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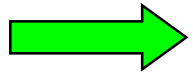
# Indicators & Assessments to Enhance Sustainability-Based Decision Making

Toronto Sustainability Roundtable  
Presentation to ISIN - March 14, 2003

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# Outline



- Toronto Initiatives
  - Sustainability Frameworks
  - Sustainability Indicators
  - Sustainability Assessment Process
  - Challenges
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# Sustainability Initiatives in Toronto



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# Sustainability Roundtable (SRT)

- Council advisory body
    - 36 members, 5 workgroups
    - open process with many participants
  - cross-sectoral forum
    - social, economic, environmental
    - community agencies, associations, academics, citizens, businesses, funders, Councillors, staff
  - towards sustainability-based decision-making
    - culture of sustainability
    - new instruments, process innovations
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# SRT Initiatives

- sustainability charter
- sustainability indicators
- sustainability assessment process
- community budget workbook

[www.toronto.ca/budget2003/budgetworkbook](http://www.toronto.ca/budget2003/budgetworkbook)

- waterfront revitalization
  - communicating sustainability
  - sustainability capacity audit
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# Towards Sustainability

- sustainability: integrating and balancing social, environmental and economic
    - not sustainable development
    - not environmental sustainability
  - limitations of past models
    - overlapping circles
    - concentric circles
    - pyramid
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# Draft Sustainability Charter

## Definition:

Sustainability means integrating and balancing the competing expectations of the present generation and not compromising the future. Sustainability acknowledges and considers the impact of our decisions and actions beyond the City of Toronto recognizing that continuous commitment is essential.

Sustainability achieves vitality and well-being for all through responsible planning and management of interdependent social, environmental and economic capacities.

[www.toronto.ca/sustainability/defining\\_sustainability](http://www.toronto.ca/sustainability/defining_sustainability)

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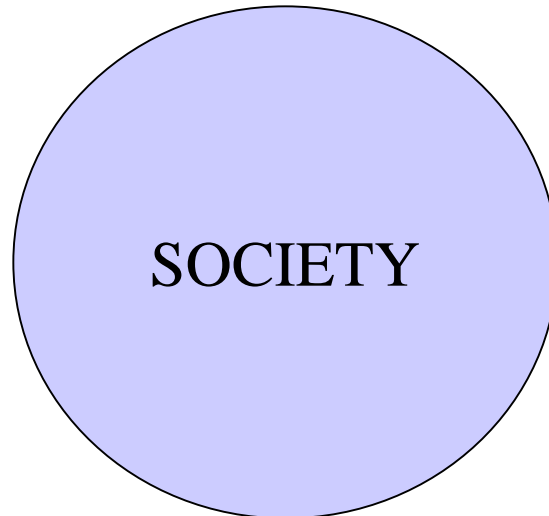
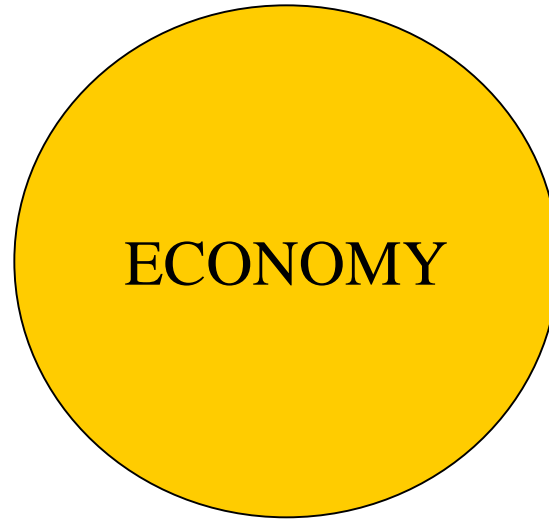
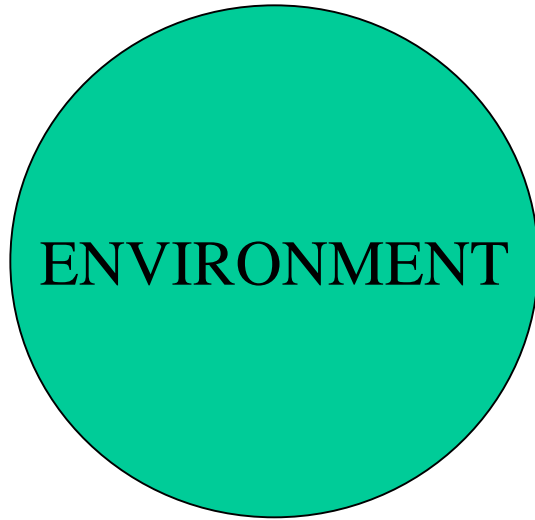
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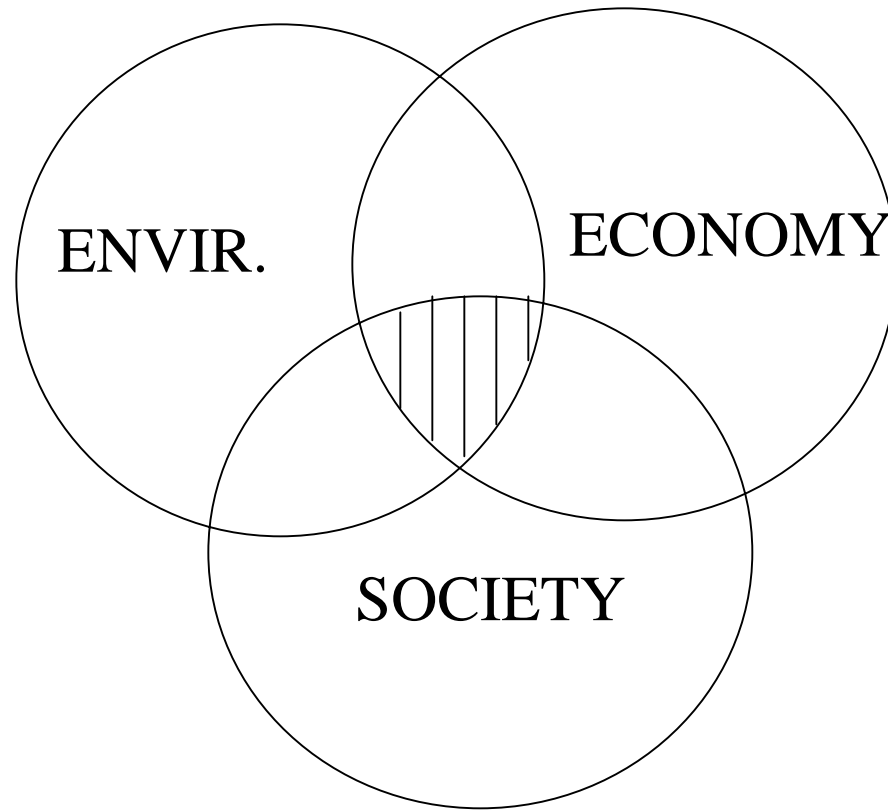
# Before Rio



