

Sustainable Development Plan 2017-2020



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Definition of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is an internationally recognized concept that is defined as:

“... a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two inherent key concepts: the concept of ‘needs’, in particular the essential needs of the world’s poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment’s ability to meet present and future needs.”

To be sustainable, development must be economically effective, socially equitable and ecologically sustainable. It must be backed by a new form of government that promotes the engagement and participation of all community stakeholders in the decision-making process

Portrait of the City

The City's terrain extends over an area of 1,050 hectares (2,600 acres) with a population of approximately 19,900. Careful design has produced a tranquil setting of single-family homes, parks and tree-lined streets that encourage strolling and cycling. Nestled on the shores of Lake Saint Louis, Beaconsfield is graced with prime waterfront green space. Saint James Park and the grounds of historic Centennial Hall, the City's picturesque cultural centre, are ideal for family outings. Outdoor enthusiasts also have access to three boat ramps, two yacht clubs and a host of neighbourhood parks, playgrounds and playing fields.

There are many topnotch facilities that meet the needs of all age groups including the Recreation Centre with its full-sized rink, semi-Olympic pool, gymnasium and youth centre. The library is heavily frequented by young and old alike, who appreciate its extensive collections and excellent reference services. Many of Beaconsfield's social, cultural and athletic programs are run by local volunteer organisations to which the municipality provides administrative and technical support.

Committed to safeguarding its resident's quality of life, Beaconsfield is a member of the Healthy Communities Network, an international movement sponsored by the World Health Organization that promotes collaboration among all sectors of the community. In recent years, the City has worked hand-in-hand with environment-conscious residents to curb pesticide use and encourage such proactive as recycling, composting and safe disposal of hazardous waste. The exceptionally high standard of living that you find in this community has been achieved through a long-standing tradition of responsible government and citizen involvement.

History of the approach

For several years, Beaconsfield has demonstrated that it is committed to protecting the environment, improving the quality of community life and developing the local economy. The sustainable development approach was supported by the formation of the Environmental Advisory Committee following the City's reconstitution in 2006. The Environmental Advisory Committee advises the municipal Council on strategies, policies, programs and by-laws which would have an impact on any aspect of our built and natural environments, in order that we may improve the quality of our lives and the lives of future generations. This committee will research, educate, liaison, initiate and promote and engage the community on issues which relate to sustainability.

In 2007, the City adopted the Strategic Plan 2007 – 2010. The plan stated that the mission of the City is to provide an inclusive community offering a high quality of life that respects the natural and built environments through responsible and innovative management. The plan established a common vision of the community and eight strategic directions from a sustainable development perspective. Based on the direction to ensure a sustainable natural environment, the Environmental Advisory Committee prepared in 2011 an environmental strategic plan comprised of six pillars: water conservation, reduce and manage waste, improve biodiversity and the natural environment, improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote sustainable and self-sufficient communities, raise awareness with residents and employees to promote environmental change.

With the aim of addressing the corporate challenge of incorporating sustainable development into the management and values of a community, the City of Beaconsfield developed its own local action plan, based on the orientations and objectives of the Montréal Community Sustainable Development Plan 2010-2015, that was adopted in 2012.

The challenges and issues specific to the territory

Beaconsfield is recognized as a community with a green environment. It was one of the most often used key phrases noted in the 2015 Citizens Forum. The conservation and development of green spaces and the available recreational activities must meet both the needs of the planned evolution of the community as well as respect the uniqueness of the natural environment.

The Advisory Committee on Land Use Planning and Development was formed in 2016 to ensure adequate response to the housing needs of future generations in Beaconsfield and promote eco-responsible development of the municipality. With a vision based on sustainable development objectives, the committee identified that future development of the City should include the following concepts:

- a city of human scale (height, density, services) based on the concepts of walkability
- a city favouring public access to its rivers and waterways
- a city that preserves its existing natural environments
- a city that focuses on the diversity of mixed uses
- a city that takes into account social equity
- a city that focuses on the natural environment

Summary of accomplishments

In response to the City's issues and directions, several plans, policies, and regulations have been either adopted or amended to incorporate the principles of sustainable development. The objectives identified in these documents include:

- Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
 - Implement actions to reduce GHG production resulting from municipal operations
- Plan for climate change adaptation
 - Implement actions to minimize the impact of extreme climate events
- By-law on the use of drinking water
 - Control the use of drinking water in order to preserve the quality and the quantity of this resource
- Waste Reduction Strategy
 - Ensure responsible and efficient waste management services that are adapted to Beaconsfield's needs, and are flexible for its residents
- Action Plan to save and protect ash trees against the emerald ash borer
 - Implement a detection and treatment program for public ash trees, offer an advisory service and a preferential treatment price for private property owners
- Plan for Sustainable Mobility
 - Motivate the community to take a healthier approach by integrating more active modes of transport into their daily commutes
- Traffic By-law
 - Integrate traffic calming measures in line with the *Canadian Guide to Neighbourhood Traffic Calming*

- Action Plan for Persons with disabilities
 - Remove social, professional and educational obstacles related to integration for people with disabilities in our community
- Age-Friendly Municipality Action Plan
 - promote active ageing by optimizing opportunities for health, participation on and security
- Parks and Green Spaces Master Plan
 - Integrate the natural environment in the renovation of the existing park facilities
- Zoning By-law
 - Protect public and private trees, and apply the requirements for the felling of trees
- Construction By-law
 - Prohibit the replacement of any device or fireplace allowing the use of solid fuel that does not meet the emissions limit for fine particles set by the Environmental Protection Agency
- Nuisance By-law
 - Limit greenhouse gas emissions by applying the provisions for vehicle idling requirements
- Site Planning and Architectural Integration Programmes By-law
 - Encourage use of materials that reduce energy loss and greenhouse gas emissions
- Partnership for Environmental Sustainability
 - Promote the exclusive use of reusable water bottles on public property
- Blue Dot Declaration
 - Identify objectives and actions to address climate change through mitigation, adaptation and responsible use of resources
- Sustainable Development Plan 2010 - 2015

The Sustainable Development Plan 2010-2015 is composed of five orientations. A summary of a few of the accomplishments for each of the orientations provides a portrait of the City's evolution towards the achievement of the objectives:

1. Improve air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
 - Energy-saving measures at the Recreation Centre in 2006, which has reduced natural gas consumption by 29,750 cubic metres per year (19% decrease) and has saved 835,790 kWh of electricity per year (37% decrease). These amounts represent a reduction in emissions into the atmosphere of 82 tonnes of CO₂ or 31 cars in car-equivalents.
 - Elimination of oil heating systems in municipal buildings.
 - Weekly garbage pick-up in the 1990s.
 - Yield Project: Replacement of 62 unjustified stop signs with “Yield” signs on the road network (14% of a total of 435) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Ensure the quality of life in residential areas
 - Improvements to the bike path network: addition of 12 km in 2011 for a total of 28.6 km of bike paths.
 - Addition of 8 bicycle stands at several locations along the bike path.
 - Increase in pedestrian sidewalks : addition of 3.4 km for a total of 27.2 km in 2014

3. Practise responsible resource management

- Active management of the water system: quick intervention to repair water leaks.
- Storm water management when territory is developed - ditches are dug either side of the roadway, along approx. 90% of the network.
- Rainwater intervention plan for the Willowbrook and Meadowbrook basins (25% and 29% of the territory respectively): control of volumes and quality of the water discharged into Lac St-Louis.
- Substantial reduction in the number of residential cross connections.
- Installation of a water pumping system from the lake to wash streets, water plants and for the sewer cleaning truck.
- On-site mulching and composting of leaves in parks since 2010.
- Implementation of paperless Council meetings.
- Creation of a park and ride area at the Beaurepaire station reserved for the use of Beaconsfield residents.
- Finalization of the conversion of traffic lights to LED lighting in 2010.
- Installation of "lighting on demand" switches with a lights-off timer for exterior sports spaces (baseball, tennis in summer and skating rinks in winter).
- Construction of a 50-unit apartment building for independent seniors (Villa Beaurepaire).
- Introduction of a Master Composter program to encourage the practice of home composting.
- Maintenance of winter road conditions using salt treated with magnesium chloride. This practice has reduced salt usage by at least 20% since 2009 for similar amounts of precipitation.
- Construction of two "green" parking lots at the City Hall complex
- Regulating watering times and banning watering during drought conditions.
- Construction and installation of a "Stormceptor" system for the catchment of run-off, in order to improve the quality of rainwater discharged into Angell Woods.
- Due to investment in the water network, a reduction in drinking water consumption between 2011 and 2015 of 970,000 m³, or 25% less, meeting the objective of the Drinking Water Saving Strategy.

4. Adopt best practices for sustainable development in businesses and institutions

- Revitalization of Beaurepaire Village (urban planning and landscape de-sign, and improvements to street furniture) in a context based on pedestrians as the priority.
- Contribution to the revitalization of the Beaconsfield Shopping Centre by maintaining the interior mall.

