



Welcome to the Resilient Saanich Virtual Open House!

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The purpose of this virtual open house is to:

- Introduce you to the process
- Gain your feedback on the draft proposed Goals & Objectives

What is Resilient Saanich?

Resilient Saanich is a new environmental policy framework currently being developed. Resilient Saanich will bring together existing environmental policies and programs into one framework. New policies and programs will be added to address gaps.

Resilient Saanich is a [Strategic Plan initiative](#). The process to create Resilient Saanich is guided by the [Terms of Reference](#).

All of the information about Resilient Saanich, including the project Terms of Reference, can be found at: saanich.ca/biodiversity

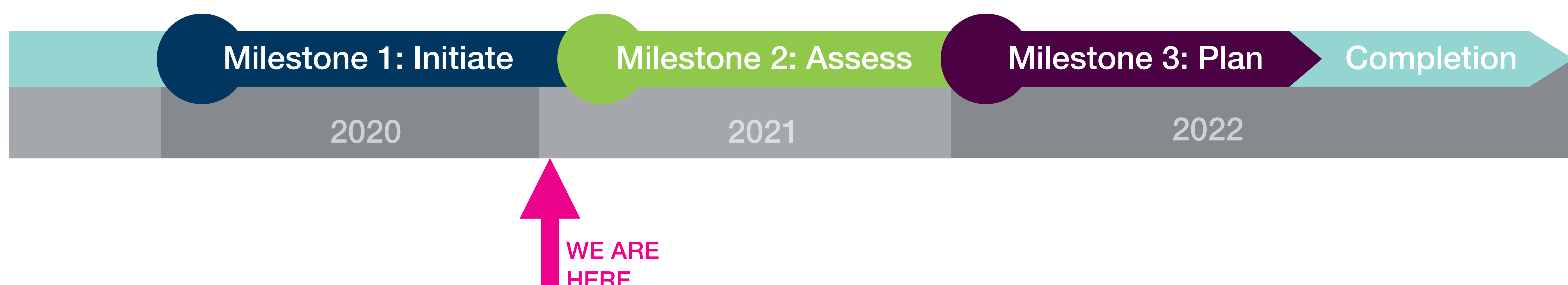
The **Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework** will provide overarching guidance for several plans and areas of activity, including:

- [Biodiversity Conservation Strategy](#) (under development)
- [Climate Plan](#) (completed 2020)
- [Enhanced Environmental Stewardship](#) (under development)
- Other yet-to-be identified programs, plans, and policies related to environmental management

Where are we in the process?

There are three major milestones in the process to complete Resilient Saanich. Completion is anticipated by mid-2022.

RESILIENT SAANICH TIMELINE



Further reading:

[Detailed timeline](#) with future opportunities for public engagement.

Frequently asked questions “[FAQs](#)” (and in [Punjabi](#) or [Chinese](#))



