

Appendix A: Priority Actions

sustainable
Peterborough



March 2012

“Let's raise our eyes beyond the conventional horizon of a year and ask, What kind of world would we like to have in a generation?” – David Suzuki

© 2012 Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation. All Rights Reserved.
The preparation of this sustainable community plan was carried out with assistance from the Green Municipal Fund, a Fund financed by the Government of Canada and administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Notwithstanding this support, the views expressed are the personal views of the authors, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Government of Canada accept no responsibility for them.

This plan was prepared by Lura Consulting, in association with Grant Consulting and Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited, under the direction of the Sustainable Peterborough Steering and Community Committee.



CONTENTS

- How to Read this Document 1
- Theme: Agriculture & Local Food (A) 2
- Theme: Agriculture & Local Food (B)..... 5
- Theme: Climate Change..... 7
- Theme: Cultural Assets 9
- Theme: Economic Development & Employment..... 11
- Theme: Energy (A)..... 13
- Theme: Energy (B)..... 15
- Theme: Healthy Communities..... 17
- Theme: Land Use Planning..... 19
- Theme: Natural Assets (A) 21
- Theme: Natural Assets (B) 23
- Theme: Transportation (A) 25
- Theme: Transportation (B)..... 27
- Theme: Waste (A)..... 29
- Theme: Waste (B)..... 31
- Theme: Water (A)..... 33
- Theme: Water (B)..... 35
- Theme: Water (C)..... 37

1.

HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

Certain actions have been identified as *Priority Actions* which, through consultation, have continuously been cited as projects or initiatives that should be the immediate focus for Sustainable Peterborough. *Priority Actions* are grouped under each of the *Themes*, which provide greater detail on potential activities and which of our community partners can help implement them.

Priority Actions are presented in greater detail in the following document, outlining the *Theme, Goal, Strategic Directions, and Priority Actions* as defined by our community. The steps are intended to provide guidance towards implementation.



Agriculture & Local Food



Climate Change



Cultural Assets



Economic Development & Employment



Energy



Healthy Communities



Land Use Planning



Natural Assets



Transportation



Waste



Water

THEME: AGRICULTURE & LOCAL FOOD (A)

Goal

We will feed ourselves sustainably with local, healthy foods.

Strategic Direction Supported

Facilitate the production, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of local, healthy food.

Priority Action

Undertake a community food system assessment to identify gaps and opportunities to connect local food growers and producers, processors, distributors, retailers and consumers throughout the region, building on the feasibility study currently planned by the Kawartha Community Food Hub.

Description

Farmers are under threat across Ontario. In Eastern Ontario, more farms are reverting back to forests than any time in history, and few new farmers are taking up farming due to cost of entry and the low return on investment. Local food, though not an initial *Theme* of focus for Sustainable Peterborough, emerged as one of the top priorities among residents of the Greater Peterborough Area. The food we eat is often transported hundreds or even thousands of kilometres before reaching our plates, consuming vast resources and contributing greenhouse gas emissions along the way. Eating food that is produced locally helps to reduce this impact, while also contributing to local economic development and employment by keeping wealth within our community and farmers on the land. There are numerous organizations and initiatives underway that are seeking to promote production of and access to local food. This project seeks to build synergies and develop an understanding as to where the gaps and opportunities are in terms of getting local food from the producer to the consumer. A sustainable food system assessment will explore the production, processing, distribution, access and preparation, and consumption of local food.

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Economic Development & Employment
- Energy
- Climate Change
- Cultural Assets
- Healthy Communities
- Land Use Planning

Activities

- Establish an Agriculture & Local Food Working Group consisting of existing key organizations and potential partners.

- Working Group will then establish a work plan to develop priorities. Items within the work plan could include:
 - Identifying potential pools of funding
 - Undertake a broad consultation of potential partners to determine clearly who is doing what, and what needs to be done
 - Conduct analysis of food system and identify gaps and opportunities
 - Address gaps in food system and pursue opportunities
- Activities for the Working Group that may come out of the food system assessment include:
 - Improve the distribution network for local food
 - Establish a Kawartha Food Hub
 - Establish new farmers' markets and farm businesses to produce for local markets where feasible
 - Better link existing farms to Greater Peterborough Area food processors and storage facilities
 - Increase the number of publicly accessible community gardens
 - Enhance the marketing of locally grown food, and agrifood tourism
 - Establish a minimum requirement of local food in the MUSH sector's food services contracts
 - Support the collaboration and training of producer groups and new and nice farmers
 - Assist the agriculture community to establish stronger links with agriculturally focused colleges and universities

Toolbox Resources

- **Completing a Community Food System Assessment** – Examples of food system assessment programs of other communities
- **Supporting Local Food Systems** – Ways to establish a minimum requirement of local, sustainable food in municipal food services contracts
- **Supporting Community Gardens** – Tips on how to get started, sample rules and regulations for members, and information on Peterborough's Community Garden Policy

Potential Lead and Coordination

- Working Group

Potential Partners

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agricultural Advisory Committee ● By the Bushel Community Food Co-op ● City of Peterborough ● Community Futures Development Corporation ● Community Opportunity & Innovation Network ● County of Peterborough ● Farmers' Markets ● Farms at Work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peterborough Community Garden Network ● Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association ● Peterborough County-City Health Unit ● Peterborough County Federation of Agriculture ● Peterborough County Pork Producers ● Peterborough EATS ● Peterborough Green-Up |
|---|---|

