotoks Library
 - museum, gallery, theatre

Local Economy

- Sporting events
 - Oilers and Bisons
- Special events and festivals
- Chamber of commerce
 - awards
- Downtown
- Costco
- Small businesses
 - online group
 - visible and accessible
 - Easy to have home based business
- Growing entrepreneurs
- Money education
 - Money matters
 - Lemonade day program

Vibrant Civic Culture & Heritage

- Clubs
 - churches
 - legion, elks, rotary
- Events and Festivals
 - Downtown events
 - childrens festival
 - busker's festival
 - taste of okotoks
 - chilifest
 - light up okotoks
 - parades
 - show and shine
 - farmers market
- Art and Music
- Dance schools/programs
 - Foothills philharmonic chorus
 - performing arts centre
 - dewdney chorus
 - public piano
 - big rock singers
 - OAG
 - Museum
 - Public Art
 - Historical Society
 - Arts Council
- RPAC and programming

Active Lifestyle

- Pathways
- Outdoor infrastructure
 - Skatepark
 - parks
 - splash park
 - BMX track
 - school grounds
 - Outdoor gym
 - river valley
 - Basketball court
 - Community Garden
 - Tennis courts
 - Dog Park

- Indoor infrastructure
 - Recreation Centre
 - arena
 - field house
 - Seaman Stadium
- Clubs/Groups
 - Swim club
 - baseball club
- Helping organizations (ex. Jumpstart)
- Events
- Health Clinic

Sustainable Design

- River and river valley
 - River valley committee
 - Management plan
 - Riparian research
- Walkability
- Pathway
- active transportation options
- Solar energy
 - Drake landing
- Recycling
- Water conservation
- Xeriscaping
- LEED and green energy public buildings
- Bus between Okotoks and Calgary

Inclusive Neighbourhoods

- Parks and Community areas
 - community garden
 - green space/parks
 - playgrounds
 - dog park
- Pathway system
- Infrastructure/Buildings
 - sports
 - arts and culture
 - library
- Town events
- Neighbourhood associations and connector groups
- Safe streets with slow traffic
- Permits and promotions for block parties
- Street festivals

Actions

Livable Okotoks

- Community focus
 - block parties, garages as new front porches, “a child is brought up by a village” mentality,
 - “small town feel”
 - Placemaking to promote gathering spaces
 - Have natural play areas more accessible and social
 - Neighbourhood ambassador program
 - Promote local identity of being caring and connected
 - Focus internal development and downtown to avoid getting “hollowed out”
 - Walkability to amenities in each neighbourhood
- Increase parks
 - Parks for all ages (totlots)
 - green space in all neighbourhoods
 - Keep “natural feel” in the city
 - Good urban design in new neighbourhoods
- Multiuse of spaces for meetings education during day and night
- Keep vehicle traffic at a reasonable speed in residential areas
 - traffic calming measures, stronger enforcement, lower speed limit
- More affordable housing
 - Affordable rent
 - diversity of housing to accomplish this
 - secondary suites and carriage housing
- Senior Inclusion
 - accessible housing and infrastructure
 - Senior friendly signage
- Downtown better access via vehicle (parking lot)
- Large gathering centre in downtown
 - plaza with restaurants
- Public Transit system
 - connect into Calgary
- Expand Health clinic
- Complete pathway network throughout town
 - cross river on west end
 - dedicated bike paths
 - connects to park and green spaces
 - out to legacy field house
- Promote alternative energy
 - electric car charging stations, solar panels and alt. energy, rebates for users
 - LED street lights
 - Recycling and compost programs, even for apartments Investment in arts and culture
 - youth and young adult art programs and education
 - performing arts centre
 - balance it with sports and recreation development
- More schools

