

# Sustainability Element - Draft

The Sustainability Element is an optional element of the General Plan and is not mandated by the State of California. Its inclusion in the General Plan demonstrates the City of Elk Grove's (City) commitment to the long-term health and viability of the community. The City worked closely with the community to define sustainability and identify the policy topics contained within this Element.

This Element of the General Plan includes:

- A **definition of sustainability**, as defined by the community through public workshops;
- A description of **relevant state laws**;
- Identification and description of **sustainability policy areas** addressed in this General Plan;
- An explanation of the **relationship of this Element to other Elements** in the General Plan, including a matrix identifying the Element in which policies relating to each sustainability policy area can be found;
- An explanation of the **relationship of this Element to the Climate Action Plan (CAP)**;
- A set of **focused sustainability goals, policies, and actions** not addressed in other Elements of this General Plan.

## DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABILITY

*Sustainability in Elk Grove is the ability to live responsibly within our means, meeting present needs without compromising the ability for future generations to meet their own needs. It is the capacity to endure, and therefore applies to everything we do now and in the future. The challenge is to incorporate the three components of sustainability – the environment, the economy, and the community – into City policies and actions. All three components work together as an integrated system to achieve a sustainable community. The City is committed to this challenge and to achieving our community's vision of a sustainable Elk Grove.*

The graphic below illustrates the concept of a sustainable community, where each circle represents one of the three components and each component is linked and dependent upon the others. The shaded area in the middle represents a union of all three components of sustainability. The goal is for the General Plan policies and actions, together as a whole, to support efforts toward achieving a sustainable community over the life of the General Plan.



During the public outreach process, the community identified the following six characteristics in their vision of a sustainable city:

1. Municipal Responsibility
2. Innovative Low Carbon Transportation & Development
3. Healthy Natural Environment & Resource Stewardship
4. Healthy Community & Cultural Diversity
5. Robust Green Economy

The sustainability characteristics above directly address the three components of sustainability: environment, community, and economy. The final characteristic, fiscal responsibility, addresses the City's involvement in ensuring that the vitality of the community endures.

## SUSTAINABILITY COMPONENTS

The three components of sustainability — the environment, the economy, and the community — are interrelated and individually and collectively important in achieving a sustainable community. All three components should be carefully considered when making decisions on behalf of the City. A key challenge will be to balance the demands of each component and the evolving needs of Elk Grove over the life of the General Plan.

**Environment** – Environmental sustainability is achieved by being a steward of the natural environment and reducing the impact of human activities on natural resources and systems that support the community.

**Economy** – A sustainable economy is one that is strong, resilient, and conscientious. It is achieved by supporting education, jobs, businesses, green industries, innovation, and economic development.

**Community** – A sustainable community is one that is accessible, healthy, safe, and diverse and promotes well-being. It is achieved by supporting public participation, healthy living, access to social services, cultural diversity, historic preservation, and the arts.

## SUSTAINABILITY IN DECISION-MAKING

The General Plan's policies and actions support the principle of sustainability. Creating and maintaining a sustainable community will require integrating sustainable principles into the City's everyday actions and decisions, adapting to changing conditions and technologies, and staying informed of innovations and current best practices. The General Plan incorporates sustainable principles in every Element. Therefore, decisions that are consistent with the goals, policies, and actions identified in the General Plan will forward the principle of sustainability and, through time, will result in a sustainable Elk Grove. Local decisions will be made through a holistic approach that includes consideration of the environment, the economy, and the community. We refer to this holistic approach as the "sustainability lens."

## RELEVANT STATE LAWS

### Executive Order S-3-05

Executive Order S-3-05, which was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2005, proclaims that California is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It declares that increased temperatures could reduce the Sierra snowpack, further exacerbate California's air quality problems, and potentially cause a rise in sea levels. To combat those concerns, the Executive Order established total greenhouse gas emission targets. Specifically, emissions are to be reduced to the 2000 level by 2010, to the 1990 level by 2020, and to 80 percent below the 1990 level by 2050. The General Plan recognizes the City's role in statewide mitigation efforts and works toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions to levels established by the City Council.

### Assembly Bill (AB) 32

AB 32, also known as the California Climate Solutions Act of 2006, was authorized in September 2006 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. AB 32 requires that statewide GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020. AB 32 institutes a schedule to meet the emissions cap and to develop tracking, reporting, and enforcement mechanisms to ensure that the state achieves reductions in greenhouse gas emissions necessary to meet the cap. AB 32 also includes guidance to institute emissions reductions in an economically efficient manner and conditions to ensure that businesses and consumers are not unfairly affected by the reductions.

### Senate Bill (SB) 97

SB 97, enacted in 2007, amends the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) statute to clearly establish that greenhouse gas emissions and their effects are appropriate subjects for CEQA analysis. It directs the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to develop draft CEQA Guidelines "for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions or the effects of greenhouse gas emissions" by July 1, 2009, and directs the Resources Agency to certify and adopt the CEQA Guidelines. The General Plan is designed to address the environmental impacts associated with the bill's policies and programs and to meet the State's intent in adding this topic to CEQA.

**Senate Bill (SB) 375**

In August 2008, the Governor signed SB 375, a platform to implement AB 32 by linking regional transportation plans with state greenhouse gas reduction goals. Under SB 375, state agencies and local metropolitan planning organizations (such as the Sacramento Area Council of Governments) are to develop preferred growth scenarios to cut greenhouse gas emissions. SB 375 will tie state transportation funds to projects that conform to those scenarios. SB 375 also requires cities to revise their Housing Elements every eight years in conjunction with the regional transportation plan. The General Plan is designed to address these requirements and allow the City to meet its emissions reduction goals in coordination with planning for housing and overall community growth.