- First Nations
- Kawartha Choice Farm Fresh
- Kawartha Community Food Hub
- Kawartha Heritage Conservancy
- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
- New Canadians Centre
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs
- PepsiCo
- Peterborough Agricultural Society
- Peterborough Community Food Network
- Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network
- Peterborough Social Planning Council
- Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board
- Retailers (e.g. Loblaws)
- Sysco Canada
- Tim Horton's, McDonald's, etc.
- Townships
- Transition Town Peterborough
- YWCA (Food Box Program)

Measures of Success

- Funding is secured for the undertaking of a food system assessment
- Completion of food system assessment
- Progress towards filling gaps in food system assessment
- Increase in the number of community gardens throughout the region
- Increase in the number of vendors, restaurants, etc. making use of the Kawartha Choice FarmFresh brand
- Increase in the number and frequency of farmers' markets (both permanent and seasonal) throughout the region
- Increase in the number of farms supplying local food
- Number of farms that are financially viable
- Reduction in the number of farms going out of business
- Revenue from farm gate sales
- Number of farmers
- Age of farmers
- Average size of farms
- Number of second source of income farms
- Agricultural income per NAICS codes
- Policy development of local food standards for MUSH food service contracts
- Amount of local food products in retail and fast food outlets
- Involvement of non-traditional groups supporting agriculture

THEME: AGRICULTURE & LOCAL FOOD (B)

Goal

We will feed ourselves sustainably with local, healthy foods.

Strategic Direction Supported

Maintain adequate farmland availability to support our sustainable agricultural needs.

Priority Action

Identify and protect existing farmland, and increase its capacity to supply local food needs.

Description

Since 1971, the County of Peterborough has lost 28% of its farms, representing the loss of 460 farm businesses. Seventy thousand (70,000) farmland acres (22% of total acreage) went out of production in the County from 1971 to 2006. The average age of farm operators in the County was 52.7 years in 2001. By 2006 it had risen to 54.7 years. This suggests that about half the farmers in the County may retire in the next 10-15 years. Meanwhile the number of younger farmers is declining. This action proposes to address ways in which farmland may be kept active, by attracting new farmers to the County, and also by preventing the conversion of farmland to non-farm uses.

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Economic Development & Employment
- Land Use Planning
- Cultural Assets

Activities

- Work with municipal and provincial authorities to ensure adequate policy protection of farmland
- Work with farmers to identify land that is currently underutilized
- Review Official Plans and land use policies for ways to improve farmland protection that is specifically relevant to the County's agricultural environment and capabilities
- Review resources and tools available to the community for farmland preservation
- Develop decision-making and marketing tools to attract new farmers to the County
- Develop support mechanisms to re-strategize farms to become more economically viable
- Advocate for financial support and incentives from the provincial and federal governments

Toolbox Resources:

- **Farming “Best Practices” Toolkit** - Best practices to help improve in the areas of bio-security, business development, environment & climate change, and food safety and traceability
- **Funds for Local Food Systems** – Ways to tap into funding to assist municipal efforts in supporting and enhancing the local food industry
- **Identifying and Protecting Farmland** - Strategies and resources to protect existing farmland

Potential Lead and Coordination

- County of Peterborough

Potential Partners

- City of Peterborough
- County of Peterborough
- Farms at Work
- First Nations
- GPA EDC
- Kawartha Heritage Conservancy
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- Peterborough Social Planning Council
- Townships

Measures of Success:

- Policies to maintain farmland established at a municipal and provincial level
- Identification and protection of potential of 2nd/3rd class farmland for production
- Increased urban demand for local production
- Estimated quantity of farms saved from development
- Inactive land is utilized
- Increased number of farmers

THEME: CLIMATE CHANGE

Goal

We will reduce our contributions to climate change while increasing our ability to adapt to climate change conditions.

Strategic Direction Supported

Reduce and offset greenhouse gas emissions produced within our community.

Priority Action

Become active members in the Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP) to establish a baseline of greenhouse gas emissions with a corresponding plan for achieving a set target in emissions reductions.

Description

There is large consensus among those in the science community that our worldwide climate is warming – largely as a result of human-generated greenhouse gas emissions. This warming will result in, for example, an increase in global sea levels, increases in extremes such as drought and flooding, and the possibility of widespread losses in biodiversity. If we are to cap this trend at what is an acceptable level, we must significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Organized by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the PCP program is a network of Canadian municipal governments that have committed to reducing greenhouse gases and acting on climate change. Undertaking this action will allow us to reduce our community's contributions to climate change. The PCP program includes five milestones that focus on identifying greenhouse gas emissions and strategies to reduce them.

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Energy
- Natural Assets

Activities

- Pass a resolution of Council to join Partners for Climate Protection
- Appoint a staff member and elected official to be the key contacts with the PCP secretariat
- Apply for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund for financial support to complete PCP milestones
- Ask Greater Peterborough Area businesses and institutions to participate in a greenhouse gas reduction strategy and develop and implement a greenhouse gas reduction plan
- Program Milestones:
 1. Create a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast
 2. Set an emissions reductions target
 3. Develop a local action plan
 4. Implement the local action plan or a set of activities
 5. Monitor progress and report results

Toolbox Resources:

- **Joining Partners For Climate Protection Program** – Five milestone frameworks used to guide members in reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- **Develop Greenhouse Gas Inventory/Strategy** – How to create an inventory of current greenhouse gas emissions and a formal strategy to reduce them
- **Understand Climate Change Risks**– Educate your employees and your community about the risks of climate change and develop mitigation and adaptation strategies
- **Climate Change Awareness for K to 12 Schools**– Schools can implement hands-on practical programs which educate students (grades K through 12) about climate change and its impacts

