

2022 Report on Service, Savings and Sustainability

ISSUE

The City of Saskatoon (City) strives to become the best-managed city in Canada. The purpose of this report is to provide City Council with an update on the City's accomplishments in 2022 to improve services, increase savings, and enhance sustainability. The initiatives outlined in this report support the Strategic Goal of Continuous Improvement.

BACKGROUND

City Council, at its meeting held on February 7, 2005, resolved:

1. That City Council confirm its commitment to continually attempt to increase the corporation's productivity and efficiency, and
2. That City Council instruct Administration to prepare a report annually on efficiencies implemented in the previous year.

CURRENT STATUS

The City's annual Service, Savings, and Sustainability (SSS) Report highlights the innovative and creative ways employees are fostering a culture of continuous improvement in all aspects of civic operations:

- Service improvements focus on how employees are working hard to continually enhance the quality and reliability of current civic services as well as adapt to the changing needs of the public.
- Savings underscore the power of thinking differently and adopting new processes to use human and financial resources as effectively as possible.
- Sustainability speaks to efforts to ensure Saskatoon grows in harmony with nature, outlining initiatives that reduce the City's environmental footprint, mitigate the risks posed by climate change, and create a more equitable and socially responsible community.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The development of the 2022 SSS Report was initiated in early 2023 with contributions from the various City divisions under the categories of Service, Savings and Sustainability.

A few highlights from each of those sections are presented below. The full 2022 SSS Report is included as Appendix 1.

Service:

- The new dry storm pond in W.W. Ashley District Park officially opened in October 2022, but it had already proven its value by preventing local flooding during a significant rain event in June. This allowed residents in the Haultain and Queen Elizabeth neighbourhoods to be reassured of the safety of the properties during future rain events.

- In December 2022, the City's Roadways Emergency Response Plan was used for the first time to clear the streets after 34 centimetres of snow fell between December 25-28, 2022.
- The Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Department was formed in 2022 to support the One City approach to identifying and addressing barriers that people of diverse backgrounds experience while working at the City or when engaging with City services.

Savings:

- An irrigation pilot used software and weather information to reduce the amount of water used in irrigating municipal parks. The pilot surpassed expectations, reducing water use by approximately 39 million litres and realizing cost savings of \$98,000.
- The City signed a new contract for Wide Area Network (WAN) services that has resulted in greater flexibility in implementation and savings of \$126,000 annually.

Sustainability:

- Saskatoon became the first large city in the province to require recycling at businesses and organizations. The business recycling and organics program is expected to divert 2,400 tonnes of recyclables and 3,000 tonnes of organics from the landfill every year.
- Alternative Currents is the City's Renewable and Low Emissions Energy Implementation Plan. This will help Saskatoon switch fuel sources, support the growth of renewable energy to sustainably cool and power buildings and fuel vehicles, and enable industrial and commercial processes to meet the City's approved climate targets.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial, privacy, legal, social, or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

The 2022 SSS Report will be made available on the City's website, saskatoon.ca. The report's release and content will be promoted through social media channels and a News Release.

As with previous years, printed copies of the 2022 SSS Report will not be produced.

APPENDIX

1. 2022 Service, Savings, and Sustainability Report

Report Approval

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