Appendix 1-1

Sustainable City Philosophy
SUSTAINABLE CITY PHILOSOPHY

Preamble

The City of Olympia acknowledges its responsibility for leadership in creating a sustainable community -- locally, regionally and globally. A sustainable community is one that persists over generations and is far-seeing enough, flexible enough and wise enough to maintain its natural, economic, social and political support systems.

Guiding Principles

1. The City’s elected officials and staff recognize the importance of our relationship with and responsibility for future generations. We will always remember that future generations will inherit the consequences of our decisions, and we must act accordingly.

2. The City acknowledges that our human economic, social and political activities are interrelated within the natural ecosystem of air, water, land and living things. We understand that any action affecting one part affects all other parts of the ecosystem.
   - our community depends upon the natural environment for its sustenance and our quality of life
   - there is great potential for creativity in economic activity to meet our needs within the physical limits of the natural environment
   - as individuals, we are each responsible for the common good; the community cares for individuals
   - democracy requires informed, active participation

3. By making thoughtful, small decisions one at a time, each of us can make a big difference in the future of our community.

Criteria for Evaluation

We will evaluate our actions based upon the following criteria of sustainability;

Future Generations - this action will meet present needs without jeopardizing future generations

Interrelationships - this action takes into account the environmental, economic, social and political requirements for its success, and its impact on the natural environment and human activities

Resolution

Therefore, we resolve to base our decisions upon these principles and criteria, in our actions as stewards of the community, as a role model for others to follow, as a regulator of private actions, as a mediator between conflicting interests, or as an advocate for actions by others.
HOW TO APPLY SUSTAINABLE CITY CRITERIA

The following criteria are meant to be used as a tool for evaluating whether recommendations for action or development of new programs are consistent with the principles of the Sustainable City Philosophy. This analysis can be applied during the scoping of a new program or policy and is most effective if a diverse group of people participate. It can also be used as a guide as staff develops options for consideration and recommendations to City Council for final action.

Examples of how to apply the criteria are listed below. The attached diagrams/illustrations give a more visual example of how to apply Criteria 2.

Criteria 1 - Future Generations: This action will meet present needs without jeopardizing future generations.

At the scoping stage: imagine that it is 100 years from now. Imagine that the problem you are addressing has been solved as a result of the farsighted action that was taken in your present year. Describe what the community is like as a result of this policy or program you are about to develop.

At the options stage: imagine that it is 100 years from now. For each alternative, describe what the community is like assuming the alternative has been fully funded and implemented consistently over time.

At the recommendations stage: imagine that it is 100 years from now. You are analyzing the impacts of this policy or programs adopted in your present year. Assume that the policy or program has been fully funded and implemented consistently over time. Describe what the community is like, considering all the consequences of the policy or program you are recommending.

Criteria 2 - Interrelationships: this action takes into account the environmental, economic, social and political requirements for its success, and its impact on the natural environment and human activities

At each stage: after you have a clear image of the future in mind, answer the following questions using the attached diagrams/illustrations to stimulate thinking:

- What else had to happen in order for this ideal scenario to play out? Consider all interrelated dimensions of the ecosystem (environmental, social, economic and political).
- What was the impact of the policy or program on other elements of the ecosystem?
OUR HUMAN COMMUNITY DEPENDS UPON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR ITS SUSTENANCE

DOES THE PROGRAM OR POLICY:

- Conserve nonrenewable natural resources through efficient use and careful planning.
- Conserve earthly and aquatic ecosystems (land, water, air, wildlife).
- Encourage use of renewable resources (water, soils, forest).
- Restore ecosystems that have been degraded and/or fragmented.
- Minimize and try to eliminate release of pollutants into the air, water and soil. Reduce contribution to greenhouse effect, ozone depletion, acid rain and smog.

ENVIRONMENT
AS INDIVIDUALS, WE ARE EACH RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMMON GOOD; OUR COMMUNITY CARES FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL

DOES THE PROGRAM OR POLICY:

SOCIAL

- Foster a culture of place (history, traditions, rituals, sacred spaces).
- Foster strong relationships within families, neighborhoods, schools and community.

Encourage diversity (ethnic, age, gender, income) and respect for all.

- Provide opportunities for productive work and creative self-expression.
- Work toward meeting everyone’s basic needs (e.g., warm, clean, safe place to live with enough food, clean water and health care).
THERE IS UNLIMITED POTENTIAL FOR CREATIVITY IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY TO MEET OUR HUMAN NEEDS WITHIN THE PHYSICAL LIMITS OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

DOES THE PROGRAM OR POLICY:

- **ECONOMIC**
  - Increase energy efficiency and reliance on renewable energy resources.
  - Move towards reliance on nature’s “income” (e.g., solar energy) without depleting its “capital” (e.g., fossil fuels).

- **ECONOMIC**
  - Reduce waste and increase useful life of goods by conserving, reusing and recycling materials.

  Support a transition to full cost pricing (prices reflect environmental and human costs of production).

  Encourage sustainable economic development that recognizes the limits to growth.
DEMOCRACY REQUIRES EVERYONE’S INFORMED, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

DOES THE PROGRAM OR POLICY:

Encourage risk taking and creativity to generate new ideas, fresh discoveries, unexpected connections and untried solutions to move beyond the status quo.

Support the teaching of skills needed for participation in local government (e.g., listening, evaluating, negotiating, problem solving).

Promote collective decision making through cooperation, consensus and mediation.

Encourage active participation by many people in all levels of public life.

Create opportunities for citizens and public officials to discuss policy issues without polarization.

POLITICAL