THE SUSTAINBILITY POLICY FRAMEWORK

Revised Draft Final Document – January 4, 2016

Introducing Sustainability

Since the approval of the APA's *Planning for Sustainability* Policy Guide in 2000 the concept of sustainability, or sustainable development, has significantly evolved in its understanding and application. Sustainability is an important lens through which to evaluate a range of issues facing our global community, including: the lifecycle of items we manufacture and consume; the structures, spaces, and infrastructure that compose our built environment; and the management of the unique ecosystems and natural areas that sustain life on this planet. It has also become associated with concepts of efficiency and equity. Sustainability practice has become the means through which to monitor, evaluate, and benchmark how we manage resources, measure environmental impacts, and evaluate whether we are living within or beyond our means and that of future generations.

The planning profession is well suited to advance sustainability policies and practices to ensure the future viability of our planet and all its diverse communities. This Sustainability Policy Framework repeals and replaces the *Planning for Sustainability* Policy Guide (2000). The Framework provides a different focus, ensuring that APA approaches sustainability as a core principle that guides our educational, outreach and advocacy efforts. It is also intended to serve as a guide to sustainability resources compiled and prepared by APA. Each of these resources reaffirms the APA's commitment to sustainability and establishes the policies and outcomes the planning profession should strive to advance.

The Framework Approach

The reach of Sustainability is both broad and deep. Considered in its true applicability, its principles infiltrate all facets of planning and are essential characteristics of good planning. It is overarching and is best considered as an umbrella to many, if not almost all, planning topics, such as transportation, water, the built environment, natural resources, health, the economy, and many, many more. Therefore, this approach is structured as a framework for the many aspects of planning that need to address sustainability. While the introduction to the framework is intended in and of itself to provide a tool for advocacy, the scope is widened to reference APA topic-specific Policy Guides that include sustainable approaches and to also provide the reader with additional information and avenues for education. These resources and collaborative efforts are referenced and discussed below.

APA Policy Guides have served an important purpose over the years: as an affirmation of sound planning principles, a resource to advocate for key legislative gains, and as a reference for state, regional and local agency policy, plans and actions. Those are still important objectives, but there is often a disconnect between the vigorous work of members to develop and adopt the Policy Guides, and the slow prosecution of the desired outcomes embodied in those guides. The legislative process is deliberative and cyclical, which tends to diminish enthusiasm, and much of the APA staff's work using the Policy Guides is "behind-the-scenes" work of coalition building,

briefing Congressional and agency staff, and preparing position statements. For the topic of Sustainability there is a better way for a Policy Framework to become more of a living document that shapes APA actions. Rather than focus on specific legislative policies and outcomes, the Sustainability Policy Framework is a call to action. It is a message reinforced by actions that sustainability is a foundational principle that guides APA's educational, member service and advocacy efforts.

After about two years working in partnership with the APA Sustainable Communities Division to develop APA's updated policy guide on Sustainability, the Legislative & Policy Committee came to the realization that the wide scope of the topic, as well as the tension between an overall policy guide versus a deep dive into one of several substantive aspects of sustainability (e.g., water, transportation, energy, etc.) warranted the need for a new approach. Rather than develop a discrete set of policy pronouncements and objectives, this document would provide the framework through which APA orients its education, advocacy and community service programs.

The rationale behind establishing a Sustainability Framework is that APA should demonstrate that it provides a consistent and vigorous voice for actions that truly improve long-term sustainability, health and vitality for our regions and communities. An over-arching truth to sustainability and to most of our common planning issues is that compact development is so critical that it trumps the collective efficiencies of every other green tool, technology or practice by orders of magnitude. While laudable efforts, working in the margins of making buildings and practices more energy efficient and sustainable will never have the impact that comes from transforming our communities to be more compact and walkable.

Implementing Sustainability

The American Planning Association's core principles embody smart, sustainable, healthy and resilient practices across a broad spectrum of planning activities and types of places. Our principles are tested by time and should drive the planning agenda. Sustainability is at the forefront of our core set of principles for the communities we serve, and this Sustainability Framework describes how those principles can be put into action through APA's Development Plan and its work on advocacy and education on behalf of members.