Potential Lead and Coordination

- City of Peterborough (City jurisdiction)
- County of Peterborough (County jurisdiction)

Potential Partners

- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
- Kawartha Heritage Conservancy
- Local business
- MUSH sector
- Peterborough County-City Health Unit
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Peterborough Utilities Inc.
- Townships
- Transition Town Peterborough

Measures of Success

- Membership status in the PCP program
- Funding received
- Milestones achieved
- Progress towards greenhouse gas reduction targets
- Number of businesses and institutions with greenhouse gas reduction plans

THEME: CULTURAL ASSETS

Goal

We will support, sustain and promote a wide breadth of community cultures.

Strategic Direction Supported

Recognize and celebrate our culture and diversity.

Priority Action

All municipalities in the Greater Peterborough Area should consider developing a *Municipal Cultural Plan*.

Description

The City of Peterborough is one of Canada's top creative cities. Venues, events, entertainment and eating establishments all contribute to creative people living and working in Peterborough. The Greater Peterborough Area is rich in cultural events and activities that are large draws from within the community and beyond. The quality of our heritage resources is an additional important attribute.

There is intense competition for skilled professionals and entrepreneurs within urban and rural areas across Canada. Many of the top professionals and entrepreneurs come from other cultures. It is important for the Greater Peterborough Area to be able to attract people from differing cultural backgrounds and retain them. Developing *Municipal Cultural Plans* is a great way of enhancing a community's culture and developing the tools necessary to promote it. The City of Peterborough is finishing its first *Municipal Cultural Plan*, while the Township of Cavan Monaghan has recently completed its first cultural mapping exercise. This action proposes that the other municipalities within the Greater Peterborough Area follow suit and pursue provincial and regional funding support to develop their own *Municipal Cultural Plans*.

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Economic Development & Employment
- Healthy Communities

Activities

- Apply for funding from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture
- Undertake cultural mapping exercises
- Promote and strengthen links with First Nations communities
- Develop Municipal Cultural Plans

Toolbox Resources

- **Creating a Municipal Cultural Plan** – City of Peterborough is in the process of creating a Municipal Cultural Plan
- **Establishing a Heritage Committee** – Establish a heritage committee to help establish and protect heritage properties
- **10 Things You Can Do To Support Culture**– Ways to support culture in your community, many at little or no cost
- **Cultural Resource Mapping** – Identify, record, and classify your community’s cultural resources in order to describe and visualize them
- **Support Public Art**–How to create a municipal policy that supports public art through its installation, promotion and upkeep

Potential Lead and Coordination

- County of Peterborough in collaboration with the Townships

Potential Partners

- Art Gallery of Peterborough
- City of Peterborough
- Community Opportunity and Innovation Network
- GPA EDC
- First Nations
- Fleming College
- Kawartha Heritage Conservancy
- Lang Pioneer Village
- Libraries
- Ministry of Tourism and Culture
- New Canadians Centre
- Peterborough Museum & Archives
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Regional Tourism Organization 8
- Trent University
- Trent Valley Archives

Measures of Success

- Funding is secured
- Cultural mapping exercises are undertaken
- Municipal Cultural Plans are developed

THEME: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT

Goal

We will create and retain prosperity by providing investment and employment opportunities within sustainable local and global markets.

Strategic Direction Supported

Encourage and promote our leadership in sustainability to attract people and investors to the region.

Priority Action

Through community asset mapping, promote the region's abundant natural assets, its sustainability initiatives and industries, and its economic potential.

Description

Promoting the great work that is being done to bring the Greater Peterborough Area closer to its *Vision* of sustainability is one of the key outcomes of the Sustainable Peterborough process. This raises awareness within and beyond the community of what is being done locally in the name of sustainability, with the desired outcome of making this region more attractive to potential visitors and investors, as well as raising the possibility of being able to share best practices with other communities. Through sustainability asset mapping, people will be able to see spatially the many great things happening in this community, and to see it as a community worthy of visiting or investing in.

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Natural Assets
- Cultural Assets
- Healthy Communities
- Agriculture & Local Food

Activities

- Establish a sustainability mapping working group
- Compile work from previous mapping initiatives (e.g., City cultural mapping, CM cultural mapping, municipal GIS work, KHC mapping, MNR mapping, Trent/Fleming research, Tourism promotion, etc.)
- Conduct an inventory of organizations and business producing sustainable products and services, and also carrying our sustainability practices
- In collaboration with the community, develop an up-to-date map of current and historic sustainability initiatives, using the Current Conditions report developed as part of the Sustainable Peterborough initiative as a basis
- Use the sustainability assets map as a means of promoting the Greater Peterborough Area
- Update and revise the sustainability assets map as required
- Promote cycling and waterway tourism

Toolbox Resource:

- **“Creative Economy Potential” Assessment Service** – Assess the potential for your community’s economic development strategy to include pursuit of the creative economy
- **Establishing a Working Group** – an addendum to the Toolbox which provides information and terms of reference for the establishment of a working group

Potential Lead and Coordination

- GPAEDC

Potential Partners

- City of Peterborough
- County of Peterborough
- Community Opportunity and Innovation Network
- East Kawartha Chamber of Commerce
- Farms at Work
- First Nations
- Fleming College
- GE Hitachi
- Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce
- Havelock-Belmont-Methuen and District Chamber of Commerce
- Kawartha Heritage Conservancy
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Millbrook Business Improvement Associations
- PepsiCo
- Peterborough Downtown Business Improvement Association
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Peterborough Social Planning Council
- Townships
- Trent University
- Workforce Development Board

Measures of Success

- Completion of map(s)
- Number of initiatives mapped
- Quantity of maps accessed (print and digital) by potential visitors, investors, etc.

