

New: ELEVATE

Initiative Title:	ELEVATE – Community Sustainability
City Council Sponsor(s):	Councillor B. Esslinger/ Councillor M. Walters
Supporting Department and Lead Staff:	Community Services, Heather McRae / Stephane Labonne

BACKGROUND:

- Achieving sustainability in Edmonton's neighbourhoods is a complex challenge that requires new solutions and strategies.
- In February, 2012, the Mayor's Task Force on Community Sustainability released the ELEVATE report which recommends ways to enhance and support the viability of new and mature neighbourhoods.
- Nine specific recommendations and action items were brought forward to create solutions for Edmonton's mature neighbourhoods already in distress or that are at risk of distress, encourages the dissolution of jurisdictional boundaries, sharing resources, and building effective community partnerships.
- The ELEVATE report identifies that current strategies and efforts to address demographic change, population shifts, density, number of schools and the continuous outward growth of the city are not sufficient to create sustainable neighbourhoods now and in the future.
- In the spring of 2012, the City of Edmonton and all three School Boards (Public, Catholic and Francophone) endorsed the ELEVATE report in principle and began a process to work together towards identifying common goals to achieve community sustainability.
- On October 16, 2013, the ELEVATE Interim Steering Committee approved the Edmonton Community Sustainability Coalition (ECSC) Framework (Attachment 1). The Framework establishes the ECSC as a formal body including representatives from Government of Canada, Government of Alberta, City of Edmonton, and Edmonton School Boards assigned to lead and articulate initiatives of multi-jurisdictional community sustainability work in future.
- The primary goals of the ECSC are as follows:
 - 1) Identify joint priorities of ECSC
 - 2) Prioritizing potential joint Projects
 - 3) Focusing on shared outcomes.
- ECSC held it's first strategic planning session in January, 2014 aimed at determining specific opportunities for the City of Edmonton, Government of Alberta and School Boards to work together to advance shared goals.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

Under the leadership and direction of the City Council sponsors, ECSC will:

- Work to build a communications strategy to tell the ELEVATE story.

- Work to expand the base of participants to include community leaders, developers, homebuilders, planners and other creative Edmontonians to identify joint community sustainability priorities and opportunities.
- Develop a joint strategy action plan with a focus on prioritized community needs.
- Ensure that ELEVATE is linked and integrated into other City of Edmonton corporate initiatives and projects including but not limited to Evolving Infill, Cornerstones, Cornerstore, and other relevant community economic development and community building initiatives.
- Define desired relationships between ECSC partners and develop action plans to achieve those relationships.
- Provide leadership in organizing events and pilot projects that serve to connect Citizens, planners, developers and builders to new partners and the City, to realize ideas and remove barriers to dreams that achieve the goals of ELEVATE which envisions Edmonton as:

...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.

TIMELINE:

- ELEVATE is an ongoing process that will require the relationship between ECSC members to flourish. All actionable items identified within the ELEVATE Initiative will require ECSC to be the community sustainability leadership body that will advance the coordinated and collaborative efforts of jurisdictions working towards community building outcomes.
- ECSC milestones and updates will be presented to participating jurisdiction authorities.
- ECSC will identify specific joint ELEVATE goals and performance measures by May of 2014.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC DIRECTION:

- The ELEVATE initiative aligns with The Way Ahead and the other directional Way plans in that it is a collaborative inter-jurisdictional approach that will assist the city to plan, promote and advocate change through coordinated and collaborative sustainable development initiatives.
- Joint ECSC priorities and undertakings will move the city towards the Edmonton envisioned and articulated recommendations by citizens within the ELEVATE report.
- Community Sustainability initiatives support the goal of improving Edmonton's liveability by aligning with the following goals and objectives of the Way We Live: Edmonton's people plan:
 - Goal 1: Edmonton is a vibrant, connected, engaged, and welcoming community
 - Goal 2: Edmonton celebrates life

- Goal 3: Edmonton is a caring, inclusive, affordable community
- Goal 4: Edmonton is a safe city
- Goal 5: Edmonton is an attractive city
- Goal 6: Edmonton is a sustainable city

START-UP BUDGET REQUIREMENTS:

- A new budget allocation is not required to develop a detailed joint project plan to identify ECSC initiatives.
- It is anticipated that capital and operating costs of any approved ECSC joint initiatives will be reviewed within the context of a cost shared model with jurisdictional participants, and/or other business partners identified within the process.
- A separate budget request may be necessary once joint ECSC initiatives are identified and supported by elected officials of each jurisdiction. This funding will be identified through a separate budget request.

TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION OF PROJECT PLAN:

- The estimated date of completion for the detailed Joint ECSC Action Plan is May, 2014.

EDMONTON COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COALITION (ECSC) FRAMEWORK

PREAMBLE

The Community Sustainability Task Force, a collaborative entity comprised of the Province of Alberta, Edmonton School Boards, business leaders, parents, individuals and community groups, set out to chart a new course for community sustainability in Edmonton. In its final report entitled “ELEVATE” the Task Force recommends courses of action for supporting and enhancing the viability of neighbourhoods that are community based, break down boundaries, share resources and build effective community partnerships.

The purpose of establishing the Edmonton Community Sustainability Coalition (ECSC) is to steward the implementation of ELEVATE by providing leadership and direction to collaborative jurisdictional activities that will accomplish long-term socially, environmentally, and economically feasible neighbourhoods by:

- Identifying joint priorities
- Prioritizing potential joint projects
- Focusing on shared outcomes

ELEVATE VISION – A Vision of Community Sustainability

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.

Identified areas of focus within which the ELEVATE vision is realized are:

Focus A – Demonstrate Leadership and Build Partnerships

Focus B – Employ Community Driven Approaches to Strengthen Neighbourhoods

Focus C – Promote Life-Long Learning

MISSION

The Edmonton Community Sustainability Coalition (ECSC) is comprised of four jurisdictions (Federal, Provincial, Municipal, and School Boards) who commit to working together in a new and modern relationship to create solutions for Edmonton’s neighbourhoods, encourage collaboration among all levels of government, create efficiencies, and build community.

PRINCIPLES

1. The work undertaken by ECSC will be guided by communication, collaboration, coordination, efficiency, and mutual respect.
2. The relationship recognizes that each jurisdiction has legislated mandates and responsibilities.
3. The relationship recognizes that decisions made by individual jurisdictions may impact others, and that collaborative discussions will create informed decisions and mitigate impacts should they arise.
4. The relationship is based on ongoing consultation and cooperation to seek solutions to broad-based issues, joint planning, and the coordination of programs and services across jurisdictional boundaries.
5. ECSC will leverage the collaborative working relationship of the City of Edmonton and Edmonton School Boards established within the Joint Use Agreement.

PROCESS

The ECSC will:

- Create a working environment that will enable and build on mutual strengths of each jurisdiction.
- Establish key goals and joint priorities for jurisdictional approval.
- Ensure that collaborative undertakings align with individual challenges, needs, and Coalition visions.
- Identify how current and future policies and programs can advance the collective objectives of achieving sustainable, vibrant neighbourhoods.
- Identify structural (social and physical) improvements for mature neighbourhoods.
- Generate, share, and mobilize new knowledge about sustainable neighbourhoods.
- Share annual work plans and coordinate initiatives where possible.
- Establish related working groups and subcommittees to achieve community sustainability goals and objectives as required.
- Make recommendations focused on ensuring livability and enhanced learning opportunities for children and their families.
- Develop effective, integrated approaches and mechanisms for engaging individuals, businesses, community organizations and stakeholders.

COMMUNICATING AND REPORTING

- City of Edmonton will lead the activities and initiatives of the ECSC.
- ECSC will create and maintain a joint communications and public engagement strategy.
- ECSC will keep Edmontonians and jurisdictions informed about ECSC priorities and ELEVATE progress by way of an annual report, including successes, challenges, learnings and recommendations.

MEMBERSHIP

ECSC will be comprised of the following appointed representatives:

- 1 Federal Government representative
- 2 Provincial Government representatives
 - *Assistant Deputy Minister, Social Policy, Executive Council*
 - *Assistant Deputy Minister, Creative and Community Development Division, Culture*
- 2 City of Edmonton representatives
 - *General Manager, Community Services*
 - *Branch Manager, Neighbourhoods, Parks and Community Recreation*
- 2 Edmonton Public School representatives
 - *Superintendent of Schools*
 - *Managing Director, Planning and Student Transportation*
- 2 Edmonton Catholic School representatives
 - *Superintendent of Schools*
 - *Assistant Superintendent, Educational Planning*
- 1 Conseil Scolaire Centre-Nord representative
 - *Superintendent of Schools*

- 2 Appointed Community Members

**** (For review and consideration of appointment after one year of ECSC operation)**