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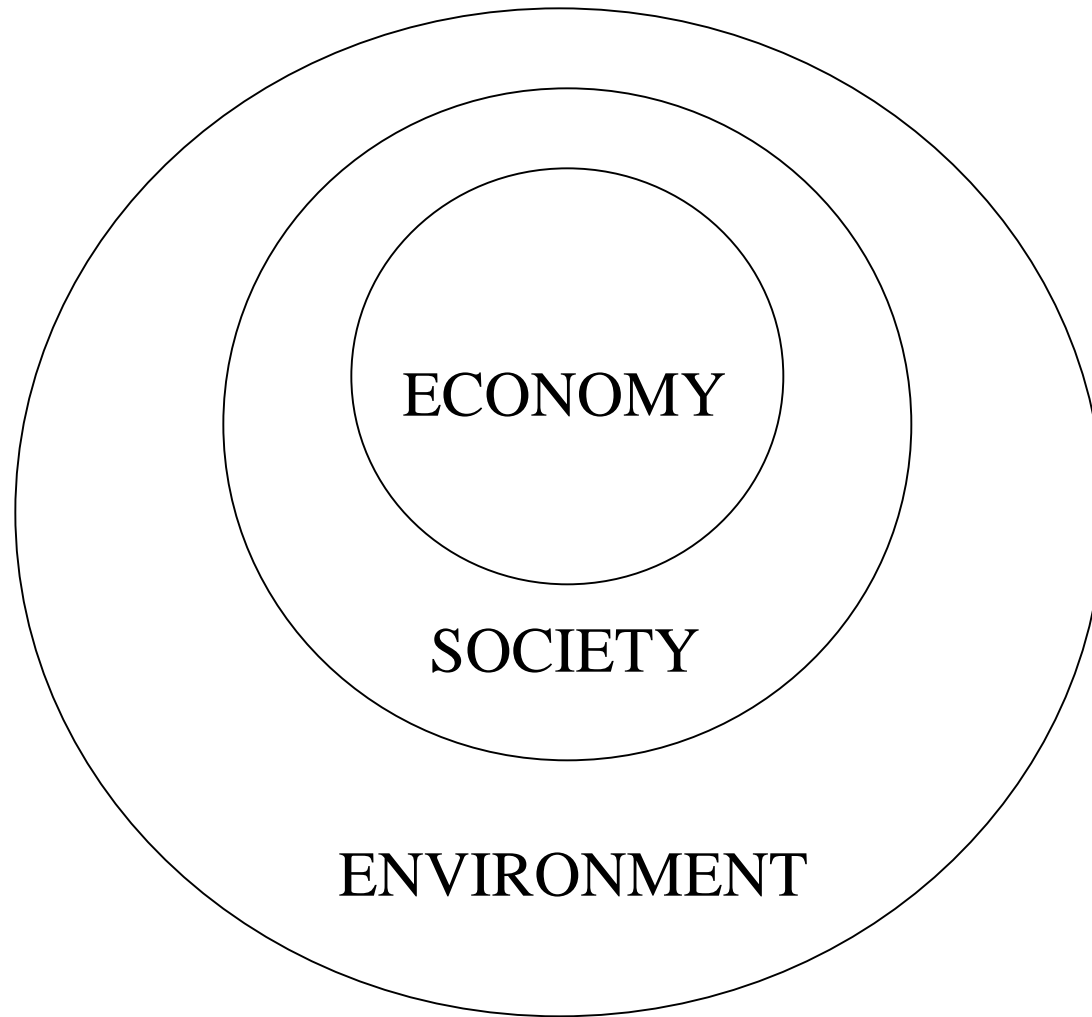
# After Rio