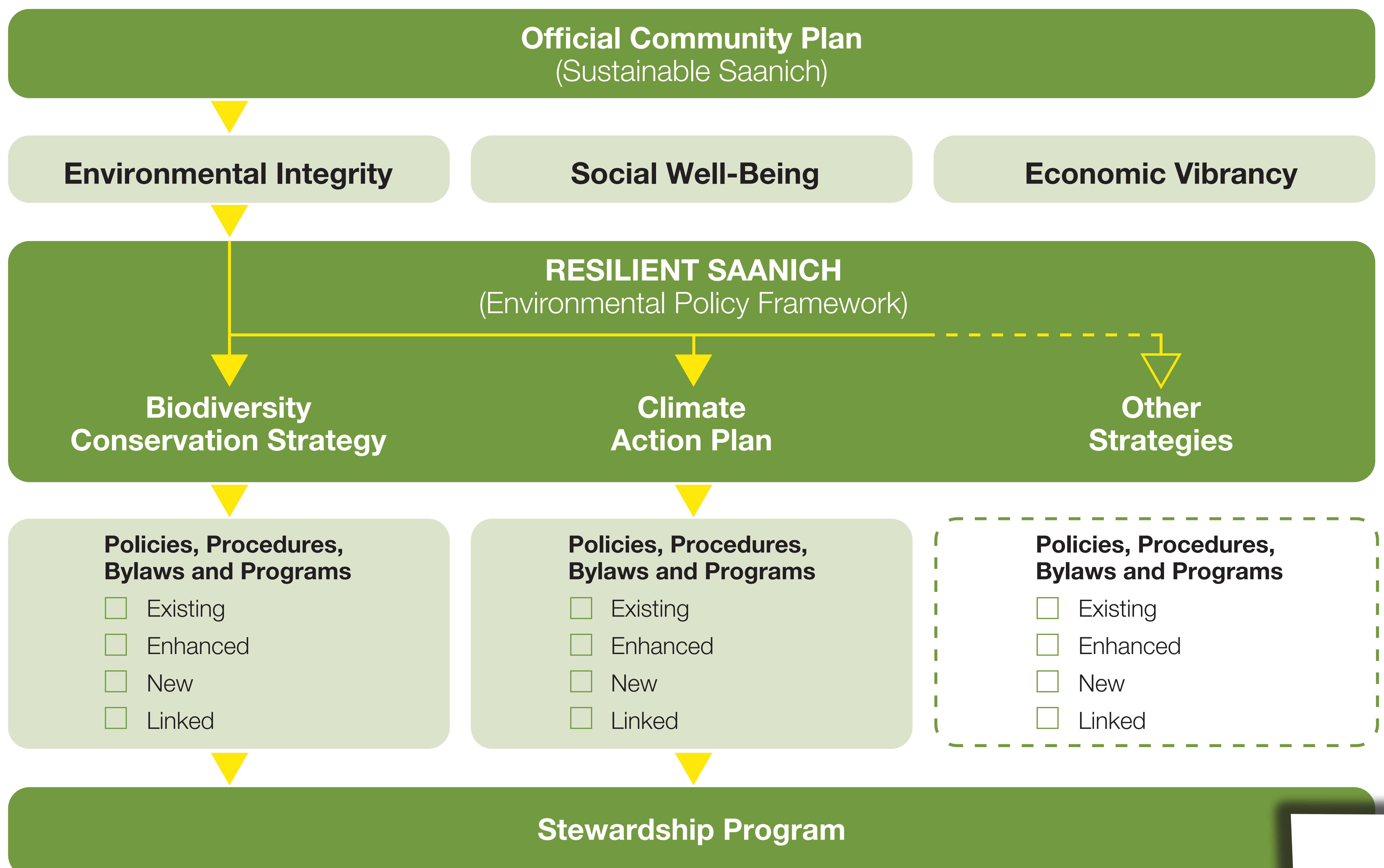
What will the Environmental Policy Framework look like?

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The environmental policy framework will evolve as the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee, staff, and consultants work together throughout the Resilient Saanich process. Once Council adopts the final goals and objectives for Resilient Saanich, the policy framework can be further developed.



This illustration below shows how the Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework fits under the Official Community Plan (OCP) to provide an overall framework for environmental bylaws, policies, procedures, and programs. This includes the Climate Action Plan (2020) and the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (to be developed). Other plans, such as the Urban Forest Strategy and the Invasive Species Management Strategy, will become part of the environmental policy framework, along with future strategies.





Introducing the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC)

The [Resilient Saanich Technical Committee \(RSTC\)](#) will work with interdepartmental staff and consultants to provide advice and share expertise through the Resilient Saanich process.

The members, as appointed by Council, and their areas of expertise are:

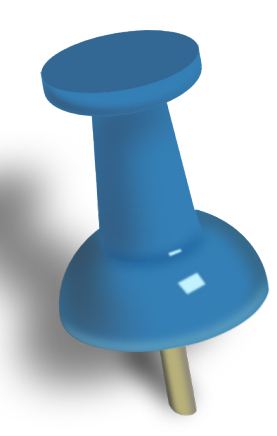
Kevin Brown	Terrestrial Ecology
Brian Emmett	Marine Biology
Tim Ennis	Conservation Planning and Management
Stewart Guy	Conservation Planning and Management
Purnima Govindarajulu	Conservation and Restoration Ecology
Tiffany Joseph (new member)	W̱SÁNEĆ Steward
Tory Stevens	Terrestrial Ecology
Brian Wilkes	Aquatic Ecology
Jeremy Gye	Urban Forestry
Bev Windjack	Landscape Architecture

The RSTC Terms of Reference are attached to the overall project Terms of Reference. The first task of the RSTC is to propose draft goals and objectives for Resilient Saanich. Feedback is needed from the public and will be considered before the final proposed goals and objectives are considered by Council in March/April 2021.

