



Planning and Building Services Department Memorandum

TO: Comprehensive Plan Update Citizen Advisory Committee

FROM: Sarah Selden, Associate Planner

DATE: September 16, 2010

SUBJECT: Sustainability Framework for Comprehensive Plan Update

The purpose of this memo is to introduce the draft Sustainability Framework (attached) in preparation for the September 22 CAC meeting, which will include a presentation about The Natural Step and discussion of the Framework.

One of the key objectives for the Comprehensive Plan update is to thoughtfully consider how the community can meet its present needs in a way that does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The Sustainability Framework is intended to provide guidance to community members, staff and City decision-makers on what that means and how to evaluate whether planning proposals move the community in a sustainable direction.

Sustaining society (people), the environment (places), and economy (prosperity) is fundamentally what planning is all about. Community planning helps define how, where, and when physical, social, and economic development occurs, which directly affects how resources are used. As we plan for the future of Lake Oswego, community decisions play a crucial role in shaping the City's development patterns to sustain the long-term well being of this community.

Framework Document Overview

The attached Sustainability Framework is intended to provide an understandable sustainability decision-making process for use during our comprehensive planning process and beyond. The first page gives a brief explanation of what sustainability means and introduces the triple-bottom-line (people, places, prosperity) as **what** we need to sustain for the future. The Natural Step-based Sustainability Principles and Strategic Questions ask **how** to sustain these things. At the September 22 meeting, Duke Castle with The Natural Step (TNS) will present an overview of TNS to help CAC members gain a stronger understanding of the Sustainability Principles. A Sustainability Primer is also included in the agenda packet and provides a great explanation of what sustainability means and why it's so important.

Pages two and three outline in greater detail how sustainability will be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan update. The Strategic Questions listed on page one are presented in greater detail on page two, including some examples to help people understand what each question or Sustainability Principle means. At each phase of the Plan update process shown on the right side of the framework, proposals (alternative scenarios, strategies, goals, policies, etc.) would be filtered through the four Strategic Questions at the left to help community members, staff and City decision-makers in their evaluation.

The Sustainability Advisory Board will be discussing the draft framework on Monday, September 21, and staff will bring their feedback to the CAC meeting for consideration. Staff and the Sustainability Advisory Board are also working to use the decision-making filter as the basis for a decision-making tool that all City departments can use to evaluate projects and programs.