

enVision Montpelier: Glossary of Terms

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Sustainable Development: development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Human Needs: the needs we have for care, personal empowerment, economic security, material goods and services, and environmental life support like water, air, climate, food, and energy. Over time, we have established a wide variety of economic and social systems to meet these needs, and unfortunately many of these systems are beginning to challenge the underlying ecological systems that support life.

enVision Montpelier: A planning project that is designed to engage the entire community in a thorough consideration of the long-term sustainability of the city. The results of the project will include a shared community vision, as well as more specific goals, targets, strategies, indicators, and an action plan for implementation.

Vision: A statement that captures the aspirations and values the community shares for the lives of our grandchildren and future generations. It is meant to be relatively short and inspirational, to articulate a state of being rather than a laundry list of programs and strategies.

Goals: These are statements of what the city will be like if our human needs are satisfied over the long term: 30-100 years from now. Examples of goals from other cities are:

Calgary Built Environment and Infrastructure Systems

Communications

Calgarians are connected to each other and the rest of the world. Our communication systems are secure and support engagement, information dissemination, social relationships and economic activity.

Energy

Calgarians are self-sufficient producers and efficient consumers of renewable energy. Non-renewable energy is used and managed responsibly to the benefit of all generations.

Targets: These are specific, measurable objectives that we set as benchmarks toward the goals. Ideally they have quantities and dates that can be monitored to determine the overall progress we are making. Examples of targets are:

Natural Environment: Food

Goal: By 2040, the city will have a strong base of diverse farming operations, and farmer income will be competitive with professional salaries.

Target: By 2015, increase average farm income to farmers in the city by 15%.

Strategies: These are the coordinated actions we take to achieve the goals and targets. They include city government policies and programs, but also need to include actions that individuals, organizations and businesses will take to address the needs that they have. The City Master

Plan will be updated as part of the enVision Montpelier process, but stakeholders and other important institutions in the city will also come out of it with action steps they need to take to achieve the vision and goals.

Indicators: Indicators are bits of information that we select to monitor our progress toward the targets and goals. There are typically three types of indicators: Pressure, State, and Response. Pressure indicators measure the forces at work to create the situation. In the food example, a pressure indicator might be the number of farms bought by large companies. State indicators measure the current conditions – average farm income would fit this description, and Response indicators measure the things we're doing to change the condition, like the number of grants given to farmers to convert to organic agriculture.

Action Plan: An action plan is a set of concrete steps that people, organizations, and businesses can take to make progress toward the goals. It typically includes specific tasks, responsible parties, budgetary considerations, and a timeline for completion.

Stakeholders: Stakeholders are the people, organizations, businesses, and government officials who have an interest in the outcome of the plan. It is important that the stakeholder group be broadly representative of the city, to insure that the vision, goals, targets, and strategies reflect our common values.

Stakeholder Group: The Stakeholder Group is the large group of stakeholders who have agreed to serve for the duration of the enVision Montpelier project, which is estimated to take somewhere between 18-24 months to complete. They are responsible for drafting and adopting the vision, goals, targets, strategies, and action plan, with support from the Planning Department staff and consultants.

Committees: These are subcommittees of the stakeholder group, and are each working to set the goals, targets, strategies and action plans for a particular community system that is responsible for satisfying human needs. These are [from committee list]

Learning Objectives: The first task for all the committees was to establish what they need to learn as a team to be able to complete their assignment. This involves doing an inventory of all the community assets, interviewing people who are experts in the particular areas we are considering, and reading research that has been done in the past.

Assets: These are the goods, services, programs, policies, and institutions that meet our needs. Our need for conflict resolution might be met by programs established by the Community Justice Center that allow disputes to be mediated out of court, for example. Our need for food is met by local farmers, food products industries, and distribution centers like supermarkets.