



City of Denton

City Hall
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AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Environmental Services & Sustainability

ACM: Frank R. Dixon, Assistant City Manager

DATE: April 7, 2026

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on the update to the Simply Sustainable Framework. The Sustainability Framework Advisory Committee recommends approval (4-0).

BACKGROUND

The City of Denton adopted “Simply Sustainable: *A Strategic Plan for Denton’s Future*” by Council resolution in February 2012. The Plan outlined goals, strategies, and actions across eight focus areas. The Plan was revised in 2017, and “Simply Sustainable: *A Framework for Denton’s Future*” was adopted by the Denton City Council in 2020. This update is intended to build on the foundation of the previously adopted sustainability plans and other citywide long-term planning documents and continues to set aspirational goals for the future. The Simply Sustainable Framework is updated every 5 – 7 years to ensure this document remains relevant to the community's needs.

The Simply Sustainable Framework is a living document that considers both previously adopted plans and implementation, and other emerging data, such as the upcoming greenhouse gas inventory.

The updated version of the Framework considers the implementation of the 2020 Framework and implementation of plans adopted, and projects undertaken to move Sustainability forward as an organization in the interim.

Plans adopted following 2020 Simply Sustainable Framework:

- Urban Forest Master Plan (2020)
- Denton 2040 Plan (2022)
- Mobility Plan (2022)
- Parks and Trails Master Plan (2022)
- Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Strategy (2022)
- Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan (2024)
- Climate Action Plan (2024)

Considering these efforts, the Framework was simplified to include two main overarching goals:

- **Goal 1:** Reduce the environmental footprint of municipal operations, assets, and facilities. Evaluate and improve City facilities to ensure they are resilient to hazards and vulnerabilities and can be a resource to the public.

- **Goal 2:** Provide outreach, incentives, and policies that encourage behavior change and support sustainability for the community. Reduce barriers that prevent the community from reducing their resource dependency on fossil fuels, water, energy, and waste.

Each Goal outlines how that sector can undertake action to reduce their respective environmental footprint across six focus areas. With each focus area identifying strategies that can be taken by each sector to create change both on the municipal and community level

For example:

Reduce Municipal energy consumption

- Improve efficiency of existing municipal facilities
 - Review current internal policies to ensure efficacy
 - Implement best management practices
- Ensure new construction meets high energy efficiency standard
- Adopt energy codes to ensure energy efficiency of new construction

Reduce Community energy consumption

- Raise awareness of benefits of energy efficiency benefits and provide tools available to support community efforts
 - Workshops, audits, weatherization kits, etc
 - Website and social media
- Provide support for energy efficiency improvements
 - State and Local Incentives
 - Behavior change awareness
- Measure effectiveness of programs
 - Ensure equitable distribution of energy efficiency programs
 - Track savings achieved through efficiency programs

Each Focus area has similar actions for both Municipal and Community goals with metrics and strategies to track progress.

Initial discussion of Framework Focus Area content began in September 2023. Drafts of the Framework were reviewed with the Sustainability Framework Advisory Committee (SFAC) in July, October, and December of 2025, and with the Committee on the Environment (COE) in September 2025. Feedback from each was incorporated into the draft document presented for consideration.

The Simply Sustainable Framework will continually be revised as new policies and plans are undertaken or adopted throughout the City.

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Final Draft of Simply Sustainable Framework
3. Presentation

Respectfully submitted:
Katherine Barnett
Sustainability Manager