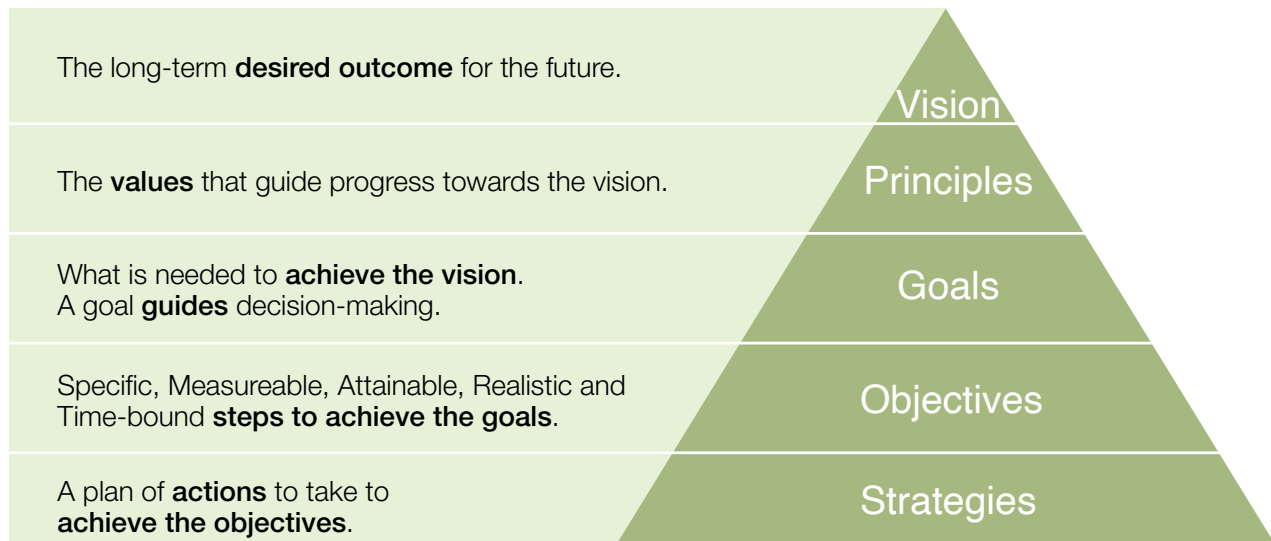


We need to hear from you! This is the first opportunity for public feedback to help guide the development of an environmental policy framework named Resilient Saanich. We need your input on the draft vision, principles, goals, and objectives that will guide the development of Resilient Saanich.

The Process

The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) is a group of professionals appointed by Council and tasked with drafting the Resilient Saanich goals and objectives. Feedback on the draft will be gathered from the public and reported to Council for decision-making.



What is meant by vision, principles, goals, and objectives?

Vision

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.

Principles

The principles are defined by the RSTC as cross-cutting values 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.

Goals

The RSTC describes the goals as the outcome Saanich is looking for and proposes these goals:

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.

Objectives

The RSTC describes the following proposed 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.

Providing Feedback

Visit our Virtual Open House: www.saanich.ca/biodiversity. Feedback can be provided by:

- Online feedback form (via web: www.saanich.ca/biodiversity)
- Filling out a printed feedback form (submitting by email, mail, or dropping off)
- Send questions and comments via email (biodiversity@saanich.ca)
- Send mail to: Environmental Services, Planning Department, District of Saanich, 770 Vernon Ave, Victoria, BC, V8X 2W7