The Sustainability Policy Guide adopted in 2000 was appropriate for its time. However, the guide has become dated due to advances in professional practice and public understanding of sustainability as a basis for making decisions and as a reference for talking with elected officials and the public about how we should plan for the future. The topic of sustainability is very broad, reaching across planning disciplines and into discussions of public and private financial investment, agreements between two or more parties, and various types of policy initiatives. As a result, the adopted Sustainability Guide will be repealed and replaced with this Sustainability Framework. This document updates the policy considerations of sustainability, but more importantly, provides a basis for the American Planning Association to focus on implementation of sustainability approaches throughout the organization, as well as advocating its practice among its key stakeholders, members and other constituencies.

The following items are elements of a Sustainability Framework that would guide APA and the planning profession.

Policy & Advocacy
Each adopted Policy Guide should be reviewed and specific sustainability position statements assembled or developed (if not addressed adequately in the current guide). This will provide a basis for the general Sustainability Framework to be supported in more specificity and detail within the substantive or technical professional practice areas. Examples of policy guides with a sustainability angle that should be highlighted include Surface Transportation, Water (pending development), Climate Change, Hazard Mitigation, Energy, and others. APA components, such as the Sustainable Communities Division and other APA divisions or chapters, should develop talking points regarding the topic of sustainability to help APA members explain and advocate for sustainability to their members and constituents from a variety of subject matter, population or geographic perspectives.

APA should develop a theme or emphasis at the annual Policy & Advocacy Conference centered on the policy approaches to sustainability, including how sustainability is addressed by various states and the best legislative practices that can guide other states. This should become a key focus of the Planners Advocacy Network, with APA staff and member volunteers sharing case studies and examples of policies related to sustainable development, transportation, natural resources and other topical areas with members of the network for their consideration and use across the country.

As additional topical conferences are considered in different locations of the country, sustainability should serve as a lens through which organizers develop the conference program.

Communications
It is critically important for APA to develop new ways to communicate with the public and elected officials about sustainability by using the principles of storytelling. Storytelling involves the development of key messages through narrative that uses characters, conflict and evidence-based examples to illustrate a decision, course of action or outcome. Planners need effective talking points about sustainability comprised of relevant and pertinent examples of how it saves money, reduces waste and ensures the provision of resources for future generations. APA needs to help planners and communities discuss sustainability in a rational and thoughtful way by providing persuasive messages that are reinforced by analytical evidence and outcomes.

APA has established a Sustaining Places blog that can serve as the centerpiece of a communications program supporting sustainability. The blog features writers with various perspectives who address sustainability in theory and practice. The Sustaining Places blog should continue to function as a principal conduit for APA to highlight best practices and emerging research findings that provide the analytical evidence to guide and support decisions from a sustainability perspective. The important aspect is relating it back to planning; to demonstrate the value of planning and planners as stewards of the future from an economic, environmental and equity perspective.

The Sustaining Places blog is one component of an overall communications strategy for sustainability that should tie in with the policy and advocacy position statements and through the news feed feature on APA's web site. Rather than discuss all of APA's communications elements, this document suggests that sustainability should become a featured topic that is regularly addressed in various ways.

Education

APA should consider various ways to develop a more robust educational program that incorporates tools to convey knowledge about the many distinctive ways planners, communities, agencies and industries ensure sustainable practices. Among the various educational offerings, a few stand out as ripe opportunities. APA should feature a recurring track focused on sustainability plans and practices at the National Planning Conference. APA should solicit proposals from members and partner organizations to develop a quarterly series of sustainability webinars that feature case studies of how a sustainability mindset and various governance, structural and policy approaches are changing professional practice. The AICP Commission should develop guidance and other training tools for sustainability that include discussions of the ethical issues involved in sustainability, and how planners can evaluate the different dimensions of the issue. Programs like "Tuesdays at APA" can also occasionally feature plans and ways in which sustainability is used to improve operations.

Leadership

A major consideration of the topic of sustainability is the perception from some corners that it is a basis for changing the American way of life or undermining principles and values that have shaped our communities. From that perspective, sustainability has, in some circles, developed a negative connotation evoking government control and over-reaching policies. As a result, APA needs to step up its training efforts to help its members and others talk effectively about the importance of sustainability to the media, elected officials, other agency departments, and the public. This would entail continuing communications training of the APA leadership and members, featuring examples of leadership in government, non-profit groups and industry that demonstrate how sustainable practices have been developed and used to achieve positive outcomes. APA's divisions have an essential role to play in showcasing leadership on the topic of sustainability through conference sessions, stories of case studies, and through their individual and collaborative research and educational efforts.