THEME: ENERGY (A)

Goal

We will minimize the amount of energy we use and maximize the production of local, dependable sources of renewable energy.

Strategic Direction Supported

Lead the way in the use and development of renewable energy technologies.

Priority Actions

Develop *community energy plans* in each of the Greater Peterborough Area's member communities, coordinated at a regional level.

Description

A broad recognition now exists that the dual challenges of resource depletion and climate change are necessitating a shift from fossil fuel-dependent electricity generation to emission-free, renewable energy. Increasingly, communities are looking internally to address these challenges, rather than waiting for senior levels of government to take action. The City of Guelph, for example, is now widely recognized for the development of its Community Energy Plan. Undertaking such a planning process begins to bring to the fore the many challenges associated with energy generation and energy use, and starts the conversion on addressing these issues with unique, community-based solutions. Indeed, through the development of *community energy plans* – incorporating energy conservation, management of demand for energy, and planning for renewable energy generation – for each of municipalities and First Nations, the Greater Peterborough Area is well positioned to become a leader in the use and development of renewable energy technologies.

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Climate Change
- Natural Assets
- Economic Development & Employment
- Healthy Communities

Activities

- Establish an Energy Working Group to consisting of key stakeholders, including representation from each of the municipalities and First Nations
- Assess the current energy reality in each of the municipalities and First Nations
- Engage stakeholders and the broader community in discussions
- Develop *community energy plans*
- Implement *community energy plans*

Toolbox Resources

- **Developing A Community Energy Plan** – Tools, examples and case studies of community energy planning
- **Municipal Energy Efficiency Planning Workbook** – Cut energy use within your own facilities by completing an energy audit and implementing the findings
- **Aboriginal Renewable Energy Network** – Develop renewable energy generation facilities in your First Nations community
- **Energy Management & Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program** – Develop and implement a program to track, manage and reduce your energy use and related greenhouse gas emissions

Potential Lead and Coordination

- Energy Working Group (as a coordinating body for City, County, Townships, First Nations)

Potential Partners

- City of Peterborough
- County of Peterborough
- First Nations
- GE Hitachi
- Hydro One
- Ontario Power Authority
- Ontario Power Generation
- Ontario Sustainable Energy Association
- Peterborough Utilities Inc.
- Local renewable energy companies
- MUSH sector
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Townships
- Transition Town Peterborough

Measures of Success

- Policies in place to support renewable energy generation in existing and new buildings
- Number of renewable energy installations
- Kilowatts of installed renewable energy capacity
- Number of new jobs in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sector locally

THEME: ENERGY (B)

Goal

We will minimize the amount of energy we use and maximize the production of local, dependable sources of renewable energy.

Strategic Direction Supported

Ensure efficient energy use in buildings.

Priority Action

Establish energy efficiency standards for all new development which would consider LEED certification in all new construction and for renovations.

Description

According to the National Research Council of Canada, on a per capita basis, Canadians use four times more energy than the world average. Accordingly, energy conservation, along with transitioning to a renewable energy supply, represents a significant component of becoming a sustainable community. This proposed action will allow us to decrease our energy use and become a leading example in energy conservation and efficiency.

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Climate Change
- Natural Assets
- Economic Development & Employment

Activities

- Develop a local standard for energy efficiency and net energy consumption in new buildings
- Investigate the possibility of financial incentives, such as the Planning Act's *Community Improvement Plan* grant process, for developments that meet certain efficiency standards
- Strengthen MUSH sector linkages in terms of energy conservation

Toolbox Resources

- **Develop Green Building/Development Standards** – Develop and implement a set of local green building and development standards to encourage more energy efficient development
- **More Energy Efficient Development** – Encourage energy consumption in new buildings implementing higher minimum standards for energy efficiency
- **Save ON Energy**– Implement strategies and solutions to reduce your business' energy use
- **100 Ways to Save Energy**– Lower your personal energy use by implementing simple and potentially low cost ideas

Potential Lead and Coordination

- Joint City of Peterborough and County of Peterborough

Potential Partners

- First Nations
- Fleming College
- Local businesses
- MUSH sector
- Ontario Power Authority
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Peterborough Kawartha Home Builder Association
- Peterborough Utilities Inc.
- Townships
- Trent University

Measures of Success

- Total kWh of electricity conservation
- m³ of natural gas conservation (if applicable)
- Oil/propane consumption for heating (if applicable)
- Percentage of buildings achieving a high standard of energy efficiency
- Number of LEED certified buildings

THEME: HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Goal

We will be a community where everyone has the opportunity and support to achieve their physical, social, mental, emotional and spiritual potential.

Strategic Direction Supported

Strive for adequate and attainable housing to increase the quality of life for all.

Priority Action:

Increase the availability of *affordable housing* throughout the entire Greater Peterborough Area.

