

Conservation, Sustainability, & Resiliency



What is the Conservation, Sustainability, & Resiliency Element?

The Conservation Element is required per Section 163.3177(6)(d), Florida Statutes, to provide for the conservation, use, and protection of natural resources, including but not limited to air, water, water recharge areas, wetlands, estuarine marshes, soils, flood plains, lakes, harbors, forests, fisheries and wildlife, minerals, and other natural and environmental resources, including factors that affect energy conservation. The Conservation, Sustainability, and Resiliency Element is designed to incorporate principles to ensure a comprehensive approach to address the mitigation and management of the natural and built environment for long term protection, preservation, and conservation of the identified resources. It is important to note this element supplements the principles provided throughout the comprehensive plan that contribute to Wellington's efforts for the conservation, use, and protection of natural resources.

The Conservation Element is being expanded to include sustainability and resiliency as important strategies for its future. The Sustainability concept is the management of resources to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations by conserving, maintaining, supporting, and enhancing the environmental, economic, and social systems. Resiliency is defined as the capacity of a city's systems to survive, adapt, recover, and grow, no matter the chronic stresses and acute shocks experienced after adverse situations such as natural or man-made disruptions or disasters. The concept is to ensure the systems are prepared for adverse situations and quickly recover for the benefit of the community including all its residents, institutions, and businesses.



CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABILITY, & RESILIENCY GOALS	
CSR 1	AIR QUALITY AND WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION Protect and improve Wellington’s air quality and water supply as critical natural resources.
CSR 2	SOILS, MINERALS, LAND, AND HABITAT PROTECTION Protect, conserve, and manage soil and mineral resources, including Wellington’s wetlands, natural reservation, and sensitive lands, to protect habitat, endangered/threatened wildlife species, and native vegetation.
CSR 3	ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY Promote a sustainable, efficient mix of energy resources to reduce energy consumption and increase use of renewable energy sources.
CSR 4	SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITY Establish an environmentally sustainable and equitable community that maximizes its environmental, economic, and social benefits for all.
CSR 5	RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS Ensure Wellington is resilient to the effects of man-made emergencies and natural disasters and be fully prepared to mitigate, minimize, respond, and recover to minimize the disruptions to the community’s quality of life.

[New]



GOAL CSR 1
AIR AND WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION

Protect and improve Wellington's air quality and water supply as critical natural resources.

[New]

Objective CSR 1.1
Air Quality Protection

Meet, or exceed, air quality standards established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), or other applicable air quality standards.

[Objective 1.1 revised]

Policy CSR 1.1.1
Air Quality

Continue to monitor air quality, as well as maintain air quality through continued prohibition of open burning of trash and debris or similar operations.

[New]

Policy CSR 1.1.2
Transportation Air Quality Impacts

Reduce transportation air quality impacts by:

1. Locating higher density and intensity land uses around existing infrastructure
2. Increasing non-automobile travel by improving connectivity and safety sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and multi-use pathways.
3. Requiring enhanced vegetative buffers along road rights-of-way.
4. Transitioning Wellington's vehicle fleet to alternative fuels.
5. Transitioning stop light/signs and pedestrian signals to Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology.
6. Achieving recognition as a Walk-Friendly Community and/or Bicycle-Friendly Community.
7. Supporting transportation demand management (TDM) programs that reduce peak-hour vehicle use.

[New]

Objective CSR 1.2
Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to improve air quality for the health and welfare of the community.

[New]

Policy CSR 1.2.1
Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Continue to implement Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies (GHG) by:



1. Reducing the “heat island effect”.
2. Recycling education and programs.
3. Reducing vehicle miles traveled.
4. Increasing the tree canopy.
5. Promoting energy conservation and alternative energy sources.

[Objective 1.7 revised]

Policy CSR 1.2.2

Promote Green Initiatives

Continue to promote green initiatives and provide educational opportunities and engage the community to identify projects that increase use of renewable energy, energy efficient appliances, waste recycling, building products from renewable resources, non-toxic building products, and water efficient fixtures and landscapes.

