

GREEN PLAN PROGRESS REPORT CARD



CELEBRATING
OUR 2011
ACHIEVEMENTS



SUSTAINABILITY



In 2007, the Mayor's Green Plan Task Force led the development of the Green Plan.
Photo Credit: Ted Brown, Independent & Free Press

CELEBRATING OUR PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2011, our proudest Green Plan achievements included 62 actions organized into six themes:

- Corporate Leadership
- Community Engagement
- Community Planning and Design
- Efficient Resource Management
- Research and Innovation
- Partnerships and Collaboration

LEADERSHIP FOR OUR FUTURE

The Town of Halton Hills is committed to being a leader in sustainability! It is committed to taking local actions for the benefit of future generations and a better quality of life. These actions meet the "PAREE Principle", coined by Mayor Bonnette, and are therefore practical, affordable, reasonable, educational and enforceable. Along the way, residents, businesses and other community partners have joined the Town's sustainability journey.

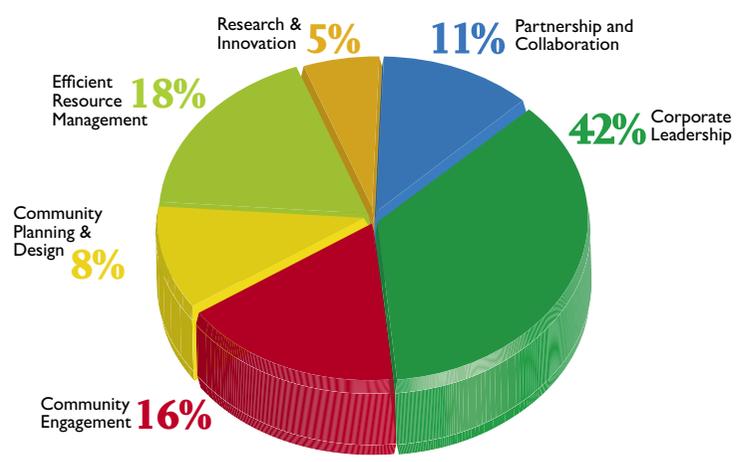
This journey began with the establishment of the Mayor's Green Plan Task Force, which championed the approval of the Town's Green Plan. With its 70 recommendations, the Green Plan provides a compass for actions that will improve the community's environmental health. The Plan also provides a foundation for exploring the community's social, economic and cultural well-being through a community-driven Integrated Community Sustainability Strategy.

The Green Plan Progress Report Card is an opportunity to highlight our key achievements. Action has already been taken on about 91% of the Green Plan's 70 recommendations!



Town youth learn about the importance of energy conservation at a summer camp.

GREEN PLAN ACTIONS



A complete list of all our 2011 achievements is available electronically from the Office of Sustainability. Here are a few highlights of our achievements...

HIGH

Mayor Bonnette and Councillor Hurst accept one of two awards from the Credit Valley Conservation, presented by Councillor Joan Robson.



CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

- Reconfirmed sustainability as a Town priority through Council's new Strategic Plan.
- Received an Award of Distinction for its Green Development Evaluation Checklist and a Certificate of Merit for the highly successful Power Pledge Community Challenge from the Credit Valley Conservation. In June, Conservation Halton recognized the Town with a Stewardship Award for building high-performance municipal facilities. In November, Metrolinx presented the Town with a Smart Commute Award.
- Featured in the *Business Review Canada* and *Energy Digital* magazines, with a combined circulation of about 1.8 million subscribers.
- Integrated sustainability into Town decisions by adopting the use of a Sustainability Implications Worksheet as a 'lens' for decision-making.
- Championed corporate sustainability through the Staff Sustainability Team, including sustainability wording for Departmental Business Plans and Employee Development Plans, a Waste Management Audit, introduction of Smart Commute, and staff engagement through the Caught You Green Handed initiative.
- Designed the Acton Branch Library and the Georgetown Library expansion (under construction) to the LEED® Silver standard.
- Implemented an award-winning Green Development Evaluation Checklist as a tool to elevate the environmental performance of new residential development.
- Approved proceeding with the Green Building Standard Study to further elevate green building performance.
- Introduced an award-winning Smart Commute program to the Civic Centre. Over 40 Town staff have joined and formed 10 carpools.
- Under the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Partners for Climate Protection program, partially completed the Town's corporate greenhouse gas emissions inventory.
- Completed a Waste Management Audit at the Civic Centre to assess waste management practices.
- Planned installation of a 52 kilowatt-hour solar collector on the Gellert Community Centre, enough to power two homes for a year.