**Other Relevant State Laws**

In addition to the above state laws, a number of relevant laws promote sustainable development. These laws include, but are not limited to, the California Building Code and state historic preservation laws.

**SUSTAINABILITY POLICY AREAS**

The five sustainability characteristics identified during the public outreach process are outlined below and categorize each of the policy topic areas addressed in this Element. The policy topic areas are shown in the bulleted list below.

1) Municipal Responsibility

- Sustainable Decision-Making & Partnerships
- Sustainability & Climate Action Plan Monitoring
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Financing Strategies

2) Innovative Low Carbon Transportation & Development

- Green Building
- Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
- Transportation & Parking Demand Management

3) Healthy Natural Environment & Resource Stewardship

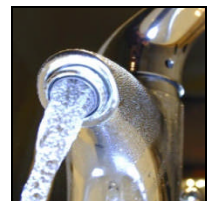
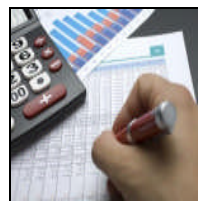
- Air Quality, Greenhouse Gases & Resource Conservation
- Community Forest
- Native & Drought-Tolerant Landscaping
- Energy Efficiency, Conservation & Renewables
- Sustainable Stormwater Management
- Waste Management
- Water Conservation & Efficiency

4) Healthy Community & Cultural Diversity

- Child, Youth & Senior Services
- Community Character & Placemaking
- Community Involvement
- Environmental Justice
- Public Education & Awareness
- Public Health & Safety

5) Robust Green Economy

- Community Food Systems
- Green Jobs & Businesses



## RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ELEMENTS

All Elements of the General Plan contribute policies and actions that further the City's sustainability goals. For example, the Land Use Element includes policies to promote compact and mixed-use development, and the Circulation Element promotes enhanced connectivity between developments, the Housing Element supports equity through affordable housing opportunities, and the Economic Development Element includes policies to grow a strong local economy and promotes employment opportunities for all segments of the community. **Figure X.X** illustrates how the various Elements of this General Plan address sustainability and how the Sustainability Element provides additional sustainability policies and actions not fully addressed in other Elements. The public outreach process helped to identify the sustainability policy areas important to the community and those are identified in the previous list.

## RELATIONSHIP TO THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Sustainability Element provides an adopted vision and strategy to guide sustainability in the city over the next 20 years. The Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a tool that is linked to the General Plan through the Sustainability Element, but focuses specifically on greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The CAP is a shorter-term plan that will be updated on a more frequent basis. Any future updates to the CAP may warrant subsequent General Plan amendments to ensure that relevant measures are incorporated as appropriate into the City's primary policy document.

The CAP identifies and quantifies the impact of the City's sustainability vision, policies, and programs on greenhouse gas emissions. The General Plan, Sustainability Element, and Climate Action Plan function together as part of the City's comprehensive toolkit to achieve a vibrant and sustainable community.

Greenhouse gas reduction measures identified in the CAP are integrated into the policies and actions of this Element. Each policy or action that has related CAP reduction measures is identified with a cross-reference to the CAP. The final column of Figure X.X illustrates the relationship between the

sustainability policy areas in this Element and the CAP.

The Sustainability Element and Climate Action Plan are part of the framework for developing a greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy in compliance with Section 15183.5(b) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. Section 15183.5(b) refers to the development of a plan that can be used to streamline future development proposed as a part of the programmatic policy structure in place at the City. Several actions are needed to develop a reduction plan consistent with this section, including:

- 1) Prepare a greenhouse gas inventory that includes projected emissions
- 2) Develop an emissions reduction target
- 3) Include emissions associated with specific actions in the City
- 4) Identify emissions reduction measures and quantify their benefits
- 5) Establish a procedure to monitor and update the CAP
- 6) Go through a public process and appropriate level of environmental review

The approach taken by the City to develop the CAP and Sustainability Element satisfies all of the criteria outlined in Section 15183.5(b) of the CEQA Guidelines.

**Figure X.X: Sustainability Policy Topics Matrix**  
**Relationship between the Sustainability Element, other General Plan Elements, and the Climate Action Plan**

**KEY**  
 Cells highlighted in green indicate that the topic area is addressed completely or partially within that Element or  
 Cells highlighted in peach indicate topics not addressed in the Sustainability Element, but elsewhere in the General Plan and/or Climate Action Plan.

Sustainability Policy Topic Area	EXISTING GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS & CITY DOCUMENTS										Sustainability Element	
	Circulation	Conservation & Air Quality	Economic Development	Historic Resources	Housing	Land use	Parks, Trails, and Open Space	Public Facilities & Finance	Safety	Climate Action Plan		
<b>Low Carbon Transportation and Development</b>	Climate Change (sea level rise, flooding, emissions)	Green	Green			Green	Green	Green			Green	Green
	Green Building		Green								Green	Green
	Connectivity	Peach										
	Transit Oriented Development					Green	Green				Green	Green
	Transportation/Parking Demand Management Strategies		Green								Green	Green
<b>Healthy Natural Environment</b>	Air Quality / Greenhouse Gases		Green								Green	Green
	Resource Conservation		Green								Green	Green
	Parks & Recreation							Peach				
	Open Space							Peach				
	Landscaping - Native & Drought Tolerant		Green								Green	Green
	Community Forest		Green								Green	Green
<b>Resource Stewardship</b>	Energy Efficiency, Conservation, & Renewables		Green			Green					Green	Green
	Sustainable Stormwater Management/ Green Infrastructure		Green							Green	Green	Green
	Waste Management		Green								Green	Green
	Water Conservation & Efficiency		Green						Green		Green	Green
<b>Healthy Community &amp; Cultural Diversity</b>	Affordable Housing					Peach					Green	
	Child, Youth & Senior Services											Green
	Community Character & Placemaking						Green	Green				Green
	Historic Preservation				Peach							
	Community Involvement											Green
	Environmental Justice	Green				Green		Green				Green
	Public Education & Awareness		Green	Green								Green
	Public Health & Safety	Green					Green	Green	Green			Green
<b>Robust Economy</b>	Community Food Systems		Green	Green								Green
	Economic Development & Jobs/Housing Balance			Peach							Peach	
	Green Jobs & Businesses											Green
<b>Municipal Responsibility</b>	Sustainable Decision Making & Partnerships											Green
	Environmentally Preferable Purchasing		Green								Green	Green
	Sustainability & Climate Action Plan Monitoring										Green	Green
	Financing Strategies		Green						Green			Green

