

# **Sustainable Saanich** Official Community Plan

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## Strategic Update

### **Preliminary Indicators Framework**

May 4, 2023

# DRAFT



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. BACKGROUND .....	2
2. OVERVIEW OF INDICATORS .....	3
3. INDICATORS .....	4
FOUNDATIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE .....	4
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT .....	4
LAND USE .....	5
HOUSING .....	5
TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY .....	6
UTILITIES AND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE .....	6
PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE .....	7
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY .....	7
COMMUNITY WELL-BEING .....	7
ECONOMIC VIBRANCY .....	8
4. NEXT STEPS .....	8
APPENDIX A: PRELIMINARY INDICATORS & ONE PLANET LIVING LENS .....	9
OVERVIEW .....	9
LEGEND - SAANICH OCP INDICATORS & ONE PLANET LIVING LENS .....	9

## 1. BACKGROUND

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the primary document that guides growth and change in Saanich. It establishes a long-term vision for a livable community based on shared values and sustainability. It also provides an overarching framework for other District plans, policies, and initiatives, including the Strategic Plan which shares the same vision statement as the OCP (Figure 1).

It will be important to monitor progress towards the Saanich Vision and make sure that the OCP continues to be an effective tool for guiding land use and planning decisions and meeting community needs.



Figure 1: Saanich Vision

At five-year intervals, an evaluation of the progress of the area plan will be undertaken to assess the following:

- Status of the implementation of priority actions;
- Progress of Strategic Land Use Directions;
- Updating demographic, housing, and household census data; and
- Alignment with other policy documents and initiatives.

To support this evaluation, a series of indicators is under development. These indicators seek to complement other District and Regional monitoring programs (e.g., Climate Plan, Housing Strategy, Annual Report, Regional Growth Strategy) by linking high-level indicators together to assess progress towards the Saanich Vision.

The five-year interval aligns with the Canadian Census and provides for greater opportunity to observe trends. The reporting will be used to help identify emerging issues that may have an impact on the OCP and to inform potential changes to the OCP and other policies, plans or practices. The indicator framework will not be included in the OCP Bylaw; this approach makes it easier to update and adapt the framework to better reflect new District work/data and respond to emerging trends.

### Plan Indicators

Supporting the OCP Evaluation and Monitoring program is an indicators framework which tracks progress across the Plan Foundations and Focus Areas. This framework is still under development however initial indicators will be included in Phase 2 consultation; the Preliminary Indicators Framework companion document is available at [www.saanich.ca/ocp](http://www.saanich.ca/ocp).

## 2. OVERVIEW OF INDICATORS

The OCP indicators were selected as they have a strong intersection with land use management and development and provide a high-level snapshot of progress towards the OCP foundations and focus areas:

- Climate Change Response
- Natural Environment
- Land Use
- Housing
- Transportation and Mobility
- Utilities and Service Infrastructure
- Parks, Trails, and Open Space
- Agriculture and Food Security
- Community Well-Being
- Economic Vibrancy



Figure 2: One Planet Living Principles

These indicators were also selected using a One Planet Living lens to identify which of the ten principles the indicator is tracking progress towards. Given the scope of the OCP and municipal jurisdiction, some of the One Planet Living principles are more frequently incorporated into the District’s overall framework.

When possible, SMART indicators were selected:

- Specific – to the change being measured/defined;
- Measurable – easily quantifiable;
- Attainable – realistic to obtain;
- Relevant – practical and pragmatic; and,
- Time-bound - with term dates for measurement.

There are some exceptions from the SMART indicators given this is a long-range plan and data and metrics are still being established to provide the ability to measure progress. Also, there are gaps in the list of indicators selected to monitor the OCP because several significant master plan initiatives are currently mid-process (e.g., Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy, and Economic Development Strategy). As these master plans are completed, the indicators framework will be updated to reflect this work.

Appendix A provides a complete list of the indicators and shows which One Planet Living principle is considered as part of the indicator.

### 3. INDICATORS

#### Foundations and Climate Change

The OCP policies focus on reducing GHG emissions, green building design, energy efficiency technologies, renewable energy resources and efficient energy distributions systems. The OCP includes targets to reduce GHG emissions from 2007 territorial baseline by 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

1. Ecological Footprint	
Purpose	Measure progress towards One Planet Living principles through the ecological footprint targets.
Indicator Details	Monitor Saanich's ecological footprint, which is an estimate of how much biologically productive land and water area an individual or population needs to produce all the resources it consumes and to absorb the waste it generates.
2. Community GHG Inventory	
Purpose	Measure progress towards community-based Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions targets.
Indicator Details	Monitor Saanich's transition towards being a zero-carbon community by 2050. Measured in community GHG emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide or equivalent (tCO <sub>2</sub> e).
3. Transition to Renewable Energy	
Purpose	Measure progress towards transitioning from non-renewable to renewable energy sources.
Indicator Details	Dependence on fossil fuels will ultimately need to be eliminated through significant efficiency improvements and a transition to renewable energy sources. Energy and Emissions Inventories estimate stationary energy for residential buildings, commercial, and industrial buildings by renewable and non-renewable energy mix.

