

2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2025 2030 2035 2040 2045 2050

just imagine

Municipal Sustainability Planning

Municipal Sustainability Planning

FCM 2007 Community Energy Planning Mission
August 1, 2007
Olds, Alberta

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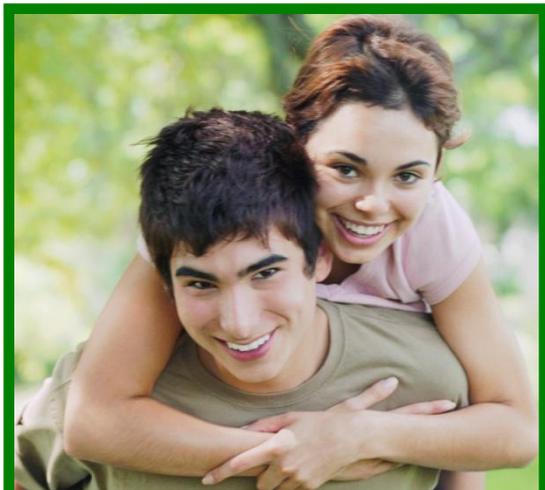
Presentation Overview

1. History and timeline of AUMA MSP Project
2. What is a Municipal Sustainability Plan?
3. MSP Pilot Project Update



What is Sustainability?

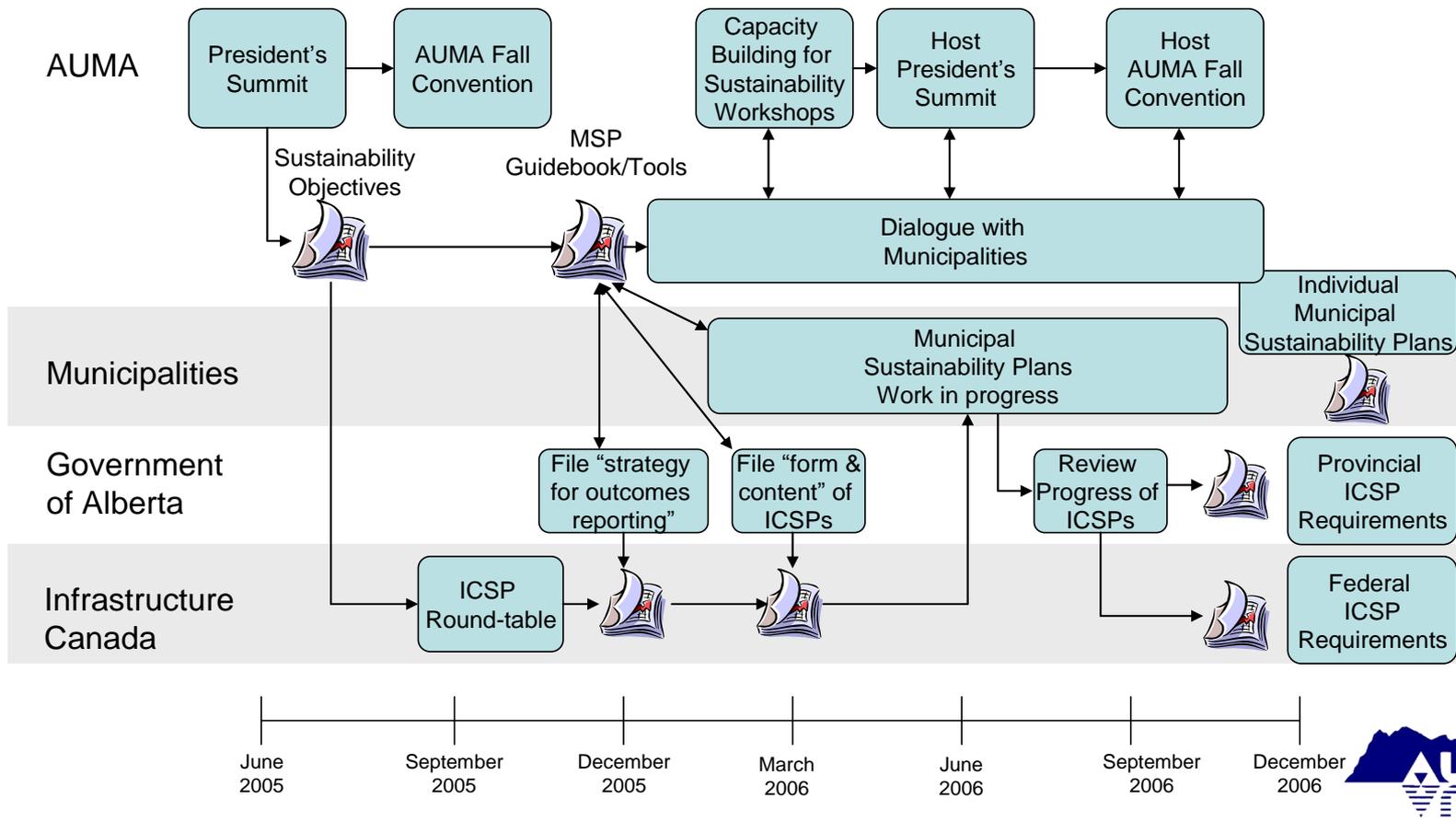
Living in a way that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. – Brundtland Commissions, 1987