[Policy 1.7.2 and 1.7.3 revised]

Policy CSR 1.2.3

Encourage Emerging Renewable Energy Source

Evaluate and modify the Land Development Regulations to remove barriers for wind, solar, and other emerging renewable energy sources.

[New]

Objective CSR 1.3

Water Resources Conservation And Protection

Ensure water resources are conserved, used, and protected in accordance with state, regional, county and local standards, and required in Wellington’s Water Supply Plan.

[New]

Policy CSR 1.3.1

Water Conservation and Protection

Water resources, including groundwater recharge, wellhead and surface waters, shall be protected and conserved as part of the site development process, and from activities that are known to adversely affect the quality and quantity of the public water supply. Continue to support water management and emergency conservation programs, mitigate for the shortage of water sources, and educate the public on how to minimize usage to protect the current and projected supply in accordance with the Water Supply Plan.

[New]

[This section is intentionally left blank.]



**GOAL CSR 2
SOIL, MINERAL, LAND AND HABITAT PROTECTION**

Protect, conserve, and manage soil and mineral resources, including Wellington’s wetlands, natural reservation, and sensitive lands, to protect habitat, endangered/threatened wildlife species, and native vegetation.

[New]

**Objective CSR 2.1
Soil and Mineral Resource Protection**

Conserve, appropriately use, and protect soil and mineral resources and native vegetative communities.

[Objective 1.3 revised]

**Policy CSR 2.1.1
Soil Conservation Techniques**

Preserve natural functions of existing soils by addressing soil conservation techniques such as requiring canal and lake banks to be properly sloped and immediately stabilized, and requiring recently cleared and graded land to be seeded or sodded within 30 days of clearing work.

[Policy 1.3.1 revised]

**Policy CSR 2.1.2
Control Soil Erosion**

Continue to ensure the control of soil erosion by implementing Best Management Practices of Palm Beach County Soil and Water Conservation District and other measures including, but not limited to, restoring and protecting vegetation on development activities and land clearing, and minimize soil erosion in roadway construction by incorporating environmentally-friendly landscaping including, but not limited to, restoring and protecting vegetation.

[New]

**Objective CSR 2.2
Wetland and Environmentally Sensitive Land Protection**

Ensure that all ecological systems, wetland, environmentally sensitive land (as determined by Wellington), wildlife, habitat, and especially endangered and rare species, are identified, managed, and protected.

[New]

**Policy CSR 2.2.1
Wetlands Protection**

Continue to require the principle of “no net loss of wetlands” and preserve the natural functions of wetlands by directing or significantly buffering incompatible land uses such as those with a negative impact on wetlands away from wetlands and require the monitoring and preservation of the functions and values of wetlands/conservation areas, and pursue the designation of wetland/conservation areas as “Conservation” on the Future Land Use Map.

[Policy 1.2.2 & Policy 1.4.1 combined/revised]



Policy CSR 2.2.2

Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

Require specific impact analyses for lands that abut or could potentially impact the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge to support the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Ecosystem Management initiative.

[Policy 1.3.8 revised]

Policy CSR 2.2.3

Innovative and Cluster Development

Encourage innovative planning tools, such as conservation easements and cluster development, to minimize the impacts of development upon environmentally sensitive land.

[Policy 1.2.1 & 1.3.9 combined/revised]

Policy CSR 2.2.4

Conservation Land Use Designation

Identify and designate publicly and privately-owned wetlands, wildlife habitats, major water recharge areas, and environmentally sensitive lands as Conservation on the Future Land Use Map for protection of natural resources and also dedicate and maintain in perpetuity, by a legally binding, recorded instrument by a plat or separate agreement.

[New]

Policy CSR 2.2.5

Natural Resource Preservation

Design development and redevelopment projects to protect, preserve, and manage existing natural resources and environmentally sensitive land on-site, unless preservation on-site is not feasible, then off-site mitigation and/or payment in lieu of preservation may be permitted. Manage and prohibit hazardous waste use, storage, transfer, or generating facilities in known zones of influence to protect natural resources.

