

4

VISION 2026: SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS REPORT 2009

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated March 22, 2010, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

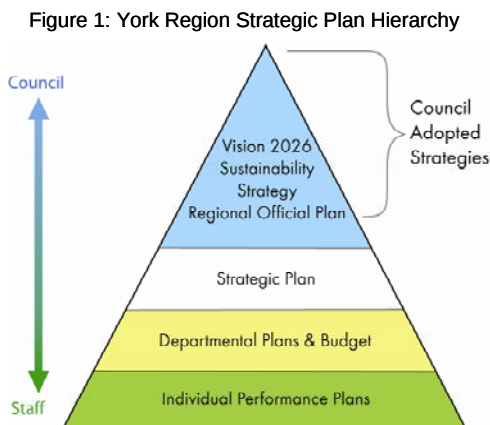
1. Council adopt this staff report and *Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report 2009 (Attachment 1)*.
2. *Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report (Attachment 1)* be widely distributed to the public, stakeholders, Local Municipalities and Regional staff.
3. This staff report be circulated to the Provincial Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides highlights of the *Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report 2009*.

3. BACKGROUND

The 2009 Progress Report covers two key Regional strategic documents, Vision 2026 and the York Region Sustainability Strategy

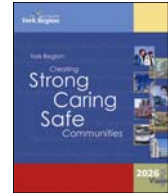


The values and objectives of Vision 2026 and the Sustainability Strategy are complementary. Vision 2026 outlines the vision for the Region over the next 25 years and the Sustainability Strategy provides the decision-making framework to implement this vision.

As Figure 1 demonstrates, these two strategic documents, along with the Regional Official Plan, represent the Corporation's 'foundation documents' that inform all Council decisions. The Region's Strategic Plan, departmental plans

and budgets, and individual performance plans operationalize these strategic documents on a more detailed and specific basis.

Vision 2026: Creating Strong, Caring, Safe Communities was officially launched in 2002. Created in partnership with the community, the eight goal areas of Vision 2026 describe what our public envisions for the Region over the next 25 years. At the heart of this strategic blueprint is a commitment to forging a legacy of sustainability for the Region.



As part of the launch of Vision 2026, Regional Council directed that progress reports should be submitted to the public on an annual basis. Vision 2026's first annual report on progress, *Towards the Vision*, was released in 2003.

In 2007, Council adopted the *York Region Sustainability Strategy* that provides a long-term framework for making smarter decisions about all municipal responsibilities that better integrate the economy, community and environment. This “triple bottom line” approach also emphasizes the values of engagement, continuous monitoring and improvement.



The Strategy is organized under six theme areas: Corporate Culture of Sustainability; Healthy Communities; Economic Vitality; Sustainable Natural Environment; Education and Partnerships; Sustainability Implementation and Monitoring. The Strategy also contains over 100 action items of which the majority are underway as this staff report and attachment illustrate. One of these actions is to “*modify and incorporate Vision 2026: Annual Indicators of Progress to act as the primary monitoring document for the Sustainability Strategy*”.

Vision 2026 is scheduled to be updated using a long-term horizon that will build upon the Vision goals and will further integrate the Region's Sustainability Strategy.

The following section describes how the Vision 2026 Progress Report for 2009 incorporates both Vision 2026 and the Sustainability Strategy.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The Vision 2026 Progress Report incorporates elements of both the Sustainability Strategy and Vision 2026

The 2009 Vision progress report format has been modified to act as the primary monitoring document for the Sustainability Strategy as well as Vision 2026. The progress report is now based on the six theme areas of the Sustainability Strategy and contains a new section entitled “Moving Forward into 2010” that spotlights key initiatives that are planned for the next year. The format of the Vision 2026 progress report remains the

same to include sections on indicators, Council initiatives, and successes and innovations.

A corporate internal staff working group was established comprised of staff from each department. This working group was responsible for information collection and the review and refinement of the 2009 Progress Report.

SUMMARY OF VISION 2026: SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS REPORT 2009

The Region made progress in 2009

The Region continues to make innovative and leading-edge decisions in each of the Sustainability Strategy theme areas. Key accomplishments for 2009 include:

Corporate Culture of Sustainability

- Corporate waste diversion for the Administrative Centre is estimated to be 80%.
- Eleven Regional building and facilities are designed for LEED® certification.
- Energy retrofits to the Administrative Centre produce approximately \$186,000.00 in annual savings.
- Over 200 senior managers and managers/supervisors have attended the Sustainability Training Program.
- The Region's use of LED traffic lights use 80% less energy compared to conventional incandescent lights.