Further reading:

[RSTC webpage and introduction video](#)

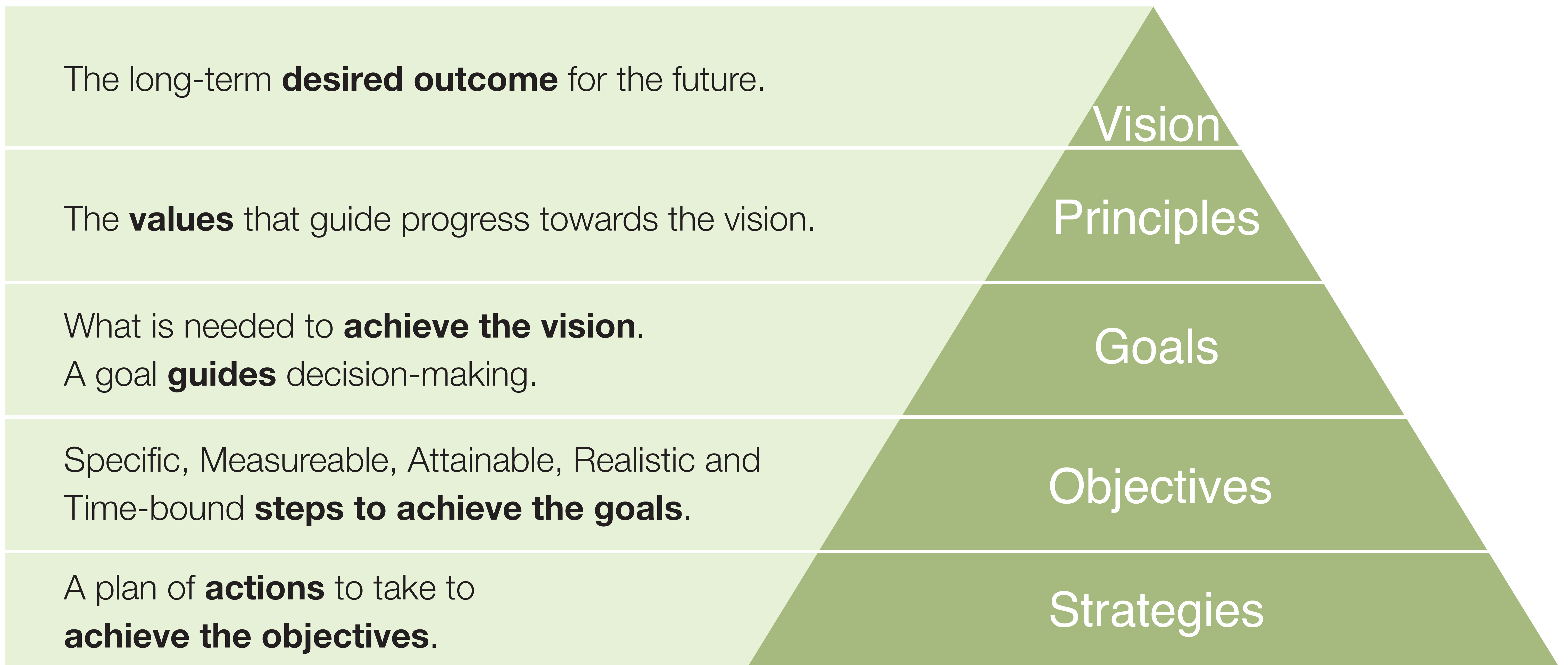
[RSTC meeting agendas and minutes](#)



Proposed Vision: We need your feedback

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A vision is a long-term desired outcome for the future. It sets the tone for the rest of the initiative.