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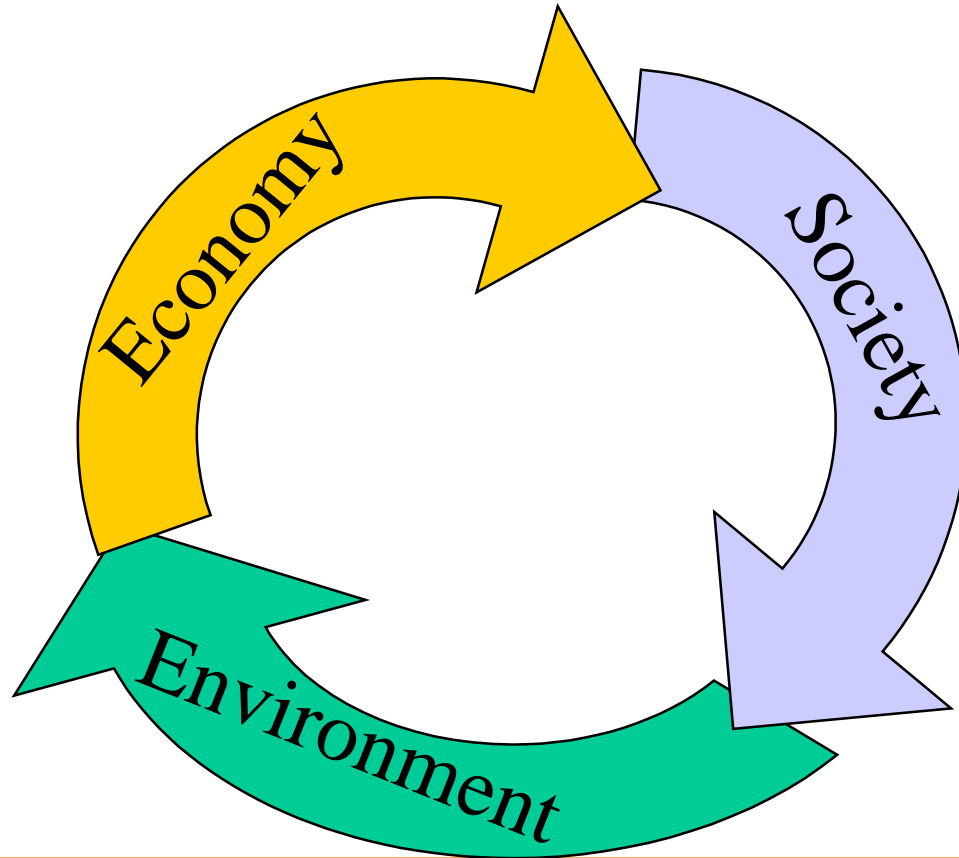
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# Before Johannesburg



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# Towards A New Model

- Dynamic Interrelationship
- Community Context
- Focus on Balance

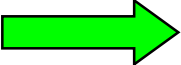
City Building

Governance

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# Measurements Workgroup

- drafted Sustainability Charter for direction
  - sustainability indicators - objectives:
    - identify series of indicators and their measures
    - use to assess progress towards sustainability
    - develop process for documenting indicators and reporting findings
  - work-in-progress
    - continuous improvement
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# Indicators Research

- reviewed >20 models: FCM Quality of Life, Sustainable Seattle, Vital Signs, Handbook of Democracy and Governance Program Indicators, United Nations Urban Indicators Review, Ontario Social Development Council, National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
  - assessed 100's of indicators:
    - purpose of indicator
    - context of other models
    - relationship to sustainability
    - ability to serve as strategic, bell-wether marker
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# Design Factors

- community outcomes
  - focus on sustainability
    - not programs or policy fields
  - augment, rather than duplicate, other indicator series
  - align with Strategic Plan - 5 themes
  - “KISS” principle
  - arrive at compact set of strategic, high-level markers
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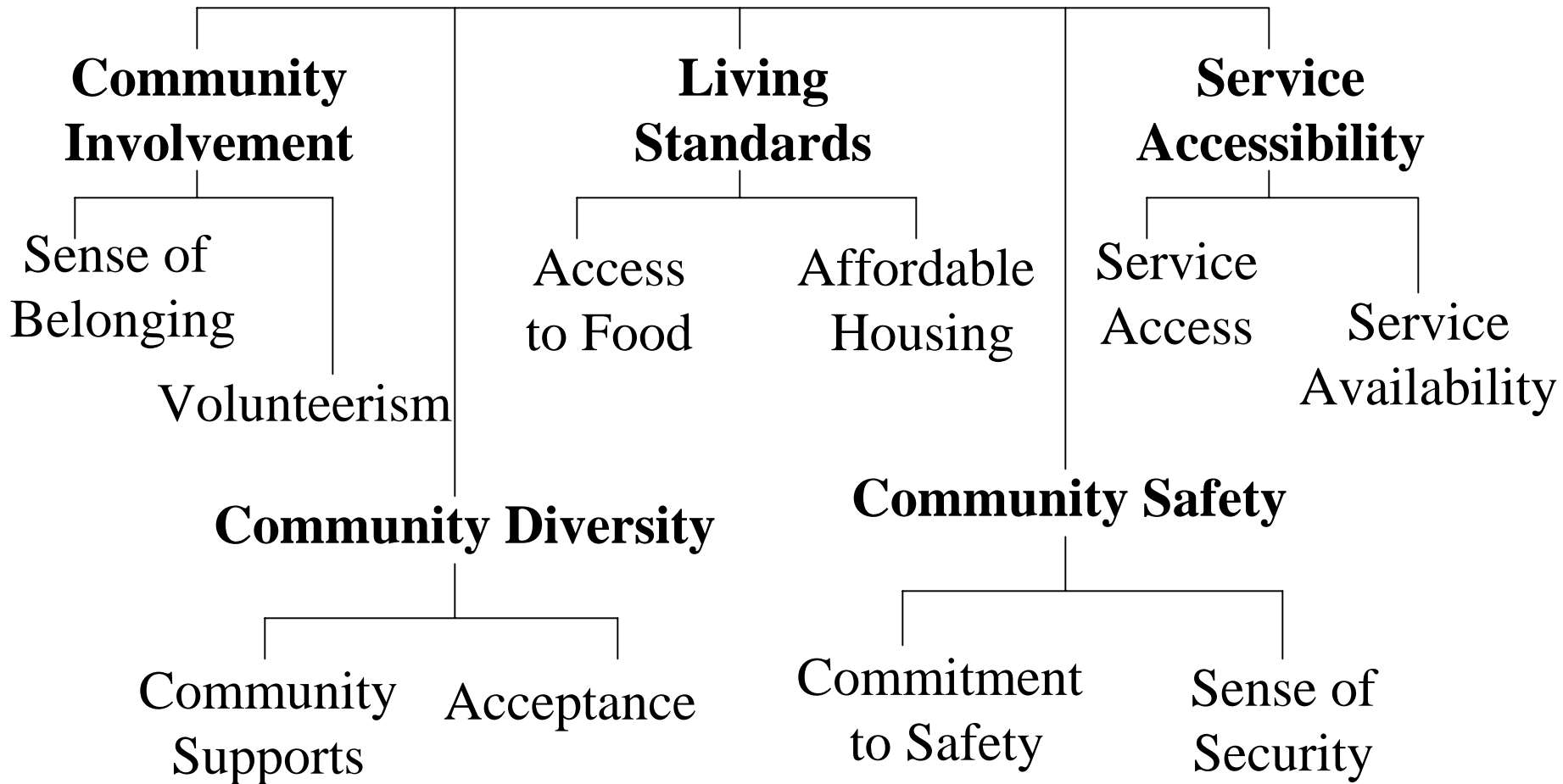
# Sustainability Indicators - Status

