

Sustainable Growth Management Plan Executive Summary

The Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP) is the Comprehensive Plan for the County and an update of the 1999 Growth Management Plan. The SGMP is a vision of the future for the County shaped by local community values, to guide the future direction over environmental, social and economic sustainability planning through the year 2030. The SGMP also provides a framework for future implementation such as the Sustainable Land Development Code, a Strategic Plan and Action Plan and a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).

Growth Management for Santa Fe County

Growth management is a set of planning tools or techniques used to ensure that as the population grows there are services available to meet its demands. Techniques used to execute growth management policies may include, but are not limited to: growth management area designations; level of service considerations; protection of culturally and ecologically sensitive land areas; adequate public facilities regulations that may include financing tools such as impact fees and special assessment districts; density transfer options and transfer of development rights (TDR) programs; and zoning regulations. Implementation of effective growth management for the County will mean establishing more efficient development patterns and supporting the County's sustainability objectives.

Purposes for Creating the 2010 SGMP

The SGMP will establish the framework for planning, land use, public facilities and services, and fiscal responsibility:

1. Create a growth management strategy that directs the location and character of future growth to appropriate and designated areas that include mixed use, residential, commercial and industrial uses.
2. Create a growth management strategy based on fiscal responsibility.
3. Focus on existing community needs, values and feedback in relation to future planning and local economic development.
4. Respect the natural environment, the rural landscape and open spaces between established and new communities.
5. Conserve water and other infrastructure resources for present and future generations.
6. Redefine the zoning standards and the development review process.
7. Provide the appropriate county resources to implement a sustainable growth management strategy.
8. Ensure effective, transparent and ethical governance.

The SGMP has established Principles which are focused on environmental, social and economic sustainability. The County recognizes an ecological imperative to protect the environment, a social imperative to sustain community and regional planning and an economic imperative to balance opportunities and production with responsible resource use.

Plan Elements and Directives

The SGMP is based on extensive data collection, analysis of past planning, management and resource policies, written findings and preparation of multiple alternative scenarios. These components have been combined into Sustainable Plan Elements through the extensive cooperative work, assessment and analysis among the County staff, the Board of County Commissioners, the County Development Review Committee, the municipalities, Tribal leaders, community members, citizen groups, environmental groups, professional associations, consultants, developers, realtors, attorneys and non-profit organizations.

Chapter 1: A Sustainable Vision for Santa Fe County which includes the County Vision Statement, the County definition for Sustainability, Growth Management for the County, reiterates the purposes for Creating the Plan and states the Principles for Sustainability. Each SGMP Element contains:

1. **Key Issues** which identify significant issues facing the County;
2. **Keys to Sustainability** which are fundamental concepts for implementation of the principles for sustainable development;
3. **Critical Findings** which a descriptive analysis and background information illustrated by graphs, figures, tables and maps which set the framework for the plan directives; and
4. **Directives** include the goals, policies and strategies.

Chapter 2: Land Use Element

- ❖ Ensure that land use and development is consistent and complies with the sustainability principles established in SGMP providing for rational development patterns, land use compatibility and adequate public facilities and services at adopted levels of service.
- ❖ Establish effective growth management techniques use the Sustainable Development Areas Map, Future Land Use Map and Official Map to guide land use, development review and infrastructure provision.
- ❖ Guide future development patterns that are sustainable through reduced land consumption, transit options, mixed use objectives, and through the development of appropriate land use options.
- ❖ Honor and integrate existing community plans and ordinances and continue the community planning process

Chapter 3: Economic Development Element

- ❖ Pursue a diverse and sustainable local economy that integrates environmental and community needs and supports the local workforce and provides new opportunities for local employers and residents.
- ❖ Support partnerships with other non-governmental and non-profit organizations to establish strategies in support of economic development efforts.
- ❖ Actively pursue target industries that provide the most relevant social and economic benefits including workforce development and education.

Chapter 4: Agriculture and Ranching Element

- ❖ Preserve, promote and revitalize agriculture and ranching as a critical component of the local economy, culture and character.
- ❖ Support local food systems and food security.
- ❖ Support agricultural production through a variety of techniques.
- ❖ Preserve and support community-based agriculture and acequia landscape systems as an important part of the County's heritage and agricultural sustainability.

