

CITY OF NEW PRAGUE SUSTAINABILITY

Date: November 6, 2023

Subject: Sustainability

Purpose: The City of New Prague is committed to building and maintaining a healthy and safe community for current and future generations through preserving natural resources and the environment, fostering a healthy economy, and meeting the basic needs of all residents with respect and cultural awareness. This policy will set expectations for, and give guidance to, City staff and City boards and commissions on how business of the City should be conducted.

Policy: Three elements help define sustainability: vibrant economy, healthy environment, and social equity. These elements will allow the City of New Prague, its businesses, and its residents to meet the needs of today while not compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

The City will develop public policy and programs that will support each of these:

Vibrant Economy

Businesses should thrive, residents should be employed, innovation should flourish, and the services needed to attract new green businesses and develop and train a future workforce should be readily available.

Healthy Environment

The use of natural resources, necessary for sustaining life, should be in balance with nature's ability to replenish them. The community should have access to and protect natural habitats and parks, clean air and water, and ecological diversity. The built environment should be well-planned to respect the natural environment and to promote public health, safety, and recreation.

Social Equity

The City is committed to providing an inclusive environment that supports the diversity of our community and encourages civic engagement. All neighborhoods should be safe from crime and violence, and residents should have access to the basic needs of education, health services, housing, and food.

The interrelationships among the three elements are more important than any one element. In the City of New Prague, public policy and programs shall pursue a thoughtful, balanced approach when interests compete and focus new programs and policies primarily on shared interests, whenever possible. The process of thinking sustainably and utilizing, when appropriate, an inclusive collaborative process will

produce visionary decisions today that will ensure a viable and thriving community for the future.

There are three aspects to fully integrating the commitment to sustainability within the City:

- A focus on serving the community, enhancing the economy, protecting local environmental resources, and establishing a vision of sustainability for all programs and policies that the City will adopt.
- Actions to build a sustainable governmental agency with a sound financial foundation, a diverse, innovative, productive workforce, and a light environmental footprint.
- Leadership in the community and the region with elected officials and staff working collaboratively with other counties, cities, agencies, and organizations to develop solutions that provide wide-reaching benefits, and by setting an example of thoughtful, innovative, balanced approaches to policy and programs.

This commitment from the City of New Prague to cultivate a sustainable future shall be reflected in decisions of public policy, programs, and services, and in a workplace that encourages continuous improvement for existing programs; values and maximizes employee assets; and stimulates an atmosphere of innovation, collaboration, productivity, pride, and personal commitment to sustainability.

All present and future City elected officials, administration, and employees will recognize and respect the connections between economic, environment, social and health systems in meeting their explicit and implied responsibilities to current and future generations.