5. Improve protection of biodiversity, natural environments and green spaces

- Higher fines for unauthorized felling of trees.
- Maximize the protective strip along Rivière-à-l'Orme.
- Purchase and protection of a portion of Angell Woods.
- Tree planting on public property doubled to two hundred per year.
- Incentive tree planting project - arboretum of 75 trees with species adapted to Beaconsfield to demonstrate the ease of maintenance, and to highlight the benefits of trees

Context

Montreal's Sustainable Development Approach

In June 2016, the Agglomeration Council of Montréal adopted the Sustainable Montréal 2016-2020 plan following a major consultation exercise involving more than 230 partners, including several Montreal based organizations, neighbouring cities, boroughs and central services. These partners identified three challenges and four intervention priorities that call for synergy and consolidation of interventions at regional and local levels.

Montréal's three sustainable development challenges for the 2016-2020 planning exercise were identified as:

- 1 LOW-CARBON MONTRÉAL**
Reduce GHG by 80% by 2050
Reduce and adapt
- 2 EQUITABLE MONTRÉAL**
Improve access to services and facilities
Fight inequality and promote inclusiveness
- 3 EXEMPLARY MONTRÉAL**
Adopt exemplary sustainable development practices
Lead the way and mobilize

To meet these challenges, Sustainable Montréal 2016-2020 sets 4 priorities that are broken down into actions. In order to obtain maximum impact on the entire territory, these priorities and actions are integrated into all Montréal endeavours, including:

- the municipal government's action plan;
- local sustainable development plans for boroughs and neighbouring cities;
- the action plan of the partner organizations.

The actions and implementation measures that form part of the Sustainable Development Plan 2017-2020 for the City of Beaconsfield are grouped according to the priorities of the Montréal Sustainable Development initiative:

1. Reduce GHG emissions and dependence on fossil fuels;
2. Add vegetation, increase biodiversity and ensure continuity of resources;
3. Ensure access to sustainable, human-scale and healthy neighbourhoods;
4. Make the transition toward a green, circular and responsible economy.

The mobilization of stakeholders in the process will be essential to ensure the successful implementation of the actions identified for each of the priorities.

The Sustainable Development Plan 2017-2020 for the City of Beaconsfield is designed to evolve, to be improved and adjusted during its time period, as a function of new events and opportunities that will guide the achievement of the objectives of the community.

Action Plan 2017 - 2020

Priority 1 Reduce GHG emissions and dependence on fossil fuels

Action 1 Increase the modal share of travel on foot, by bicycle and transit

- 1.1 Promote the Active Mobility Plan adopted in 2014 - highlight recommendations

- 1.2 Encourage the active travel of citizens on the home-school-work routes identified by the Active Mobility Plan

- 1.3 Encourage organizations to promote active transportation among children and their parents according to the initiatives *Trottibus*, and *À pied, à vélo, ville active*

Action 2 Electrify and optimize transportation

- 2.1 Participate in the electrification efforts of the municipal vehicle fleet

- 2.2 Provide parking spaces for electric vehicles, equipped with charging stations in the parking lots of municipal buildings

Action 3 Increase the number of sustainable buildings

- 3.1 Reducing the energy consumption of municipal buildings

- 3.2 For the building or renovation of municipal structures, require the recycling of the construction, renovation and demolition materials (CRD)

- 3.3 Conduct an audit of municipal buildings to determine the current status and develop a preventive maintenance program

Priority 2 Add vegetation, increase biodiversity and ensure continuity of resources

Action 4 Protect and enrich the urban forest and biodiversity

- 4.1 Promote the principles of the Tree Policy adopted in 2001 to encourage the recognition of the exceptional contribution of trees to the quality of life of the community

- 4.2 Strengthen the zoning by-law for the protection of public and private trees and implement the requirements for tree felling

- 4.3 Pursue the action plan to protect ash trees and the apply the Zoning By-law to limit and control the spread of the emerald ash borer

- 4.4 Carry out the inventory of trees on the public domain and develop a management plan for this essential asset

- 4.5 Identify suitable sites and maintain increased tree planting on the public domain

- 4.6 Implement biodiverse developments in the public domain (ex: incorporate a variety of native species depending on the type of project)

- 4.7 Contribute to the increase in protected areas (ex: conversion of private land to green space as part of private developments)

Action 5 Increase plantings in the built environment

- 5.1 Promote the regulatory provisions for white and / or green roofs as per the Zoning By-law amendments adopted in 2012

- 5.2 Provide white or green roofs on municipal buildings where conditions permit