- 24 indicators and 53 measures
  - outline for summarizing information:
    - unit of measure
    - relevance to sustainability
    - data collection methods and challenges
    - related Strategic Plan goals
  - currently being refined
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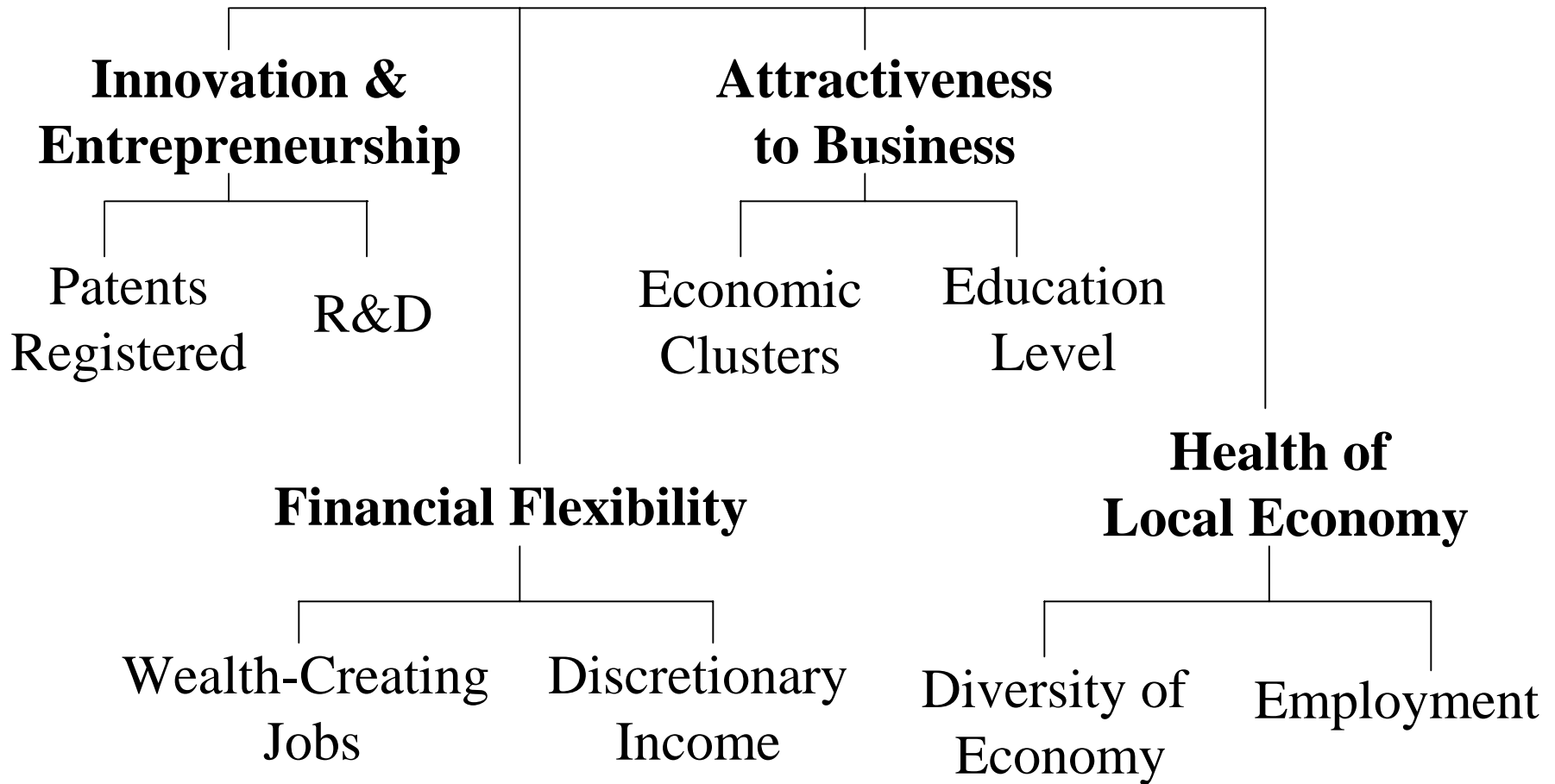
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# Draft Indicators - Part 1 of 5

