

City of Saskatoon - Environmental Initiatives

Plans

- [Strategic Plan](#)
 - The City of Saskatoon's Strategic Plan 2013-2023 reflects the community's desire for a sustainable city. The Environmental Leadership strategic goal outlines success drivers such as energy efficiency; renewable energy sources; waste elimination and diversion; and responsible land use. Also highlighted is the need to focus on reducing water consumption; the health of the urban forest; improving access to ecological systems and spaces (natural and naturalized); increasing community and backyard gardens; increasing recycling and composting opportunities; and reducing Saskatoon's ecological footprint.
- [Growth Plan to Half a Million](#)
 - The Growth Plan focuses on increasing infill across the community, as well as development in strategic growth areas such as River Landing, the North Downtown, the University of Saskatchewan land holders, and along corridors that would support transit-oriented development. The Plan also identified a strategy for introducing Bus Rapid Transit to Saskatoon within five years, along with other transit and transportation network improvements to double the proportion of trips taken by means other than the private vehicle.
- [Regional Plan for Growth](#)
 - The City of Saskatoon is collaborating with its regional neighbours in the development of a land use map that can achieve the growth and development goals of all communities involved. The plan also establishes greater certainty and protection for important environmental and cultural heritage assets in the region that are important to consider from a sustainability and climate adaptation perspective.
- [Our Environment](#)
 - Saskatoon's Our Environment reporting program measures our community's environmental performance related to land, air, water and waste. The report and online dashboard highlight the impacts of the City of Saskatoon's operations and the community as a whole. The first edition of the report was published in 2014, while updates are reported online annually.
- [Ecological Footprint Report](#)
 - Starting in 2014, the City committed to reporting its ecological footprint every five years in order to track and measure progress towards sustainability and quality of life. It is used to measure the environmental impact of Saskatoon's consumption of food, transportation, housing, goods and services, and government services.
- [Active Transportation Plan](#)
 - The Active Transportation Plan will help provide more choices for moving around Saskatoon by addressing our community and infrastructure needs for cycling, walking and other modes of active transportation. The City is currently developing a five-year action plan (2017-21) to guide implementation.
- [Employment Areas Study](#)
 - The relationship between where people live and work can have significant impacts on land use and transportation patterns, including the number of automobile, pedestrian, cycling, and transit trips. This study includes a number of policy recommendations

centered on achieving employment areas that are well-designed, located closer to where people live, accessible by all transportation modes, and maintain a strong City Centre.

- [Local Area Plans](#)
 - Local Area Planning is a public, participation-based approach to developing comprehensive neighbourhood plans that enable residents, business owners, property owners, community groups, and other stakeholders to provide direct input into determining the future of their community. These plans set out objectives and policies, many of which are focused on environmental and social well-being, to guide the growth and development of Saskatoon's neighbourhoods.
- [Waste Diversion Opportunities Report](#)
 - In 2016, the City of Saskatoon completed its first-ever year-round, comprehensive, community-wide waste characterization study. The findings are included in Saskatoon's Waste Diversion Opportunities Report, the results of which will be used to formulate a Waste Diversion Plan, which will outline the City's strategy to divert 70% of waste from the landfill by 2023.
- [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#)
 - This project is the first step toward ensuring a sustainable and biodiverse city through consideration of natural and supportive areas as both important infrastructure and as part of valuable ecological systems. Mapping tools will be used to develop a classification system for natural areas and to create an asset management framework to quantify the value of the city's green infrastructure.

Policies

- [Official Community Plan](#) (Bylaw 8769)
 - The City of Saskatoon's Official Community Plan (OCP) is currently undergoing review. The revised OCP will include a greater focus on sustainability and establish the City of Saskatoon's role in, for example, supporting a local, sustainable food system; green buildings and energy sources; and natural areas and biodiversity.
- [Environmental Policy](#) (C02-036)
 - This policy states the intentions and objectives of the City of Saskatoon with regards to environmental performances and sustainability.
- [Corporate Purchasing Policy](#) (A02-027)
 - This policy includes an environmental purchasing section, which states that purchasing should consider environmentally preferred products and services.
- Sustainable Procurement
 - The City of Saskatoon is developing new procurement policies, procedures and tools that will include a full range of sustainable purchasing activities and reflect best practices in Canada. Beginning with a new Supplier Code of Conduct and Supplier Leadership Questionnaire, the new policy will apply broadly across the corporation using tools such as Total Cost of Ownership and eco-labelled product specifications.
- Civic Vehicles (A07-020)
 - This policy includes a section that restricts civic vehicle and equipment idling after more than three consecutive minutes, between -5 and 27 degrees Celsius (°C).
- [Wetland Policy](#) (C09-041)
 - This policy provides guidance to landowners, developers and municipal staff on achieving responsible integration of wetlands into the urban environment.
- [Source Control Programs for the Sanitary Sewer](#)

- In 2017, the City updated the sanitary sewer use bylaw to better align with Canada's Municipal Wastewater Effluent Strategy. Businesses with the potential to release waste water containing substances of concern are required to participate in a source control program and work with the City to address the risk posed by their discharge.
- [Storm Water Utility](#)
 - Saskatoon's storm water utility has implemented an incentive to reduce runoff from commercial and industrial properties.

