



COUNCIL REQUEST FOR DECISION

MEETING DATE: March 11, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: S. Olson, Director, Engineering and Environment

PREPARED BY: M. Hancharyk, Manager, Environment

REPORT TITLE: Environmental Plan 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2012, the City of Leduc adopted its first Environmental Plan, with the purpose of guiding 10 years of environmental stewardship by outlining key visions, principles, and actions. The proposed new Environmental Plan reflects the next 10 years of environmental priorities.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the Environmental Plan provided as an attachment to the March 11, 2024, report titled "Environmental Plan 2024".

COUNCIL HISTORY

On October 16, 2023, the Environmental Plan Update was presented to Council. This included the Environmental Baseline Report and findings from the engagement sessions. Council provided direction on priorities to incorporate these into the updated Plan.

BACKGROUND / RATIONALE

In 2012, the City of Leduc adopted its first Environmental Plan, with the purpose of guiding 10 years of environmental stewardship by outlining key visions, principles, and actions. We've had great success in meeting the action items outlined in the original Environmental Plan – 80% of action items have been accomplished.

An Environmental Baseline Report was completed to highlight environmental priorities and concerns for the City as it continues to grow. Areas of significant environmental value, and therefore concern, identified within Leduc include:

- Wetlands, lakes, and waterbodies: provide diverse habitat, flood retention, climate resiliency and are valuable community amenities;
- Wildlife habitat: maintain and enhance wildlife habitat and connectivity in the area; and
- Agricultural lands: support food security and economic growth.

Extensive community engagement occurred throughout the development of the updated Environmental Plan to ensure the community and all stakeholders had the opportunity to share their environmental priorities and concerns for the City of Leduc. Based on the feedback from internal and external sources (including the Leduc Environmental Advisory Board), information within the Environmental Baseline Report, and direction from Council, an updated Environmental Plan has been developed to help guide the City of Leduc's environmental initiatives for the next ten years.

KEY ISSUES

The Plan gives a background on the environmental state of Leduc. It reflects actions in six different areas: Waste, Water, Ambient Impacts (Air, Light, & Noise), Energy, Climate Resiliency and Land. These areas were vetted through the public, LEAB, Administration, and Council. Based on public feedback, Waste and Land were the highest priority areas, and represent the largest segment of focus areas in the draft Environmental Plan.



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STRATEGIC / RELEVANT PLANS ALIGNMENT

The City of Leduc Strategic Plan 2023-2026: 2.1.2 Focus on the preservation of our natural environment through the implementation of sustainable environmental initiatives.

The 2023- 2026 Corporate Business Plan: 2.1.8 Update and implement the revised Environmental Plan

The Environment Plan supports and points to various existing plans: City of Leduc Strategic Plan 2023-2026; City of Leduc Greenhouse Gas Reduction Action Plan 2018; City of Leduc Parks and Open Spaces and Trails Master Plan 2020; City of Leduc Water Master Plan 2014; City of Leduc Weather and Climate Readiness Plan 2014; and City of Leduc Transportation Master Plan.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATION:

Approval of The Environmental Plan will shape the Environmental group's priorities for the next 10 years.

RISK ANALYSIS: FINANCIAL / LEGAL:

There will be additional budget requests once The Plan is approved. See Internal Implementation Table of Actions for potential costs of actions. These projects would be carried out over the next 10 years (ie Developing a Natural Asset Inventory is estimated to cost \$80,000).

IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNICATIONS:

Once approved, Administration will communicate the Environmental Plan to the public and update the version on City website.

ALTERNATIVES:

Council could direct Administration to make further revisions to the Environmental Plan and present it for Council's consideration at a later date.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Environmental Plan

Council Presentation – Updated Environmental Plan

Environmental Baseline Report

Internal Implementation Table of Actions