The sustainability policies of the General Plan implement all of the Guiding Goals identified in the General Plan Goals chapter. These goals unify this General Plan and are restated below:

**Guiding Goal 1: A High Quality of Life for All Residents**

**Focused Goal 1-1:** A safe community, free from manmade and natural hazards

**Focused Goal 1-2:** Outdoor recreation opportunities for all residents

**Focused Goal 1-3:** A balanced and efficient transportation system

**Focused Goal 1-4:** High quality public facilities and services

**Focused Goal 1-5:** Excellence in the design of new development

**Focused Goal 1-6:** Safe and affordable housing for all persons

**Focused Goal 1-7:** Active and passive park facilities and recreation programs that satisfy the leisure time and recreation needs of all residents

**Focused Goal 1-8:** Creation and maintenance of a strong, positive community image for Elk Grove

**Focused Goal 1-9:** A pattern of land use which enhances the community character of Elk Grove, provides employment and shopping opportunities to serve residents and the region, which provides for use of transit, and which protects Elk Grove's unique historical and natural features

**Guiding Goal 2: Diversified Economic Base**

**Focused Goal 2-1:** A business community which includes a diversity of office uses, locally oriented and regionally oriented retail and services, and a diversity of residential types

**Focused Goal 2-2:** A balance between the numbers and types of workers residing in Elk Grove and opportunities for employment in the city

**Focused Goal 2-3:** A positive environment for

business retention and expansion

**Focused Goal 2-4:** Creation of Elk Grove as a desired place to locate major employment-generating uses

**Focused Goal 2-6:** A balanced municipal budget which will allow the City to provide a high level of service to all residents and businesses

**Guiding Goal 3: Protection of the Natural Environment**

**Focused Goal 3-1:** Development which recognizes environmental constraints and is designed and operated to minimize impacts on the environment

**Focused Goal 3-3:** Natural resources managed and protected for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations

**Focused Goal 3-4:** Preservation and enhancement of Elk Grove's natural areas, in particular the areas within the floodplain of the Cosumnes River

**Guiding Goal 4: Preservation and Enhancement of Elk Grove's Unique Historic and Natural Features**

**Focused Goal 4-1:** Preservation and enhancement of Elk Grove's historic structures and districts

**Focused Goal 4-2:** Preservation of the large oak and other tree species which are an important part of the City's historic and aesthetic character

**Guiding Goal 5: Preservation of the Rural Character of Elk Grove**

**Focused Goal 5-2:** Maintenance of those features that provide the character of Elk Grove's rural areas, including: large oak and other trees, small local roadways, animal keeping and raising, equestrians, agriculture, and limited commercial opportunities

The following policies and action items implement these goals. The policies and actions in this chapter are organized by the sustainability topics previously identified in the Sustainability Policy Areas section of this Element. The incentives identified throughout this Element to aid in implementation are intended to utilize a combination of rewards and penalties to induce behavior.

In the policies below, the term “city” refers to the geographic area inside the jurisdictional boundary of the City of Elk Grove, whereas “City” refers to the municipal agency.

**SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: SUSTAINABLE DECISION-MAKING & PARTNERSHIPS**

The following policies establish partnerships and integrate the components of sustainability into the decision-making process. This will lead to well-informed choices that take into consideration the fundamental links among the economy, the environment, and the community. These connections help the City work toward its sustainability goals.

- S-1 Consider the three components of sustainability — the environment, the economy, and the community — in decision-making for new development projects, special projects, and proposed policies and programs.**
- S-2 Partner with public and private agencies to efficiently enforce the policies of this Element, and encourage innovation in new development.**
- S-3 Participate in local, regional, and statewide sustainability efforts and programs that further the goals and policies outlined in the General Plan.**

**SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE ACTION PLAN MONITORING**

These policies formalize the approach for keeping informed of current sustainable practices, implementing sustainability policies and programs, and measuring the City's success in achieving sustainability targets.

**S-4 Assess the City's progress toward achieving its sustainability objectives.**

- **S-4-Action 1** Establish a Sustainability Committee, comprised of selected City staff members, that meets regularly to monitor the community's sustainability progress and stay informed of current best management practices (BMPs).
- **S-4-Action 2** Monitor progress on sustainability through the Sustainability Committee. The Committee's initial work plan shall include the following tasks:
  - Identify sustainability indicators;
  - Develop measurable targets;
  - Research current BMPs and provide links to public agency BMPs on the City's website as a resource for the community;
  - Participate in conferences and meetings that promote sustainability; and
  - Annually assess and report on these targets and indicators to monitor the City's progress toward sustainability and make recommendations based on current best practices and innovation.
- **S-4-Action 3** Provide regular training to ensure that Planning Department staff are able to implement the sustainability policies identified in this Element, and utilize current best management practices identified by the Sustainability Committee when enforcing these policies.

