



Policy Title: **Triple Bottom Line Policy**
Policy Number: **LUP003, EM003, CS003**
Report Number: **UE2005-34**
Approved by: **Council**
Effective Date: **2005 September 12**
Business Unit: **Land Use Planning and Policy; Environmental Management and Community Strategies**

BACKGROUND

Council is committed to creating and sustaining a vibrant, healthy, safe and caring community that 'works' for all today and tomorrow (Council Priorities 2002-2004). Council has re-affirmed its commitment to this vision in its most recent statement of the 2006-2008 Council Priorities (Ongoing Principles).

In mid-2003 "Triple Bottom Line" statements became a required component of reports to Council committees.

In February 2004, Calgary City Council endorsed a [Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework](#) to ensure a more comprehensive, systematic and integrated approach to decision-making by Council and Administration. Since then the Triple Bottom Line initiative has catalyzed discussion, provided a frame for the alignment of key City policy initiatives and been included in business planning.

Council has stated that an overarching principle of the Council Priorities planning process is to "emphasize that taking a **Triple Bottom Line** (TBL) approach underlies all strategies and actions" (January 2005).

The City of Calgary has the mandate and jurisdiction to adopt a Triple Bottom Line Policy. One purpose of a municipality as stated in s.3 (c) of the *Municipal Government Act* (R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26) is "to develop and maintain safe and viable communities." S. 5 gives a municipality "the duties that ... the municipality imposes on itself as a matter of policy."

Internal and external stakeholders were consulted on the Policy and their input has been incorporated.

PURPOSE

- To advance Council's vision to "create and sustain a vibrant, healthy, safe and caring community" by providing clarity on the definition and meaning of "Triple Bottom Line" at The City of Calgary;
- To embed the Triple Bottom Line into The City's Corporate policies, performance measures, actions and implementation procedures, and enhance The City's decision making; and



- To place Calgary's efforts to achieve its vision in the broader context of efforts of cities around the world to improve their sustainability performance, and make a contribution to global sustainability.

POLICY

Council and Administration are committed to the Triple Bottom Line as a matter of policy.

The City of Calgary will use the Triple Bottom Line to:

1. Incorporate sustainable development principles by considering and addressing the social, economic, environmental and smart growth impacts of all its decisions and actions, with regard to planning, policy, strategies, services, operations, approvals, and all other City business;
2. Protect and enhance the economic, social and environmental well-being of present and future generations of Calgarians.

The City of Calgary is committed to building the necessary capacity within the organization to ensure that the Triple Bottom Line Policy is implemented, and to promoting a Triple Bottom Line approach in the broader community.

APPLICABILITY

The Triple Bottom Line Policy applies to the internal and operational actions, services and decisions of The Corporation of The City of Calgary. It also applies to the decisions The City makes that affect the public and public policy, including land use planning and approvals and budgeting/fiscal policy.

DEFINITIONS

Sustainable development is "development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Brundtland Commission, 1987).

The Triple Bottom Line is a decision-making, planning and reporting framework that has emerged as an important tool for achieving sustainable development and has been identified by Council as a key means for moving toward their vision.

The TBL Policy Framework is a synopsis of Council-approved policies, categorized into 20 themes under four categories: Economic, Social, Environmental and Smart Growth policies. Approved by Council in 2004 February, the Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework is being used to ensure a more comprehensive, systematic and integrated approach to decision-making by Council and Administration. It assists The City to create economic, social and environmental value and minimize any harm resulting from City activities (Elkington, 1997).



AMENDMENTS

New Policy