Healthy Communities

- The new adopted Regional Official Plan includes policies for higher energy and water efficiency standards for new buildings, criteria for building new communities, Regional Centres and Corridors, transit, infrastructure and significant woodlands.
- 92% of the YRT/Viva fleet is accessible for people with disabilities.
- Leeder Place Family Emergency Shelter opened in East Gwillimbury targeting LEED® silver.
- The proportion of compact multiple type housing units increased to 33% of the total housing stock in the Region.

Economic Vitality

- York Region's total population was estimated to be 1,032,650 on December 31, 2009, an increase of approximately 20,650 people from December 2008.
- Approximately 1,000 jobs were created between 2008-2009, compared to 14,000 jobs between 2007-2008 (mid-year figures).
- Regional Council has, in each of the years 2007 to 2010, added the equivalent of a 1% increase to the tax levy to provide funding for the future replacement of physical infrastructure, thus ensuring that funds will be available as assets require rehabilitation or replacement.

- YRT and Viva ridership was 18.3 million in 2009 compared to 17.1 million in 2006.
- Completed combined transit/HOV and on-street bicycle lanes on Dufferin Street between Steeles Avenue and Highway 407.
- New Regional Official Plan protects employment lands for employment purposes.

Sustainable Natural Environment

- 265,000 trees and shrubs were planted between 2007 and 2009 with the support of Regional Greening dollars.
- In 2009, 73 hectares of greenlands were secured by the Region or our partners with Regional support, with an estimated property value of \$3.0 million.
- Waste Diversion increased to an estimated 57% in 2009 compared to 40% in 2006.
- *Sustainable Homes Incentive Program (SHIP)* for low-density residential was established.
- McCleary Court Community Environmental Centre opened in Vaughan and was awarded LEED® Gold certification in 2010.
- *Water for Tomorrow* Program and Rebate Programs that conserve approximately 21.5 million litres of water per day, which is equivalent to servicing a community of about 90,000 people.
- Invested \$23 million over 10 years to reduce Inflow and Infiltration in sewer infrastructure.

Education, Engagement and Partnerships

- Approval to set up Human Services Planning Board and Community Partnership Council that will develop an immigrant settlement strategy.
- York Regional Police recruiting efforts have increased Officer Diversity Rates to 15.5% up from 6% in 2002.
- Launch of myRide Travel Training Program enables people of all ages, varying disabilities and skill levels to familiarize themselves with transit.
- More than 2,000 people participated in York Region Greening Strategy educational initiatives such as Forest Events and the Nature's Classroom.

The Region continues to look for opportunities to improve

One defining factor of 2009 was the economic downturn that had negative effects on the Region's unemployment rate, the demand for social assistance services, the number of housing completions and the value of construction across the Region. Other findings in the 2009 Sustainability Progress Report identify opportunities for improvement. These include:

- Establishing a corporate greenhouse gas emissions target.
- Lowering the Region's centralized rent geared to income housing wait list.
- Expanding corporate strategies to encourage a shift to a more electronically-based work environment to reduce paper usage.
- Establishing a corporate sustainable procurement and purchase of service protocol.

- Increasing corporate waste diversion.

Sustainability requires Provincial investment and support

Collaboration between the Region and the Province is required to ensure sustainability is engrained in decision-making processes, outcomes and practices. Key supportive initiatives include:

- To facilitate transit projects particularly the York/Viva project.
- Early approval of the Vaughan 400 North Employment Lands (ROPA 52).
- 400-series highway extensions and improvements.
- Timely Environmental Assessment approvals for key water and wastewater initiatives.

The Region will continue to work with the Province to ensure investment and support for initiatives that improve the Region.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report 2009 was completed within the existing staff complement and budget for the Planning and Development Services Department. Print copies of the progress report will be printed on Forest Stewardship Council certified paper, with vegetable based inks, using a waterless printing process, and a GTA based printer that is Bullfrog powered.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Local municipalities were consulted throughout the *Vision 2026* and *Sustainability Strategy* process as key stakeholders in achieving the vision of a sustainable York Region. Depending on the scope and nature, local municipalities are also consulted on the individual initiatives described in the 2009 Sustainability Progress Report. Many local municipalities have established their own formal sustainability initiative. The Region continues to dialogue and exchange information with the local municipalities as sustainability planning evolves across the Region.