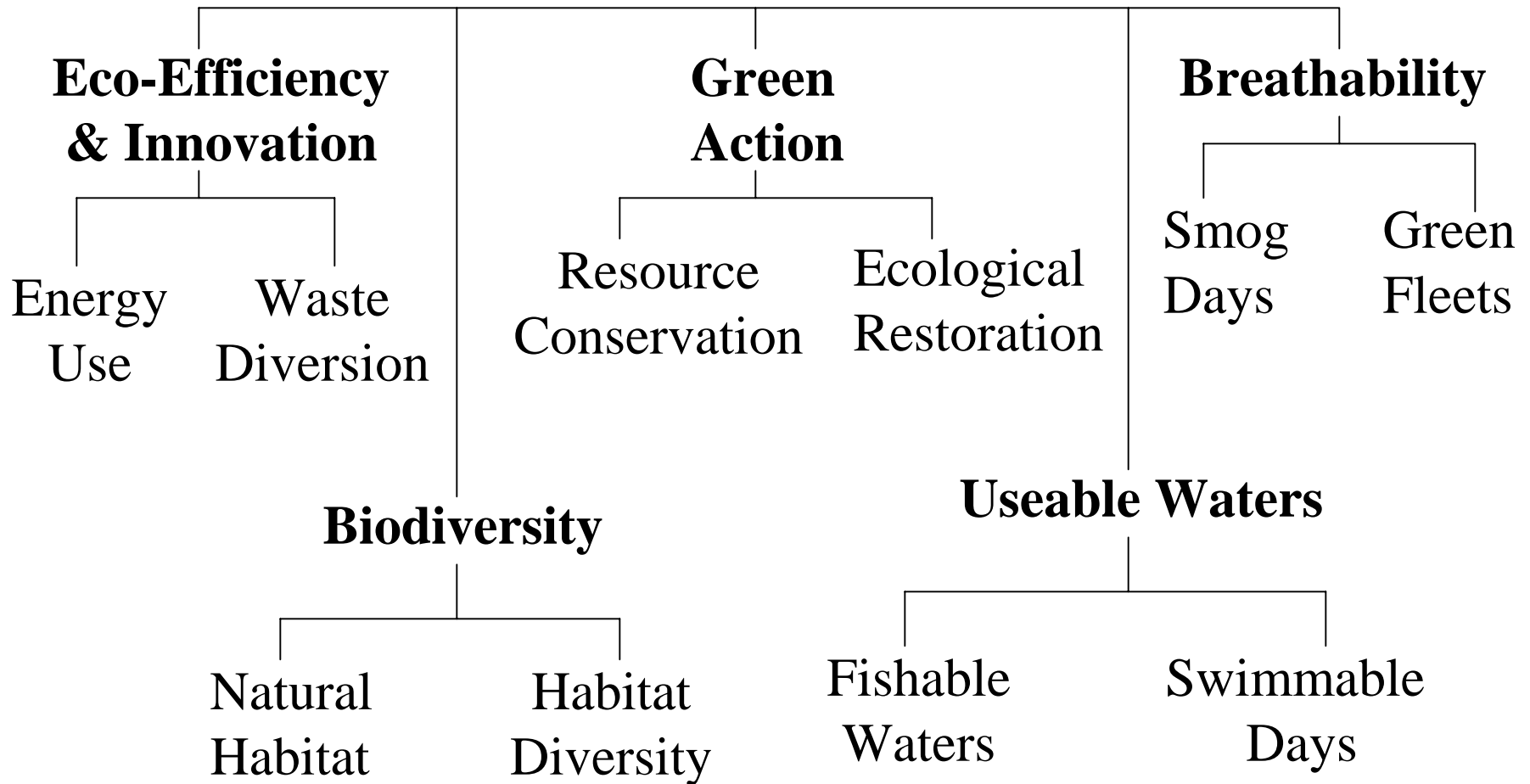
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# Draft Indicators - Part 2 of 5



