

City of Dover Sustainability Goals with Purpose Statements

NATURAL SYSTEMS

Natural Resources Planning and Inventory

Protect, enhance and restore habitat and natural ecosystems to levels of function that confer resilience and adaptability and support biological imperatives for clean water and air, food, shelter and public safety.

Green Infrastructure

Design and maintain a “strategically planned and managed green infrastructure network composed of natural lands, working landscapes and other open spaces that conserve ecosystem values and functions, and provide associated benefits to human populations¹.”

Land Use in Watersheds

Protect and restore the natural systems that underpin watershed health and hydrological integrity.

Water Quality and Supply

Design and maintain an integrated water, storm water, and waste water system that reduces pollution and protects and restores ecological systems, minimizes energy use and maximizes efficiency, and provides equitable distribution and pricing.

Agriculture and Aquaculture

Conserve and maintain land and other natural resources necessary for agriculture and aquaculture in ways that ensure accessibility, affordability, vitality and continued availability for use by current and future generations.

Resource Lands

Conserve and maintain lands that provide raw materials, renewable natural resources in such a way that allows for sustained harvest and maintains land vitality.

Biodiversity & Invasive Species

Preserve and restore regional biodiversity, with a focus on promoting native species and avoiding and eliminating invasive species.

Ambient Noise and Light Minimize and manage ambient noise and light levels to protect the integrity of ecological systems and public health without compromising public safety and cultural expression.

Waste Minimization Minimize waste and optimally recycle material resources to protect natural systems by reducing resource extraction, greenhouse gas emissions, and air and water pollution.

PLANNING & DESIGN

Comprehensive Planning

Provide a long-range vision for the future growth and development of the community that addresses economic, environmental and social problems and opportunities within the community; ensure public and encourage private investments are supportive of that vision.

Excellence in Design

Encourage the siting and design of public and private projects to minimize environmental impact, maximize financial efficiency, optimize social equity and benefits, and improve public health.

Interconnected Land Use

The STAR Community Index™ (STAR), developed by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA (ICLEI USA) in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), National League of Cities (NLC), and Center for American Progress. 2011. Dover is not a member of any of the sponsor groups.

Encourage diverse, accessible, and proximate land uses to promote active living and access to vital services including employment, education, and healthy food.

Compact and Complete Communities

Create compact communities with a range of services that allow for amenities and transportation options; afford equitable access to the ingredients of what makes for an economically and socially viable neighborhood; reduce the community's carbon footprint.

Design for People

Create human-scale built environments that provide comfort, safety, accessibility and are pleasing to all human inhabitants.

Housing

Foster the preservation, construction and maintenance of an adequate supply of healthful, affordable, resource-efficient, and inclusive housing. Residential development should be available to all ages, abilities, incomes, and household sizes and be located in environmentally safe areas near public transportation, jobs, and critical goods and services.

Public Space

Invest in, program and optimally maintain diverse and interconnected public spaces that feature equitable, convenient, and comfortable access, encourage safe and healthy behaviors, minimize hazards, are culturally appropriate and attract and serve all populations.

Transportation

Reduce vehicle miles traveled and associated greenhouse gas and criteria air pollutant emissions by enhancing the availability of, and access to, diverse transportation choices, including non-motorized modes and transit; create safe, affordable mobility and physical activity opportunities for all; and provide and optimally maintain infrastructure that efficiently and affordably moves people and goods locally and regionally.

Land Conservation

Shape the settlement pattern and protect critical community resources by acquiring, conserving, and managing important landscapes in perpetuity.

Historic Preservation and Cultural Heritage

Promote the preservation and reuse of historic resources, including buildings, structures, sites, neighborhood districts and cultural landscapes to assist in the retention of local, regional and national history and heritage, reinforcement of community character, and conservation of material resources.

Codes, Ordinances and Requirements

Ensure that planning guidelines, zoning codes, building codes, and health codes consider community and site context, improve ecological integrity, are based on life cycle costing, foster social equity, and reward innovation.

Public Engagement in Planning and Design

Provide regular, meaningful, and equitable opportunities for citizens to shape the future of their communities.

ENERGY & CLIMATE

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

Achieve greenhouse gas emissions and criteria air pollutant reductions in both municipal operations and the community at large, with attention given to reduction and prevention of inequalities.

Climate Adaptation

Improve the response and resiliency of all communities to climate change impacts on the built, natural and social environments with an emphasis on public health and historically underserved populations.

Energy Supply

Provide an affordable and secure energy supply that increases the development and use of renewable, least toxic and less carbon-intensive sources.

Energy Use

Provide affordable and secure energy for all while minimizing demand and consumption.

Resource Efficient Buildings

Enhance the energy performance and resource efficiency of a community's building stock throughout its lifecycle.