Programs and Projects

- [Environmental Cash Grant](#)
 - The City of Saskatoon annually allocates \$20,000 to local non-profit organizations to implement initiatives that relate to the protection of the environment; conservation of natural resources; protection of our water resources; and/or environmental communications, education or research.
- [Student Action for a Sustainable Future](#)
 - The program engages teachers and students in learning, action, and inquiry in areas of energy, waste, water, food, biodiversity, and transportation. Projects lead to measurable greenhouse gas reductions, as well as other sustainability benefits in students' classrooms, schools, households, and the community.
- [Meewasin Valley Authority](#)
 - The City, in conjunction with the University of Saskatchewan and the Province of Saskatchewan, fund the Meewasin Valley Authority (MVA). This Conservation Agency is governed by the Meewasin Valley Authority Act and is responsible for the stewardship of the River Valley and other significant natural areas in the Saskatoon Region. They provide official Development Review under the MVA Act, as well as provide conservation management, recreation, and educational services within their jurisdiction.
- [South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards](#)
 - The City participates in regional water and watershed management in partnership with the South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards.
- [Master Naturalist Program](#)
 - The City is working with a number of partners, including the South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards and the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan, to offer a Saskatoon Master Naturalists program to interested residents.
- [Yellow Fish Road](#)
 - Meewasin, Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin, Trout Unlimited Canada, and the City of Saskatoon are helping improve water quality in the South Saskatchewan River by participating in the Yellow Fish Road program. The program engages residents and youth in activities such as painting storm sewers with yellow fish and educating people about the impacts of storm water pollution on our freshwater sources.
- [Low Impact Development Guidelines](#)
 - The storm water utility has developed low impact development guidelines to encourage on-site management of storm water. This helps reduce pollutants from entering our waterways and prevent flooding.
- [Healthy Yards](#)
 - The Healthy Yards partnership offers information and hands-on education on sustainable gardening practices for the prairies. It focuses on water conservation, home composting, pesticide reduction, biodiversity, local food, and storm water management.

- [Community, Allotment and Vacant Lot Gardens](#)
 - Community volunteers may form non-profit collectives in order to garden on City-owned property, such as parks.
 - Allotment Gardens are garden plots operated by the City of Saskatoon and rented out to individuals to support food security.
 - Non-profit community organizations with a significant mandate in food security can apply to use vacant City-owned property for growing food.
- [Boulevard Gardening](#)
 - Saskatoon's Boulevard Maintenance and Gardening Guidelines were completed in 2015 to allow and encourage residents to garden on the boulevards adjacent to their homes.
- [Lead Service Line replacements](#)
 - The most effective way to reduce lead levels in drinking water is to remove all lead sources from the plumbing system. Therefore, the City has developed a cost-sharing program to replace residential lead service lines and education materials to advise residents to replace old plumbing fixtures that may contain lead.
- [Soils Handling Strategy](#)
 - Saskatoon's Soil Handling Strategy focuses on the management of contaminated and clean soils from City construction projects. Results include education and training advisory services and tools to plan for and manage contaminated soils throughout the course of a construction project.
- Corporate Spill Response
 - The goal of this project is to develop a corporate-wide approach to spills that may impact sensitive environments. The City already has robust protocols for spills that are directly related to public safety; however, there is less capacity to respond to spills that may have only environmental impacts.
- [Western Yellowhead Air Management Zone](#)
 - The City participates in regional air quality management in partnership with the Western Yellowhead Air Management Zone.
- Solar Power
 - The [Saskatoon Solar Power Demonstration Site](#) is a collaboration between Saskatoon Light & Power, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society Solar Co-operative, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic. The Site is located at the Landfill Gas Power Generation Facility at the landfill.
 - A [Facilitating Solar Energy Opportunities in Saskatoon](#) report was prepared for City Council in 2017, which included input from stakeholders from the renewable energy generation sector, in particular, the solar industry.
- Energy Performance Contracting
 - The City of Saskatoon is making green improvements in approx. 20 civic facilities. Energy Performance Contracting is a unique form of procurement, whereby an Energy Services Company performs energy and water audits, retrofits civic buildings, and guarantees savings. The loan for the capital costs is repaid from avoided utility expenditures, which are measured, verified and guaranteed.
- [Landfill Gas Collection & Power Generation System](#)
 - The system, which began operation in 2014, is operated by the City of Saskatoon. By collecting methane gas from the landfill, the City has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by over 45,000 tonnes per year, produced enough energy to power 1,300 homes each year, and improved air quality and reduced odours at the landfill. The system currently

generates approx. \$1.3 million in annual revenue. Expansion opportunities are currently being explored.