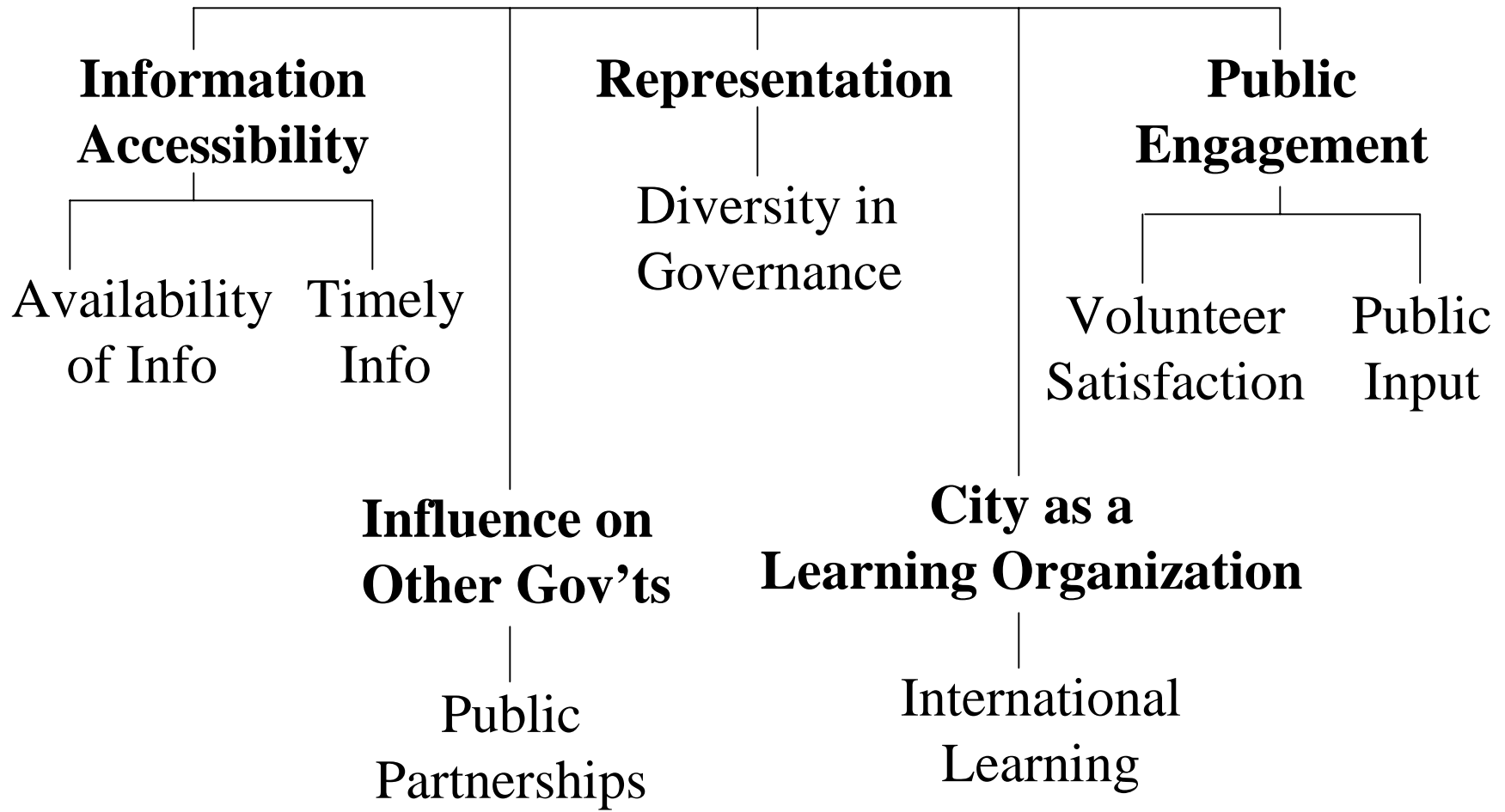
# Draft Indicators - Part 3 of 5



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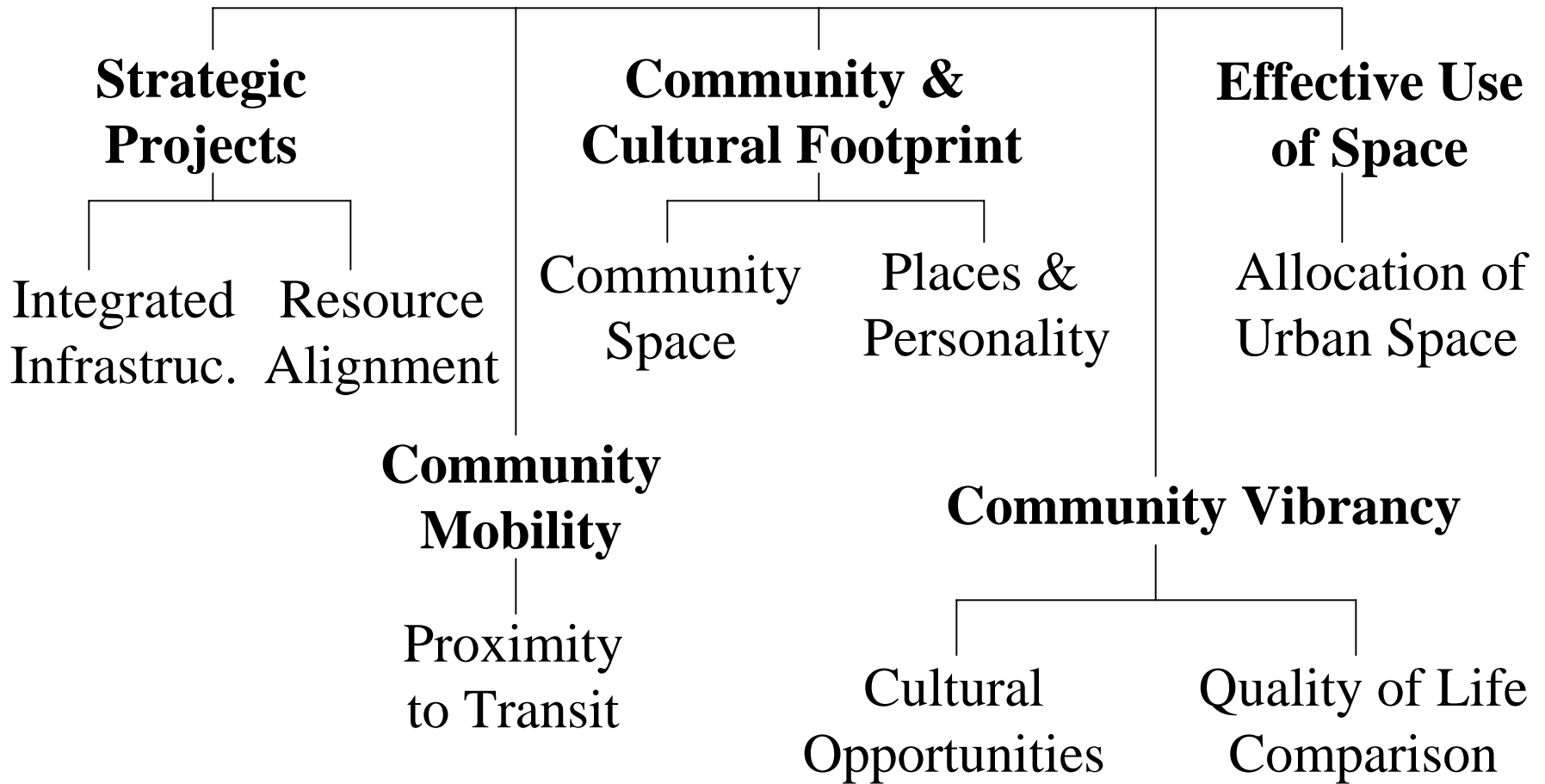
# Draft Indicators - Part 4 of 5



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# Draft Indicators - Part 5 of 5



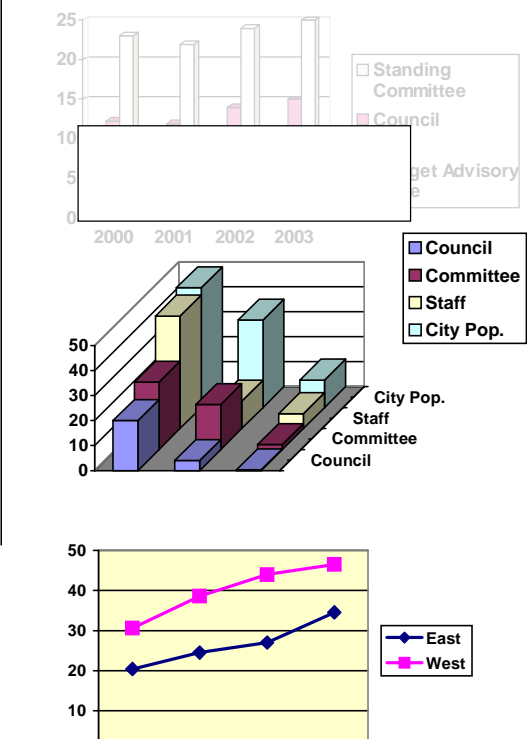
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# Sustainability Indicators - Next Steps

