

# Environmental Stewardship: Background

This board provides background information on what the term Environmental Stewardship involves, and outlines the content (related to sustainability) that will be included in the Lafayette Comprehensive Plan, versus the more detailed Lafayette Sustainability Plan (which is being completed at the same time).

## Overview

The air, water, and land within our community and beyond our boundaries all make up the environment in which we live. Environmental stewardship means ensuring the quality of our air, water, and land, to protect humans and the ecosystems that sustain us.

The City of Lafayette’s land use and community development policies can significantly influence the impacts on the natural environment as growth and development occur.

Land use and community development policies can also shape local contributions to climate change. Energy, transportation, water, and waste are the four major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. The Comprehensive Plan policies can guide Lafayette in reducing emissions associated with these four sectors.

Finally, the Comprehensive Plan can shape how prepared and resilient Lafayette will be to hazards, such as the shocks of natural disasters or ongoing stressors related to a changing climate. The type and location of Lafayette’s housing, community and emergency facilities, jobs, and critical infrastructure can all determine future resilience.



## Comparing the Comprehensive Plan and Sustainability Plan

In concert with this Comprehensive Plan Update, the City of Lafayette is also developing its first Sustainability Plan. Though the Comprehensive Plan is being developed through a framework of sustainability themes, the Sustainability Plan will dive more deeply into several Lafayette sustainability topics. There are some key differences, and some similarities between the two plans:

	Comprehensive Plan	Sustainability Plan
Primary Focus	Overarching goals and policies for land use and community development	Detailed goals, targets, strategies, and actions for priority sustainability topics
Organizing Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong economy</li> <li>• Environmental stewardship</li> <li>• Connected community</li> <li>• Community character</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy efficiency &amp; renewable energy</li> <li>• Green &amp; healthy buildings</li> <li>• Waste reduction</li> </ul>
Cross-Cutting Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Engagement</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Resiliency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach and education</li> <li>• Equity</li> <li>• Inclusion</li> </ul>

While not a focus of this Comprehensive Plan, the topics of energy, green & healthy buildings, and waste reduction will be addressed in detail in the Sustainability Plan.