Chapter 5: Resource Conservation Element

- ❖ Protect, preserve and conserve the County’s vast natural resources, archaeological, historic, cultural, and scenic view shed resources.
- ❖ Preserve, support and enhance the character and function of communities, neighborhoods and rural areas.
- ❖ Protect vegetation and wildlife habitats, including rare, native species, threatened and endangered species.

Chapter 6: Open Space, Trails, Parks and Recreation Areas Element

- ❖ Support the acquisition, preservation and maintenance of open space to create a network of public and private open space, parks and trails throughout the County.
- ❖ Establish an interconnected system of trails and parks, with continuous regional trail and park connections for pedestrians, equestrians, and cyclists.
- ❖ Protect environmentally sensitive areas and areas of archaeological and historic significance.

Chapter 7: Renewable Energy Element

- ❖ Support energy efficiency and renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on non-renewable energy use.
- ❖ Promote and encourage the development and use of sustainable, renewable energy production and distribution infrastructure and reduce dependence on non-renewable energy use.
- ❖ Create a viable green energy economy and community through economic development and sustainability.

Chapter 8: Sustainable Green Design and Development Element

- ❖ Ensure that development is consistent and complies with the principles of sustainability of the SGMP.
- ❖ Promote sustainable development through “green” building and development techniques.
- ❖ Limit solid waste production and support recycling to limit landfill use and move toward zero waste.

Chapter 9: Public Safety Element

- ❖ Establish and maintain an all-hazard emergency response plan for Santa Fe County.
- ❖ Preserve and protect public health, safety, welfare and property through adequate provision of law enforcement, fire and emergency response, and emergency communication services.
- ❖ Obtain and utilize the latest in emergency communications equipment and technology

Chapter 10: Transportation Element

- ❖ Coordinate with Local, State and Federal governments and transportation organizations to develop a cohesive, safe, and efficient transportation network and transit opportunities.
- ❖ Expand safe, convenient and efficient public transportation services to encourage reduction in automobile trips and provide mobility for all people, including underserved populations.
- ❖ Ensure safe, context-sensitive design standards for transportation improvements that reflect local preferences and the needs of all types of transportation users.
- ❖ Limit air, noise and water pollution due to transportation.
- ❖ Require consistent and efficient road standards.

Chapter 11: Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Management Element

- ❖ Land use and development should be consistent with water management, environmental and hydrological capabilities and constraints.
- ❖ New development will incorporate water conservation and reclamation measures where appropriate, in order to maintain and improve reduced County-wide per capita water consumption.
- ❖ Protect groundwater as the County's secondary source of water to serve as a back-up supply
- ❖ Provide for a sustainable long-term water supply capable of meeting current and future needs.

Chapter 12: Adequate Public Facilities and Finance Element

- ❖ Protect and enhance the County's fiscal resources and ensure high quality public facilities and services.
- ❖ Ensure that adequate public facilities and services are provided and maintained.
- ❖ Equitably finance facilities and services.

Chapter 13: Housing Element

- ❖ Establish a public-private program to provide adequate supplies of affordable, work force and senior housing for low, very low and moderate income Santa Fe County residents, households, families and employees.
- ❖ Support the development of a variety of housing types in appropriate locations to meet the diverse needs of Santa Fe County residents.
- ❖ Support rehabilitation and repairs for existing low and moderate income homeowners to reduce energy costs and improve energy efficiency.

Chapter 14: Governance Element

- ❖ Promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination to address regional issues and support County goals.
- ❖ Evolve the role of community planning and public participation.
- ❖ Ensure clear, consistent, efficient and equitable development regulation and review.
- ❖ The public should be included in on-going growth management planning and development review activities in the County.

Chapter 15: Implementation Element

The binding principles, goals, policies and strategies of each Element form the core of the SLDP's Policy Framework. The Implementation Element describes the major tools for implementing the SLDP and achieving the SLDP's policy framework and includes:

1. Sustainable Land Development Code and Official Map
2. Establishing Financing Mechanisms for Adequate Public Facilities
3. Establishment of a Capital Improvements Program
4. Strategic Plan and Work Program.