Triple Bottom Line implications – Water Conservation Strategy

Process and Methodology

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

In conducting the analysis, the Administration relied on the expertise of the project team and subject matter experts from the Sustainability Department, as well as conducted research on industry's best practices.

This review is meant to be a high-level way to identify the Strategy's environmental, social, economic, and governance outcomes, 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.

Results and Findings

- Overall, the results of the review indicate that the Strategy aligns with the City's environmental, social, economic, and governance priorities.
- TBL implications for water conservation initiatives will be reviewed as each initiative is developed.

Further Considerations

A TBL review, detailed cost/benefit analysis and other studies for each initiative should be conducted as the Water Conservation Strategy is implemented.

A summary of results for each TBL principle and indicator are included in the subsequent section of this document.

Principle: Environmental Health and Integrity

Indicator	TBL outcomes
Renewable Energy	• Not applicable.
Conservation of Resources	• Water conservation actions led by the City demonstrate environmental leadership, and responsible use of resources.
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	• Water conservation is important to meeting emission-reduction commitments made by Council, including the commitment to reduce municipal government emissions by 40% (relative to 2014 values) by 2023, and by 80% by 2050. • Conservation builds resilience and contributes to climate change adaptation. Even without economic or population growth, climate change could increase water demand (e.g., for outdoor watering) and decrease or destabilize supply.
Green Buildings and Sustainable Land Use	• Infill development can increase demands on existing water and sewer infrastructure. Conservation can reduce demands, ease capacity constraints, and help facilitate infill.
Sustainable Transportation	• Not applicable.
Healthy Ecosystems	• Water conservation actions promote landscapes that are less reliant on irrigation, encourage more natural and naturalized

	green spaces, and maximize irrigation efficiency and drought tolerance.
Clean Air, Water, and Land	• Water conservation reduces water withdrawals, chemical use, energy use, and greenhouse gas emissions.
Waste Reduction and Diversion	• Incentive programs to retrofit and replace inefficient appliance and fixtures will create some waste. Porcelain recycling at Recovery Park is being considered which will help mitigate this.
Storm Water Management	• Conservation promotes storm water capture to replace or supplement irrigation.
Sustainable Food System	• Strategy promotes water conservation at community gardens.

Principle: Social Equity and Cultural Wellbeing

Indicator	**TBL Outcomes**
Equity and Opportunity	• There has been a more uptake of sustainability initiatives by higher income households. Climate change is expected to disproportionately impact lower income communities. The Strategy includes programs targeted at households and businesses who have been structurally excluded.
Diversity and Inclusion	• Programs that support a wide range of economic levels and household sizes.
Heritage, Arts, and Culture	• Not applicable.
Self Sufficiency and Living with Dignity	• The inclining block rate structure can improve affordability and access by pricing basic water needs at a lower price. However, caution needs to be taken not to inadvertently increase utility costs for larger households with more occupants.
Health and Wellbeing	• Providing high-quality drinking water is an essential City service. The Strategy support maintaining a resilient water system.
Safety and Resiliency	• Providing high-quality drinking water is an essential City service. The Strategy support maintaining a resilient water system.
Civic Participation	• There are opportunities to partner with community organizations to conduct research and deliver some programs.
Recreation	• Efficient water use can help maintain levels of service at parks, pools, spray pads, and other amenities and public services even as the City reduces energy use and emissions.

Principle: Economic Prosperity and Fiscal Responsibility

Indicator	Business As Usual
Innovation	• Water conservation actions led by the City demonstrate environmental leadership.
Sustainable Procurement	• Initiatives will facilitate sustainability improvements.
Financial Planning and Resourcing	• Strategy includes evaluation of cost effectiveness of programs – cost to the City compared to the volume of water saved.
Affordability for Users	• Conservation programs can improve affordability by helping residents identify ways to moderate their water use.
Support the Local Economy	• Conservation can create long term savings for households and businesses that are larger than upfront costs or investments. Providing incentives and education programs will facilitate behavior changes.
Asset Management	• Civic conservation initiatives can yield savings for many City departments (e.g., reduced water bills for park watering, spray pads, and building operations). • Water demand and peak volumes can increase the need to invest in capacity expansion. Conservation, efficiency, and leak reduction can help manage or defer expenditures needed to add capacity to the current system.
Skills and Training	• Recommended initiatives include education and training programs.
Labour Rights and Employment	• Not applicable.

Principle: Good Governance

Indicator	Business As Usual
Ethical and Democratic Governance	• Having a water conservation strategy makes the City's long-term intentions and expected outcomes of conservation transparent and is based on best practice research.
Effective Service Delivery	• Conservation programs can minimize the need for unpopular outdoor watering restrictions. • The Strategy addresses risks to the water system that have been identified, particularly around system resiliency and capacity limits.
Education, Communication, Engagement, Capacity Building	• Water conservation programs can be delivered with trusted community partners.
Monitoring, Reporting and Compliance	• The Strategy will help the City achieve its targets and commitments, particularly around emissions reductions and utility affordability.
Agility and Adaptiveness	• The Strategy entertains new ideas and responds to climate change.
Roles, Responsibilities and Rewards	• The Strategy elaborates on water conservation targets from the Low Emissions Community Plan.