Municipal Sustainability Planning

MSP – History and Timeline



AUMA MSP Project Phases

Phase 1: Develop Guidebook

Phase 2: Training opportunities (Cochrane Workshop, 2 President Summits, E-learning)

Phase 3: Pilot communities

Phase 4: Conference (sharing challenges, successes, lessons learned)

MSP Guide and Tools

- MSP Guide and Tools developed with the assistance of The Natural Step Canada and Brown and Associates Planning Group.
- The document & tools recognize that there is not one way to prepare a Municipal Sustainability Plan, and provide a broad overview of a process to develop an MSP along with tools and resources within each step of the process.



Resources

<http://msp.munilink.net/>





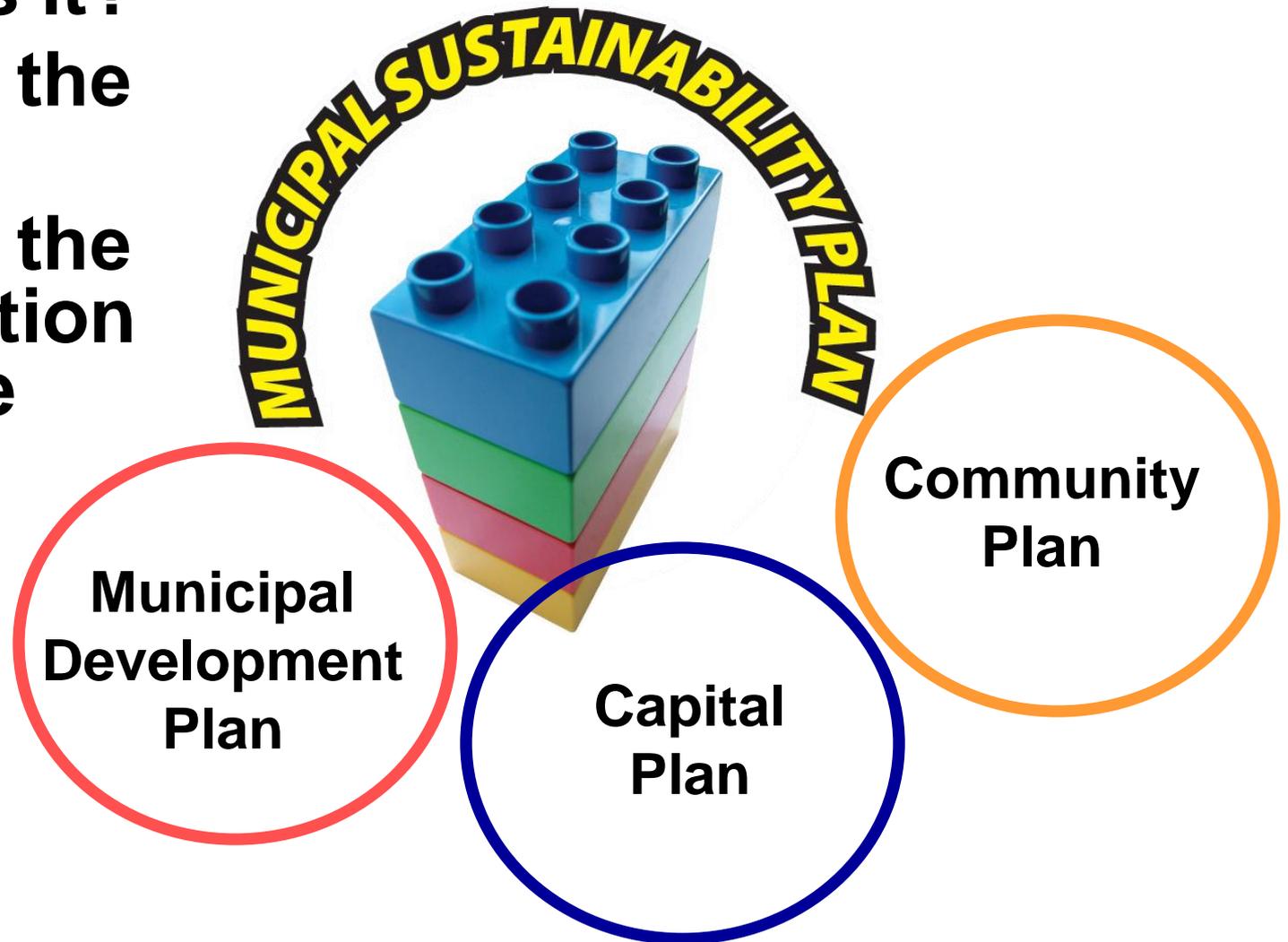
MSP—What is a Municipal Sustainability Plan?