[New]

Policy CSR 2.2.6

Preserve/Conservation Area Designation Criteria

Designate wetlands and/or environmentally sensitive land, as determined by Wellington, based upon minimum criteria, including but not limited to:

1. The quality of habitats, presence of listed species, and proximity to other natural areas.
2. Endangered and threatened plants, animals and habitats of critical value to regional populations of endangered and threatened species.
3. Capability of functioning independently or in conjunction with manmade features.

[New]

Policy CSR 2.2.7

Sensitive Land Improvement



Limit improvement of preserve areas, wetlands and/or environmentally sensitive land to stormwater systems, nature observation, hiking, horseback riding, pedestrian and bike trails, boardwalks, pervious walkways, and other passive recreational or educational facilities and design the improvements to be consistent with the preservation of significant wildlife habitat, biologically functioning and natural resources.

[New]

Policy CSR 2.2.8

Conservation Area Management Plans

Require management plans for all preservation and/or conservation lands that provide for the long-term protection of the preserve/conservation area, continued removal of and protection from litter and debris, avoidance of activities or land alteration which may disturb the preserve area, eradication and continued monitoring and removal of invasive nonnative plant species, control of off-road vehicles, and maintenance of hydrological requirements.

[New]

**Objective CSR 2.3
Fisheries, Wildlife, and Habitat Protection**

Protect wildlife, fresh water, and fisheries habitats through habitat identification, preservation, and enforcement of water quality standards.

[New]

Policy CSR 2.3.1

Listed Species Protection

Protect state and federally listed species which have been identified as endangered, threatened, of special concern, or rare, by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Committee for Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals, Florida Endangered Plant Advisory Council or the Florida Department of Agriculture.

[Objective 1.5 & Policy 1.5.1 combined/revised]

Policy CSR 2.3.2

Eliminate Nuisance and Invasive Species

Continue to eliminate nuisance and invasive exotic plant and animal species which have been identified by the US Department of Agriculture, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council.

[New]

Policy CSR 2.3.3

Native Vegetation Protection

Continue to implement protections of native vegetative communities by enforcing the tree preservation requirements for the preservation of existing vegetation.

[Policy 1.3.2 & 1.3.4 combined/revised]



**Policy CSR 2.3.4
Tree City USA**

Continue to maintain the “Tree City USA” designation to promote preservation of native vegetation and enhancement of the overall tree canopy in Wellington.

[Policy 1.3.3 revised]

**Policy CSR 2.3.5
Evaluate Minimum Native Vegetation Requirement**

Continue to evaluate the Landscape Code with respect to an increase of the minimum required native species of trees, palms, and plant material for all development proposals.

[Policy 1.3.10 revised]

**Policy CSR 2.3.6
Environmental Assessment Report**

Require environmental assessment reports including biological survey and habitat analysis for any land development/alteration proposal and/or properties containing environmentally sensitive/significant lands.

[New]

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**GOAL CSR 3
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Promote a sustainable, efficient mix of energy resources to reduce energy consumption and increase use of renewable energy sources.

[New]

**Objective CSR 3.1
Efficient and Renewable Energy**

Implement a program to promote energy conservation and use of alternative energy technologies for new and existing buildings and infrastructure.

[New]

**Policy CSR 3.1.1
Green Building Rating**

Municipal building construction and major renovations shall, at a minimum, achieve LEED silver certification or similar green building rating and explore incentives and regulations for the private construction of structures to achieve the same standard.

[New]

**Policy CSR 3.1.2
Energy Efficiency Criteria**

Include energy efficiency selection criteria for procurements and projects to increase the use of the most energy efficient technologies available.

[New]

**Policy CSR 3.1.3
Renewal Energy**

Promote and implement the use of renewal energy, including but not limited to, solar, wind, bio-diesel, energy storage technologies, micro-grids, community battery storage of electric power, and solar car charging stations.

[New]

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**GOAL CSR 4
SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITY**

Establish an environmentally sustainable and equitable community that maximizes its environmental, economic, and social benefits for all.

[New]

**Objective CSR 4.1
Environmental Sustainability**

Develop programs to increase awareness and engagement in the benefits of environmental sustainability including conservation of natural resources and protection of ecosystems for the health, benefit and enjoyment of Wellington's residents and visitors.

