

Examples of Local Municipal Initiatives

East Gwillimbury

East Gwillimbury recently launched a comprehensive sustainability program called “Thinking Green!” which addresses both town owned facilities, and new private developments. Some of the programs include:

- The requirement for developers of residential developments of ten or more units to construct to ENERGY STAR qualification, and
- All new Town facilities and new industrial, commercial, institutional and high-rise residential buildings to built to LEED level Silver

Vaughan

The City of Vaughan is home to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority’s Kortright Centre for Conservation and is considered Ontario’s premier environmental and renewable energy education and demonstration centre. Since 1982, the Kortright Centre has been a centre of excellence in the field of sustainable technology. The sustainable technology education programs are anchored around The Power Trip Trail, a 1.6 kilometre trail which links a variety of demonstrations on renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste water treatment and sustainable building design. The Kortright Centre is also the location of “Sustainable House” and is the future site of the Living City Campus and also home of the “World Green Building Council”.

Vaughan Council has also directed that the development of Block 39, just to the east of the Kortright Centre, be constructed to ENERGY STAR qualifications.

Newmarket

The Town of Newmarket Council approved 34 “eco-homes” being developed on Stickwood-Walker Farm property which will use 25 per cent less water than conventional homes and there will be a 60 per cent reduction in green house gas emissions through energy efficiency. Construction of these homes is now underway.

Markham

In the Town of Markham, the Markham Centre Performance Measure Document for Sustainability and Smart Growth is currently being revised to more closely align with LEED standards. The developers are participating in this process. The Town has hired a LEED Accredited Professional from the private sector to facilitate that process. Most of the Markham Centre buildings will connect to the Markham District Energy system which will provide heating and cooling to these buildings in a more environmentally sound manner using “waste energy” from a nearby power generation facility, substantially reducing green house gas emissions.

Richmond Hill

The Town of Richmond Hill is undertaking a Wind Power Study. The wind power project, in combination with the Town’s other clean air initiatives (i.e. hybrid fleet

vehicles and clean fuels, retrofitting Town buildings for improved energy efficiency, teleworking, carpooling, and 404-7 Smart Commute), will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help the Town meet its Kyoto requirements. The project could potentially see up to three wind turbines that could help alleviate stress on the electricity grid by generating enough electricity to power approximately 2,500 households.

All new Town facilities are required to be built to LEED level Silver standards as well.

Georgina

The Town of Georgina implemented waste reduction initiatives including charging for additional bags of garbage resulting in a higher waste diversion rate.

Aurora

The Town of Aurora implemented a water conservation by-law which addresses outside watering.

King

The Township of King has also initiating outdoor water use initiatives.

Whitchurch-Stouffville

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville adopted a 2006 Corporate Strategy which includes promoting “Balanced Growth & Community Sustainability” with the goal of achieving balanced land use planning through environment, economic and social considerations.

These are just a few examples of the ongoing work being done at the local municipal level to promote sustainable development.