Provides guidance for the development or alignment of all municipal plans and documents.



MSP – How does it all fit together?

1. What is it?
2. What's the role?
3. What's the connection with the MSP?





MSP – What is the connection?

MSP → **MDP**

The vision and directions developed through the Municipal Sustainability Plan process will be used to update the policies and vision in the Municipal Development Plan.

MSP → **Community Plan**

The vision and directions developed through the MSP process will help guide our current decisions as we plan new communities and redevelop existing neighborhoods.

MSP → **Capital Plan**

The actions identified in the MSP process will be used to develop the capital and operating budgets for the municipality for infrastructure needed in the community.





MSP – Municipal Sustainability Plan

Backcasting vs. Forecasting

Instead of planning based on past experience, identify a goal and create plans to reach that goal.



MSP –What are the 5 dimensions?

1. Governance
2. Cultural
3. Environmental
4. Economic
5. Social

MSP – Sample Sustainability Principles

1. People are not subject to conditions that undermine their ability to meet their basic human needs.
 2. Nature is not subject to systematic increases in:
 - Concentrations of substances extracted from the Earth's crust.
 - Concentrations of substances produced by society.
 - Degradation by physical means.
- The Natural Step Sustainability Principles

MSP – What is the process?

Phase 1

Structure the Planning Process

Phase 2

Create Shared Understanding of Sustainable Community Success

Phase 3

Determine & Analyze Strategies for Community Success

Phase 4

Identify Initiatives to Move from Current Reality to Success

Phase 5

Ongoing Monitoring and Implementation



MSP – Flexibility

There is no one way to prepare a Municipal Sustainability Plan.

The tools and process provided within the pilot provide a broad overview of a process. Each community will determine how best to utilize the tools and resources to move forward in their sustainability planning.



Pilot - Objectives

1. Pilot communities will have **succeeded in successfully moving forward with municipal sustainability planning**. At the end of the term of the pilot, communities will have completed the municipal sustainability planning process as laid out in the MSP Resource Binder. The process is flexible, and the pilot community is welcome to bring other tools into the process if they work for their community.
2. **Successes, challenges and lessons learned** will be gathered and **shared** with other municipalities to build a greater understanding of how municipalities can successfully move forward with sustainability planning.
3. **Build relationships** with other organizations to assist with effective municipal sustainability planning. These relationships will continue to grow and support municipal sustainability planning in the future.



Pilot – Partner Group

1. Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
2. 5 Alberta Towns and Villages
3. Municipal Affairs and Housing
4. Alberta Environment
5. The Natural Step Canada



Municipal Sustainability Planning

Pilot – Communities





Pilot – Available Tools and Support - Website

www.msp.auma.ca



Pilot Update – Activities to Date

- The Natural Step – Facilitator Training
- E- learning course – Over 100 participants
- Community Workshops – April 19 & 20, June 5 & 6
- Communities creating CAG
- Communities developing MSP plan
- Community consultation in - process



Pilot – Lessons Shared

- Choosing traditional planning will give you a pretty set result. Choosing to go a different route will allow you to choose the destiny you want for your community.
- “What does your community want to be when it grows up?”
- Needs to be a willingness to take on the challenge.

Pilot – Lessons Shared



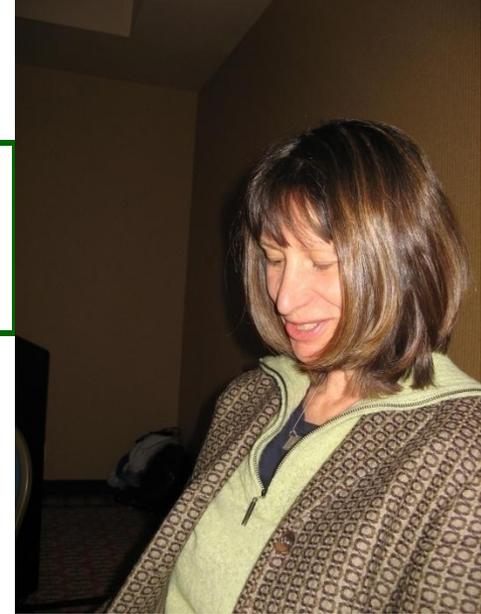
- Think about sub-divisions as communities within a community.
- Make your goals tangible and deliverable.
- Make sustainability the “*business that you’re in*” – not a “*program*”.
- Celebrate successes

Pilot – Lessons Shared



- Physical demonstrations, real things people can go to or see assist in building support. (ex. an actual building)
- Use diverse approaches to building awareness and capacity.
- Invest the time to inform the community and initiate an educational program to ensure their understanding.

