

APWA CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY

APWA Framework for Sustainable Communities

The Framework for Sustainable Communities is an APWA guide designed and produced by the Center for Sustainability to help decision makers make economical and responsible decisions regarding public works infrastructure issues within the community.



The Framework is based on three key dimensions:

1. The five legs of sustainability, which include ecology, economy, empowerment, efficiency and health.
2. S.W.O.T. (Strengths; Weaknesses; Opportunities; and Threats)
3. The Stoplight system

Making sustainable decisions means making long term, fiscally and socially responsible decisions. The Framework for Sustainable Communities is a guide to help assess the risk regarding these decisions.

To download the Framework for Sustainable Communities, please visit www.apwa.net/centerforsustainability

"In order to confront the challenges of the 21st Century, public works professionals must have strong sustainability credentials and commitment so that they can continue to deliver infrastructure and services in an environmentally and socially responsible way that ensures the best economic choice in the long term. The APWA Center for Sustainability provides many guidelines and tools to help public works practitioners accomplish these goals."

- Michael Mucha, Chair (2009-2011)
Director of Public Works, Olympia, WA

For more information on the Center for Sustainability, please visit www.apwa.net/centerforsustainability

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Promoting Sustainability In Public Works

American Public Works Association

Sustainability: A New Vision for Public Works



What does “sustainability in public works” mean?

Sustainability in public works means seeking a balanced approach for a vibrant community today and tomorrow, and it is accomplished by the efficient delivery of infrastructure in an environmentally and socially responsible way that ensures the best economic choice in the long term.

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What does the Center for Sustainability do?

1. The Center develops and identifies tools and best practices to assist public works professionals in achieving sustainability in their communities.
2. The Center’s Leadership Group develops professional training opportunities, such as Click, Listen & Learn webinars, the Sustainability in Public Works Annual Conference, and the specialized workshops for public works professionals. An important part of the Center’s mission is to identify and enter into strategic partnerships with Federal, state and local decision makers and other key associations or groups working on sustainability issues.
3. The Center also advocates for sustainability principles at the Federal, state and local level and develops advocacy priorities and position statements to guide APWA’s advocacy efforts.

Who leads the Center for Sustainability?

The Center for Sustainability is led by a 13-person Leadership Group of APWA members from across the US and Canada who have demonstrated a commitment to sustainability and are exercising sustainable leadership in their communities.



Mission

The APWA Center for Sustainability builds the skills, knowledge and tools for its members to exercise sustainable leadership in their communities.

Vision

The APWA Center for Sustainability positions APWA and its members to build relationships based on trust and respect to jointly create vibrant, healthy places that enrich all life.

Purpose

The Center for Sustainability provides tools and resources to APWA members and community leaders that allow decision-makers to implement more sustainable, economically sound, and socially responsible long-term solutions. Public works professionals and community leaders, both in the private and the public sector, can benefit from the Center for Sustainability principles and guidelines.