

Inner City Coalition

Of Calgary Society



4. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

We believe that better planning tools such as land use and building regulations, and new engineering standards are required for an ecologically sustainable future.

Issue

Environmental concerns continue to be an issue to Calgarians, and Council appears to support various initiatives. However, the real ecological footprint of individual Calgarians is increasing, not decreasing. Planning standards, even in the proposed Land Use By-Law, do not encourage innovative green solutions.

Background:

Many initiatives designed to protect or enhance our environment have been a priority in recent years. Reducing the amount of garbage being sent to our land-fill sites and increasing the amount of materials for recycling have been successful programs. The City has taken the "LEED" on many of its own buildings. New and more aggressive initiatives have been discussed, but real action appears to be in holding.

Municipal leadership is needed on this issue. Incentive based initiatives would encourage waste (garbage) reduction, air quality management, people friendly pest and weed control, urban forestation, and water conservation.

Real environmental sustainability of our communities depends on the City's land use and related transportation strategies. Current and proposed planning rules do not encourage truly sustainable communities. Issues like walking distance to local shopping, pathways and sidewalks linking services, mixed use suburbs (live work opportunities), seem to have been lost as planning principles. These principles were adopted by Council in 1999 with the Calgary Transportation Plan but have yet to be implemented.

QUESTION

As a Municipal Leader , what types of policy have you or would you initiate to reduce our environmental impact and maintain our quality of life?

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AN ON-LINE ELECTION FORUM
CALGARY 2007