Sustainability Planning Process: Definitions

Sustainability- for San Antonio sustainability refers to the state where the City's economy is thriving, the environment is healthy, and the community is inclusive and fair.

Plan Components

Focus Area- A focus area represents a component of the community that is vital to life as we know it. For the Sustainability Plan, the focus areas include Built Environment & Infrastructure; Energy; Food Systems; Land Use & Smart Growth; Natural Resources; Public Health; Solid Waste; and Transportation & Connectivity. For each focus area we will assess current conditions, identify goals, develop actionable strategies, and select indicators and targets.

Focus Area	Description
Energy	Examines opportunities for sustainability related to energy generation including efficiency generation and distribution, renewable energy, and green power purchasing
Food Systems	Assesses the current and future local resources available for the entire food cycle- from production through to disposal
Green Buildings & Infrastructure	Assesses the current and future physical structures of the city, specifically buildings, water and sewer lines, stormwater systems, wastewater treatment facilities, and other infrastructure.
Land Use & Smart Growth	Encourages sustainable land use patterns, seeks to minimize sprawl through mixed use, transit oriented, and smart development practices.
Natural Resources	Assesses the value and quality of existing resources from an ecosystem standpoint; identifies opportunities for conservation or enhancement. Encompasses air, water, tree canopy, parks, and open space.
Public Health	Examines overall public health conditions, vulnerable populations, and identifies opportunities for improvement.
Solid Waste Resources	Reviews current solid waste cycle and facilities to promote approaches that reduce the negative impact on the environment and public health.
Transportation & Connectivity	Focuses on sustainable modes of transportation and an improved infrastructure including bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, alternative fuels, transit options, and complete streets.

Cross Cutting Themes- Cross cutting themes represent high priority areas for the City. These priorities will be addressed within every focus area to ensure the actions identified through this planning process enhance or improve the state of these priorities within San Antonio.

Cross Cutting Theme	Description
Air Quality	Continuously finding opportunities to improve air quality is a priority for the City of San Antonio. Strategies identified through this planning process will be evaluated to ensure, at a minimum, no negative impact or, ideally an enhancement to San Antonio's air quality.
Economic Vitality	A thriving economy is key to long-term sustainability. Strategies identified through the planning process will be assessed for their potential impact (positive, neutral, or negative) on the local economy.
Equity	A fair and just community ensures equal opportunities for all of its members. Strategies identified through this planning process should be able to demonstrate value to all of San Antonio's people.
Resilience	Like all cities, San Antonio has a set of vulnerabilities that could weaken it. Measuring the value an identified strategy provides towards reducing those vulnerabilities and enhancing resilience to all social, environmental, and economic vulnerabilities is essential to ensure a sustainable future.
Water Resources	Water is essential to all life. In San Antonio the availability and quality of this resource, whether for human consumption or as part of our natural systems, is expected to be a challenge for years to come. Strategies identified through this planning process will be evaluated based on their ability to protect, preserve, and improve the quality of San Antonio's water.

Plan Hierarchy

Vision- the desired state of San Antonio in 2040

Goal- outcomes that the community aspires towards related to a focus area. Every focus area will have two to four goals.

Strategies- Specific actions that a community proposes to take to achieve a goal. Strategies will be categorized based on the focus area it most closely relates to. We will indicate when a strategy aligns with the goals of multiple focus areas. It is anticipated that each goal will have between two and five strategies.

Indicators- Specific metric to track progress towards achieving a goal. A set of indicators will be identified for every goal.

Targets- the specific level of achievement for an indicator. We will seek to identify targets for 2020 and 2040 to represent our short- and long-term efforts.

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sustainability plan