7. CONCLUSION

The Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report 2009 covers the Region's two foundation documents, Vision 2026 and the York Region Sustainability Strategy. The 2009 progress report is based on the six theme areas of the Sustainability Strategy and contains a new section entitled "Moving Forward into 2010". The format of the Vision 2026 annual progress report includes sections on indicators, Council initiatives, and successes and innovations.

The Region continues to make innovative and leading-edge gains in sustainability in 2009. Significant progress was made in waste diversion, housing diversity, green development, accessibility, transit and trip reduction initiatives.

The Region is always looking for opportunities to improve sustainability in the Region. These opportunities include: establishing a corporate greenhouse gas emission target; addressing the rent geared to income housing wait list; establishing a sustainable procurement and purchase of service protocol; increasing corporate waste diversion; and, encouraging a shift to a more electronically based work environment.

The Region will also continue to work with the Province to ensure investment and support for initiatives that improve the Region.

Staff recommends that Council adopt the *Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report 2009 (Attachment 1)* and that it be widely distributed to the public, stakeholders, Local Municipalities, Regional staff and the Provincial Ministers of Energy and Infrastructure, Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Environment.

For more information on this report, please contact Dawn Seetaram, Planner, 905-830-4444 at ext. 1570 or John Waller, Director of Long Range and Strategic Planning ext. 1525.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)



VISION 2026

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE REGION



Draft May 2010

**Sustainability
Progress Report
2009**

We'd Like to Hear from You...

Tell us what you think of the Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report 2009 or simply let us know if you would like more information on anything in this report.

Mail or in Person:

Sustainability Strategy Initiative
Planning and Development Services
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street, 4th Floor
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Phone:

905-895-1231 extension 1550

Toll Free: 1-877-464-9675

Fax: 905-895-3203

E-mail: futureyork@york.ca

For more information on anything listed in this report, please contact us or visit our website at:

www.york.ca

Message from York Regional Council

York Regional Council is pleased to present *Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report 2009*. This report highlights our progress in implementing both the Region's Vision 2026 and Sustainability Strategy.

A major accomplishment of 2009 was the adoption of a new Regional Official Plan that includes:

- criteria for building new communities
- higher energy and water efficiency standards in new buildings
- a pedestrian and cycling network
- long-term protection of employment lands
- a minimum 25 per cent affordable new housing units
- protection of the Region's significant woodlands

Other highlights of 2009 include: myRide travel training program, York Regional Police Multilingual Online Reporting System and the opening of the McCleary Court Community Environmental Centre. Between October 28, 2009 and December 13, 2009, York Region Public Health responded to the H1N1 Influenza Outbreak by administering over 199,000 vaccine doses to the public, reaching 20 per cent of York Region residents.

The Region continues to make strides in achieving sustainability. As of 2009, 11 Regional buildings and facilities were designed for LEED certification and about 4,200 residential high-rise units are proposed under the *Sustainable Development Through LEED program*. The Region's housing mix has diversified to approximately 33 per cent compact multiple units and waste diversion is estimated to be 57 per cent in 2009. Approximately 73 hectares of greenlands were secured and 80,000 trees and shrubs were planted under the Regional Greening Strategy.

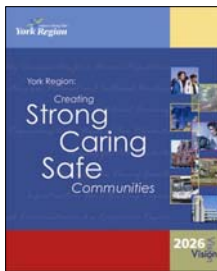
We encourage you to read this progress report and provide feedback. By working together, we will continue to build healthy, strong, caring and safe communities that achieve our residents' vision of a sustainable York Region.

Forward: Towards a Sustainable Region 2009

Our personal consumer choices have ecological, social, and spiritual consequences. It is time to re-examine some of our deeply held notions that underlie our lifestyles.

- David Suzuki

As York Region's population is expected to increase to 1.5 million people and 780,000 jobs by 2031, it is time to re-think how we design, service and support our diverse communities. There is a need to better understand the connections between stewardship of natural resources, supporting a diverse economy, providing adequate human services, and addressing public health issues. These connections also include the ability of our citizens to fully engage and participate in the economic, social and cultural life of their communities.