Description

In Canada, a new movement is afoot. Known as the *Healthy Communities* movement, diverse groups across many sectors are coming together to address challenges and implement strategies to enhance overall community well-being. One such challenge faced by many Canadian communities is the provision of sufficient *affordable housing*. *Affordable housing*, as defined by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, is housing that does not necessitate a household spending more than 30% of gross income on shelter costs. This action seeks to increase the availability of *affordable housing* throughout the GPA.

The *Healthy Community* movement is a dynamic force in many communities across Canada that brings together groups from many sectors to plan and implement strategies to enhance community well-being and address complex community issues.

Activities

- Assess community needs for *affordable housing*
- Set targets for the development of *affordable housing*
- Investigate incentives for landlords to provide affordable rents
- Allow secondary suites in new and existing housing
- Facilitate investment in converting existing housing stock to affordable housing
- Ensure housing is an integral part of an increased quality of life for all

Toolbox Resources

- **Developing Affordable Housing** – Develop and implement a municipal affordable housing strategy that collaborates with community partners

Potential Lead and Coordination

- City of Peterborough Housing Division

Potential Partners

- Affordable Housing Action Committee
- City of Peterborough
- County of Peterborough
- First Nations
- Healthy Communities Partnership
- New Canadians Centre
- Peterborough County-City Health Unit
- Peterborough & The Kawarthas Home Builders Association
- Peterborough Kawartha Home Builder Association
- Peterborough Housing Corporation
- Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network
- Peterborough Social Planning Council
- Townships

Measure of Success

- Completion of assessment and targets
- Targets for affordable housing are met
- Quality of life goals are established featuring housing as an objective
- Decrease in the number of people on affordable housing wait lists

THEME: LAND USE PLANNING

Goal

We will support the building of sustainable, healthy and diverse communities through planning policies and decisions that are developed and made in a transparent, open and accessible manner.

Strategic Direction Supported

Support the creation of pedestrian-oriented communities that encompass all elements we need within our community.

Priority Action

Develop and implement neighbourhood design guidelines that ensure equal opportunities for all users – including pedestrians, cyclists, public transportation, and automobiles – relevant to both urban and rural areas.

Description

A return to high-density, mixed use neighbourhoods is becoming recognized as a best practice in planning. A movement known as *Complete Communities*, where the design of communities encompasses all the elements a community needs within the community is gaining prominence. A *Complete Community* includes great places to live, work, shop, and play including local access to options for food, transportation, housing, recreation, education, retail, and employment. Also important to communities are a variety of options to get around. *Complete Streets* policies place equal considerations in roadway design for pedestrians, cyclists, transit and private automobiles. This project would consist of the development of neighbourhood design guidelines based on the philosophies of *Complete Communities* and *Complete Streets* applicable to new development and redevelopment that encourage complete streets, high-density development, and mixed use. Separate guidelines, based on the same principles, would be suited for both rural areas and urban areas.

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Healthy Communities
- Energy
- Climate Change

Activities

- Develop guidelines/standards for mixed use development based on best practices
- Implement policies to require adherence to guidelines/standards
- Link policies to Official Plans

Toolbox Resources

- **Creating Complete Streets** – Pursue streets that are safe, comfortable, and convenient for travel for everyone, regardless of age or ability – motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation riders

- **Community Improvement Plans** – Develop and implement a community improvement plan (CIP), which provides a means of planning and financing development activities that effectively use, reuse and restore lands, buildings and infrastructure
- **Sustainability Screening Process / Checklist** – Use Sustainable Peterborough’s Strategic Directions to create a checklist that can be used to assess projects based on their fit with the municipal sustainability plan
- **A Sidewalk Strategic Plan** – Develop and implement a municipal sidewalk strategy
- **Protecting Natural Heritage** – Adopt a natural heritage system or strategy to protect and enhance the region’s natural assets

Potential Lead and Coordination

- Joint City of Peterborough and County of Peterborough

Potential Partners

- First Nations
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network
- Peterborough Social Planning Council
- Townships

Measure of Success

- Development and adoption of guidelines/standards
- Adherence to guidelines/standards

THEME: NATURAL ASSETS (A)

Goal

We will preserve, enhance and restore our natural assets to maintain ecological health.

Strategic Direction Supported

Conserve, manage and enhance our natural areas to foster a diversity of native species and habitat.

Priority Action

Adopt the ‘Kawarthas...Naturally Connected’ Natural Heritage System and integrate it into Official Plans.

Description

The Kawartha Heritage Conservancy (in partnership with the City of Peterborough; the County of Peterborough; Victoria Stewardship Council; City of Kawartha Lakes; Kawartha Conservation; Clear, Ston(e)y, White Lake Environmental Plan Council, Parks Canada, and the Ministry of Natural Resources) is leading a regional effort to develop a Natural Heritage System for the Kawarthas. The project is based on watershed boundary and includes all of the County of Peterborough and the City of Kawartha Lakes. A Natural Heritage System, once implemented, can help to ensure that key natural areas and features remain on the landscape, for our health and enjoyment and that of future generations. It can be a useful tool to help individuals, organizations, and communities make informed and coordinated decisions about: stewardship activities, land restoration, conservation land purchases, land use planning, and research projects.