**S-5 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from community-wide sources, including City facilities and operations, by a minimum of 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2020.**

- **S-5-Action 1** Adopt and implement a Climate Action Plan that will identify goals, measures, and actions to achieve the City's greenhouse gas reduction target.

- **S-5-Action 2** Regularly monitor and track the progress toward the City's greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- Annually report on the implementation status of the Climate Action Plan.
- Update the City's Climate Action Plan at a minimum of every five years, or more frequently if the Sustainability Committee and City Council deem appropriate, to make progress toward the City's greenhouse gas reduction goals.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING**

These policies establish the City's commitment to purchasing local and environmentally responsible products and services to improve the health of the environment, its people, and local businesses.

#### **S-6 Promote the use of local and environmentally friendly products and services for municipal purchases and contracts. (Please see CAP reduction measures.)**

- **S-6-Action 1** Review and implement the City's environmentally preferable purchasing program, and consider the inclusion of standards for locally produced goods, environmentally friendly cleaning products, recycled content for paper products, street furnishings, roadways, and construction materials, alternative fuel vehicles, and hiring local and/or green businesses for contract services.

Please see the Economic Development Element of this General Plan for additional policies that support local goods and services.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: FINANCING STRATEGIES**

These policies will financially support the City's ongoing commitment to sustainability issues.

#### **S-7 Establish funding and financing mechanisms to support sustainability and green government programs.**

- **S-7-Action 1** Seek additional grant funding to support sustainability programs and demonstration projects.
- **S-7-Action 2** Formalize interagency partnerships to support water conservation.
- **S-7-Action 3** Promote public-private partnerships to upgrade existing buildings for energy efficiency and water conservation.
- **S-7-Action 4** Establish special districts to fund low impact development and green infrastructure.

Please see the Public Facilities and Finance Element of this General Plan for additional policies related to public facility financing strategies.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: GREEN BUILDING [PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT]**

Green building techniques are an effective way of reducing the environmental impacts created by development, and green buildings have been shown to use significantly less energy than traditional buildings. These policies demonstrate the City's leadership in promoting green development in Elk Grove.

#### **S-8 Incorporate green building techniques and best management practices in the site design, construction, and renovation of all public projects. (Please see CAP reduction measures.)**

- **S-8-Action 1** Require all new municipal developments to exceed state Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standards by 15 percent.
- **S-8-Action 2** Design new municipal facilities to be at a minimum the baseline LEED certification.
- **S-8-Action 3** Implement measures identified during the energy audit process to reduce energy use in existing municipal buildings.

**SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: GREEN BUILDING [PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT]****S-9 Support innovation and green building best management practices for all new private development.**

- **S-9-Action 1** Require all new private developments to exceed state Title 24 Energy Efficiency Building Standards by 15 percent. (Please see CAP reduction measures.)
- **S-9-Action 2** Include a Green Building & Development Checklist and supporting materials with City planning and building permit applications that outline ways to integrate green building principles into project design.
- **S-9-Action 3** Establish a green building incentive program to encourage developers to integrate green design techniques above and beyond the requirements of Action 1. Incentives may include, but are not limited to, expedited review, plan/permit review fee reduction, density bonuses, tax credits, and/or technical assistance.
- **S-9-Action 4** Establish partnerships with the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and utility and water districts and providers to initiate pilot projects that demonstrate green building best practices.
- **S-9-Action 5** Create a program to recognize exemplary projects in the city that exhibit innovation and best practices in green building design.
- **S-9-Action 6** Provide regular training to ensure that Planning Department and Building Safety & Inspection Department staff are able to implement the State's Green Building Code and review or rate green building projects.

Please see the Housing Element and Conservation & Air Quality Element of this General Plan for additional policies related to green building.

**SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: CONNECTIVITY**

Policies related to connectivity are found in the Circulation Element of this General Plan.

**SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD)**

Transit-oriented development is characterized by a higher density and intensity of development than typical suburban development and located in close proximity to public transit. TODs discourage automobile use and encourage alternative modes of transport, which have numerous benefits including reduced use of fossil fuels, improved air quality, and increased physical activity. A compact TOD pattern can avoid further encroachment upon open space and natural resources, helping to safeguard these resources for our well-being and those of future generations.

**S-10 Support higher-density, compact, residential development along transit by placing high-density residential or mixed-use sites near transit opportunities. (Please see CAP reduction measures.)**

- **S-10-Action 1** Review the existing TOD designation in the Land Use Plan to determine if additional opportunities exist. Review should give consideration to the recommendations presented in the SACOG Blueprint. (Please see CAP.)
- **S-10-Action 2** Review the existing TOD designation in the Land Use Plan and revise the definition to emphasize mixed-use, compact, higher-density development around transit stations.
- **S-10-Action 3** Review and update the City's design guidelines to ensure appropriate design of TODs, and establish standards to prioritize pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit over private vehicles.

Please see the Circulation and Housing Elements of this General Plan for additional policies related to TOD.

## SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: TRANSPORTATION & PARKING DEMAND MANAGEMENT

Transportation and Parking Demand Management strategies discourage private automobile travel and reduce the amount of land given to parking spaces, which have a number of environmental benefits including reduced reliance on fossil fuels, improved air quality, increased physical activity, and more efficient use of developable land.

### S-11 Support strategies that reduce reliance on single-occupancy private vehicles and promote the viability of alternative modes of transport. (Please see CAP reduction measures.)