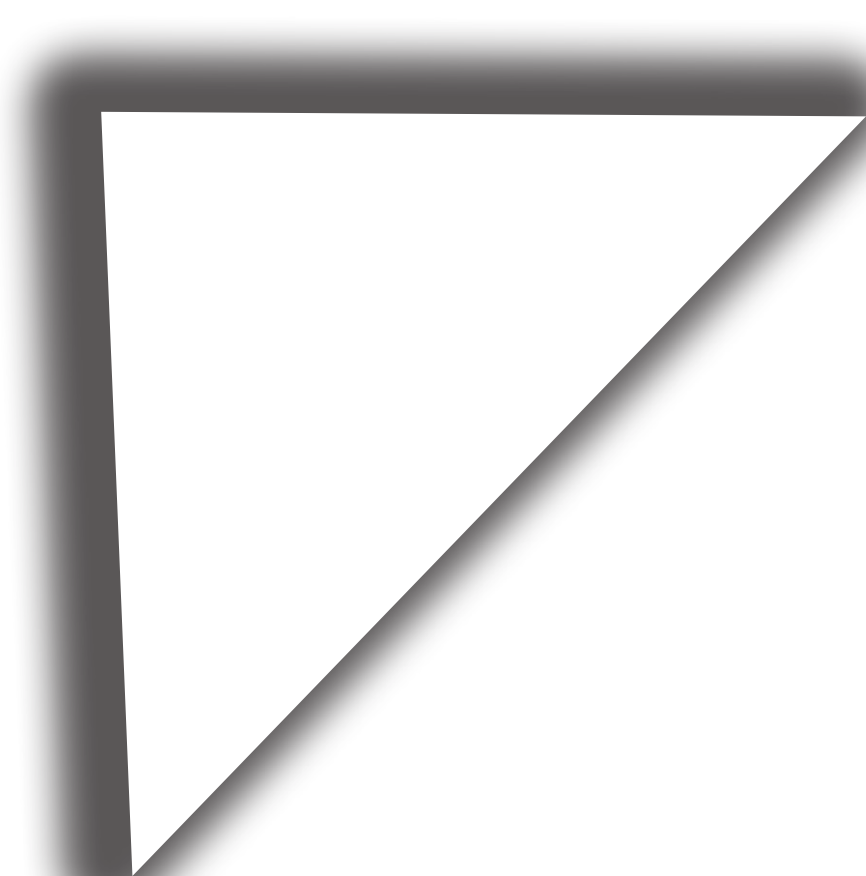
The [Official Community Plan](#) vision for environmental integrity is:

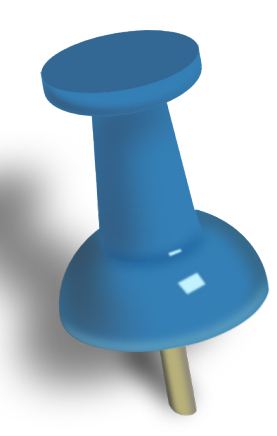
“Saanich is a model steward working diligently to improve and balance the natural and built environments. Saanich restores and protects air, land, and water quality, the biodiversity of existing natural areas and eco-systems, the network of natural areas and open spaces, and urban forests.”

The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee has **proposed this vision** for the framework:

By 2030, coordinated efforts by all in Saanich/WSÁNEĆ yield measurable improvements in climate change resilience, habitat conservation, watershed health and ecological footprint, benefiting all those who share and inhabit our community.

What do you think of the proposed vision? ([link to feedback form](#))





Proposed Principles: We need your feedback



The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) also proposes a set of 10 principles for Resilient Saanich. The principles are defined by the RSTC as cross-cutting value statements that will guide behaviour and decision-making within the Corporation of the District of Saanich including both elected officials and staff.

1. Recognize the intrinsic value of nature
2. Respect Indigenous knowledge and land uses
3. Consider future generations
4. Ensure evidence-based* decision making
5. Adopt the precautionary principle when facing knowledge gaps
6. Build upon foundational knowledge of historical land use
7. Lead by example through innovation and best practices
8. Look beyond our borders to achieve results at a bioregional scale
9. Address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do
10. Work in partnership with diverse interests to achieve outcomes that realize multiple values and benefits