Vision 2026 is York Region's strategic plan for the next quarter century and was created in partnership with our community. It is based on consultation with Regional Council, our employees, local municipalities, community organizations and individual citizens. The eight goal areas of Vision 2026 describe what our public wants the Region to be. At the heart of Vision 2026 is its commitment to forging a legacy of sustainability. Vision 2026 is scheduled to be updated using a long-term horizon that will build upon the Vision goals and will further integrate the Region's Sustainability Strategy.

Vision 2026 Goal Areas

- Goal 1:** Quality Communities for a Diverse Population
- Goal 2:** Enhanced Environment, Heritage and Culture
- Goal 3:** A Vibrant Economy
- Goal 4:** Responding to the Needs of our Residents
- Goal 5:** Housing Choices for our Residents
- Goal 6:** Managed and Balanced Growth
- Goal 7:** Infrastructure for a Growing Region
- Goal 8:** Engaged Communities and a Responsive Region



The York Region Sustainability Strategy, *"Towards a Sustainable Region"* was adopted by Regional Council in 2007. The purpose of the Strategy is to provide a long-term framework for making smarter decisions about all municipal responsibilities that better integrate the economy, community and environment. This "triple bottom line" approach also emphasizes the values of engagement, continuous monitoring and improvement.

Sustainability Principles for Implementation

- Principle 1:** Provide a long-term perspective on sustainability
- Principle 2:** Evaluate using the triple bottom line element of environment, economy and community
- Principle 3:** Create a culture of continuous improvement, minimizing impact, maximizing innovation and increasing resiliency
- Principle 4:** Identify specific short-term achievable actions that contribute towards a sustainability legacy
- Principle 5:** Set targets, monitor and report progress
- Principle 6:** Foster partnerships and public engagement
- Principle 7:** Create a spirit of stewardship, shared responsibility and collaboration
- Principle 8:** Raise the level of sustainability awareness through education, dialogue and reassessment
- Principle 9:** Promote sustainable lifestyles and re-evaluation of our consumption and expectations

York Region Strategic Plan Hierarchy



This sustainability progress report incorporates both Vision 2026 and the York Region Sustainability Strategy. The Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report monitors accomplishments, reports on current initiatives and identifies gaps. This approach will add value to the way the Region engages the public, implements policy, monitors progress and improves on successes.



The 2009 Progress Report is organized under the theme areas of the Sustainability Strategy:

1. Corporate Culture of Sustainability
2. Healthy Communities
3. Economic Vitality
4. Sustainable Natural Environment
5. Education, Engagement and Partnerships
6. Sustainability Implementation and Monitoring

York Region's Vision of a Sustainable Community

Active lifestyles and healthy environments
 Meeting the diverse needs of residents of all ages, cultures and abilities
 Diversity of jobs and affordable housing
 Quality schools, public spaces, recreation facilities and other amenities
 The highest standard in urban design and green building
 Protecting, enhancing and strengthening the natural environment
 A climate that supports a resilient, diverse and prosperous economy
 Safe and accessible mobility systems that prioritize walking and cycling connections, public transit and streets
 Engaging and partnering with citizens and stakeholders in community life

SUSTAINABILITY MEANS leaving our communities, our Region, our World in a healthy state for our children and grandchildren.

SUSTAINABILITY MEANS evaluating the community, environmental and economic effects of our actions.

SUSTAINABILITY MEANS thinking differently, being more innovative and collaborative

SUSTAINABILITY MEANS making smarter decisions about our lifestyle, community design, infrastructure and financial decisions.

SUSTAINABILITY MEANS practicing prevention and adaptation so that our communities become more resilient to long-term social, economic and climate change.

Together, the Region's accomplishments, future plans and an actively involved public will bring the Region closer to achieving its vision of a sustainable York Region.

Theme Area I: Corporate Culture of Sustainability

The Region understands that sustainability is very much a way of thinking that begins with raising awareness and integrating sustainability principles into Regional decision-making processes. This approach will assist the Region in optimizing productivity, resiliency, performance and overall employee well-being.

Sustainability Indicators

- York Region was named: Top 75 Employers in the GTA (2008), Top 100 Employers in Canada (2007) and Top 50 Employers in the Greater Toronto Area (2007).
- Over 200 senior management, managers and supervisors have attended the York Region Sustainability Training Program since it was established in 2007.
- The Region's Corporate Waste Diversion for the Administrative Centre was 78% in 2007 increasing to an estimated 80% in 2009.
- Despite growth, total Corporate Electricity Use decreased slightly from 112,139,000 kWh in 2008 to 110,903,000 kWh in 2009.
- Total Vehicle Fuel Usage increased slightly from 18,673,000 litres in 2008 to 18,867,000 litres in 2009 (Transit, Police, EMS, other departmental fleets and employee mileage).
- 40% of all competitive bids were released electronically, an increase of 10% from 2008. Over 1,000 vendor/courier vehicles were able to avoid driving.