Partnerships

APA should consider establishing a Sustainability Clearinghouse that features best practices and research on the topic of sustainability from around the country and world. The clearinghouse could be a web-based tool with a search feature so that planning professionals and interested members of the public or affiliated organizations can find examples of sustainable practices. The clearinghouse can be developed in partnership with one or more universities, think tank organizations or through APA's own research staff. Ultimately, it will be to the benefit of APA and its members if sustainability is demonstrated in partnership with organizations like the National Governors' Association, National Association of County Officials and League of Cities, and many others, which would broaden the discussion and demonstrate effective practices far beyond the reach of planners and planning activities. Other potential partnerships include

sponsored research, articles in the Journal of the American Planning Associations (JAPA), collaboration with the Smart Growth Network, Citylabs and through books.

Defining Sustainability

Given the rise of sustainability as a concept over the last decade, there are many different versions of definitions of sustainability. Most definitions reference the need to respect environmental, economic, and social conditions. Another common element is managing resources for both current and future generations. For the purposes of the Policy Framework, the following definition of sustainability is used: *Sustainability means **improving the quality of people's lives while living within the capacities of supporting natural and human systems**[i]*.

Why is Sustainability Important Now?

Several significant developments have dramatically shifted the planning profession's approach to sustainability. There is increasingly broad acceptance of the need to respond to the impacts of climate change at the community level. This has largely been driven by the scientific studies produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); increased climatic events such as Hurricane Katrina, extreme drought conditions throughout the Southwest, and Super Storm Sandy; and the work of advocates who have been effective in raising awareness of the issues.

With the projection that 75 percent of the world's population of nine billion people will be living in urban areas by 2050, the sustainability challenge has focused more closely on the consumption emanating from cities. The impacts of exponential population growth, resource consumption, and loss of place will require a range of physical infrastructures to support urban living, including energy, transport, water, waste, communications, and buildings[ii]. Additionally, there is broad recognition that demographic and economic shifts are spurring lifestyle and preference changes with respect to what people want out of their communities, and therefore what they expect from the planning and design professions: e.g., the preference of both Millennials and retirees to live in more walkable cities and the increasing awareness of the economic and social aspects of sustainability. This also corresponds to an increasing recognition that the Post World War II sprawling development patterns in this country are not sustainable: financially, environmentally, or socially.

Historically, the environmental, economic and social impacts of development have been disproportionately negative on low income communities, particularly communities of color. To be truly sustainable it is important to incorporate ways to more equitably share the benefits and burdens of development in community planning decisions.

There is also a growing consensus that there is a need to further diversify our country's energy portfolio with increasingly affordable renewable sources of energy (wind, solar, and hydro) at a variety scales. However, as companies scramble to find new sources of energy to meet an increasing global energy demand, there is growing concern and debate about the environmental risks associated with resource extraction technologies, such as hydraulic fracturing; deepwater oil drilling; and the hazards associated with transmission of volatile product over long distances.

In the coming decades, sustainability will play a key role is responding to and planning for these trends. As planners, we must be aware of these trends as we make decisions that implement sustainable development in our communities.

How do Communities Approach Sustainability?

The concept of sustainability is a common goal for many communities across the globe, but the specific actions to achieving sustainability is not a one size fits all solution. The objectives of sustainability may be the same, but how to support those objectives will vary substantially for rural, suburban, and urban areas. For example, communities may all identify supporting local food systems as a sustainability goal. For a rural community, this could specifically mean protecting farmland. However, in a suburban or urban community with no farmland to protect, this goal could be accomplished through promoting farmer's markets and urban gardens/agriculture. Taken to a regional scale, this means that rural, suburban, and urban communities should all care about agricultural land preservation, urban farming and farmers markets.

Although the specific actions needed to achieve sustainability will vary across communities and regions depending on their individual characteristics, the approach to working towards sustainability is similar.
- A community's first step should be an assessment of its existing natural and built environment and economic and social systems. The assessment should be based on the latest professional and scientific knowledge of these systems capacities and their strategic interrelationships. This will help provide an understanding of the strengths, gaps, and obstacles to achieving a more sustainable future.
- The next step should be to identify the desired goals for the community.
- Finally, a community will need to create a set of actions or a plan to achieve those goals in a sustainable manner. Many communities are turning to sustainability plans or integrating sustainability into their comprehensive plans to serve as a "roadmap" for addressing and implementing sustainability actions.
- Communities should also consider whether strategic regional partnerships would be more effective than an isolated local initiative.
- Ultimately, when considering and applying principles of sustainability, the effects must be measured and weighed from a systems approach. This includes considering the effect of implementing or not implementing sustainable practices on the environment, social systems, the economy, and others. It also includes considering lifecycle costs of products or practices.

