

Alignment with City Planning Documents: A sustainability plan aligns with the Staunton Plan in vision and values.

Vision

A culturally rich, historic city with an exciting future of innovation, growth and resilience

Values

- **Environmentally Conscious**

The City of Staunton will seek to understand and consider the short- and long-term impacts that our decisions have on the environment and the community.

- **Engagement**

The City of Staunton will aim to involve stakeholders in the decision-making process, to listen and have open, honest communications with each other and the community.

Alignment with City Planning Documents:

As a first step, the **Staunton Comprehensive Plan** is the appropriate avenue to focus on sustainable goals and visions for the city. We are scheduled to complete a comprehensive plan update next year.

- Our current plan was developed in 2018, approved in 2019, and was a significant overhaul of the entire plan.
- Next year's iteration should be more targeted toward sustainability with chapter updates where needed.

Local Comparison The Town of Blacksburg has a sustainability chapter in their Comprehensive Plan which is a great example of what Staunton could aim for.

- This chapter addresses the Economy, Society, and the Environment with emphasis placed on community engagement and regional collaboration.
- This approach relates to many of the Staunton Plan's existing chapters which support an overall community orientation: transportation, land use, economy, business development, demographics, housing, etc..
- This integration and overlap effort should be much easier for the council and citizens to support.

<https://www.blacksburg.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/10147/637592828411070000>

<https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/sites/default/files/PublicWorks/files/environmental-performance-standards-committee/EPsAC%20-%20Phase%20I%20Environmental%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

Examples of objectives from Harrisonburg and Blacksburg

- ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- S.29. Continue to design and construct new public facilities and renovate existing public facilities to meet U.S. Green Building Council
- Strategy 1.1 – Identify Opportunities to Increase Carbon Free Sources Of Electricity (Solar, wind, biomass, etc...)

- ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

- S.3. Expand efforts to support a diverse mix of business types to ensure the Town is economically resilient in times of economic recession. (resilience)
- S.5. Work with business stakeholders to develop and launch a local green business challenge program that prioritizes high-impact business practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, divert organic and recyclable materials from the landfill, and reduce single-use plastics.

Chapter 1- Goals and Objectives

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Rectangular Ship

Goals are overarching statements describing the direction that a community wants to go. Goals are general, reflect values of the community, and are visionary to lead to a desired future. Objectives are statements describing how those goals should be reached. Objectives should be measurable and achievable.

Open Space/Environment

Goal: Practice good stewardship of the environmental resources within and surrounding the City by protecting environmentally sensitive areas, preserving open space and natural habitat (including dark skies), minimizing pollution of all kinds, and encouraging sustainability and conservation practices.

Objectives:

- Promote only appropriate uses for open space, floodplains, environmentally sensitive areas, and agricultural-forestral districts.
- Support efforts to preserve Betsy Bell and Mary Gray Mountains by enhancing the use of public areas and exploring the possibility of conservation easements.
- Support development of greenways in and those that connect to the City.
- Encourage the implementation of Mitigation Strategies for the City included in the Central Shenandoah Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Take a watershed approach to protect water resources, through efforts such as reducing pollution and litter, encouraging stream buffers and restoration of riparian areas, increasing tree canopy, preserving open space, and educating the public.
- Continue implementation of stormwater best management practices.
- Promote energy conservation practices and the potential use of alternative energy sources.

From Staunton's Current Comprehensive Plan

- New development
- Population growth
- Neighborhoods/housing
- Transportation/parking
- Emergencies/safety
- Utilities/infrastructure
- Bike and pedestrian