



FortWhyte Alive
HUMAN. NATURE.



SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

2024-2028



FortWhyte Alive (FWA) believes that sustainable communities are built on three essential and interdependent cornerstones: a healthy natural environment; a healthy, vibrant economic environment; and a healthy and equitable social environment. As a place that celebrates the interconnectedness of society, economy and environment, FortWhyte is rooted in sustainability.

With approximately 660 acres of diverse habitat that include lakes, forests, meadows and prairie grasslands, FWA is well equipped to provide leading-edge programming, natural settings and facilities for environmental education, outdoor recreation and social enterprise programming. Given its unparalleled natural, built and intellectual assets, FWA is positioned to become a national leader in sustainability.

The FortWhyte Alive Sustainability Plan is a formal roadmap to guide personnel in making informed choices to enable more sustainable practices and provides the foundation for improving FWA's long-term environmental performance. In this document, a Five-Year Sustainability Strategy is presented, which outlines a plan of action for the short term. It describes a variety of environmental programs and initiatives, as well as systems for monitoring and evaluating sustainability performance.

FWA's Sustainability Plan will inform best practices in environmental performance for the short, mid, and long term. The sustainability goals and targets outlined in this document will provide the framework for developing new initiatives to enhance FWA's overall sustainability and help realize its vision of becoming a national leader in sustainability.



The FortWhyte Alive Sustainability Plan organizes sustainability in three interconnected dimensions: natural environment, economy and social well-being. The Plan is divided into six principles of sustainability, outlined below. While each area is presented independently, the Sustainability Committee recognizes that they are interconnected and highly interdependent. These principles are used to provide a general framework for guiding specific actions and evaluating specific areas of sustainability performance.



We believe in infrastructure, practices and partnerships which limit the institutional and individual dependency on non-renewable energy sources.

- Reduce total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Reduce the intensity of energy consumption
- Provide enhanced sustainable transportation opportunities

We commit to acting as leaders of water stewardship through self-sufficiency, water quality and the promotion of water conservation.

- Enhance water stewardship and conservation in FWA's buildings and facilities
- Maintain water quality in FWA's five lakes
- Educate staff, volunteers and the public about the importance and benefits of water conservation and stewardship

As part of our commitment to reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions, we strive to decrease the volume of organic and inorganic waste produced on our site and divert waste from the landfill wherever possible.

- Reduce solid, hazardous and electronic waste produced on-site
- Provide education about waste reduction to staff, volunteers, and visitors

We prioritize the usage of products which are environmentally and socially responsible.

- Prioritize sustainable procurement practices
- Educate the public, visitors, staff and volunteers on the benefits of sustainable procurement

We ensure our existing and future buildings will adhere to the principles of green building standards wherever possible, and ensure that our site is developed and maintained sustainably.

- Aggregate quantitative and qualitative data of the FortWhyte site and formalize it into a Site Development and Maintenance Plan
- Foster a community of learning and knowledge-sharing with post-secondary institutions and scientists to observe and improve the health of our ecosystems
- Develop and maintain our natural landscape in a regenerative manner that reflects the nature of our bioregion, ensures a diversity of native plant species, and generates a healthy and resilient ecosystem
- Adopt leading-edge and best green building practices in all new buildings and renovations
- Develop a program to promote the sustainable features of the site and facilities to FWA staff, visitors and the community

We provide tools and resources for staff, volunteers and visitors to support sustainable lifestyles, and promote a culture of sustainability through collaboration and community.

- Promote a culture of sustainability in the FortWhyte Alive community
- Create broader awareness of the variety of sustainability practices at FortWhyte Alive
- Lead by example in the community by demonstrating the accessibility of sustainability
- Create opportunities for the community to become involved in sustainable actions and initiatives
- Create a supportive and encouraging atmosphere around sustainability