Overarching Principles & Key Policy Elements

This section of the Sustainability Policy Framework should serve as general guidance on some of the many policies and outcomes that communities should consider when developing a plan for sustainability as well as guidance for helping shape state and federal policies and programs. It is not intended to be a complete catalogue of every sustainable action available. Rather it identifies many of the policy areas that APA believes will make the greatest impact.

Six principles have been recognized as the standards that capture the necessary aspects of sustainability. In particular, these principles have been considered with regard to comprehensive plans, but they can be applied equally to advocacy. The six principles were derived from a review of leading comprehensive plans by the APA Sustaining Places Task Force and outlined in *Sustaining Places: The Role of the Comprehensive Plan* (Godschalk and Anderson 2012), Further, the principles also are used to shape PAS Report 578, *Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans* (Godschalk and Rouse, 2015) that represents the result of a four-year effort by APA - the Sustaining Places Initiative. The six principles are:

1. Livable Built Environment
2. Harmony with Nature
3. Resilient Economy
4. Interwoven Equity
5. Healthy Community
6. Responsible Regionalism

Best practices in support of these principles range across a wide spectrum of plan statements, policies, and actions. Key policy elements are listed after each Principle. A more complete list is presented in Appendix B of PAS Report 578.

1. Livable Built Environment

Ensure that all elements of the built environment, including land use, transportation, housing, energy, and infrastructure, work together to provide sustainable, green places for living, working, and recreation, with a high quality of life.

The built environment, which shapes the quality of life, encompasses physical features (such as buildings, streets, and utilities) and the systems and processes associated with them (such as movement of people, flow of water). As such, it defines the multifaceted community that people experience through their daily lives—the places where they live, work, and recreate.

Key Policy Elements

- State planning enabling legislation that requires local implementation efforts such as zoning to be consistent with corresponding comprehensive plans.

- Development and stewardship of communities that exemplify sustainable living practices with higher densities that support high capacity transit use and walkability, and include open spaces, habitat connections, complete streets, diverse housing, local employment, neighborhood schools and other appropriate community facilities, and local-serving businesses that meet the daily needs of residents and reduce vehicle trips and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG emissions).

- Provisions for a variety of housing types in local government development codes (e.g., accessory dwelling units, co-housing, multiplexes, row houses, and mixed-use buildings) for neighborhood residents of all ages, with different incomes, needs, and physical abilities.

- Expanded federal, state and local agency funding and technical support for district and neighborhood-scale sustainable development projects, such as the HUD-DOT-EPA Sustainable Communities Partnership.

- Linking transportation and land use planning in order to achieve efficient development patterns that limit infrastructure costs and environmental impacts.

- Transportation practices and new transportation investments that will limit impacts to the natural environment by reducing single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel, limiting long commute distances, reducing the reliance on fossil fuels, and increasing transit, biking, and walking.

- Complete and green streets are used as the design approaches for new investment in a community's street network (see the National Association of City Transportation Officials' Urban Street Design Guide or similar guidelines.)

- Transportation demand management (TDM) strategies are widely implemented to improve congestion by offering a variety of modes; encouraging travel at non-commute times; or otherwise incentivizing different travel behavior.

- Minimum parking requirements in development regulations are eliminated and replaced with parking maximums to manage traffic. Pricing is used to encourage adequate parking availability in all places at all times. The cost of parking is required to be unbundled from housing and commercial leases, making the actual cost of providing parking visible to motorists.

- Multi-year reauthorization of federal transportation legislation to allow communities and states to plan for capital expenditures that incorporate the principles of sustainability.

- Highways and streets are constructed and maintained with recycled materials such as recycled asphalt and concrete.

- The use of cleaner fuels such as natural gas and electricity for both transit and automobiles is highly incentivized, and the adequate construction and siting of alternative fueling facilities and charging stations is completed.

- Stormwater management techniques that mitigate both quantity and quality, while being sensitive to the design requirements of each specific site.

- Water rate structures such as zone pricing and incremental pricing to reflect the true cost of water and promote conservation through increasing water rates for higher levels of water use.

- Requirements for state-of-the-art water saving technologies in all new development.