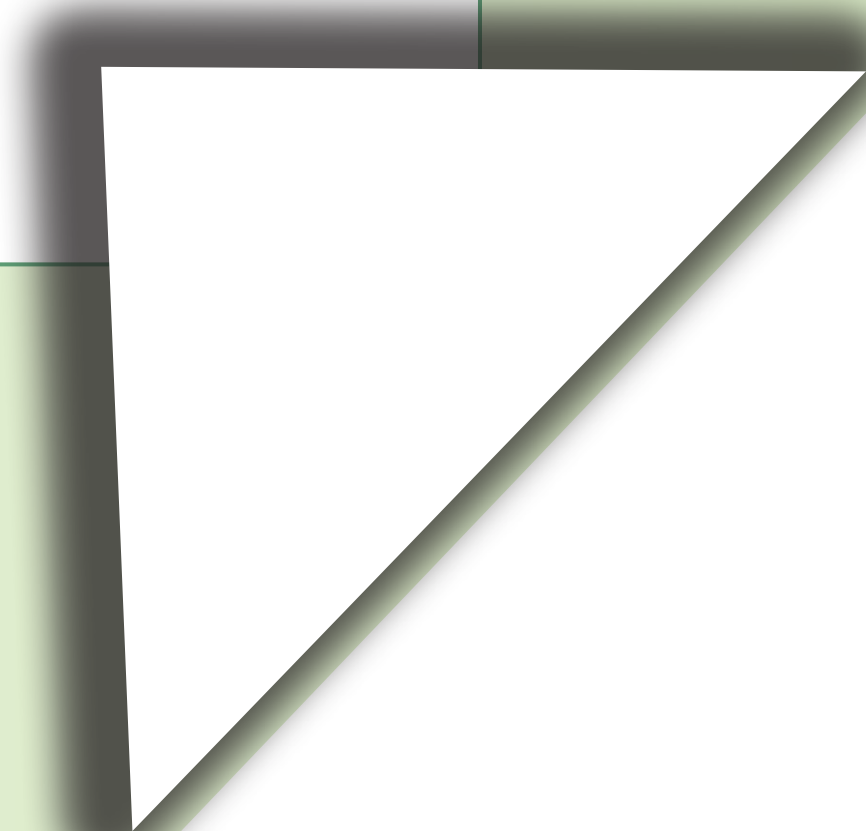
*Evidence-based decision making is supported by as much available and appropriate scientific data, models and research, Indigenous knowledge, historic and cultural documents.

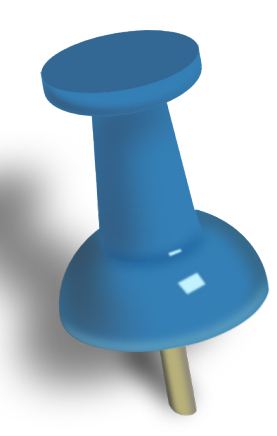
What do you think of the proposed principles? ([link to feedback form](#))

Further Reading

Here are two examples of principles (headings only) for similar frameworks from other local governments.

Windsor (link to plan)	Burnaby (link to plan)
Form Partnerships	Ecosystem Health
Engage Residents	Integration of Systems
Focus on Innovation and Balance	Connections
Work Together	Wise Use of Resources
Lead By Example	The Long View
Track Our Progress	Leadership
Achieve Realism	Collaboration
	Engagement
	Evaluation and Improvement





Proposed Goals: We need your feedback



The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) defines a goal as the outcome Saanich is looking for. The RSTC has identified two goals for Resilient Saanich:

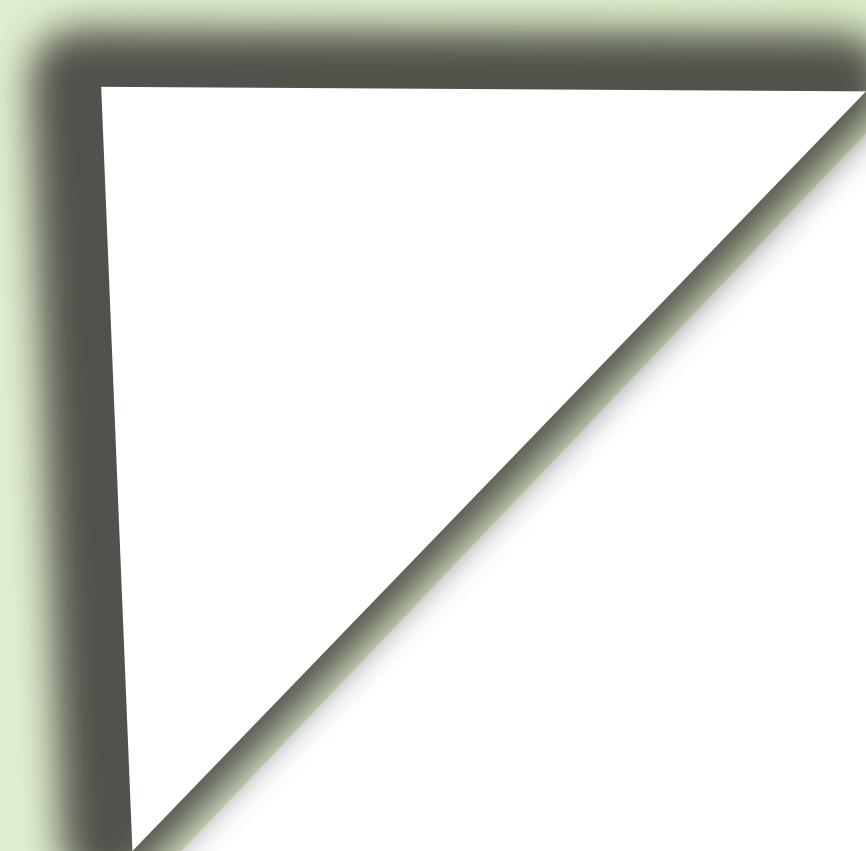
1. Protect, restore and enhance the ecological function and biological diversity of Saanich.
2. Develop and implement complimentary and coordinated policies, strategies, regulations, and incentives grounded in the overarching set of guiding principles to achieve the vision.