- **S-11-Action 1** Continue to support and operate the City's Transit Services Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program, and continue to develop new and innovative TDM strategies based on current best practices.
- **S-11-Action 2** Require new commercial development for projects equal to and greater than 100,000 square feet to provide an electric vehicle charging station and new residential development to pre-wire for plug-in electric vehicles.
- **S-11-Action 3** Develop incentives for existing commercial and residential properties seeking to provide for electric vehicle recharging.
- **S-11-Action 4** Ensure new multi-family and commercial developments provide bicycle parking and other bicycle support facilities appropriate for the users of the development.
- **S-11-Action 5** Implement a cost-effective citywide car-sharing program.
- **S-11-Action 6** Develop and implement Sacramento Area Council of Governments' (SACOG) Safe Routes to School policy.
- **S-11-Action 7** Establish an employee incentive program to encourage the use

of transportation alternatives, such as a parking space cash-out program.

- **S-11-Action 8** Review and revise parking standards to reduce parking requirements in mixed-use and transit-oriented developments to reinforce alternative modes of transport.
- **S-11-Action 9** Develop incentives that promote shared access and shared parking between adjacent developments.
- **S-11-Action 10** Work with the local public transit agency to improve and expand commuter services to reduce overcrowding on existing routes and entice more residents to ride transit rather than drive alone.

Please see the Alternative Transportation Policies section of the Circulation Element and the Air Quality section of the Conservation & Air Quality Element of this General Plan for additional policies regarding transportation demand management.

## SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: PARKS & RECREATION

Policies related to parks and recreation are found in the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Element of this General Plan.

## SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: AIR QUALITY, GREENHOUSE GASES & RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Implementing measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is important in order to minimize the environmental effects of climate change and to protect public health. These policies aim to safeguard the health of the environment to assure future generations of the resources they will need to survive and progress.

### S-12 Improve the health and sustainability of the community through improved regional air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

- **S-12-Action 1** Ensure that new development is consistent with the City's Climate Action Plan.

**S-13 Preserve, protect, and enhance, as appropriate, the community’s carbon sequestration resources, also referred to as “carbon sinks,” to improve air quality and reduce net carbon emissions.**

- **S-13-Action 1** Identify and develop a baseline inventory of existing opportunities for carbon sequestration resources in the city, including woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, stream corridors, trees, and plants.
- **S-13-Action 2** Create a Resource Management Report, in which the City collects data to inventory citywide natural resources. The report shall be published annually and posted on the City’s website.

Please see the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Element and Conservation & Air Quality Element of this General Plan for additional policies related to air quality, open space preservation, and resource conservation.

**SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: COMMUNITY FOREST**

Providing a green canopy throughout the city can help filter pollutants from the air, provide shade, reduce energy use for cooling, mitigate the heat island effect of the built environment, and provide places for relaxation and refuge from busy city life.

**S-14 Establish a community forest by preserving and planting trees in appropriate densities and locations to maximize energy conservation and air quality benefits. (Please see CAP reduction measures.)**

- **S-14-Action 1** Continue partnerships that work to preserve and promote the planting of oaks.
- **S-14-Action 2** Develop a Community Forest Master Plan to include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - Best management practices for tree planning, planting, and maintenance;

- Designated areas for preservation of trees and native oaks;
- Tree replacement and mitigation policies;
- Shade requirements for new development to promote planting shade trees and require, where feasible, site design that uses trees to shade rooftops, air conditioning units, parking facilities, streets, and other facilities to provide cool air temperatures and minimize heat island effects;



- Preferred tree list, and specifications for street trees;
- Proper spacing, plant diversity, and planting requirements.

Please see the Conservation and Air Quality Element of this General Plan for additional policies relating to community forest.

## SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: NATIVE & DROUGHT-TOLERANT LANDSCAPING

Implementing regulations to encourage or require native and drought-tolerant landscaping provide a means to reduce water usage, introduce vegetation that is native to the area, decrease maintenance, and protect against invasive plant species.

### S-15 Advocate for native and/or drought-tolerant landscaping in public and private projects.

- **S-15-Action 1** Require the planting of native and/or drought-tolerant landscaping at the site of new/existing City facilities, landscaped medians, and parkway strips to reduce water use and maintenance costs.
- **S-15-Action 2** Establish incentives to replace private lawns with drought-tolerant landscaping and native plants.
- **S-15-Action 3** Establish pilot programs and projects that demonstrate the benefits and beauty of drought-tolerant and native landscaping through collaboration with external agencies, such as local watershed organizations and utility districts.
- **S-15-Action 4** Promote the use of drought-tolerant and/or native vegetation to minimize water consumption by providing information to developers and designers and partnering with local nurseries. (Please see CAP reduction measures.)
- **S-15-Action 5** Encourage use of drought-tolerant and/or native planting and grading/improvement design within private development projects to maximize runoff into designated planter areas. (Please see CAP reduction measures.)
- **S-15-Action 6** Develop a recommended drought-tolerant and native tree and plant species list and make it available on the City's website, along with information about the benefits of using

drought-tolerant and/or native vegetation.

Please see the Conservation of Water section of the Conservation & Air Quality Element of this General Plan for additional policies relating to drought-tolerant landscaping.



## SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: ENERGY EFFICIENCY, CONSERVATION & RENEWABLES

Increased energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources contribute to reduced dependence on fossil fuels for heat and power, and lessen concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The use of alternative energy sources contributes to more stable local economies due to decreased reliance on traditional energy sources whose economic future is uncertain.