- refine indicators series
    - confirm indicators, measures, data
  - report to City Council
  - hand-off indicators for implementation
  - prepare 1st sustainability report
  - revisit Council's Strategic Plan
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# Report Format

<p><b>Icon</b> – summary assessment of progress on indicator</p> <p><b>Goal for the Future</b> Council’s vision for the future of the City, from the Strategic Plan..</p>	<p>indicator number #</p> <p><b>Title of the Indicator</b></p>	<p>indicator number #</p> <p><b>Supporting Measures</b></p>	
<p><b>What We Measured</b></p> <p>Specific information on the measurement. When the measurement is a composite of several measures, they will all be listed here.</p> <p><b>Data Source</b></p> <p>Where our information came from. At the end of the report there is a listing of data sources and contact information for each of the sources.</p> <p><b>Relationship to Strategic Plan:</b></p> <p>This section lists which of the goals from Council’s Strategic Plan this indicator is intended to measure</p> <p><b>Relationship to Other Sustainability Indicators:</b></p> <p></p> <p><b>Relevance of Indicator:</b></p> <p></p>	<p><b>Findings</b></p> <p>This section provides the reader with an overview of the current status of the measure in greater detail, often explaining the graph or chart provided above. Information might also include the status of City programs or services, or external influences which could affect the measure.</p>		<p><b>Supportive Measure 1 and Data Sources</b></p> <p>Where our information came from. At the end of the report there is a listing of data sources and contact information for each of the sources.</p> <p><b>Supportive Measure 2 and Data Sources</b></p> <p></p>



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# Financial Mechanisms & Governance Workgroups

- impacts of specific proposals/decisions
  - sustainability assessment process
  - major initiatives of public interest
  - promote sustainability perspective:
    - decision making processes
    - priority setting processes
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# Sustainability Assessment Process

- 2-stage sustainability assessment process:
    - proposal stage
    - monitoring stage
  - currently being refined
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# Sustainability Assessment Process

## - Proposal Stage

- major public policy issues and projects
  - expected sustainability objectives
  - prospective in orientation
  - refinements to proposal based on sustainability assessment
  - sustainability impact statement
    - part of recommendation submitted to Council
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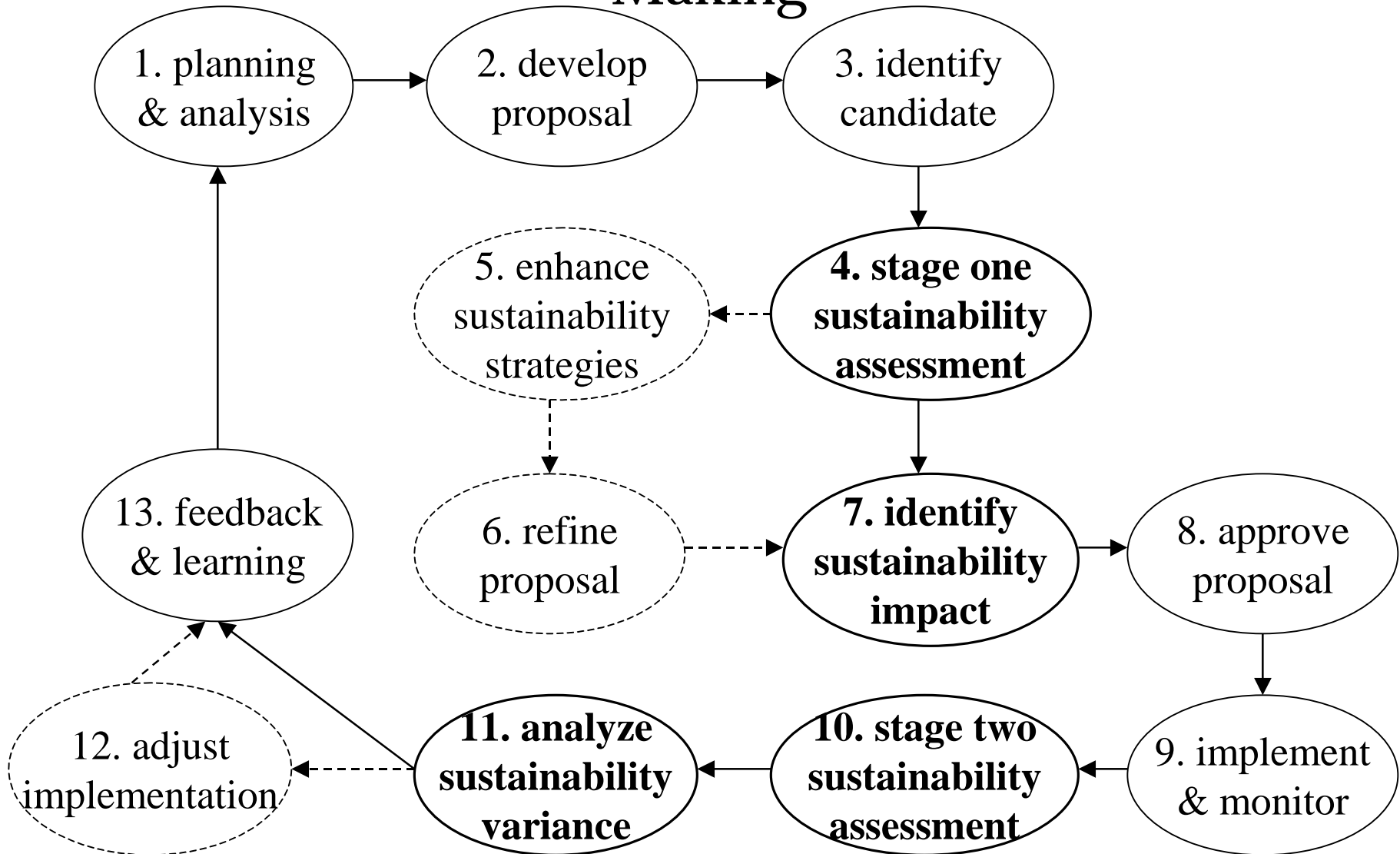
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# Sustainability Assessment Process