Alternative Fuels and Infrastructure

Support low-carbon and high resource-efficiency transportation options through the development of supporting infrastructure, fuel purchasing and local fuel production.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Enterprise Support

Enhance traditional business retention, expansion and attraction activities to work with individual businesses of a range of sizes and types to increase overall economic vitality, environmental and human health, and social responsibility of business enterprises.

Industry Sector Development and Revitalization

Support the growth of new industry sectors, and the transition of existing industry sectors, toward practices, products and services that increase environmental performance, human health and social responsibility.

Market Development

Increase overall market demand in local and export markets for value added products and services that increase environmental performance, human health and social responsibility.

Neighborhood and Community-Based Economic Development

Spur community- and neighborhood-level economic development and redevelopment in ways that develop and manage the community's resources for its residents' benefit on a sustainable and inclusive basis.

Economic Localization

Strengthen and diversify local economies by developing localized networks for economic exchange and increase the total number and market share of locally owned, socio-culturally diverse and neighborhood- and community-based businesses.

Land Redevelopment and Revitalization

Reclaim and repurpose vacant, obsolete or contaminated land and buildings to improve community health and safety, increase environmental quality and provide economic benefits.

Food System

Strengthen local and regional food systems and support and encourage an economically viable, environmentally sound and socially equitable.

EDUCATION, ARTS & COMMUNITY

Ecological Literacy

Provide residents with the informational and material resources they need to think critically about and address environmental problems and solutions, and include the environment as an important consideration in their work and daily living.

Arts and Culture

Engage all audiences with a diverse offering of arts and cultural opportunities and allow for regular participation and creative self-expression; use these resources as platforms to address social, environmental, educational and economic development issues in the community.

Arts and Cultural Civic Support

Establish civic leadership and support in cultivating a broad range of arts, cultural and heritage resources and activities.

Neighborhood Vitality Support the function and identity of neighborhoods by encouraging communication, strengthening community bonds, local participation and interaction, and enhancing sense of place.

Civic Literacy and Engagement

Encourage communication and promote meaningful participation in civic life within and among neighborhoods and the larger community; create civic participation that is accessible to all, with barriers to full participation eliminated.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Food Access and Nutrition

Ensure community food security and equitable physical and economic access to safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food at all times for every resident across a community; provide opportunities for residents to grow their own food; educate residents about nutrition and food—from farm to plate.

Drinking Water Quality

Ensure access to safe, high quality, affordable drinking water for all communities.

Outdoor Air Quality

Ensure that outdoor air quality is healthy for all segments of the human population and for the natural environment.

Natural and Human Hazards

Plan, deploy and maintain physical and social infrastructures such that vulnerability to natural and human hazards and disasters is reduced for all members of a community and ensure that communities are adequately prepared to respond to crises, response is effective and coordinated, and recovery is accelerated.

Emergency Prevention and Response

Utilize long term preventive and collaborative approaches to reduce and avoid emergency incidents; respond to emergency incidents with strategies that minimize response time and harm to humans, property and the environment.

Safe Communities

Create safe, peaceful and thriving communities where all government sectors actively collaborate with citizens as empowered partners to foster pro-social behaviors, prevent and reduce crime, and promote nonviolent conflict resolution.

Active Living

Create opportunities for and promote the integration of recreation and physical activity into people's daily routines and the built environment.

AFFORDABILITY & SOCIAL EQUITY

Government Transparency

Require that local decision-making processes are transparent and evident to the public through the provision of information, participatory tools, education, and an open process.

Revenue Generation

Ensure that public revenue sources are economically sustainable, promote equity and redress existing inequities, and foster healthy ecosystems now and into the future.

Public Expenditures and Financial Investment

Ensure that local government procurement, expenditures, and financial investments support best practices in social responsibility related to employment, environment, and community development.

Infrastructure Investments

Equitably distribute infrastructure, amenities and services, and redress prior disinvestment, to foster community health and create communities of opportunity.

Social Cohesion

Strengthen communities by encouraging communication, partnerships and trust within and among residents, government, and the larger community.

Civil and Human Rights

Promote the full enjoyment by individuals and groups of their political, social and economic civil rights.

Cultural Practices

As relevant to the location, the community integrates traditionally practiced livelihoods and cultural activities in its use of public facilities and areas, governance of private property, planning and development policies and strategies, as well as in other areas of civic life, as appropriate.

Environmental Justice

Develop and enforce government policies and practices that not only contribute to reducing polluted and toxic environments for all residents but also lead to an equitable distribution of the positive and negative environmental effects on the health and wellbeing of communities.

Community Empowerment

Ensure that community members have the skills, resources and assurances needed to participate and lead in defining and implementing decisions affecting individual and community wellbeing.