Council Initiatives

- York Region Sustainability Strategy, "Towards a Sustainable Region".
- York Region Employee Trip Reduction Program.
- Participation in the Earth Hour Challenge.
- Corporate Clean Air Strategy.
- A corporate eyeglasses recycling program in conjunction with the Lions Club Eyeglasses for people in developing countries.
- Approved new Central Services Centre design to LEED® silver standard.

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT YORK REGION/AURORA BULLFROG POWER AGREEMENT

In 2008, York Region and the Town of Aurora made an agreement with BullFrog Power to purchase clean, emissions free electricity for Aurora Town Hall, York Region Administrative Centre and York Region Household Hazardous Waste Depot. The agreement will reduce combined electricity-related CO₂ emissions by almost 700 tonnes annually – equivalent to the an average of 140 vehicles per year.

Successes and Innovations

- ❖ Sustainability session incorporated into New Employee Orientation.
- ❖ Sustainability Reporting Section included in the 2010 Business Plan Guidelines and Toolkit.
- ❖ Energy retrofits in the York Region Administrative Centre initially produced approximately \$186,000 in annual energy savings.
- ❖ In 2009, Property Services conducted energy audits of 61 Regional buildings and implemented \$431,000 worth of energy retrofits. Nearly 43% of this cost was offset through grants and incentives.
- ❖ York Region Administrative Centre part of pilot program for LEED® Canada Existing Buildings.
- ❖ Only cleaning products certified through Environmental Choice® or Green Seal® are used in Regional Buildings and Facilities.

Status of Regional Buildings and Facilities designed to LEED®	
Location	Status
Vaughan Fire 7-9 and EMS	Awarded LEED® Gold (2007)
McCleary Court Community Environmental Centre	Construction complete, Awarded LEED® Gold (2010)
Stouffville Zone 2 Pumping Station	Construction complete, LEED® certification pending
Tom Taylor Place, Newmarket - Housing York Inc.	LEED® certification pending
Bus Maintenance Facility, 8300 Keele - Vaughan	Construction in progress LEED® silver targeted
Kingview Court, King - Housing York Inc.	Designed to LEED® standard
Central Services Centre , Newmarket	Architect selection
York Region EMS Operation Centre, East Gwillimbury	Early design LEED® silver targeted
Leeder Place, East Gwillimbury – Housing York Inc.	Construction complete, Designed to LEED® silver standard
Aurora Police building	Construction in progress LEED® silver targeted
Mapleglen Residence, Vaughan - Housing York Inc.	Designed to LEED® standard

SOURCE: York Region Property Services and Housing York Inc, 2009.

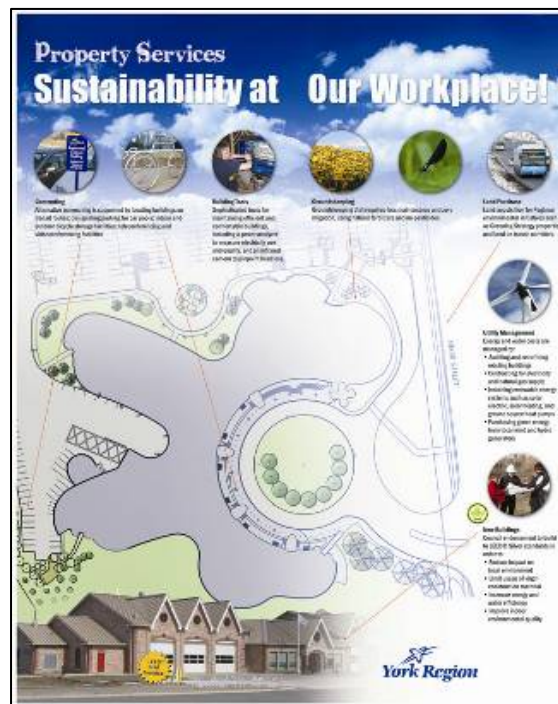
- ❖ Integrated pest management practices are used on Regional properties including natural lawn care methods and re-naturalizing landscapes.
- ❖ Alternate energy pilot projects in progress include: installations of solar electric tracking panels, solar air heating, geothermal, solar water heating, and feasibility studies of wind and wastewater biogas.
- ❖ Property Services completed a wind turbine feasibility study at the Sutton Water Pollution Control Plant.
- ❖ Corporate Learning initiated Video Conferencing pilot program.
- ❖ Employees recognized for walking, bicycling or taking transit to corporate training.
- ❖ Electronic document system (E-DOCS) being implemented.
- ❖ On-line employment applications for external applicants.
- ❖ Electronic Employee Performance Review.
- ❖ York Regional Police E-forms initiative.
- ❖ Food services in the York Region Administrative Centre employed sustainability practices including recycling and organic collection, use of compostable food and hot beverage containers instead of styrofoam and promotion of reusable dishes, cups and utensils.

