

Task Force News

This is the fifth and final update from the Task Force on Community Sustainability. For more information on the Task Force, please visit our web site at: www.CommunitySustainability.ca



The ELEVATE Vision

Edmonton is a city in which engaged and informed citizens work together to create strong and sustainable neighbourhoods and communities. Our community will embrace diversity, will provide a physical and social environment where we can live, learn, work, and play, and will meet the needs of current and future Edmontonians through their entire lifetime.

Message from the Chair & Vice-Chair



It has been a few months since the last newsletter as the Task Force had its nose to the grindstone. We spent the fall and early winter discussing, deliberating and developing our recommendations. It was a challenging task. We learned that mature communities and issues of changing family composition, vibrancy, sustainability and resiliency are highly complex. But the process affirmed for us that current strategies and efforts are not enough – new solutions, solutions different from those of the past, are needed. These new solutions, as we see it, will call for every partner – individuals, schools, communities, the Province and the City – to look beyond their traditional concerns, mandates and ‘silos’, and to commit time, energy and resources to implement the recommendations.

We would like to thank and commend the commitment, support and wisdom of all of the Task Force members, the City of Edmonton’s administrative staff, schools boards, Alberta Education, the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and the many other voices – groups and individuals – who contributed their thoughtful questions, ideas and recommendations to the Task Force.

We feel ELEVATE envisions a better and more vibrant Edmonton as our neighbourhoods mature and our city continues to grow, and we can’t wait to watch that journey unfold!



Michael Phair
Chair



Teresa Spinelli
Vice Chair

Task Force report and recommendations released



After months of input from stakeholders and Edmontonians, exploring related research and work on community sustainability, and much discussion about the best ways to achieve sustainability in the city’s mature neighbourhoods, Mayor Stephen Mandel and the Community Sustainability Task Force released its report and recommendations to the public at City Hall on February 2, 2012. ELEVATE details the Task Force’s findings and lays out nine recommendations, with a number of action plans aimed at carrying out those recommendations. ELEVATE’s vision will guide how the report and recommendations are enacted and it is hoped the report will support a community resolve to “elevate” all Edmontonians.

The ELEVATE recommendations



The ELEVATE recommendations identify gaps, point out opportunities, and articulate action plans. The core focus is to create solutions for Edmonton's mature neighbourhoods already in distress or that are at risk of distress, and to break down boundaries, share resources, and build effective community partnerships.

- RECOMMENDATION 1** ► Bring together the four jurisdictions (federal, provincial, municipal, school boards) to create innovative partnerships and re-configured policy and funding models designed to assemble a new urban agenda.
- RECOMMENDATION 2** ► Create a new channel for collaborative community sustainability work in Edmonton. This new channel—which may or may not be a new body, depending on the resources brought to bear—will act as the focal point for the city's community sustainability network.
- RECOMMENDATION 3** ► Create a template for the development of an asset-based development plan for every mature neighbourhood (which will change over time), to understand strengths and areas of need, to engage the community directly, and to ensure that community goals and input are prioritized, particularly when development is being pursued and/or advocated.
- RECOMMENDATION 4** ► Ensure that initiatives for community sustainability are based on good information. The new channel—the Edmonton Community Sustainability Partnership (ECSP)—will oversee the effective distribution of this information.
- RECOMMENDATION 5** ► Develop a collaborative regulatory environment that strengthens and supports communities.
- RECOMMENDATION 6** ► Create and support business diversity within communities, and develop stronger partnerships with and between the community, Business Revitalization Zones, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Department of Sustainable Development.
- RECOMMENDATION 7** ► Foster healthy communities through offering a diversity of housing, and through encouraging and educating around issues of diversity and densification.
- RECOMMENDATION 8** ► Recognize that education is the foundation of a successful future for both communities and individuals, and that life-long learning is a foundation for community sustainability. Ensure that all community-driven plans include the delivery of life-long learning opportunities for all.
- RECOMMENDATION 9** ► Encourage the Province of Alberta to provide innovative and sustainable infrastructure funding to guarantee that existing and new schools are modern, multi-functional and able to accommodate a diversity of programs.

Next Steps

Though the work of the Task Force is complete, the implementation of its recommendations is only just beginning and the process will require leadership from all sectors – the City, school boards and Alberta Education. Please visit our web site at www.communitysustainability.ca regularly for updates.