Members of the Staff Sustainability Team complete a Waste Management Audit.

- Supported local agriculture by participating in the Halton Fresh Food Box program and explored the feasibility of a Local Food Purchase Policy. Through the Halton Fresh Food Box program, Town staff have purchased over 6,000 pounds (2,700 kilograms) of fresh produce.
- Implemented the Green Meeting & Event Policy to reduce the environmental impacts of Town operations.
- Greened Recreation & Parks programs through electronic registrations, and the inclusion of green activities in children and youth programs.
- Purchased green products and services, including energy efficient office equipment.



Mayor Bonnette, Councillors Johnson and Inglis, joined by staff, officially launch the Smart Commute program at the Civic Centre.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Doubled the circulation of the *Our Sustainability Journey* e-newsletter.
- Advanced the Integrated Community Sustainability Strategy, a blueprint for reaching a more sustainable future. Building on a highly successful community survey, discussions with local community experts, presentations to about 200 youth, countless committee meetings, and research and analysis, the Town Sustainability Advisory Committee has arrived at draft visions of sustainability and priority focus areas.
- Engaged the community on its hopes and dreams for Halton Hills through the Imagine Halton Hills survey. About 1,200 residents and visitors have shared their thoughts. Imagine Halton Hills achieved the highest response rate of any Town survey.
- Expanded the annual Earth Day celebrations with the Earth Day Fair and 'green project tours'. At the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre, residents purchased nearly 1,000 trees, dropped off 19 tonnes of household hazardous waste and 21 tonnes of electronic waste, and picked up 170 cubic yards of compost.
- Successfully celebrated Earth Hour by encouraging year-round energy conservation. Since joining Earth Hour, the community has saved enough electricity to power about 15,500 homes for an hour.
- Showcased the Town's commitment to sustainability by participating in a wide range of community events and offering tours of its green facilities.



Alec Boyd of Giant Tiger (Acton), celebrated Earth Hour 2011 by taking actions to reduce energy consumption and fight against climate change.

PRACTICAL

AFFORDABLE

LIGHTS



Intensification near the Georgetown GO Station is sustainable, convenient and could provide new amenities in an appropriate location.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DESIGN

- Added bike lanes to 17 Side Road and a multi-use path along Wallace Street, and connected the Miller Drive and Dawson Crescent trails.
- Received final approval for the Georgetown GO Station Area Secondary Plan.



Two of the thousands of residents who have opted to use rain barrels for rainwater harvesting.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

- Assisted Halton Region in holding the fourth rain barrel sale in Halton Hills. Since 2009, Town residents have purchased about 2,220 barrels.
- Assisted Halton Region in delivering the battery collection program. In 2011, over 2,000 kilograms of batteries were collected.
- Actively participated in Halton Region's Inter-Municipal Advisory Committee on Sustainability (IMACS).



Mayor Bonnette and members of the Shop Local Committee present monthly shop local rewards.



REASONABLE

EFFICIENT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Recycled 1,200 litres of waste fryer oil into biodiesel from Recreation & Parks' canteen operations.
- Used over 88,000 litres of biodiesel in the Town's vehicle fleet, a cleaner alternative.
- Conserved gravel resources and reduced the environmental impacts of hauling by recycling milled asphalt for road construction.
- Applied 2,300 fewer tonnes of road salt during the 2010/11 winter season as a result of the Town's Salt Management Plan.
- Reduced the Town's electricity costs and carbon footprint by completing a lighting retrofit at the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre.
- Piloted LED lighting at the Civic Centre and the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre for potential wider application.
- Replaced 75% of traffic lights with LED technology, with a 100% replacement target by the end of 2011.



One of the LED traffic lights which can significantly reduce the Town's energy costs.

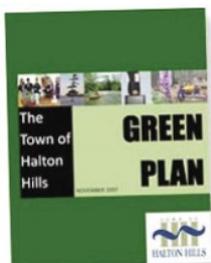
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

- Completed research into a variety of topics including Peak Oil, green building practices, enhanced public engagement, water conservation and renewable energy.
- Constructed an innovative 'green' Edith Street parking lot in downtown Georgetown.



A view of the 'green' Edith Street parking lot in downtown Georgetown showing the rapid water infiltration through permeable paving stones.

ENFORCEABLE
EDUCATIONAL



JOIN OUR SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY

Share your hopes and dreams for a more sustainable future...
with a higher quality of life!

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