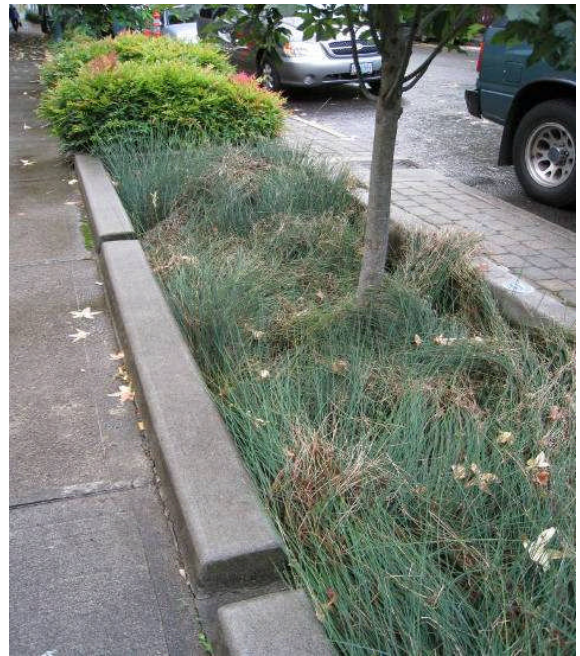
### S-16 Promote innovation in energy efficiency. (Please see CAP reduction measures.)

- **S-16-Action 1** Support a cost-effective group of local experts to establish a nonprofit organization to encourage energy efficiency and keep informed of continually evolving best management practices.
- **S-16-Action 2** Connect residents and businesses with programs that provide

free or low-cost energy efficiency audits and retrofits in existing buildings.

- **S-16-Action 3** Consider adopting an ordinance that requires point-of-sale energy efficiency audits for residential and commercial buildings. The results of the audit will be made available to potential buyers.
- **S-16-Action 4** Partner with the local utility district to develop a pilot program to demonstrate energy-efficient upgrades in existing municipal buildings.
- **S-16-Action 5** Partner with the local utility district to develop a pilot program to demonstrate energy-efficient techniques and products in new municipal buildings.
- **S-16-Action 6** Incentivize and analyze impediments in the City Municipal Code to the placement of small-scale renewable energy facilities within the city limits.
- **S-16-Action 7** Assess the cost-effectiveness of retrofitting existing City facilities with appropriate renewable energy technologies such as photovoltaics, wind, biofuel, cogeneration, and geothermal.
- **S-16-Action 8** Require the use of high-albedo material for public outdoor surfaces such as rooftops, parking lots, median barriers, roadway improvements, and sidewalks.

Please see the Air Quality section of the Conservation & Air Quality Element of this General Plan for additional policies regarding energy conservation.



**SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: SUSTAINABLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT/GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

Sustainable stormwater management strategies are a design approach that use natural processes to mitigate impacts of increased runoff and stormwater pollution that occur as a result of urban development. These negative environmental impacts include erosion and pollution of local water bodies. Green infrastructure techniques and practices include bioretention facilities, vegetated rooftops, vegetated bioswales, tree box filters, and permeable pavements. These strategies recharge the groundwater, filter out contaminants from runoff, capture water which can be used for irrigation, and reduce the need for expensive curb and gutter infrastructure and maintenance.

**S-17 Integrate sustainable stormwater management techniques in site design to reduce stormwater runoff and control erosion.**

- **S-17-Action 1** Reduce the total amount of impervious surface areas at new development sites through the use of permeable paving materials (e.g., porous concrete, porous asphalt, modular paving, gravel, lattice concrete blocks, and porous bricks) for parking areas, pedestrian paths, and vehicular circulation, where feasible.

- **S-17-Action 2** Employ on-site natural systems such as vegetated bioswales, green roofs, and rain gardens in the treatment of stormwater, where possible, to encourage infiltration, detention, retention, groundwater recharge, and/or water reuse on-site.
- **S-17-Action 3** Develop a Sustainable Stormwater Management/Low Impact Development (LID) Ordinance to set specific standards for new construction of both public and private projects.
- **S-17-Action 4** Partner with the local mosquito abatement district to ensure adequate precautions are taken to minimize mosquito production in the planning for new major stormwater management schemes.

Please see the Conservation & Air Quality Element and the Safety Element of this General Plan for additional policies regarding sustainable stormwater management.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Regulations to manage waste and promote the reduction, reuse, and recycling of materials, which minimize use of natural resources and encourage the use of innovative materials and technologies.

#### **S-18 Facilitate recycling, reduction in the amount of waste, and reuse of materials to reduce the amount of solid waste sent to landfill from Elk Grove. (Please see CAP reduction measures.)**

- **S-18-Action 1** Develop and implement an education campaign to encourage businesses to take an active role in recycling and composting, focusing on businesses that generate a large amount of compostable and/or recyclable waste.
- **S-18-Action 2** Monitor the recycling services contract to ensure that the range of materials accepted is consistent with the latest technology and best practices.

- **S-18-Action 3** Work with the waste and recycling services provider to ensure that recycling is available and convenient for businesses.
- **S-18-Action 4** Enforce the Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Recycling Program for applicable construction projects and all demolition projects and increase the requirements to a 65 percent waste diversion.
- **S-18-Action 5** Create incentives for the use of recycled concrete in all base material utilized in private road construction.
- **S-18-Action 6** Adopt a policy to reduce or restrict the use of disposable plastic shopping bags and polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) to-go containers.

Please see the Conservation & Air Quality Element of this General Plan for additional actions relating to recycling and recycled content products.

#### **S-19 Reduce municipal waste through recycling programs and employee education. (Please see CAP reduction measures.)**

- **S-19-Action 1** Continue the educational program for City employees on appropriate waste and recycling protocols.
- **S-19-Action 2** Continue to provide City employees with recycling bins at each desk.
- **S-19-Action 3** Recycle waste materials for all municipal construction and demolition projects.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: WATER CONSERVATION & EFFICIENCY**

Water conservation and efficiency regulation minimize impacts on this strained resource and decrease energy use required to pump water from source to tap.

#### **S-20 Reduce the amount of water used by residential and nonresidential uses. (Please**

see CAP reduction measures.)