Activities

- Complete the development of the Natural Heritage System
- Incorporate the Natural Heritage System and policies into Official Plans and other tools

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Land Use Planning

Toolbox Resources

- **Protecting Natural Heritage** – Adopt a Natural Heritage System and/or promote land trust programs
- **Alternative Land Use Services For Farmers** – Establish a program that assists farmers in their voluntary efforts to return marginal, environmentally sensitive, or inefficient farmland to native vegetative cover and wetlands
- **Community Stream Stewardship Program** – Join the program as a member and learn how to conserve and restore streams thereby protecting our natural heritage and our water

Potential Lead and Coordination

- Kawartha Heritage Conservancy

Potential Partners

- City of Kawartha Lakes
- City of Peterborough
- Clear, Ston(e)y, White Lake Environmental Plan Council
- County of Peterborough
- First Nations
- Fleming College
- Kawartha Conservation
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Peterborough County Stewardship Council
- Parks Canada
- Townships
- Trent University
- Victoria Stewardship Council

Measure of Success

- Completion of the Natural Heritage System
- Number of area Official Plans that incorporate the Natural Heritage System

THEME: NATURAL ASSETS (B)

Goal

We will preserve, enhance and restore our natural assets to maintain ecological health.

Strategic Direction Supported

Conserve, manage and enhance our natural areas to foster a diversity of native species and habitat.

Priority Action

Identify and help access financial incentives for environmentally sound land stewardship practices.

Description

The idea of providing financial incentives for land stewardship is not a new one. For example, in times past, the County of Peterborough has administered provincially funded programs for farmers to undertake environmentally sound land stewardship practices on their properties. Indeed, the work of local organizations such as the Peterborough County Stewardship Council, the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy, Peterborough Green-Up, and many more involves working with landowners to protect and even enhance the natural features found on their property. By pursuing funding sources to administer incentive programs for land stewardship, property owners in the Greater Peterborough Area will be afforded the opportunity to sustain and protect their piece of nature, providing many tangible benefits for the community and for wildlife.

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Climate Change
- Water
- Economic Development & Employment

Activities

- Review models of support for land stewardship
- Engage in discussion with potential funding sources
- Establish mechanisms to flow financial support for project work through to existing delivery agents
- Share results, best practices, and lessons learned within and beyond the community (e.g. demonstration sites of sustainable practices, associated economic benefits, etc.)
- Undertake a full cost benefit analysis to assess program worth

Toolbox Resources

- **Tax Exemptions for Conservation** – Encourage environmental conservation and stewardship through implementation of municipal property tax exemptions for approved practices
- **Ten Ways to Save Your Local Woods** – List of 10 strategies you can use to protect and save your woods

- **Incentive Programs For Stewardship Initiatives** – Ontario Stewardship’s listing of financial and incentive programs

Potential Lead and Coordination

- Peterborough County Stewardship Council

Potential Partners

- Community Stewardship Stream Program
- County of Peterborough
- Crowe Valley Conservation Authority
- Ducks Unlimited
- Farms at Work
- First Nations
- Fleming College
- Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority
- GPA EDC
- Kawartha Conservation
- Kawartha Heritage Conservancy
- Lakeland Alliance
- Ontario Crop and Soil Improvement Association
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs
- Otonabee Conservation
- Peterborough County Federation of Agriculture
- Peterborough Field Naturalists
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Peterborough Social Planning Council
- Townships
- Trent University

Measures of Success

- Support gained
- New funding secured from local sources
- Number of projects completed (total sites and total acreage)
- Program inquires into demonstration sites
- Meeting site specific objectives

THEME: TRANSPORTATION (A)

Goal

We will have an accessible transportation network that places priority on active and efficient modes of transportation.

Strategic Direction Supported

Provide accessible and complete *active transportation* opportunities that are attractive alternatives to the private automobile.

Priority Action

Complete the proposed Short-Term Cycling Network as outlined in the City of Peterborough's Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update and integrate it to the greatest extent possible with existing and new cycling trails in the County of Peterborough.

Description

As concerns escalate over fossil fuel consumption leading to resource depletion and a warming climate, a growing number of community members have returned to employing more active modes of transportation, such as cycling, as a means of getting around efficiently. The City of Peterborough's Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update identifies a Proposed Short-Term Cycling Network that would provide for a much more extensive cycling network within the City by 2021, with linkages to the County of Peterborough. Completion of this project would increase the ease and safety of getting around by bicycle in Peterborough, and in turn increase the likelihood of community members turning to alternatives to the private automobile.

Results from this action will support strategies under the following additional Themes:

- Energy
- Climate Change
- Healthy Communities

Activities

- Prioritize project completion as outlined in the Proposed Short-Term Cycling Network
- Implement Proposed Short-Term Cycling Network

Toolbox Resources

- **Peterborough's Short-Term Cycling Network** – City Staff report with implementation recommendation
- **Reducing Vehicle Use / Improving Vehicle Efficiency** – Use Eco-driver Tips to change your driving habits in a more eco-friendly fashion
- **Community Wide/Rural Public Transit** – Implement a public transit system that links smaller, more rural communities around Greater Peterborough Area

- **Green Defensive Driving Course** – Make all your employees better, safer, greener drivers using the Canada Safety Council’s Green Defensive Driving Course

Potential Lead and Coordination

- City of Peterborough

Potential Partners

- County of Peterborough
- First Nations
- Peterborough & the Kawarthas Tourism
- Peterborough Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Peterborough County-City Health Unit
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Townships
- Transition Town Peterborough

Measure of Success

- Kilometres of bike lanes developed
- Participants in Shifting Gears

THEME: TRANSPORTATION (B)

Goal

We will have an accessible transportation network that places priority on active and efficient modes of transportation.

Strategic Direction Supported

Enhance public transportation that is accessible, affordable, efficient, and effective to support the needs of the community.

