

**GOAL: ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

*Purpose: To support the sustainable vision by incorporating sustainable features into land use and transportation decisions and practices.*

**SUSTAINABILITY****Introduction**

The policies proposed in this document represent sustainability topics that have or will not be covered under other topics that the Horizon 2035 Committee considers. Other areas not found here include significant sustainability concepts such as Transit Oriented Design (TOD), mixed use, parking, transit and Priority Development Areas (PDA) such as the Lawrence Station area.

As pointed out previously, the discussion topics that staff has used to guide the committee through policy review may, in the end, not be the way that final policies are actually organized in the final LUTE document. After all policies are accepted by the committee, staff will determine the appropriate grouping of policy topics based on discussion of concepts and priorities in the committee meetings, based on the “story” that the LUTE needs to convey and on the need to insert the LUTE into the new consolidated General Plan.

**Background and Education**

Statements from the **Sunnyvale Community Vision (2007)** related to land use and transportation sustainability:

**VISION:**

**A regional leader in environmental sustainability...** advocating to reduce dependence on non-renewable resources by providing greater transportation options, reducing waste, protecting our natural resources, and promoting alternative energy usage and research. We take environmental preservation and protection seriously and consider how each action will affect Sunnyvale for future generations.

**VISION GOAL:**

**Environmental sustainability:** To promote environmental sustainability and remediation in the planning and development of the city, in the design and operation of public and private buildings, in the transportation system, in the use of potable water, and in the recycling of waste.

**Note:**

There will be a number of transportation policies that directly and indirectly affect sustainability. Those policies are still under development and will be placed in the appropriate location in the LUTE document when the committee's policy discussions are complete. There are no transportation policies included in this policy proposal.

Also, all policies regarding increasing land use densities near transit and along transportation corridors and in village centers also address sustainability. They are not repeated here for reconsideration and will be placed in the appropriate location in the LUTE document when the committee's policy discussions are completed.

Staff **highly** recommends that you review the Goals and Policies from the City's Environmental Management Element of the General Plan. There are already extensive resource protection and sustainability-related policies covered in other sub-elements and they will not be duplicated in the LUTE. Review the Environmental Management Element at the following link:

<http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/CodesandPolicies/GeneralPlan.aspx>

You may also wish to look at the draft Consolidated General Plan Environmental Management Chapter which includes additional Surface Runoff policies to comply with the current storm water discharge permit.

<http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/CodesandPolicies/GeneralPlanNEW.aspx>

The Environmental Management Element is made up of the following Sub-Elements that are related to the Horizon 2035 policies on sustainability:

- Water Resource Sub-Element (Adopted 2008)
- Solid Waste Management Sub-Element (Adopted 1996)
- Waste Water Management Sub-Element (Adopted 1996, Updated 2001)
- Surface Runoff Sub-Element (Adopted 1993)
- Air Quality Sub-Element (Adopted 1993)

The City Council adopted a Zero Waste policy in 2008. The City is now in the process of creating an implementation plan for the Zero Waste policy that will be completed in 2011. The Zero Waste policy and other more recent environmental management policies can be reviewed at the following link:

<http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/CodesandPolicies/CouncilPolicy.aspx>

**Previously, the Horizon 2035 Committee accepted the following policies and actions on Adaptability.**

- POLICY 1:** Prepare for sea level rise and other potential environmental risks and hazards related to climate change prior to their occurrences.
- Action 1:* Monitor and participate in regional meetings focusing on environmental adaptation and resilience.
  - Action 2:* Ensure that Sunnyvale is prepared for potential environmental risks and hazards related to climate change, with a special emphasis on vulnerable populations such as seniors.
  - Action 3:* Regularly train and inform the Department of Public Safety Office of Emergency Services (OES) on potential climate change risks and hazards.
  - Action 4:* Update the City Emergency Plan and Emergency Preparedness Workbook to address climate change impacts.
  - Action 5:* Integrate potential climate change impacts into local planning documents and processes.
  - Action 6:* Analyze and disclose possible impacts of climate change on development projects or plan areas with an emphasis on sea level rise.
  - Action 7:* Integrate climate change adaptation into future updates of the Zoning Code, Building Code, General Plan, and other related documents.
  - Action 8:* Monitor climate change science and policy and regularly inform stakeholders of new information.
  - Action 9:* Use the City’s communication process such as the City’s website to discuss climate change and climate change adaptation.
  - Action 10:* On a regular basis, assess adaptation efforts of the City, region, and state and identify goals or gaps to be addressed.
  - Action 11:* Support Regional Efforts Such as those of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) and the Joint Policy Committee (JPC) to Analyze and Prepare for the Impacts of Climate Change in the Bay Area.
  - Action 12:* Share Sunnyvale’s knowledge of climate action planning with other jurisdictions and agencies.

