

Appendix C: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in 2015 as a “universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.”¹ Though there are several goals that relate to water utility affordability, the most relevant goal for the City is SDG 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all. SDG 6 focuses on the sustainable management of water resources, wastewater, and ecosystems toward the achievement of the eight targets described in Table 1.

Table 1: SDG 6 Targets

SDG 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.	
1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
2	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.
4	By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.
5	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.
6	By 2030, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.
7	By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programs, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.
8	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

Most of these targets are focused on countries with underdeveloped water infrastructure or water policies, or countries such as Canada where some Indigenous communities face water crises. Others, such as the affordability and sustainability targets, remain relevant for developed countries but are more appropriately implemented by federal or provincial authorities. Integrated water management and water ecosystem protection, for example, fall under the mandate of Saskatchewan’s Water Security Agency. Given that the City of Regina is the local water utility provider, it is best situated to address issues of access and affordability directly, though there may be some aspects that cannot be adequately addressed at the municipal level such as overall price levels or regulatory requirements. The SDG targets are not designed to provide specific detail for crafting affordability policies. Rather, these goals are a guide for high-level strategic policy planning such as the Official Community Plan, the *Water Master Plan*, and the *Wastewater Master Plan*.

¹ United Nations (2021)

Design Regina: The Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2013-48 (OCP) was approved in 2013. The OCP sets out the City’s long-term strategic direction on future growth and development. It provides a comprehensive policy framework to guide the physical, environmental, economic, social and cultural development of the community. The OCP contains several goals which are aligned with SGD 6. Goal 14.20C states, “the phasing and/or development of land shall not be permitted to proceed unless it can be demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the City, that core services (e.g., water, wastewater, storm water, transportation, parks and recreation infrastructure) can be provided and maintained in a fiscally sustainable and cost effective manner.” A component of financial sustainability is providing “affordable and cost-effective services and amenities in accordance with available financial resources and capabilities,” stated in Goal 1.3.2. The City is also committed to establishing “programs and a fee structure to ensure that City programs, services and facilities are affordable, accessible, and welcoming to all residents of Regina,” (Goal 13.19) as part of its social development goals which are focused on promoting inclusion for individuals, families and neighbourhoods in disadvantaged positions. Taken together, the City is committed to developing only in ways which are affordable and to designing fee structures which account for different needs and challenges.

The *Water Master Plan (WMP)*, approved in 2018, and *Wastewater Master Plan (WWMP)*, approved in 2019, are more specific than the OCP. They affirm that clean and safe water is essential to the health and well-being of the community and commits the City to provide potable water to customers to ensure planning for a sustainable water and wastewater service and system. These commitments are described in the seven service categories which collectively reflect the regulatory, social, economic and environmental outcomes for water and wastewater service delivery. Table 2 summarizes how the goals in the WMP and WWMP align or contribute to the attainment of the SDG goals and targets:

Table 2: Alignment Between Water and Wastewater Master Plan Goals and SDG 6

SDG 6: Target 1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	
WMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 1: Provide water at adequate pressure and in sufficient quality and quantity to satisfy the requirements for domestic and commercial use and for fire protection. • Goal 2: Ensure water will be available with only minimal local disruptions for system maintenance and rare large-scale disruptions due to unforeseen circumstance. • Goal 3: Provide water that meets Provincial water quality standards and objectives. • Goal 6: Be responsive to service requests. • Goal 7: Minimize length of service disruption. • Goal 8: Be responsive to customer inquiries and needs. • Goal 9: Produce and collect on utility billings in an efficient, accurate and timely manner. • Goal 10: Accommodate growth and redevelopment within planning policy by providing water service. • Goal 11: Ensure water service is financially sustainable.

WWMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 1: Collect and deliver residential, commercial and industrial wastewater with minimal public impact. • Goal 2: Collect and deliver wastewater for treatment in compliance with the operating permit. • Goal 3: Treat wastewater to a standard that meets the requirements of the operating permit. • Goal 4: Ensure that constituents (byproducts ex. biosolids/effluent water/biogas) that are removed from the wastewater are treated and disposed of in an appropriate manner. • Goal 8: Be responsive to service requests. • Goal 9: Minimize length of service disruption. • Goal 10: Be responsive to customer inquiries and needs. • Goal 11: Produce and collect on utility billings in an efficient, accurate and timely manner. • Goal 12: Accommodate growth and redevelopment within planning policy by providing wastewater service. • Goal 13: Ensure wastewater service is financially sustainable.
<p>SDG 6: Target 3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.</p>	
WWMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 5: Minimize the discharge of industrial pollution and hazardous waste to the sewer system.
<p>SDG 6: Target 4 & 5 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity. By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.</p>	
WMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 4: Enhance water efficiency. • Goal 5: Support environmental conservation and sustainable water management.
WWMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 6: Enhance wastewater efficiency. • Goal 7: Support environmental conservation and sustainable wastewater management.

Sources

United Nations. 2021. *What are the Sustainable Development Goals?* Accessed June 4, 2021. <https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals>.