- **S-20-Action 1** Implement incentives to encourage water-efficient retrofit improvements to existing private buildings.
- **S-20-Action 2** Adopt an ordinance that requires point-of-sale water efficiency audits for residential and commercial buildings, which are made available to potential buyers.
- **S-20-Action 3** Require new commercial and multi-family residential developments to install low-flow fixtures.
- **S-20-Action 4** Require landscaping in surface parking and large paved areas for water uptake.
- **S-20-Action 5** Inform the public of water conservation and efficiency strategies and best practices by making this information available on the City's website.

**S-21 Promote the use of and analyze barriers to the use of greywater systems and recycled water for irrigation purposes. (Please see CAP reduction measures.)**

**S-22 Improve the efficiency of municipal water use through retrofits and employee education. (Please see CAP reduction measures.)**

- **S-22-Action 1** Conduct a water conservation audit of existing municipal facilities, and improve efficiency of municipal water use through retrofits and employee education.

Please see the Native & Drought Tolerant Landscaping section of this Element and the Conservation & Air Quality Element for additional policies related to water conservation.

**SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: AFFORDABLE HOUSING & HOUSING CHOICE**

Policies related to affordable housing and housing choice are found in the Housing Element of this

General Plan.

**SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: CHILD, YOUTH & SENIOR SERVICES**

The provision of human services to vulnerable populations supports community members in leading long, healthy, and fulfilling lives, and contributes to a more positive and satisfied community. Regulations that support community services will help to sustain our current population and secure a promising future for our children.

**S-23 Continue to establish public and private partnerships to promote community events, services, and/or programs for children, youth, and seniors.**

- **S-23-Action 1** Continue to support the City's Youth Services program.
- **S-23-Action 2** Establish a program offering services to seniors, to include opportunities for social interaction, access to public transportation, and assistance programs and services.
- **S-23-Action 3** Establish funding and review available sites to develop a community center to support events and recreational programs for children, youth, and seniors.

**SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: COMMUNITY CHARACTER & PLACEMAKING**

Places that have a strong identify and unique character instill a sense of pride in the community. These are the types of places where people want to be and businesses want to locate. Community design that emphasizes the city's natural beauty, while enhancing the built environment through public art, attractive streetscapes, and pedestrian-oriented design, can help sustain the community as a desirable place to live, work, and visit.

**S-24 Emphasize placemaking design principles in new development projects.**

- **S-24-Action 1** Identify locations for major streetscape improvements such as landscaped medians, enhanced

crosswalks, street trees, directional signage, benches, and public art.

- **S-24-Action 2** Identify key entry points into the city and provide major entry features or monuments at these locations to create a sense of arrival to Elk Grove.
- **S-24-Action 3** Review the Land Use Plan to develop community focal points by allowing greater densities and a mix of uses at key locations.
- **S-24-Action 4** New development should prioritize the pedestrian by implementing the following measures:
  - Parking areas and curb cuts should be minimized along commercial street frontages;
  - Prohibit new cul-de-sacs, and identify locations where pedestrian paths can be inserted to connect streets;
  - Encourage a vertical and horizontal mix of land uses;
  - Provide urban plazas and gathering spaces in commercial and multi-family development;
  - Provide pedestrian amenities such as lighting, landscaping, and benches.
- **S-24-Action 5** Ensure development minimizes disruption of viewsheds within the community (e.g., view to the Sierras).
- **S-24-Action 6** Continue to support the Committee for the Arts.
- **S-24-Action 7** Require public art in all new large-scale development projects equal to and greater than 100,000 square feet.

Please see the Land Use Element and Economic Development Element of this General Plan for additional policies that promote urban design and placemaking principles.

## SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Policies related to historic preservation are found in the Historic Preservation Element of this General Plan.

## SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Citizen-based planning better reflects the needs and desires of the community. Engaging the public in social activities, programs, and events strengthens community bonds, enhances civic pride, and fosters a sense of investment in the future of the community.

### S-25 Promote community involvement and public participation.

- **S-25-Action 1** Continue to provide opportunities for public participation in City planning decisions. Provide a range of participation methods that meet the needs of all residents, with a particular emphasis on encouraging participation among youth.
- **S-25-Action 2** Support and organize community events throughout the city. Examples of events include art walks, film night, live music, crafts for children, cultural events, and food festivals.
- **S-25-Action 3** Provide information on the City's website regarding upcoming events, public hearings and meetings, municipal services, city news, and other important civic information.
- **S-25-Action 4** Create a City Employee Volunteer Program to encourage City staff to participate in community service programs.
- **S-25-Action 5** Continue to support and participate in the Cosumnes Community Services District Community Giving program.

## SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental justice provides equal environmental protection and equal access to economic opportunities and public facilities for all communities

regardless of income status, race, gender, or ethnicity.

**S-26 Promote community equity and environmental justice.**

- **S-26-Action 1** Support equal access to jobs by working with organizations to provide job training.
- **S-26-Action 2** Work with social services organizations to provide safe places for day laborers.
- **S-26-Action 3** Promote community programs and services that foster awareness of cultural diversity and heritage.
- **S-26-Action 4** Locate community facilities equitably so that they are accessible to all members of the community.

Please see the Circulation, Public Facilities & Finance, Housing, and Economic Development Elements of this General Plan for additional policies relating to environmental justice.

**SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: PUBLIC EDUCATION & AWARENESS**

Educating the community about sustainability issues will raise public understanding of and regard for the future consequences of their decisions and action. This can ultimately lead to behavior changes that promote sustainability principles. Continuing education increases employment opportunities, financial security, and personal well-being for employees and sustains a skilled and specialized workforce for employers.