Priority Action

Assess innovative solutions to the mobility challenges facing people in the Greater Peterborough Area.

Description

For some in rural communities, accessing the amenities required in day-to-day life presents a significant challenge. For example, the Current Conditions report (Appendix E) identifies the difficulty of low income rural residents obtaining access health care and training opportunities. While GO services are available as well as Greyhound coach services in some parts of the County, transit amenities (such as Peterborough Transit) can only be found in the City of Peterborough. More and more, rural communities are turning to innovative solutions to address the mobility concerns of their residents. This project proposes to assess the mobility challenges faced by Greater Peterborough Area residents, and propose innovative, cost-effective solutions for addressing them.

Activities

- Form a working group to assess the mobility challenges for those in the Greater Peterborough Area and to consider innovative solutions for addressing these challenges such as transit, car sharing, community-supported (i.e., volunteer) ride programs, etc.
- Make accessible transportation a consideration for all new developments

Toolbox Resources

- **Community Wide/Rural Public Transit** – Implement a public transit system that links smaller, more rural communities around Greater Peterborough Area
- **Establishing a Working Group** – an addendum to the Toolbox which provides information and terms of reference for the establishment of a working group

Potential Lead and Coordination

- County of Peterborough

Potential Partners

- City of Kawartha Lakes Transit
- City of Peterborough Social Services Division
- Coach Canada
- Community Opportunity and Innovation Network
- City of Peterborough/Peterborough Transit
- First Nations
- Greyhound Canada
- GO Transit
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Peterborough Social Planning Council
- Service Clubs
- Townships
- United Way Member Agencies

Measures of Success

- Feasibility of solutions explored and assessed
- Increase in mobility of residents

THEME: WASTE (A)

Goal

We will reduce the amount of waste we generate by using resources wisely.

Strategic Direction Supported

Reuse materials wherever possible.

Priority Action

Identify and promote opportunities for the reuse or recycling of reusable goods and materials.

Description

Often, items that still have a useful lifespan left but are no longer required or desired by their owners end up in our landfills, representing significant waste of resources and limiting the lifespan of these disposal facilities. By promoting existing re-use centres to community members and making the use of these facilities and the re-use of items easier, the serviceable life of products can be extended and landfill lifespan can be maximized. This project aims to increase the likelihood of community members re-using goods as an alternative to disposal.

Activities

- Identify existing re-use centres (i.e., ReStore, thrift stores, freecycle, reboot Peterborough, online classifieds, etc.) and what items they accept
- Find partners and/or create centres to fill potential gaps in terms of what can be accepted at these centres
- Establish drop offs at municipal/First Nations waste sites (Landfills, Transfer Stations, MHSW depots, recycling depots) for reusable items
- Establish programs to allow for the re-use and exchange of item (e.g. “Leave it outs” days)
- Promote these avenues to community members as preferred alternatives to final disposal
- Explore possible synergies between businesses by connecting businesses whose waste outputs may be usable inputs for other businesses operations

Toolbox Resources

- **Local Re-Use and Recycling Guide** – Utilize the local re-use and recycling guide to divert waste from the landfill
- **Bicycle Recycling Program** – Start a program to divert usable bikes from landfill and provide them to others in the community at no charge

Potential Lead and Coordination

- Joint City of Peterborough and County of Peterborough

Potential Partners

- First Nations
- Habitat for Humanity ReStore
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Thrift Stores
- Townships

Measures of Success

- Use of facilities
- Estimates of waste diverted

THEME: WASTE (B)

Goal

We will reduce the amount of waste we generate by using resources wisely.

Strategic Direction Supported

Maximize diversion of materials from disposal as viable markets and technologies become available.

Priority Action

Establish a curbside organic waste collection program.

Description

Organic waste collection has been discussed and explored in the City of Peterborough and County of Peterborough in recent years. Organic materials make up roughly one third of the residential waste stream and collecting this through a curbside organics program would help to significantly reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill. By diverting these wastes, resources can be recovered and converted into compost.

Activities

- Examine feasibility of establishing curbside organics collections program
- Develop and implement program

Toolbox Resources

- **Curbside Organic Waste Collection** – Develop and implement a municipal curbside organic waste collection program
- **Quest for Less – School Waste Reduction Programs** – Teachers can book the Quest for Less Grade 1, 3 or 7 programs or the Earth Week School Challenge
- **Waste Reduction Toolkit for Construction/Demolition Projects** - Develop and implement a 3R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) strategy for your construction and demolition projects
- **Backyard Composting** – Learn how to compost in your own yard

Potential Lead and Coordination

- City of Peterborough

Potential Partners

- County of Peterborough
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Townships

Measures of Success

- Implementation of curbside organics collection program
- Tonnage diverted
- Participation rates
- Use of generated compost

THEME: WATER (A)

Goal

We will make wise use of our water to enhance its quality and quantity, ensuring that future generations will be able to use our water to drink, fish, and swim.

Strategic Direction Supported

Conserve the amount of water we use.

Priority Action

Establish a water conservation and efficiency program that motivates water consumers and makes available resources for water conservation.

Description

Water, though abundant in the Greater Peterborough Area, is valued very highly amongst community members and should be treated as any other resource – to be conserved and used wisely. Often we give little second thought to our water consumption. This project seeks to assist community members in reducing the amount of water they use through conservation and motivating people to utilize water efficient fixtures and appliances.