Vibrant Civic Culture & Heritage

- Live music events
 - outdoor concerts (seaman stadium)
 - open mic nights
 - restaurants hosting live music
 - night time street festival and music festival
 - informal things like piano setup
 - Partner with school and community music programs
- Downtown Life
 - bring farmers market there
 - sidewalk storefronts for businesses
 - patios and pop up patios
 - pop up markets
 - warm tents supplied by town
 - build plaza
 - host learning programs like painting or gardening
 - events that close down the street to vehicles
- Maximize underutilized buildings
- Make use of library resources and rooms easier and more affordable
- Resource showing rentable rooms
- Clubs and volunteer organizations
 - legion, elks, rotary, united way
- New Performing arts building
 - could allow schools to showcase talent and events
 - a simpler outdoor venue could be built complimentary with it
 - Could be part of a general Cultural Campus building
 - combine with some postsecondary development
- Public art program
 - can even include graffiti and mural art
 - teen focus, demographic currently overlooked
 - more public art

Active Lifestyle

- More Play areas
 - open green space
 - playgrounds
 - pocket park “tot lots”
 - Areas for teens, like basketball courts
 - soccer fields
 - Sports courts/arenas
- outdoor sports courts (and indoor for ones that are currently outdoor)
- Outdoor rink with synthetic ice
- Active transportation improvements
 - better sidewalks and street standards
 - bike lanes/paths
 - key routes with priority snow clearance and upkeep
 - Complete pathway connection, along with west bridge
 - lights along pathways*
 - maps and signage along the pathway*Program implementation
 - increase both range and type
 - local “participation” plan or kidSport and Jumpstart
- Off leash dog park
 - On the south end of town
- Informal/less competitive sports and activities
- New Rec Facility
 - Aquatic Centre, with leisure aspects instead of competitive like wave pool and splash park
 - Outdoor pool
 - Another indoor pool, preferably with 50m lane and for lessons
 - General pool requestArena
 - One that has no hockey allowed
- Public Transit
 - Can be used for bussing kids to school
- Waterfront activity promotion and creation

Local Economy

- Help businesses grow (especially small ones)
 - BRZs, business incubators, ease of startup etc.
 - Work with both businesses and events to help crosspromotion
 - complimentary business ad placement
- Public space development
 - Public art, sidewalk sales, theatre programming, etc.
- Attract businesses (and professional jobs) to open locations in Okotoks
 - Through tax incentives, business park development etc.
 - Draw in young professionals
 - diversify Develop DT
 - new plazas, infrastructure, mixeduse, pedestrian focus
 - Retail and restaurant on main floor, offices above
 - Make a boutiqueshopping destination for locals and tourists
 - Architecture standards
 - venues and events
 - Promote local businesses in welcome wagon gift
 - Enhance and promote DT
- Add parking structures
- More and better sports facilities
 - New pool, hockey arenas
- Get postsecondary education institution/campus
- High speed supernet / fibre optics
- Focus on youth and draw/keep them
 - through university, professional careers, recreation centres for training
- Health campus development and expansion
- combined service (i.e. dentist, xray, etc.) buildings
- Public Transit
- More housing variety/affordability