- Combined Heat and Power
 - The City of Saskatoon installed natural gas Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units at two swimming pools in 2014 to provide supplemental heating of pool water, space heating, and domestic hot water. A 265 kWe (400 kW thermal) natural gas burning unit was installed at the Shaw Centre and a 155 kWe (220 kW thermal) natural gas burning unit was installed at Lakewood Civic Centre. The electrical generation reduces the electricity purchased by the City from SaskPower and the waste heat from the reciprocating engines is delivered to the facilities heating loops. Electricity generation, heat generation, and natural gas consumption are all monitored and reported. Lessons learned from the demonstration projects have been shared with a Saskatchewan CHP working group, the Building Saskatchewan Green Conference, and multiple industry representatives and building owners. Site tours and more information on the project are provided upon request as part of this technology demonstration project. The City has also operated two CHP units at its Landfill Gas Collection & Power Generation facility since 2014.
- [Advanced Metering Infrastructure](#)
 - Smart meters are electronic meters that measure and record actual power and water usage by time intervals throughout the day. That data will be used to quickly and easily communicate with customers about their energy and water use, encourage conservation, and detect leaks and other high-usage variances. Most of the meters have now been installed and options to deliver an online customer platform are being explored.
- Saskatoon Light & Power Educational Programming
 - The In-Home Display Program allows customers to borrow an electricity monitor for a one-month period to learn when and how much electricity they use. They also offer 20-30 [school tours](#) annually that align with the SK science curriculum. Students learn how our electricity system can be safe, smart, and sustainable.
- [Recovery Park](#)
 - Plans are in place to construct a new waste diversion centre to divert waste from the landfill, including construction and demolition waste, recyclables, organics, hazardous materials, and reusable items. By recovering these materials, it promotes reuse and recycling, as well as reduces the pressure on landfill airspace.
- [Curbside Recycling](#) and [Multi-Unit Recycling](#)
 - Loraas Recycle delivers Saskatoon's curbside recycling program for single-family homes, while Cosmopolitan Industries provides recycling services for multi-unit condominium and apartment complexes.
- [Recycling Depots](#)
 - Four Recycling Depots are available for residents to use for free. The same clean, unsorted materials are accepted at the depots as through the residential recycling programs.
- Newcomer Recycling & Composting Workshops
 - The City of Saskatoon works with the Open Door Society to facilitate recycling and composting workshops for new Canadians.
- Public Space Recycling
 - Recycling options for paper and beverage containers are available in Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), Parks, and at the River Landing site.
- [Compost Depots](#)

- Between April and November, the City of Saskatoon operates two compost depots that accept residential leaves, grass and yard waste for free, as well as commercial material (for a fee). Residents may also access free compost from the west depot through the new dig-your-own pilot program.
- [Green Cart](#)
 - The Green Cart program is an optional, subscription-based curbside collection service for residential food and yard waste.
- [Household Hazardous Waste Days](#)
 - The City coordinates regular household hazardous waste days for residents to drop off their household hazardous waste materials, for free, to be recycled or safely disposed of.
- [Home Composting](#)
 - The City of Saskatoon works with the Saskatoon Compost Coaches to deliver free education, services, and incentives to encourage residents to compost at home.
- [Curbside Swap](#)
 - During Curbside Swap days, residents may place unwanted items in good condition on their property and mark them as FREE for anyone to pick-up. At the end of the day, they return unclaimed items to their home along with some newfound treasures they've collected from around the city and neighbourhood.
- Mandatory Paper and Cardboard Recycling
 - The City is currently exploring options for mandatory paper and cardboard recycling for the Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional sector.
- Civic Recycling
 - Recycling is now available in all civic facilities for employees. Ongoing education and receptacle improvements are underway. An office organics/composting pilot is currently taking place in one City facility.
- Rolling Education Unit
 - The Rolling Education Unit engages residents of all ages using fun and interactive waste activities. It is free and bookable for festivals, events, and community groups. It builds awareness, generates enthusiasm, and ensures that residents receive the information they need to effectively manage their household waste.