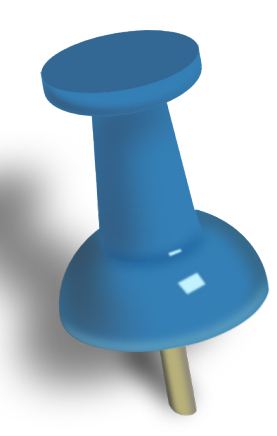
What do you think of the proposed goals? ([link to feedback form](#))

Further Reading:

Here are the goals from environmental policy frameworks in other jurisdictions:

Calgary (link to plan)	Windsor (link to plan)
To integrate social, economic and environmental objectives into a coordinated decision-making process to maintain high standards of living, social harmony and environmental quality.	Goal A: Improve Our Air Quality Goal B: Improve Our Water Quality Goal C: Responsible Land Use Goal D: Increase Resource Efficiency Goal E: Promote Awareness
Burnaby (link to plan)	Maple Ridge (link to plan)
Flow: Water Management Breathe: Climate and Air Quality Live: Land Use Planning and Development Move: Transportation Build: Green Buildings and Energy Prosper: Green and Inclusive Economy Nourish: Food Systems Conserve: Waste Management Manage: Governance, Education and Partnerships Green: Green Space and Habitat	Goal A: Conserve and manage our natural assets Goal B: Design and build sustainable neighbourhoods Goal C: Improve communications and environmental awareness





Proposed Objectives: We need your feedback



The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) defines objectives as the purpose of actions intended to attain a desired goal.

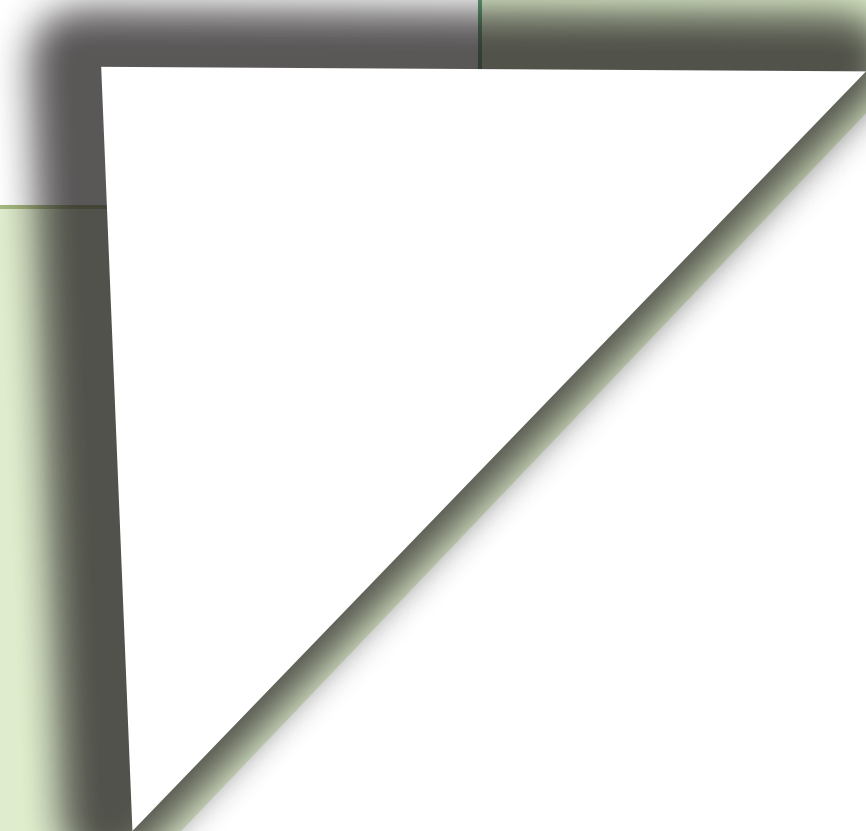
1. Fairly and effectively manage the natural and built environment to adapt to climate change, and enhance biodiversity and other essential ecosystem services.
2. Foster resistance and regenerative capacity (i.e., resilience) in our landscapes against escalating environmental shock and stressors.
3. Engage and support citizens in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewardship.
4. Update bylaws and policies across all departments to be transparent and consistent with the Environmental Policy Framework.

