

Process and Methodology

The Administration used the City of Saskatoon's Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Decision Making Tool to comply with *Council Policy C08-001 - Triple Bottom Line*.

When conducting a Triple Bottom Line (TBL) analysis, it is appropriate to compare and/or evaluate multiple options.

The following options were reviewed for domestic pumping wells:

- A1: Do not regulate domestic purpose pumping wells (maintain status quo).
- A2: Allow new domestic purpose pumping wells for irrigation only.
- A3: Prohibit new domestic purpose pumping wells.

The following options were reviewed for monitoring wells:

- Administrative Policy and guideline for wells on City property and rights-of-way.
- B1: New Development Standards.
- B2: New City-wide Standard.

In conducting the analysis, the Administration relied on the expertise of the Project Team and Subject Matter Experts from Bylaw Compliance, Finance, Saskatoon Water, Sustainability, Saskatoon Land, and the City Solicitor's Office. Subject Matter Experts consulted the following information: provincial and federal regulations, regulations of other municipalities, and engagement results that informed the TBL review.

This review is meant as a high-level assessment to identify the environmental, social, economic, and governance outcomes of each option, as well as to identify opportunities to achieve even greater sustainability benefits. The results are meant to support ongoing decision making, rather than be relied upon as a fixed sustainability evaluation.

Caveats and Limitations

- Some TBL areas were considered out of scope, including items that were not contingent on and/or influenced by the initiative: renewable energy, green buildings and sustainable land use, waste reduction and diversion, storm water management, sustainable food system, self sufficiency and living with dignity, sustainable procurement and skills and training.
- Assessment of domestic pumping well options were completed assuming access to either groundwater or city water as water supply but not both.

Results & Findings

Pumping Well Options

Overall, the results of the Administration's TBL review indicate that Option A3, prohibit domestic pumping wells, would achieve greater TBL benefits than the other proposed options. Table 1 provides a summary of the TBL comparison.

Table 1: Summary of TBL implications for pumping well options

Categories	A1	A2	A3
Environmental Health	Not meeting expectations	On track	Exceeding expectations
Social Equity	Not meeting expectations	Meeting expectations	Meeting expectations
Economic	Meeting expectations	On track	On track
Good Governance	Not meeting expectations	On track	Meeting expectations

Key considerations for the implications of Option A3 include:

Environmental Health and Integrity: Conserves groundwater for future use as a potential water source and benefit to the whole community. Enhances groundwater-reliant ecosystems by restricting water use and reducing contamination risk. Eliminates pollution risk associated with domestic purpose wells.

Social Equity and Cultural Well-Being: Addresses domestic well risks for the benefit of the entire community, improves protection of City water supply.

Economic Benefits: Low implementation costs and low estimated operating resources. Well prohibition eliminates the potential for hidden costs. No additional assets need to be managed. City service is available to all residents, prohibition unlikely to change costs of service (utility rates).

Good Governance: Fully addresses all groundwater risks associated with domestic wells (moving forward). Least data to maintain/monitor, minimal enforcement requirements and no requirement for procedures.

Monitoring Well Options

Overall, the results of the Administration's TBL review indicate that Option B2, City-wide standard, would achieve greater TBL benefits than the other proposed options. Table 2 provides a summary of the TBL comparison.

Table 2: Summary of TBL implications for monitoring well options

Categories	Administrative Policy	B1	B2
Environmental Health	Meeting expectations	Exceeding expectations	Leading the way
Social Equity	Meeting expectations	On track	Exceeding expectations
Economic	On track	On track	On track
Good Governance	Meeting expectations	Meeting expectations	Exceeding expectations

Key considerations for the implications of Option B2 include:

Environmental Health and Integrity: Protects groundwater by reducing pollution risks from all wells within city limits. Protects ecosystems reliant on groundwater.

Social Equity and Cultural Well-Being: The same standard is applied to all monitoring wells within city limits. Addresses health and well-being risks linked to aquifer contamination most significantly.

Economic Benefits: Does the most to support labor rights and employment by ensuring wells are properly constructed, maintained, and decommissioned. Creates the most opportunity for well-related businesses.

Good Governance: Addresses risks on all lands within City limits. Most difficult to regulate and monitor.