Moving Forward into 2010

Key Objectives

- 100% of managers and supervisors to attend sustainability training.
- Corporate Waste Diversion target of 90% in 2010.
- All new Regional Buildings and Facilities to be built to minimum LEED® Silver.
- Establish Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emission target.
- Increase the number of competitive vendor bids released electronically to over 50%.
- York Region Print Shop to obtain 'Forest Stewardship Council' (FSC) certification by 2012.

- ❖ Sustainability Training program roll-out to all staff.
- ❖ Refine corporate greenhouse gas inventory, establish benchmarks, suggest reduction targets and identify required resources and timelines.
- ❖ Procurement protocol will incorporate environmental criteria into vendor bid submission documents.
- ❖ Environmental Services Department will develop sustainability service criteria in departmental programs.
- ❖ The Corporate Learning Division will roll-out paper reduction actions for employee training where possible including:
 - o Videoconferencing and virtual meetings.
 - o Installation of “Wifi” in training rooms.
 - o Offering more courses in the main administrative centre to reduce vehicle travel.



Theme Area 2

Healthy Communities

Sustainability is about achieving a state of well-being. The Region strives to improve the quality of life and health of our residents and employees and support overall independence and personal development by planning and developing healthy and strong communities.

The Region's goal is to create self-sustaining and healthy communities that emphasize the human condition. This objective involves an integrated decision-making process that simultaneously considers land-use and infrastructure planning, human services and fiscal impacts.

Sustainability Indicators

Supporting Safe and Secure Communities

- The crime rate increased 0.5% from 2007 to 2008 (2009 not available yet).
- The overall charges for impaired driving increased by 22.6% between 2007 and 2008. Conducted 175 RIDE days in 2009.
- York Regional Police inspected 3,384 commercial vehicles in 2009 resulting in 2,709 charges.
- Tobacco sales to minors ranged from 11% in 2007, 8% in 2008 and 10% in 2009 (based on data collected for the first six months of each year).
- There were 75 reported cases of hate-motivated crime in 2009, a decrease of 5 cases from the previous year.

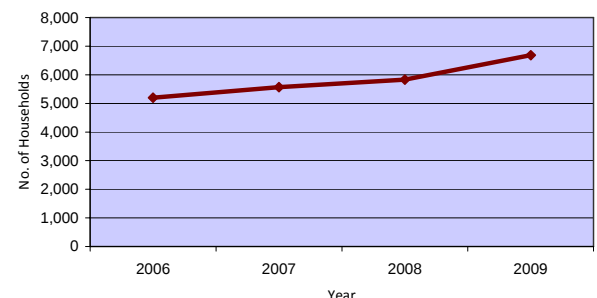
Promoting Wellness

- Life expectancy at birth for 2003-2005 is 83.0 years of age, compared with Ontario average of 80.4 years of age.
- The percent of the adult population (18 years of age and over) that were current cigarette smokers in 2008 was 15% in York Region compared to 21% for Ontario as a whole.
- Low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) for 2008 was 4.7 per 100 hospital births compared to Ontario figure of 4.8 per 100 hospital births.
- In 2009, York Region Public Health issued 1,820 food handler certifications; compared to 1,489 certifications in 2008 and 1,476 certifications in 2007.
- In 2008, York Region Public Health responded to 35,557 calls to the Health Connection toll-free health information education and counselling support line. In 2009, the Health Connection line responded to 32,048 calls from York Region residents.

