

Lenses

Environmental sustainability can be applied to the following areas. Where else can it be applied?

Preserving the natural environment

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Solid waste diversion

Water and air quality

Reducing stormwater runoff

Energy efficiency

Sustainable urban growth and infrastructure

Transit Oriented Development

Maximizing transportation options

Protecting heritage resources

Collaboration with Capital Region, community partners & other levels of government

What is the purpose of a lens?

OurWinnipeg was created with environmental, social and economic sustainability as its overarching principles. These principles, in combination, are essential to Winnipeg's long-term well-being. Therefore, they will prevail throughout the *OurWinnipeg* review process as its critical foundation.

As we move forward in the review process, we encourage residents to frame their discussions on *OurWinnipeg*'s three foundational lenses which ultimately shape policy development, long-term planning, and decision-making processes.

Environmental Sustainability

This lens is about being proactive in addressing sustainable development, climate risk and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It requires the City and the residents it serves to understand how urban development and lifestyle choices impact the primary causes of climate change and the depletion of natural resources. We have a collective responsibility to respond, adapt and limit these impacts in order to sustain the critical environmental and natural resource needs for current and future generations.

Environmental Sustainability is addressed in existing policy directions related to promoting environmentally sustainable actions within the Public Service, preserving natural areas and ecologically- significant lands and reducing the environmental impact of our actions through waste reduction, water conservation, energy efficiency and decreased greenhouse gas emissions. It also includes building community partnerships and developing long-term goals and indicators, which must be integrated into decision-making, planning processes, and public reporting.

This lens has been applied to the following; where else can it be applied?

Age-friendly communities
 Poverty reduction
 Housing
 Transportation
 Arts, culture and recreation services

This lens has been applied to the following; where else can it be applied?

Infrastructure
 Service delivery
 Programming and partnerships (local and global)
 Economic and environmental sustainability toward personal and social prosperity
 Population growth
 Building complete communities
 Housing affordability
 Job opportunities

Social Equity

This lens is about treating people fairly and recognizing, respecting and accommodating differences. It consists of removing systemic barriers to create places where all people belong, are empowered, and equally benefit. This also means working to ensure that those facing barriers can more easily access basic needs, have a good quality of life that is affordable, and access an environment that is universally designed to benefit all ages and abilities.

Social Equity is addressed in existing policy directions related to creating equity, inclusion and access to municipal programs, services and facilities to address community needs through building strategic partnerships, planning activities, and building a diverse and innovative workforce.

One example of how we work towards social equity is to reduce barriers to participation in social and recreational programs within our ethno-cultural, low-income, and Indigenous youth communities.

Economic Prosperity

This lens is about inspiring individual potential and leveraging our collective capacity to generate economic benefit for the community as a whole. It involves being proactive in positioning ourselves for economic opportunity, and creating opportunities for individual self-sufficiency in the process.

Advancing this lens requires the City, on behalf of its residents, to invest financial resources wisely, capitalize on human potential, leverage resources like additional funding sources, and advance innovative best-practices.

Economic Prosperity is addressed in existing policy directions related to creating innovative and consistent economic environments through public, private, and community development cooperation that promotes investment and growth.

Policy Considerations

- What are the things that impact everyday lives and experiences within our communities?
 - **Environmental Sustainability:** Water access and quality, air quality, natural resource management, waste, recycling, composting, public transportation, infrastructure, economy, park spaces, local food production, development growth, climate change mitigation and adaptation, urban resiliency, ecological goods and services, energy efficiency?
 - **Social Equity:** How well we respond to needs related to age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, income level, cultural expression, where one lives, being a visible minority, an Indigenous person, a newcomer?
 - **Economic Prosperity:** Economic opportunities, labour force needs, self-sufficiency, long-term financial sustainability, globalized economy, community economic development, increased mobility, critical mass, proximity to other population centres?
- How do we consider the needs of current and future residents over the lifecycle of the city? What is our community's capacity to respond and adapt to our history, population growth, and future quality of life?
- Are the people most impacted in a decision part of a meaningful decision-making process? Who has a seat at the table? Do the people who are making decisions have all the information they need to participate in those decisions? Whose interests need to be protected? Who benefits from decisions and why?
- What are the human, environmental or budgetary costs or trade-offs that have been identified or allocated through planning processes and municipal decision making?
- Are City programs and services available throughout the city, and are they affordable and accessible to everyone? If not, who is being excluded and why? Can we or how do we balance community needs, market demand, and political will?
- What is the responsibility of Winnipeggers and the City to lead by example? What resources do residents need from the City to support environmentally sustainable, low carbon, and socially equitable behaviours and be economically prosperous?
- How are policies, programs and processes being aligned, implemented, and evaluated between City departments? How are unintended impacts or barriers mitigated or removed so policies and programs can be more effective?