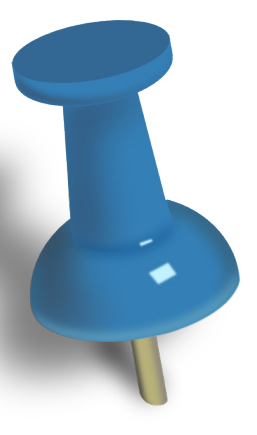
What do you think of the proposed objectives? ([link to feedback form](#))

Further Reading:

Here are the objectives from various environmental policy frameworks in other jurisdictions:

Calgary (link to plan)	Maple Ridge (link to plan)
<p>Ensure environmental considerations are part of all City of Calgary decisions.</p> <p>Initiate municipal by-laws and promote legislative initiatives by other orders of government.</p> <p>Ensure our own operations comply with environmental legislation and other environmental requirements.</p> <p>Encourage and demonstrate resource conservation and pollution prevention.</p> <p>Communicate with all relevant stakeholders for input into the development of our environmental objectives.</p> <p>Implement and continually improve an environment management system for operational effectiveness.</p>	<p>A1. Protect the District’s key ecological resources, such as watercourses, aquifers hubs, corridors, patches, and watersheds.</p> <p>A2. Maintain the health of natural areas.</p> <p>A3. Extend natural connections beyond the municipality.</p> <p>A4. Build ecological resilience for adaptation to climate change and hazards</p> <p>A5. Consider the potential values and financial benefits of undeveloped land in planning.</p> <p>A6. Provide incentives to encourage developers to protect some natural areas.</p> <p>A7. Protect agricultural land in recognition of the values it provides, such as productive soil, wildlife habitat, stormwater infiltration, and food</p> <p>Please see link above for the rest of the objectives.</p>





Next Steps



Staff will provide a report back to the public on “What We Heard” after this phase of public engagement. In March/April 2021, Saanich Staff will report back to Council on the outcomes of Milestone One. This will include the work of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee and the public feedback provided through this current process.

What’s coming in Milestone Two?

The main actions for Milestone Two are:

- Data collection and analysis towards assessing the state of biodiversity in Saanich
- Preparing terms for the consultants to prepare a biodiversity conservation strategy
- Identifying new stewardship opportunities to engage the public in environmental protection
- Potential additional studies to meet the goals and objectives

Further Reading: [Terms of Reference](#)

Why do we need a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy?

Saanich is committed to protecting the environment. This new strategy will determine how we preserve, protect and enhance biodiversity in Saanich. Protecting biodiversity is important for many reasons, including supporting all life and human well-being, our economy and the many “services” humans receive from functioning ecosystems. Biodiversity is interconnected with climate change in both impacts and solutions.

Further Reading

- [Factsheet #2: Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Examples](#)
- [Factsheet #3: Biodiversity Targets](#)
- [Factsheet #4: Biodiversity Conservation Resources](#)
- [Factsheet #5: Biodiversity Related Saanich Reports](#)
- [Factsheet #6: Biodiversity & Protected Areas in Saanich](#)

Why do we need to enhance Environmental Stewardship?

Supporting stewardship in Saanich recognizes the important role that residents, businesses, institutions, and governments of this region play as stewards of the natural environment. The intention is to look at existing programs to identify opportunities to better support stewardship efforts in Saanich. Information about current environmental stewardship programs and support are available on the [Environmental Stewardship webpage](#). **Further reading:** [Factsheet #7: Environmental Stewardship Examples](#)

How is the Climate Plan Connected?

Saanich’s current Climate Plan was adopted in January 2020. The outcomes of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and enhanced stewardship opportunities will be integrated with the Climate Plan in terms of climate mitigation and climate adaptation.

Further Reading: The Climate Plan and related programs are on the website at: saanich.ca/climateplan