Activities

- Sell rain barrels to community members on a cost recovery basis
- Provide low flow showerheads for those on municipal water systems
- Provide faucet aerators for those on municipal water systems
- Implement toilet replacement rebate programs to encourage municipal water users to upgrade their toilets
- Provide education on water reduction behaviours (e.g. running full loads of laundry, shorter showers, etc.)
- Consider tiered water rates and meeting the future requirements of the Water Conservation Act
- Obtain sustainable funding for water protection programs

Toolbox Resources

- **Water Use Conservation Bylaw** – Encourage water conservation through the summer months via enactment of a conservation bylaw or policy
- **Water Conservation Incentive Programs** – Encourage the installation and utilization of water conservation devices such as low-flow toilets, low-flow showerheads, rain barrels through the implementation of a municipal incentive program
- **Using A Rainbarrel** – Harvest rainwater by purchasing and installing a rain barrel
- **Outdoor Water Conservation** – Design a yard that requires a minimum amount of water

Potential Lead and Coordination

- Peterborough Utilities

Potential Partners

- City of Peterborough
- Other municipalities with municipal water services
- Peterborough Green-Up

Measures of Success

- Consumption volumes
- Participation in programs

THEME: WATER (B)

Goal

We will make wise use of our water to enhance its quality and quantity, ensuring that future generations will be able to use our water to drink, fish, and swim.

Strategic Direction Supported

Recognize and protect the ecological functions of the shorelines of water bodies.

Priority Action

Find funding that will enable the inventorying and identification of shoreline and wetland areas in need of ecological restoration.

Description

Healthy, natural shorelines contribute greatly to water quality and provide abundant habitat for aquatic species. Already existing in the Greater Peterborough Area is the Shoreline Advisor Program, which is a free resource to community members looking to take steps to naturalize their shoreline and reduce their impacts on aquatic ecosystems. This action proposes to continue and build on the great work being accomplished through this and other programs, protecting the shorelines and aquatic ecosystems so valued by the community.

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Natural Assets

Activities

- Conduct an inventory of shoreline and wetland areas in need of restoration
- Identify potential priority sites and work with willing hosts
- Develop strategy for restoration
- Expand lake capacity monitoring
- Enhance coordination of water polices amongst Conservation Authorities
- Define appropriate Lake development

Toolbox Resources

- **Shoreline Inspection Program** - Have a thorough inspection of your shoreline completed by the Lakeland Alliance's Shoreline Advisor Program
- **Testing Your Lake Water** – Join Kawartha Lake Stewards' Association (KLSA) water testing program
- **Inspect Your Septic** – Ensure your septic system is working properly by completing a personal inspection or hiring someone to have a look

Potential Lead and Coordination

- Lakeland Alliance

Potential Partners

- City of Peterborough
- Cottage and Lake Associations
- County of Peterborough
- Crowe Valley Conservation Authority
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Lakeland Alliance)
- Ducks Unlimited
- Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (Lakeland Alliance)
- First Nations
- Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority
- Kawartha Conservation (Lakeland Alliance)
- Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of the Environment (Lakeland Alliance)
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Otonabee Conservation (Lakeland Alliance)
- Parks Canada (Trent-Severn Waterway)
- Peterborough County Stewardship Council (Lakeland Alliance)
- Peterborough Green-Up (Lakeland Alliance)
- Source Water Protection Committee
- Townships

Measures of Success

- Completion of inventory and assessment
- Number of sites restored

THEME: WATER (C)

Goal

We will make wise use of our water to enhance its quality and quantity, ensuring that future generations will be able to use our water to drink, fish, and swim.

Strategic Direction Supported

Protect watersheds to ensure healthy water quality and quantity.

Priority Action

Establish an integrated watershed management plan to promote ecological health and sustainability within the Greater Peterborough Area watersheds.

Description

Climate change is putting our water resources at risk. We are already experiencing rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns, causing reducing river flows, extreme weather events, greater flooding, while negatively impacting our quantity and quality of drinking water.

The purpose of an integrated watershed management plan is to manage human activities and natural resources, while promoting ecological health and sustainability. The plan will evaluate water quality, water quantity and the physical, hydrologic, and biological health and functions of the water within the watershed. It is an evolving and continuous process through which decisions are made for the sustainable use, development, restoration and protection of ecosystems. Watershed management is a tool to aid water and land use decision makers.

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Natural Assets
- Agricultural and Food
- Land Use Planning

Activities

- Evaluate historical and forecast future water quality and water quantity by watershed
- Evaluate the physical, hydrologic, and biological health and function of the watersheds
- Develop a strategy and long term restoration plan
- Enhance coordination of water polices amongst all water based agencies

Toolbox Resources

- **Shoreline Inspection Program** - Have a thorough inspection of your shoreline completed by the Lakeland Alliance's Shoreline Advisor Program
- **Testing Your Lake Water** – Join Kawartha Lake Stewards' Association (KLSA) water testing program

Potential Lead and Coordination

- Otonabee Region Conservation Authority

Potential Partners

- City of Peterborough
- Cottage and Lake Associations
- County of Peterborough
- Crowe Valley Conservation Authority
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Lakeland Alliance)
- Ducks Unlimited
- Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations
- First Nations
- Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority
- Kawartha Conservation
- Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of the Environment
- Lakeland Alliance
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Parks Canada (Trent-Severn Waterway)
- Peterborough County Stewardship Council
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Source Water Protection Committee
- Townships

Measures of Success

- Completion of integrated watershed management plan
- Formation of a watershed management working group