- 5.3 Implement the Zoning By-law amendments adopted in 2016 to install a green strip at the edge of properties for new landscape projects or renovations

- 5.4 Implement Zoning By-law amendments adopted in 2012 requiring the development of sustainable parking lots for areas of 465 m² or more

Action 6 Reduce and recover residual materials

- 6.1 Implement the policy to eliminate the use of single usage water bottles adopted in 2008 at meetings and other public events
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- 6.2 Emphasize the respective contribution of the five pillars of the Waste Reduction Strategy in order to increase the recycling and participation in the various collections and various municipal services
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- 6.3 Raise citizens' awareness of the environmental, economic and social benefits of their efforts to reduce waste at source and on their property
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Action 7 Optimize water management

- 7.1 Promote and apply the regulation on the use of drinking water
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- 7.2 Optimize water consumption in municipal buildings by favoring the replacement of certain appliances with low flow devices
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- 7.3 Pursue the sale of potable water conservation kits
-
- 7.4 Pursue the maintenance of water system and interventions to reduce leakage
-
- 7.5 Encourage the recovery of rainwater through the distribution of barrels to reduce the volume of runoff to the sewer
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- 7.6 Promote optimal rainwater management practices (rain garden, permeable paving, ditches, retention basin, gray water recovery system) in territorial planning
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- 7.7 Apply the provisions of the Zoning By-law that restrict certain types of buildings located at low topographic points and integrate them into the evaluation criteria of the projects submitted in order to eliminate the risks of flooding following intense rains
-
- 7.8 Analyze the sanitary sewer network to identify and limit the capture of pluvial water (via cross connections and infiltration) that contribute to the overloading of the network
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Priority 3 Ensure access to sustainable, human-scale and healthy neighbourhoods

Action 8 Fight inequality and promote inclusiveness

8.1 Adhere to the principles of the Age-Friendly Municipality Action Plan and implement them locally

8.2 Offer internships and seasonal jobs to young people (ages 17 to 25) in order to promote their socio-professional integration

8.3 Assign premises to non-profit organisations and social economy enterprises that contribute to the quality of life of the community

Action 9 Preserve heritage and promote culture

9.1 Enhance local cultural offerings (libraries, cultural organizations, public art)

9.2 Protect and enhance appreciation of the waterfront, preserve views on water bodies, as well as city entrances

Action 10 Improve access to municipal services and equipment, as well as facilities

10.1 Adhere to the principles of universal accessibility in the construction or renovation of municipal buildings

10.2 Apply the principles of universal accessibility at events and activities organized by the municipality

10.3 Integrate the principles of universal accessibility into the design of public and architectural development projects

Action 11 Make urban agriculture and healthy lifestyles habits part of the DNA of neighbourhoods

11.1 Support seasonal markets and allow schools or other organizations to host markets in the summer

11.2 Improve sports and leisure services (swimming pool, sports centers, parks and playgrounds)

Action 12 Continue the development of sustainable neighbourhoods

12.1 Ensure a diversified housing stock to meet the needs of the entire population (families, seniors, etc)

12.2 Enhance the supply of cultural and leisure facilities

Action 13 Protect the quality of waterways and promote recreational activities

13.1 Enhance waterfront facilities and infrastructures and encourage initiatives to increase the number and quality

13.2 Identify and eliminate cross connections

Priority 4 Make the transition toward a green, circular and responsible economy

Action 14 “Green” the economy

14.1 Increase the use of products and services from social economy enterprises

Action 15 Use responsible procurement practices

15.1 Adhere to the principles of responsible procurement

15.2 Depending on municipal needs, choose local products and services

Action 16 Organize eco-responsible events

16.1 Implement eco-responsible measures for certain municipal events

16.2 Eliminate the use of single usage water bottles at meetings and other municipal activities

16.3 Install drinking water fountains in high traffic public places

Mobilization of stakeholders

Action 17 Mobilize organizations, citizens and employees

17.1 Organize a campaign to promote good sustainable development practices in the community

17.2 Introduce the local sustainable development plan to employees and inform them about how sustainable development principles can be incorporated in their respective activities

17.3 Maintain awareness programs through various initiatives of the Blue Patrol and the Green Patrol

17.4 Hold eco-responsible information sessions, as well as activities as part of Earth Day

Action 18 Promote best practices and increase sustainable development initiatives

18.1 Participate in meetings with the partners of Sustainable Montréal 2016-2020

18.2 Promote the sustainable development achievements of municipality as part of conferences, networks, and competitions for recognition of best practices