[New]

**Policy CSR 4.1.1
Sustainability and Climate Public Outreach**

Develop targeted outreach that enhances engagement, raises awareness, collaboration, and prioritizes common goals regarding sustainability and climate issues.

[New]

**Policy CSR 4.1.2
Local Natural Resource Awareness**

Increase community awareness on the importance of the human impact on nature, fosters a connection between people and nature, and develops an awareness of plants and wildlife.

[New]

**Policy CSR 4.1.3
Wellington's Sustainability Leadership**

Promote sustainability initiatives and programs through Wellington's leadership and practices that:

1. Engage the community on sustainability awareness and develop opportunity for collaboration that priorities common goals regarding sustainability and climate issues.
2. Continue assessing Wellington's facilities and operations to identify energy efficiency opportunities.
3. Implement energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies.
4. Review all programs, policies, codes, and regulations to enhance sustainability and resiliency.
5. Provide staff training programs on sustainability and resiliency.

[New]



**Objective CSR 4.2
Economic Sustainability**

Promote and increase economic sustainability practices that strengthen and diversify the local economy to ensure a successful future and support local businesses to advance the environmental, economic, and social benefits.

**Policy CSR 4.2.1
Green Economy**

Develop, encourage, and implement strategies that will expand the green economy by attracting and promoting local business that use sustainable materials, technologies, and services, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, utilize reduced packaging, and reuse and recycling of materials.

[New]

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**GOAL CSR 5
RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Ensure Wellington is resilient to the effects of man-made emergencies and natural disasters and be fully prepared to mitigate, minimize, respond, and recover to minimize the disruptions to the community's quality of life.

[New]

**Objective CSR 5.1
Community Resilience**

Create a more resistant community by preparing for, adapting, and mitigating the potential impacts associated with severe weather and climate-related impacts.

[New]

**Policy CSR 5.1.1
Resilience Community Partnership**

Partner with public and private entities to enhance the natural environment and build resilience for wetlands, habitat, water quality, extreme weather events, flood storage, etc., and to develop a greater understanding of vulnerability and resilience.

[New]

**Policy CSR 5.1.2
Emergency Management Preparedness**

Develop education programs and information resources to help residents and businesses to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations.

[New]

**Policy CSR 5.1.3
Resilience Development Standards**

Establish land development standards and practices that maximize resilience, such as implementing regulations to expand green energy, emerging technologies, and harden buildings and infrastructure.

[New]

**Objective CSR 5.2
Green Infrastructure**

Plan for resilient and sustainable infrastructure with a hybrid approach where green infrastructure, such as plants/vegetation, soil, wetlands, swales, permeable surface, or other natural elements are integrated with gray infrastructure, such as sewer/stormwater systems, treatment facilities, storage basins, and other structures made of concrete to mitigate heat islands impact, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide stormwater retention benefits.

[New]



Policy CSR 5.2.1

Green Infrastructure Development

Develop green infrastructure natural and semi-natural systems that are designed and managed to support the function of traditional infrastructure including infrastructure that replicates natural ecological systems, manage stormwater, provide shade, filter air, and sequestering carbon, with rain gardens, tree planting, vegetated streetscapes, and reconstruction of wetlands.

[New]

Policy CSR 5.2.2

Heat Island Mitigation

Develop data regarding current and projected heat island effects in Wellington to guide programs and funding strategies designed to mitigate heat island effect and create carbon emission offsets.

[New]

Objective CSR 5.3

Preparedness, Continuity of Operations, and Recovery

Prepare to withstand and recover quickly from emergencies, with continuity of operation after extreme weather, disasters, and other emergency events, by strengthening (“hardening”) buildings, utilities, and emergency response systems for the community and public facilities. Implement plans to mitigate and provide efficient and timely recovery of critical value, benefit and enjoyment of the community and future of Wellington.

[New]

Policy CSR 5.3.1

Emergency Operations Plan and Continuity of Operation Plan

Develop and annually maintain an Emergency Operations Plan and Continuity of Operation Plan to ensure efficient planning for before, during, and after an event for performance of essential functions, mitigation, and provide training for all departments, with coordination of federal and county plans and procedures.

[New]