Healthy Communities

- 6% of commuters either walked or biked to work compared to 2.4% in 2001 (Transportation for Tomorrow (TTS), 2006)
- Mobility Plus accommodated 298,794 trips in 2009, compared to 294,000 in 2008 and 298,000 trips in 2007.

York Region's Centralized Rent Geared to Income Wait List
(2006-2009)



SOURCE: York Region Community and Health Services, 2009.

- 92% of the York Region Transit (YRT)/Viva Rapid Transit fleet is accessible for people with disabilities, compared to 86% in 2008.
 - As of 2008, there were 173 bicycle racks at 70 key YRT/Viva transit stops and terminals.
- Housing for a Diverse Population**
- The proportion of compact multiple housing units of the total housing supply mix in York Region increased from 29% in 2007 to 33% in 2009 (includes semis, rows and apartments).
 - The average resale price for a single-detached dwelling at the end of 2009 was \$520,895, compared to \$508,892 in 2008 and \$484,741 in 2007.
 - Since 2003, Housing York Inc. added 282 units to its portfolio for a total of 1,977 units, an increase of 16%. Between 2007 and 2008 alone, 50 units were added and in 2009, plans were underway to develop an additional 263 units of affordable housing.
 - Region's Centralized Rent Geared to Income Wait List: 2007 - 5,564 households, 2008 - 5,833 households, 2009 - 6,685 households.
 - The long-term care bed waiting list in York Region was 333 in 2007, 418 in 2008, 220 in 2009 (figures for Maple Health Centre and Newmarket Health Centre only).

Council Initiatives

- Adoption of the new Regional Official Plan that updates policies on transit, infrastructure, and city-building from an economic, environmental and community lens.
- The Region's first Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan.
- York Region Intensification Strategy.
- Updated Transportation Master Plan emphasizes walking, cycling, transit and trip reduction.
- YRT/Viva Bicycle Rack Program.
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada appointed the Region to lead the Local Immigration Partnership initiative receiving \$850,000 in funding over 2 years.

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

CRITERIA FOR BUILDING NEW COMMUNITIES

In 2009, York Region developed criteria for building new communities to a higher standard including requirements for green building, water and energy management, public spaces, mixed-use and compact development and urban design. This criteria was based on the *Communities for Tomorrow Workshop* and the *Best Practices for New Communities Discussion Paper*. The criteria for new communities was incorporated into the New Regional Official Plan.

Successes and Innovations

- ❖ In response to the Vaughan tornado, over 120 families registered and received information and referral services as well as other community supports such as food, clothing, counselling, and emergency financial assistance.
- ❖ Implementation of the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Regulation under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*.
- ❖ Approval of the Environmental Assessment for the Yonge Subway extension to Highway 7 with the Richmond Hill/Langstaff Gateway Centre.
- ❖ Completion of comparative growth scenarios for York Region over the next 25 years.
- ❖ Released the *Climate Change in York Region: Adapting to a Different Reality, Draft Discussion Paper* and hosted a Climate Change Workshop.

Social Housing and Sustainability

- ❖ In 2008, Housing York Inc. celebrated its fifth year as the largest social housing provider in York Region and 10th largest in Ontario. As of 2009, key accomplishments of Housing York Inc. include:

- Blue Willow Terrace in Vaughan (seniors building). It saves \$35,000 annually in energy costs and contains both rent-geared-to income and market rent units (total 60 units).
- Tom Taylor Place, designed LEED® silver certification, is 58% more energy efficient. It contains a total of 50 units with accessibility features and services provided by the Canadian Hearing Society.
- Expanding Kingview Court in King City adding 39 units and renovating for LEED® certification.
- Commenced construction of Mapleglen Residences in Vaughan: 84 unit affordable housing project for seniors to be designed to LEED® certification with three-stream waste collection system.
- ❖ Energy management pilot program accumulated energy savings of \$339,000 at the end of 2009.
- ❖ Approved the Eviction Prevention Assistance Program.
- ❖ Established the Social Housing Innovation Fund (\$500,000) to assist Housing Providers to conduct accessibility upgrades and purchase playground equipment in 2008.

**SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT
LEEDER PLACE FAMILY EMERGENCY
SHELTER**

In August 2009, York Region and Blue Doors Shelters celebrated the opening of Leeder Place in East Gwillimbury. This \$2.9 million, 60 bed facility, built on Housing York Inc. property, is the first emergency shelter for homeless families in Canada to apply for LEED™ silver designation. Features of the facility include 15 individual furnished rooms with private four-piece baths, suites designated for wheelchair accessibility, a homework room, children's playroom, dining room and laundry facilities. Families that use this emergency shelter also receive assistance with locating permanent housing.