URBAN FORESTRY

**POLICY 2:** Accelerate the planting of large canopy trees to increase tree coverage in Sunnyvale because trees add to the scenic beauty and walkability of the community, provide environmental benefits such as air quality improvements, wildlife habitat, and reduction of heat islands, and enhance the health, safety and welfare of residents.

*Action 1:* Prepare and implement an Urban Forestry Plan for city properties and street right-of-ways. The Plan should promote planting and maintaining large canopy trees where space allows, planting a diversity of tree species, and discouraging high maintenance and other inappropriate trees.

*Action 2:* Establish uniform and continuous tree planting on major arterial and collector streets and pedestrian paths. Set an annual goal for street tree planting.

*Action 3:* Monitor the success of the City’s urban forestry program by periodically measuring the percentage of tree canopy coverage in the community.

*Action 4:* Alternative solutions for sidewalk/curb repairs and alignment should be considered in lieu of street tree removal. When a tree must be removed, provide suitable replacement tree(s).

*Action 5:* To improve walkability and better separate pedestrian and vehicular traffic, promote the provision of planter strips and/or tree wells between sidewalks and traffic/parking lanes for private developments and street improvement projects. [Gerri: I relocated and expanded the planter strip and tree well action here.]

*Action 6:* Evaluate increasing the level of required tree planting and canopy coverage for new developments and site renovation projects. Balance the competing interest to increase the tree canopy over hardscape and parking lot areas while preserving solar access for photo-voltaic systems.

**POLICY 3:** Recognize the value of heritage and protected trees to the legacy, character and livability of the community by expanding the designation and protection of large signature and native trees on private property and city parks.

*Action 1:* Maintain and regularly review and update regulations and practices for the planting, protection, removal, replacement and long-term management of large trees on private property and city-owned golf courses and parks. Strictly enforce unauthorized removal and irreversible damage and pruning of large protected trees.

- Action 2:* Expand community education on the value of trees and the benefits of tree planting and preservation.
- Action 3:* Maintain and publicize a data base of designated heritage trees. Require public noticing for proposed removal of heritage trees.
- Action 4:* Fully evaluate options such as tree relocation, site redesign or special construction provisions to avoid removing and irreparably damaging healthy heritage and protected trees.

**GREEN BUILDINGS**

**POLICY 4:** Enhance the public health and welfare by promoting the environmental and economic health of the city through sustainable practices for the design, construction, maintenance, operation and deconstruction of buildings and other site features.

- Action 1:* Maintain and regularly review and update green building standards for new construction, additions and remodels of buildings including additional incentives where feasible.
- Action 2:* Encourage green features such as passive solar design, natural ventilation and building orientation and apply flexibility when conducting development review.
- Action 3:* Explore financial incentives such as reduced permit fees to encourage green building practices like conservation.

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

**POLICY 5:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions that effect climate and the environment though land use and transportation planning and development.

**POLICY 6:** Actively maintain and implement a greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan such as a Climate Action Plan that outlines impacts, policies and reduction measures related to public and private land use and transportation.

**STREAMSIDE DEVELOPMENT/RUNOFF**

The following Policy and Actions were considered when the committee reviewed policies for Wetlands and Creeks.

**POLICY 1:** Protect creeks and wetlands as important parts of the City’s natural environment and open space and for their contribution to flood control.

- Action 1:* Work with other agencies to maintain creeks and wetlands in their natural state.

<i>Action 2:</i>	Work with appropriate agencies to identify creek channels and wetlands to use as recreational areas.
<i>Action 3:</i>	Minimize or divert pollutants from draining into creeks and wetlands by enforcing best management practices during construction and site development.

**POLICY 7:** Recognize that streamside development can affect the health, safety and general welfare of the city and mitigate negative effects by avoiding impacts when reviewing projects located in proximity to streams.

*Action 1:* Address sea level rise when reviewing new development near creeks and consider the projected mid-century flood levels as projected by BCDC.

**POLICY 8:** Engage in regional efforts such as with Santa Clara Valley Water District to enhance and protect land use near streams and to respond to sea level rise and climate change.

*Action 1:* Maintain and regularly review and update a streamside development review and permitting process.

*Action 2:* Apply development standards provided by SCVWD.

*Action 3:* Streamside development review shall be conducted as part of a building permit plan check process, design review, miscellaneous plan permit, and/or the discretionary review process.

*Action 4:* Minimize effects of development on the natural streambeds.

*Action 5:* When opportunities exist, remove existing structures adjacent to streams that impact the streambed.

**ALTERNATIVE/RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS**

**POLICY 9:** Provide Sunnyvale residents and businesses with opportunities to utilize private, renewable energy facilities.

*Action 1:* Maintain and regularly review and update uniform and comprehensive standards for the development, siting and

installation of solar energy, wind and other renewable energy and energy conservation systems on private property that address public health, safety, community welfare and the aesthetic quality of the city.

*Action 2:* Consider deviations from development standards such as setbacks, design guidelines or heights to encourage innovative energy efficient building design.