- Incentives for all types of development to use alternative renewable energy sources and meaningful energy conservation measures.

- Requiring high energy efficiency standards in new construction and building retrofits.

- State, regional, and local adoption of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs and other sustainable infrastructure financing mechanisms for water, stormwater, and transportation improvements at district, neighborhood, and residential scales of development.

- Installation of distribution infrastructure for renewable energy, such as solar, wind, and geothermal power, and for reclaimed water/graywater.

- Requiring upgrades to aging and out of date infrastructure, such as electrical systems, water systems, and storm and sanitary sewers.

- Jurisdictions incorporating Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) into their planning processes to guide local development decisions.

2. Harmony with Nature

Ensure that the contributions of natural resources to human well-being are explicitly recognized and valued and that maintaining their health is a primary objective.

The natural environment, which can be disturbed by urban development and human activities, comprises the earth's interrelated systems of air, water, soil, and vegetation and their ongoing processes. Human well-being depends upon a healthy natural environment to provide the services of nourishing food, breathable air, drinkable water, hazard protection, energy, and spiritual sustenance.

Key Policy Elements

- Implementing programs, policies and actions that enable communities to minimize their contributions to greenhouse gas emissions.

- Use of green infrastructure where feasible as an alternative to traditional systems.

- Local food production and farming practices that conserve important agricultural lands and limit pollution, provide the opportunity for extensive access to fresh food to all residents within their market area, and help promote healthy living practices.

- Water resources chapters in comprehensive plans that link water resource policies and agencies for stormwater, wastewater treatment, water management and watershed restoration with land use policies and agencies for growth areas, redevelopment, and protection of forest and agricultural land.

- Implementing coastal zone and floodplain planning and management best practices to protect surface waters, provide sediment and erosion control, and provide important community buffers during flooding and other weather-related events.

- Federal investment in the EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) as established by the 1996 amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) as established by the Clean Water Act.

3. Resilient Economy

Ensure that the community is prepared to deal with both positive and negative changes in its economic health and to initiate sustainable urban development and redevelopment strategies that foster green business growth and build reliance on local assets.

The community's economy is made up of the businesses, trades, productive facilities, and related activities that provide the livelihoods of the population. Economic health is critical in providing jobs and incomes to support the community; as it rises or falls, so do the livelihoods of people. Because local economies depend upon outside (regional, national, and even global) inputs and trends, their employment base is affected not only by local business formation and activity but also by the decisions of distant firms or governments. Therefore, more reliance on local assets increases the economic resilience of the community, as well as contributing to place-based revitalization.

Key Policy Elements

- Incentives for companies and communities to operate more productively with fewer inputs and less waste and by-products.

- Economic development policies designed to attract production activity that will fill gaps in existing regional supply chains, and provide additional economic opportunities for local goods and services.

- Infill development and revitalization investment, including building on and expanding Downtown/Main Street efforts and linking them to adjacent neighborhoods for revitalization.

- Special economic development initiatives to increase the success and number of small, locally owned businesses.

- Business incubation/flexible work access for suburban and rural areas that support teleworking and economic development in communities outside of urban center,

4. Interwoven Equity
Ensure fairness and equity in providing for the housing, services, health, safety, and livelihood needs of all citizens and groups.

Equity in the provision of community decisions and services involves the fair distribution of benefits and costs. It results from applying basic fairness tests that ask whether the needs of the full range of the population served—rich and poor, young and old, native and immigrant—are served. Because disadvantaged, young, or immigrant populations often do not participate in debates over community policies and programs, their needs may fail to be recognized. Poor, underserved, and minority populations are often disproportionately affected by polluting land uses and natural disasters. Because such populations may not have the skills or community connections necessary for access to jobs, economic resources, and health care, the community may have to provide special programs to assist them. Decent, affordable housing is another critical need that falls under this principle. By weaving equity questions into the comprehensive plan, the community and its government can ensure the consideration of "who benefits" as it develops its policies, priorities, and expenditures.

Key policy Elements

- Equitable access to affordable housing, employment, healthcare, education, child care, and a healthy environment, through collaborative and comprehensive planning.

- Development of strong social networks to ensure communities are more resilient to disasters and other types of crisis, with a special focus on vulnerable populations.

- Meaningful community engagement in planning efforts that incorporates analysis of the social, economic, and environmental impacts of land use and community development decisions.

- Neighborhoods that welcome diversity (ethnically, economically, intergenerational, etc.) and provide equitable benefits of growth to existing community residents (e.g., non-displacement policies).