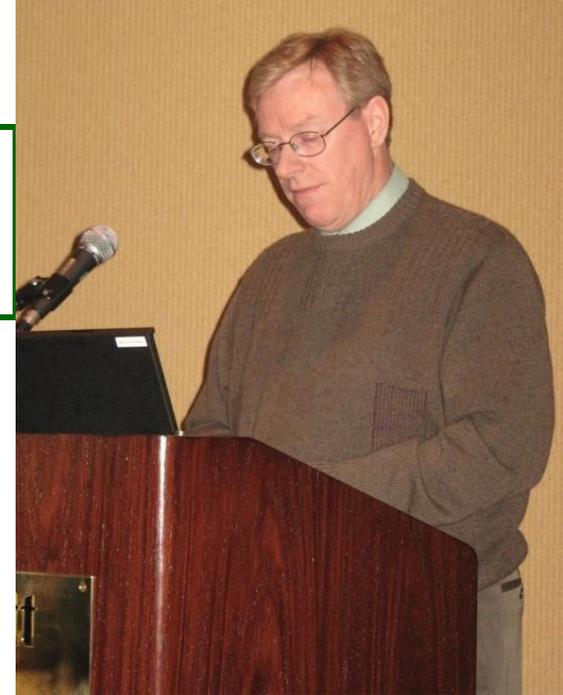
Pilot – Lessons Shared



- Becoming more sustainable takes time. The AUMA resources and pilot project provide a framework and learnings between communities are shared so it should reduce the amount of time it takes, but patience is still a virtue.

Pilot – Lessons Shared

- Leadership is key to success.
- Commitment, courage, and creativity all contribute to success.
- Need to ensure community participates.
- Seek and accept outside expertise and advice.



Pilot – Lessons Shared



- To open the door to sustainability, include consideration of sustainability in a retrofit, infrastructure upgrade, or new building project. This is a good first step that provides tangible results and a good success story for the community.
- Invest the time to inform the community and initiate an educational program to ensure their understanding.

When considering the content covered, what is the one idea that you will share with your colleague's /family/ friends when you return home?

- Many ideas that our community could and should consider. Seemed overwhelming - but was good to hear from others that it does not happen overnight - takes years.
- To reconcile economic growth and environmental sustainability is our job.

- There are numerous communities and many enthused leaders who are ready to move on sustainability planning.
- Leap outside of the box. Sustainability isn't a project; it is a way of doing business.
- Would your grandchildren be happy with your decision?

Pilot – Lessons Learned – Staff Capacity

- Staff capacity must be provided to successfully move the project forward.
- Increasing capacity through use of community development officers can be very helpful.
- Consultants can be helpful to build capacity but do your homework.

Pilot – Lessons Learned – Creating a Vision

- It is imperative that elected leaders talk about the idea of sustainability and help their constituents see what is possible and how it will benefit them.
- Leaders benefit from purposefully thinking about and practicing how to explain sustainability. The right stories, the right connections for constituents.

Pilot – Lessons Learned – Patience

- There will be challenges.
- Education is key to changing understanding among council, administration and community.
- Build on successes.
- Focus on what makes sense in your community now.
- It is an ongoing process.

Pilot – Lessons Learned – Strategic Direction

- Indicator of effective long-term planning.
- Makes good business sense.
- Provides a method for coordinating different aspects of municipal government based on an agreed to outcome.

Pilot Update – Next Steps

- Expanding website content
- Communities solidify vision phase
- Facilitate increased sharing between communities
- Communities move to analyzing strategy areas



Pilot Update – Next Steps Continued

- Conference 2008
- Update toolkit
- Continue to encourage more municipalities to engage in municipal sustainability planning.





MSP- Leadership and Recognition

- Founder Communities, Innovator Communities, Visionary Communities, Leadership

http://www.munilink.net/live/digitalAssets/11864_060427_MunicipalSustainabilityAwards_2.pdf





Questions?

*"The future is not
something we enter.
The future is
something we create."*

- Leonard Sweet





Additional Information

For more information on Municipal Sustainability Planning go to:

www.msp.auma.ca

To view presentations from the April and June Municipal Sustainability Planning Workshops go to

<http://www.munilink.net/live/AUMA/AUMA+Presentations/Workshops>