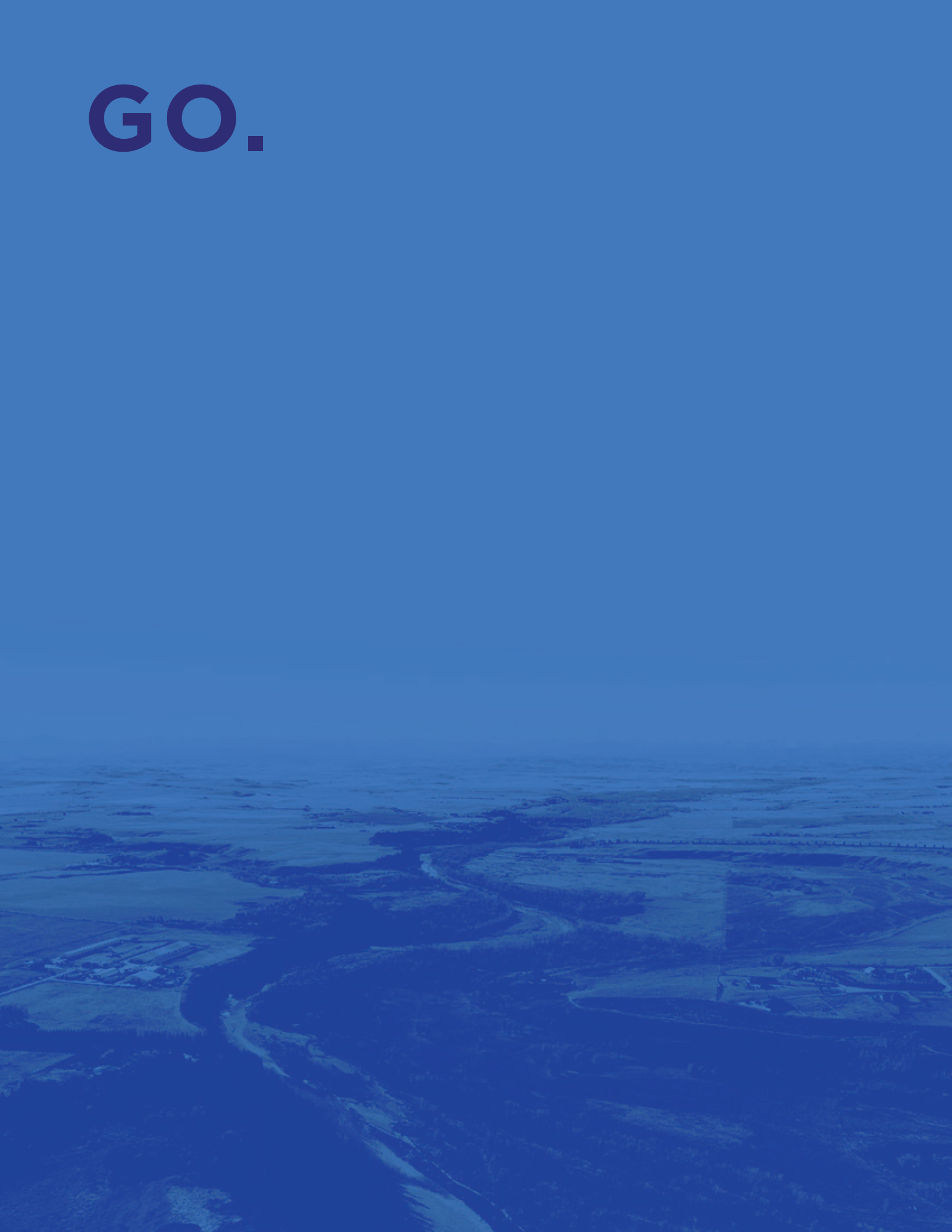
Inclusive Neighbourhoods

- Architecture standards
 - especially downtown
- Neighbourhood connector/welcoming initiatives
 - block parties
 - City run events or attractions
 - community hub/centre and/or association
 - with benches and firepit or BBQ
 - community based projects
- Placemaking
 - parklets
 - community parks
 - For all ages, not just young kids
 - community garden
 - natural space parks
 - off leash dog park
- small local business promotion and support
- Housing typology
 - More variety of housing types
 - within one community
 - Different looks and feels between houses/neighbourhoods
 - More affordable housing
 - rental friendly bylaws (i.e. secondary suites)
 - More inclusive neighbourhoods
 - seniors housing
 - lose association of starter house or affordable is not same as bad
 - Complete communities
 - mixeduse buildings
 - walkable neighbourhoods
 - sidewalks on both sides of the street
- with pathways
 - walkable distance daycare
 - Community hub and meeting area (i.e. coffee shop, arts centre, etc.)
- Public transit

Sustainable Design

- Natural play areas
 - programs to promote this
 - Community and urban gardens
 - Promote Solar energy, or other alt. energy, and provide rebates
 - Solar pathways
 - bulk purchase to save money
 - Trying to be leaders in the industry
 - Use for new pool
 - Transit
 - locally
 - regionally
 - Connect regionally via train
 - find suitable park and ride site
 - should replace current art gallery and be a gallery station combo
 - Better waste management
 - Recycling programs
 - Compost collection
 - Have in public places like along the pathways
 - Planned new building
 - Keep some natural aspects when developing
 - bylaws to enforce greener buildings
 - more tree planting (in quantity, places, and types)
 - Enforcement against water wasting
 - Encourage use of house's potable water and rain water for watering outdoor plants
 - More efficient street lights
-

GO.





Town of Okotoks

Community Sustainability Plan 2016 - 2019