



WEST MICHIGAN STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

Elements for West Michigan Sustainable Quality of Life

The following Elements are not in order of priority and may be viewed as an interconnected and integrated set of statements that support each other and quality of life in West Michigan. These were developed as a foundation for the Regional Indicators by a group of regional stakeholders in 2006.

PROMOTING ECONOMIC SUCCESS

- Create a diverse and vibrant regional economy that gives access to satisfying and rewarding work that builds household economic well-being;
- Provide excellent quality culture, leisure and recreation opportunities that are readily available to all;
- Foster the West Michigan innovative and collaborative spirit among business, institutions and government;
- Develop an integrated infrastructure connecting where we live, work and play within the region and to the world.

ENSURING SOCIAL EQUITY

- Provide world-class education and learning opportunities for all ages: early childhood development through adult education;
- Embrace authentic diversity and social distinctiveness and strengthen the local community and cultural identity;
- Ensure access to good food, water, housing and energy at a reasonable cost;
- Empower people to participate in problem solving, decision making and action to create safe, caring and sustainable communities;
- Promote healthy lifestyles, prevent disease and provide affordable and accessible healthcare;
- Provide comprehensive, effective public safety services.

VALUING THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Use energy, water and other natural resources efficiently and with care;
- Minimize waste, then reuse or recover it through recycling, composting or energy recovery and carefully dispose of what is left;
- Restore, preserve and enhance natural systems;
- Value and protect bio-diversity and natural habitats while maintaining access;
- Build and maintain rural, suburban and urban places which are aesthetically appropriate, safe and enjoyable to be in, and well suited to environmental conditions.