



Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning

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## **Overview of Snapshot Report on Sustainability**

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# What Is Sustainability?

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- Achieving economic, environmental, and social/equity goals simultaneously;
- Preserving resources for future generations;
- Achieving well being or meeting needs in the present; and
- Maintaining a non-decreasing level of social and environmental goods.

# Considerations for Goal Setting

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- 3E definition of sustainability overlaps with goals already expected to be addressed
- Measurability and operationalization
- Dimensions of sustainability

# Cross-Cutting Issues

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- Climate change
  - Mitigation
  - Adaptation
- Resources and energy
  - Reducing use of non-renewable resources
- Governance
  - Ensuring flexibility in the face of change
  - Government structures promote achievement of 3E goals

# Indicators

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- Modeling
  - Comparison between scenarios: improves or worsens sustainability positioning?
  - Example: Genuine Progress Indicator
- Longer-Term Tracking
  - Research sustainability indicator projects around U.S. and other nations

# Committee Input

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Committee feedback is requested on three items:

- Definition of sustainability
- Identification of major cross-cutting issues
- Use of evaluation measures or indicators to measure sustainability