**S-27 Promote continuing education and job training for all residents.**

- **S-27-Action 1** Continue to partner with EGUSD to optimize the joint use of school facilities for community and neighborhood programs and services.
- **S-27-Action 2** Continue to support early education programs for children.

- **S-27-Action 3** Develop a City of Elk Grove Student Internship Program to provide eligible students with the opportunity to work in departments within the City.

**S-28 Seek to provide all segments of the community with information relating to sustainability, climate change, and innovative development strategies.**

- **S-28-Action 1** Establish a Sustainability & Climate Change webpage on the City website with content to include, but not be limited to:
  - The efforts the City is undertaking toward sustainability;
  - Information on opportunities as to how community members can get involved in sustainable efforts; and
  - Links to useful resources, including best management practices posted by other public agencies.
- **S-28-Action 2** Work with local schools and universities to develop an awareness program relating to the three components of sustainability: environment, economy, and community.
- **S-28-Action 3** Sponsor an energy and water efficiency education program for the agricultural and business communities.

Please see the Safety and Economic Development Elements of this General Plan for additional policies relating to public information and education.

**SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY**

A safe and healthy community allows people of all ages and abilities to lead full, productive, and enjoyable lives.

**S-29 Support programs that promote healthy living.**

- **S-29-Action 1** Demonstrate leadership in efforts to promote community health by

implementing a Healthy Living at Work Program for City employees.

A Healthy Living at Work Program may include, but should not be limited to, (a) provision of healthy food at meetings, on-site cafeterias, vending machines and food vendors; (b) flexible work hours so that employees have more opportunities to participate in fitness programs as part of their working day; (c) Employee Assistance Program; (d) health education programs and online Web tools that help employees work toward their health goals; (e) a healthy commuter program that encourages or offers incentives for employees to walk and/or bike to work; (f) planned events and group activities to encourage employees to become active, such as team sports or lunchtime walks; and (g) reimbursements for health club to improve their health.

- **S-29-Action 2** Work with businesses to implement and participate in healthy living programs.
- **S-29-Action 3** Continue to support the Neighborhood Livability Program, which is dedicated to improving safety in residential areas through traffic calming.
- **S-29-Action 4** Continue to support the Cosumnes Community Services recreational activity programs for people of all ages and abilities.
- **S-29-Action 5** Support SACOG in the development and implementation of a Safe Routes to School program. (Please see CAP reduction measures

Please see the Circulation Element of this General Plan for policies that promote walking and biking as primary modes of transport; the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Element for policies that promote outdoor recreational opportunities; the Land Use Element for policies supporting mixed-use development that allows for walking/biking between origins in close proximity to destinations; and the Safety Element for policies related to Safety and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.

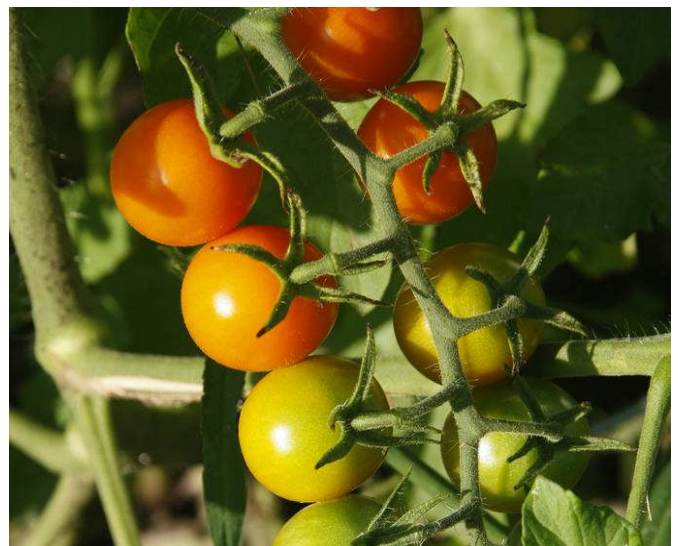
## SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS

Connecting the community with local food production and distribution enhances community health through improved access to healthy food, strengthens the local agricultural economy, and reduces energy needed to transport food products from greater distances.

### S-30 Cultivate local food systems that encourage healthy eating and support the regional economy.

- **S-30-Action 1** Encourage the marketing and selling of local agricultural products to local residents, vendors, and restaurants through farmers markets and other direct farm-to-table sales.
- **S-30-Action 2** Ensure that local development regulations allow for small-scale, compatible agricultural use of property, including edible landscaping, community gardens, and roadside food stands in appropriate areas of the city.

Please see the Conservation & Air Quality Element and Economic Development Element of this General Plan for additional policies relating to community food systems.



**SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Policies related to economic development and jobs/housing balance are found in the Economic Development Element of this General Plan. In addition, see reduction measures relating to economic development and jobs/housing balance that are included in the CAP.

**SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: GREEN JOBS & BUSINESSES**

Green jobs and businesses provide exciting opportunities to establish a viable local economy that acknowledges the value of the environment and promotes green technology, innovation, and sustainable business practices.

**S-31 Promote Elk Grove as a center for green jobs and businesses.**

- **S-31-Action 1** Establish a sustainable business certification and identification program to spotlight sustainable business operations in the community.
- **S-31-Action 2** Support companies working in the green sector by encouraging them to locate and stay in Elk Grove.
- **S-31-Action 3** Work with the Redevelopment Agency and education programs to create a “Green Jobs Incubator” to create more green jobs and offer job training in the green sector.
- **S-31-Action 4** Implement the Think, Shop, Live Elk Grove program to encourage residents and businesses to shop locally and spur local economic activity. (Please see CAP reduction measures.)

Please see the Economic Development Element of this General Plan for additional policies that supports local businesses.