- Neighborhoods designed to promote social interaction and foster a safe, comfortable environment.

- Creating a robust community policy context for living wage jobs.

5. Healthy Community

Ensure that public health needs are recognized and addressed through provisions for healthy foods, physical activity, access to recreation, health care, environmental justice, and safe neighborhoods.

The World Health Organization defines health as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. <u>The Healthy Community principle and the previous four principles work together to support the mission of public health</u>: to fulfill society's interest in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy (Institute of Medicine 1988). In a healthy community, residents are assured that the air and water are safe, open space and recreation are convenient to use, local food outlets are located near neighborhoods, public schools and access to health care are provided equitably, and active public safety programs are in place. Because the normal operations of the private economic market may not ensure that these common public benefits are uniformly available, it may be necessary for the government to fill the gaps

6. Responsible Regionalism

Ensure that all local proposals account for, connect with, and support the plans of adjacent jurisdictions and the surrounding region.

Regional planning agencies, although typically without regulatory authority, provide perspectives broad enough to encompass the scope of various regional systems, such as transportation and water supply, which extend beyond local jurisdictional boundaries. As authorized by federal surface transportation legislation, transportation planning is the core responsibility of designated metropolitan planning agencies (MPOs). Increasingly, progressive MPOs and other regional planning agencies are addressing other issues with regional implications, such as open space and environmental protection, housing, economic development, utility infrastructure, and hazard mitigation. Because regional agencies coordinate the activities of groups of local governments, they provide an institutional setting for joint decision making that transcends local politics.

Key Policy Elements

- Greater use of urban growth boundaries that can be expanded for planned compact, development.

- Comprehensive plans that direct new development into established growth areas and recognize that revitalizing existing communities decreases the need for greenfield development on agricultural and forest land.

- Determining development densities at the watershed scale to ensure more efficient, coordinated, and context-sensitive development patterns that have less impact on regional water resources.

- Integrated water resources management planning and techniques to address the multi-faceted nature of water planning.

- Enhancing regional coordination of development and infrastructure planning with economic projections and funding to ensure development supports economic needs and provides amenities for workers and residents alike.

- Provision of mass transit facilities such as rail, local and commuter bus, and bus rapid transit (BRT) through funding, incentives, and grant opportunities, in order to provide an alternative to SOV travel and improve mobility, as well as producing environmental benefits such as reduced congestion, air pollution, and vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

- Regional, local, and district-level utilization of decentralized utility and distributed energy systems.

APPENDIX A: BEST PRACTICES, REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING (Section to be expanded)

Best Practices

Certification programs
Third-party commissioning certification programs focused on aspects of the built environment, including:
- The US Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system for buildings and neighborhoods;
- ICLEI's STAR Community Rating System (Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating); and
- The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Sustainable Sites Initiative (SSI).

These programs encourage planners, designers and developers to set sustainability objectives and meet specific thresholds through the implementation of sustainability best practices.

Comprehensive Plan standards
Potential program under consideration by the APA that would establish standards for evaluating effective comprehensive plans in the context of sustainability. See PAS 578: *Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans (currently in publication)* for more details.

References and Further Reading

APPENDIX B: RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER APA POLICY GUIDES AND PAS REPORTS

There are several existing Policy Guides and PAS Reports that have been adopted since the original Planning for Sustainability Policy Guide, which focus on specific elements that factor into the larger notion of sustainability. This *Planning for Sustainability* Policy Guide update acknowledges, builds upon, and provides the basis for the significant body of work produced by APA planners for planners. It is not intended replace those documents, but rather act as a supplement to further the goals of sustainability.

Policy Guides:
- *Water Resources Management* (2002)
- *Climate Change* (2011)
- *Energy* (2012)
- *Smart Growth* (2012)
- *Hazard Mitigation* (2014)

Planning Advisory Service (PAS) reports:
- PAS 565: *Assessing Sustainability: A Guide for Local Governments*

- PAS 567: *Sustaining Places: The Role of the Comprehensive Plan*
- PAS 571: *Green Infrastructure: A Landscape Approach*
- PAS 577: *Sustainable Urban Industrial Development* (2014)
- PAS 578: *Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans (currently in publication)*

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[i] The World Conservation Union (IUCN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), 1991. Caring for the Earth: A Strategy for Sustainable Living. (Gland, Switzerland: 1991).

[ii] (Newton, 2014)