

NELSON SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY – PATH TO 2040

WORKING GROUP MEMBER TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

The City of Nelson is creating a sustainability strategy that will set goals and principles for our sustainable future. This strategy will recognize and define what is great about Nelson, as well as how we can both preserve and enhance what we love about where we live. This strategy will also help us determine how we can improve on things we want to change.

We are not looking to reinvent Nelson, but rather, identify those factors that make us the vibrant community that we are. Nelson is a great community that is diverse, has a strong downtown core, has great parks and recreational areas and is often considered a model of what other communities are trying to achieve. The strategy will build from this base of strength by clearly articulating what makes us who we are and identify additional opportunities to build upon our strengths.

Sustainability is about having a vibrant economy, well protected ecosystems, and healthy citizens with strong cultural connections. It is about living well today, and preparing for the future. We will work with residents and businesses to understand how we can best plan for the challenges of tomorrow: maintaining our strong social connections, job market fluctuations, food security, energy costs & climate change, and housing diversity. This strategy will help us understand the opportunities available and challenges ahead, and make sure we safeguard and enhance what we love about where we live.

The City of Nelson's - Path to 2040 will be created in an open and collaborative process with local residents, businesses, community organizations, and the City. This process will set the direction and context for future planning exercises, including the upcoming Community Climate Action and Energy Plan and the Sustainable Waterfront and Downtown Master Plan. It will also create a decision making tool to help City Council and Staff make future decisions that are aligned with our sustainability principles.

Purpose of the Working Groups

In order to establish the City of Nelson's - Path to 2040, the following Working Groups will be formed:

Working Group 1 Arts, Culture, Heritage Local Economy	Working Group 2 Water: Water, Waste Water, Stormwater Solid Waste and Materials	Working Group 3 Healthy Living and Social Well-Being Food and Agriculture
Working Group 4 Land Use Transportation and Mobility	Working Group 5 Energy and Climate Change Natural Areas, Recreation, and Leisure	

The Working Group is a team of approximately 10 people who ensure local issues and aspirations are reflected in the strategy. As outlined above, each working Group will be looking at two Focus Areas. For each Focus Area, the Working Group will evaluate the community's current strengths and weaknesses, set future goals, and determine strategies to meet these goals.

The Working Group (WG) model provides an opportunity for community to collaborate with each other and the City to create a "Made-in-Nelson" strategy.

Role

The role of a WG member is to act on the behalf of their community and representative group and provide consistent input to the creation of the strategy. The WGs will be made up of interested residents, experts, community organizations, municipal representatives, local business people, first nations, youth, seniors, and other stakeholders who have local knowledge, connections, and interests in shaping our sustainable future.

Responsibilities

1. Attend and participate in a Sustainability Training Session.
2. Meet with other WG members to complete a workbook for their Focus Areas.

In order to complete the workbook, WG members may have to conduct research, speak with others in the community, to gather information required to complete their workbook. WG meetings will be facilitated by a WG Lead that will be appointed by the City.