#### Natural Environment

The OCP policies emphasize the importance of preserving, protecting, and enhancing Saanich's natural features, biodiversity and ecosystem services and growing the urban forest. They recognize the vital importance of a healthy natural environment to supporting community health and well-being, ecosystem function, and climate resilience.

4. Biodiversity	
Details	Saanich is developing a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. Following Council endorsement of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, key indicators will be selected to incorporate in the OCP indicator framework.
5. Urban Forest	
Details	Saanich is developing the Urban Forest Strategy. Following Council endorsement of the Urban Forest Strategy, key indicators will be selected to incorporate in the OCP indicator framework.

## Land Use

The OCP policies support concentrating growth within the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB) as a principal tool of growth management. The OCP policies promote density in primary growth areas (PGAs) while supporting infill in Neighbourhoods consistent with neighbourhood scale. The land use policies also emphasize the importance of building complete communities with access to a diverse range of housing types, employment options, shops, services, community amenities and public open spaces.

6. Urban Containment Boundary Stability	
Purpose	Measure changes to the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB).
Indicator Details	To provide insight on the implementation of growth management policies aimed at protecting rural and agricultural lands and limiting urban sprawl.

7. Net New Housing Units	
Purpose	Measure where housing growth is being accommodated.
Indicator Details	To provide insight into where housing and population growth is taking place. This indicator will have two components: net new housing units in Primary Growth Areas and net new housing units in Neighbourhoods.

8. Access to Amenities	
Purpose	Measures the percent share of dwelling units within the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB) that are within a convenient walking distance of parks, schools, frequent transit, and a grocery store.
Indicator Details	To provide insight on residents' ability to conveniently access everyday amenities such as grocery stores, parks, transit and schools to support healthy and livable communities.

## Housing

The OCP policies emphasize the importance of building complete communities with access to a diverse range of housing types, tenures, and affordability levels. OCP policies encourage mitigating or limiting the loss of rental housing stock through retaining and securing rental units with housing agreements. Other key documents such as the Housing Needs Report and Housing Strategy include policy direction in support of non-market and supportive housing.

9. Housing Diversity	
Purpose	Measure the composition of net new residential units by housing type. Housing type categories are single detached, semi-detached, row and apartment.
Indicator Details	Provide insights on the diversity of housing types to meet the needs of residents of all ages, abilities, lifestyles, and incomes.

10. Core Housing Need	
Purpose	Measure the percentage of households in Core Housing Need.
Indicator Details	Provides insight to help identify Saanich households living in dwellings that do not meet standards for adequacy, suitability and affordability and where the household would need to spend more than 30% of its before-tax household income to access local housing that meets all three standards.

### 11. Net Change in Primary Market Rental Units

Purpose	Measure the number of primary market units
Indicator Details	Provide insight into the number of purpose-built primary market units. The primary rental market consists of purpose-built rental buildings with multiple units.

### Transportation and Mobility

The OCP policies support a multi-modal transportation and mobility network for the community that will help create safe, convenient, effective, and sustainable mobility choices to move around the community. This is further supported, monitored, and implemented through the Active Transportation Plan. Integrating sustainable transportation with land use is a core OCP concept.

### 12. Sustainable Transportation

Purpose	Measure the modal split, i.e., the percentage of population that uses each mode of transportation. Sustainable transportation modes include walking, cycling, transit, and other methods.
Indicator Details	Provide insight on what travel methods residents are using to move around the community and where gaps exist.

### 13. Building and Prioritizing Active Transportation Infrastructure

Purpose	Measure the length of transportation infrastructure that is added or received major upgrades over the reporting period.
Indicator Details	Provide insight on the total length of new additions and upgrades to the cycling network and sidewalk network.

### Utilities and Service Infrastructure

The OCP policies encourage improvements to water, stormwater and sanitary sewer systems and services to meet current and future demand. The OCP focuses population and employment growth to the Primary Growth Areas that include Centres, Villages, and Primary Corridors to promote settlement patterns that are cost effective and efficient to service. The OCP policies also aim to minimize the consumption of non-renewable resources and reduction of solid waste.

### 14. Underground Infrastructure

Purpose:	Measures the length of water, stormwater, and sanitary sewer mains that are replaced or rehabilitated within the Urban Containment Boundary.
Indicator Details:	To provide insight on infrastructure services such as water, stormwater and sanitary sewer as they are essential to supporting growth and development. This indicator monitors growth in terms of how civic infrastructure is expanding as the population increases.

### 15. Solid Waste Disposal

Purpose	Measures the per capita amount of solid waste disposed annually from residential and non-residential sources.
Indicator Details	To provide insight on management of all streams of solid waste and to minimize the consumption of non-renewable resources as this is essential to the community's environmental health. It also supports the goal of moving the District towards Zero Waste.



## Parks, Trails and Open Space

The OCP policies support protecting and restoring habitat and ecosystems; connecting environmentally sensitive areas and greenspaces with “greenways”; and access to a variety of natural and organized recreational opportunities. OCP policies are further supported in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan, that is set to be reviewed and completed in 2024.