## - Monitoring Stage

- issues/projects assessed at proposal stage
  - implementation experience
  - observed sustainability outcomes
  - analysis of sustainability variance
  - retrospective in orientation
  - refinements to implementation strategies based on sustainability assessment
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# Sustainability Assessment Process to Guide Decision Making



# SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT – PROPOSAL STAGE

DRAFT

## I. SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES (e.g., benefits)

**Integrate and balance social, economic, environmental benefits**

**Consider current decision in context of long term vision and broader scale**

**Use appropriate public communication and engagement processes**

**Advance goals in Council's Strategic Plan and sectoral plans**

**Proposed Strategies to Expand or Enhance Sustainability Objectives:**

**Summary of Sustainability Objectives:**

# SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT – PROPOSAL STAGE

DRAFT

## II. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (e.g., costs)

<b>Integrate and balance social, economic, environmental benefits</b>	<b>Consider current decision in context of long term vision and broader scale</b>	<b>Use appropriate public communication and engagement processes</b>	<b>Advance goals in Council's Strategic Plan and sectoral plans</b>
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### Proposed Strategies to Avoid or Minimize Sustainability Implications:

### Summary of Sustainability Implications:

## III. SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT (e.g., expected outcomes)



**SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT – MONITORING STAGE** **DRAFT**

<b>I. EXPECTED SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Implications</b>	<b>Impact Statement</b>

<b>II. OBSERVED SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Implications</b>	<b>Impact Statement</b>

**SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT – MONITORING STAGE DRAFT**

<b>III. SUSTAINABILITY VARIANCE ANALYSIS</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Implications</b>	<b>Impact Statement</b>
<b>IV. PROPOSED STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES DURING IMPLEMENTATION</b>		

# PROJECT-BASED INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS

**DRAFT**

## SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

SOCIAL	ECONOMIC	ENVIRONMENTAL	GOVERNANCE	CITY BUILDING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// expands social inclusion</li> <li>/// encourages civic participation</li> <li>/// strengthens communities and social capital</li> <li>/// strengthens well-being and social equity</li> <li>/// promotes diversity</li> <li>/// contributes to safety, security and social cohesion</li> <li>/// other benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// develops knowledge and skilled workforce</li> <li>/// diversifies employment opportunities</li> <li>/// enhances business attractiveness</li> <li>/// supports good design, innovation</li> <li>/// supports long term prosperity</li> <li>/// encourages sustainable enterprise and business practices</li> <li>/// other benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// contributes to clean air, water, land</li> <li>/// raises environmental awareness</li> <li>/// promotes sound energy and resource use</li> <li>/// reduces environmental risks</li> <li>/// reduces ecological footprint</li> <li>/// other benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// supports open processes and effective dialogue</li> <li>/// enhances City's authority and optimizes City's capacity to act</li> <li>/// promotes City's fiscal sustainability</li> <li>/// strengthens partnerships and international linkages</li> <li>/// enhances sustainability-based decision making</li> <li>/// other benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// appropriately invests in social and physical infrastructure</li> <li>/// supports excellence in public services</li> <li>/// integrates services and transportation systems</li> <li>/// enhances quality of life and image of the City</li> <li>/// other benefits</li> </ul>

# PROJECT-BASED INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS

**DRAFT**

<b>SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>SOCIAL</b>	<b>ECONOMIC</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	<b>CITY BUILDING</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// detracts from community cohesion</li> <li>/// decreases access to resources</li> <li>/// discourages civic participation</li> <li>/// adversely affects well-being and equity</li> <li>/// poses safety and security risks</li> <li>/// other costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// decreases opportunities for knowledge and skills development</li> <li>/// decreases diversity of employment opportunities</li> <li>/// does not conform to principles of sustainable design, innovation</li> <li>/// detracts from long term prosperity</li> <li>/// reduces business attractiveness</li> <li>/// other costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// detrimental to air, water, land quality</li> <li>/// reduces environmental awareness</li> <li>/// increases levels of energy and resource use</li> <li>/// poses environmental risks</li> <li>/// other costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// diminishes open processes and dialogues</li> <li>/// constrains City's capacity to act</li> <li>/// poses fiscal risks</li> <li>/// weakens partnerships and linkages</li> <li>/// other costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// decreases investment in social infrastructure</li> <li>/// adversely affects physical infrastructure</li> <li>/// diminishes quality of public services</li> <li>/// reduces service integration</li> <li>/// diminishes quality of life</li> <li>/// other costs</li> </ul>

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# Sustainability Assessment Process - Next Steps

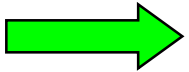
- refine process:
    - components / steps
    - lines of inquiry
    - project-based assessment indicators
  - report to City Council
  - hand-off for implementation
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# Some Questions and Challenges

- is new sustainability concept a better starting point?
  - does scope of indicator series address sustainability?
  - are these the right indicators & measures?
  - which major projects should be subject to sustainability assessment?
  - how should project-based indicators relate to sustainability indicators?
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