16. Access to Parks	
Purpose	Measure access to parks and greenspace by the percent share of residents that live within 300m and amount of park space by resident (per capita).
Indicator Details	To provide residents with equitable access to parks within convenient walking distance help support thriving neighbourhoods and a healthy community. This supports the 3:30:300 Rule adopted by Council.

## Agriculture and Food Security

The OCP includes policies that promote agriculture and food security and recognize agriculture as a significant contributor to the region’s landscape, identity, and economy. The Agriculture and Food Security Strategy provides the District with a coordinated approach to these issues.

17. Amount of land in food crop production	
Purpose	Measures hectares of farmland in active food crop production in Saanich, outside the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB).
Indicator Details	To provide insight on progress in collaborating with other local governments within the Capital Region, towards the Regional Growth Strategy target to increase the amount of land in food crop production by 5,000 hectares by 2038.

18. Age of farmer	
Purpose	Measures the average age of farm operators.
Indicator Details	To provide insight on the aging trends of farm operators. A higher average age of farmers represents a warning sign for the future of food production in the region. The average age of farmer is also an indicator in the Regional Growth Strategy.

## Community Well-Being

The OCP policies seek to foster a sense of community connection, belonging, identity, civic participation, involvement, diversity, and inclusiveness.

19. Sense of Belonging	
Purpose	Measures residents’ sense of belonging.
Indicator Details	To provide insight on community belonging, social attachment of individuals and social engagement and participation within communities.

20. Access to recreational programming	
Purpose	Measures the amount of recreational programming per resident and the diversity of recreational programming offered by the District.
Indicator Details	To provide insight on access to and diversity of Saanich’s recreational and institutional facilities, programs and services, as well as their contributions to community connections and quality of life.



## Economic Vibrancy

The OCP policies support a balanced economy by encouraging a broad range of commercial, service, research, high tech and industrial uses. The District is developing an Economic Development Strategy to assist in creating a future-oriented plan aimed at a sustainable and diversified economy.

21. Jobs to population ratio	
Purpose	Measures the relationship between jobs and population as a ratio.
Indicator Details	To provide insights on diversity and enhancement of Saanich's economy and contributions towards future economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

22. Retail, Office, and Industrial Vacancy Rate	
Purpose:	Measures the vacancy rate for industrial, retail shopping centres, and office properties.
Indicator Details:	To provide insights on the local economy. The rate is a measure of Saanich's market strength and economic performance, showing the current balance between demand and supply.

## 4. NEXT STEPS

The Preliminary Indicators Framework is provided to collect public input on the proposed list as part of the consultations for Phase 2 of the Strategic OCP Update project. Based on this input and further internal analysis, baseline data, and where appropriate, targets will be identified. In some cases, placeholder "indicators" will remain in the document until the applicable strategic process is completed. The indicators framework will not be included in the adopted OCP Bylaw making it easier to respond to new information and track trends.

## APPENDIX A: PRELIMINARY INDICATORS & ONE PLANET LIVING LENS











### Overview




























































The One Planet Living framework expands the District's integrated three pillar approach to sustainability (i.e., Natural Environment, Social Well-being, and Economic Vibrancy) into ten principles which support living within the capacity of the planet's resources. Developed in 2002 by BioRegional UK, it focuses on individual and collective action making it a strong engagement and policy assessment tool. It is also aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The One Planet Living Principles were utilized as part of the 2023 Strategic OCP update to ensure the OCP's sustainability content was contemporary and reflected a broad range of sustainability outcomes. One Planet Living approach considers global inequities in resource use; at its foundation is the need for all people to only use their fair share of global resources.

### Legend - Saanich OCP Indicators & One Planet Living Lens

 Health and happiness	 Equity and local economy
 Culture and community	 Land and nature
 Local and sustainable food	 Sustainable water
 Materials and products	 Zero waste
 Travel and transport	 Zero carbon energy

Indicator	One Planet Principles
<b>Sustainability Foundations and Climate Change</b>	
1. Ecological Footprint	All principles
2. Community GHG Inventory	 
3. Transition to Renewable Energy	
<b>Natural Environment</b>	
4. Biodiversity	 
5. Urban Forest	  
6. Green Infrastructure Network	   
<b>Land Use</b>	
7. Urban Containment Boundary Stability	 
8. Net New Housing Units in Primary Growth Areas	   
9. Access to Amenities	   
<b>Housing</b>	
10. Housing Diversity	 
11. Core Housing Need	  
12. Net Change in Primary Market Rental Units	  

Indicator	One Planet Principles
<b>Transportation and Mobility</b>	
13. Sustainable Transportation	   
14. Building and Prioritizing AT Infrastructure	 
<b>Utilities and Service Infrastructure</b>	
15. Underground Infrastructure	  
16. Solid Waste Disposal	   
<b>Parks, Trails, and Open Space</b>	
17. Access to Parks	   
<b>Agriculture and Food Security</b>	
18. Amount of Land in Food Crop Production	  
19. Age of Farmer	
<b>Community Well-Being</b>	
20. Sense of Belonging	 
21. Access to Recreational Programming	  
<b>Economic Vibrancy</b>	
22. Jobs to Population Ratio	
23. Retail, Office, Industrial Vacancies	