Active Lifestyles

- ❖ IWALK Program active in approximately 100 York Region Schools to promote physical activity with such events as Winter Walk Day, Spring into Spring and the World Record 1-Kilometre Walk (WRW).
- ❖ There are 23 Mobility Plus vehicles supplemented by taxis and vans with service extending to Highway 401.
- ❖ Over 300 bus stops upgraded with concrete pads meeting York Regional Transit accessibility standards.
- ❖ Implemented automated next stop announcements and variable message display on all YRT/Viva buses, improving universal accessibility.
- ❖ Computer –Aided Dispatch and Automatic Vehicle Location System to reduce processing time for Mobility Plus bookings, resulting in an annual efficiency of \$120,000 and increase of 24% of service hour utilization.
- ❖ Interactive Voice Response System allowing Mobility Plus customers to confirm, cancel and book trips over the telephone 24 hours, 7 days a week.

**SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT
THE PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING MUNICIPAL
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

This program coordinates the implementation of a comprehensive cycling network across York Region in partnership with local municipalities by providing 50% of capital costs for pedestrian and cycling projects. York Region distributed approximately \$1 Million in 2007 and 2008 to 6 projects across York Region. In 2009, missing links were completed between the Tom Taylor and Nokiidaa Trails creating an uninterrupted off-street path between the south edge of Aurora to Holland Landing.

Healthy and Safe Communities

- ❖ Increased funding for the Community Development and Investment Fund to \$5 million annually expanding direct services for vulnerable residents and increasing the number of beneficiaries from 38,000 to more than 70,000 people in 2009.
- ❖ The 2009 York Region Thanksgiving Food Drive collected over 50,000 pounds of food in partnership with the local food banks and school boards.
- ❖ Provided a "Back Pack Allowance" and "Winter Coat Allowance" for children in Ontario Works and an enhanced "Clothing Allowance" for vulnerable domiciliary hostel residents.
- ❖ Introduced additional municipal funding to support the sustainability of

Did you know...

During the economic downturn in 2009, York Region provided additional allowances for children in Ontario Works (back pack and winter clothing allowance) and vulnerable domiciliary hostel residents (clothing allowance).

York Region's Emergency Shelter System.

- ❖ Implemented the Ontario Child Benefit, a provincial initiative designed to help low income families with dependent children under 18, including households transitioning off of Ontario Works Social Assistance.
- ❖ Expanded The Homelessness Prevention Program to the southern part of the Region.
- ❖ EMS Launch e-PCR System (electronic-Patient Care Record).
- ❖ Contributed \$100,000 towards a new outdoor pavilion as a safe sheltered area for Newmarket Health Centre residents.
- ❖ New Ontario Works Customer Satisfaction Survey for Social Assistance users.
- ❖ On-board Security Camera System on YRT/Viva/Mobility Plus buses.
- ❖ Improved traffic safety, accessibility and efficiency at 21 intersections.
- ❖ Implement Transit-Secure recommendations to improve safety and security on transit services and facilities.
- ❖ York Regional Police Project Lifesaver features a mobile transmitter device to assist in locating missing and vulnerable people quickly.
- ❖ York Regional Police increased the number of trained Breath Technicians to 32 and Drug Recognition Experts to 11 to enhance our capacity to identify impaired drivers.
- ❖ Safe Roads Call Program resulted in 1,983 calls from citizens that led to 300 arrests for impaired driving in 2009.
- ❖ York Regional Police work with municipal and community partners to raise awareness about vandalism and graffiti.
- ❖ Enhanced Community Foot Patrol created to provide greater police visibility and increased access to frontline officers and to build bridges with local youth.
- ❖ York Regional Police Senior Liaison Officers dedicated to educating and supporting the seniors' community and review suspected cases of elder abuse.
- ❖ York Regional Police School Resource Officers educated and mentored youth at 59 high schools during 4,771 school visits. These 18 officers also investigated any criminal offenses that occurred on or in relation to school property.
- ❖ The York Regional Police Hate Crime Team has increased to 16 members including a Hate Crime Extremism Investigative Team with expertise in Hate Crime investigations assigned to every District.
- ❖ York Regional Police Officers attend a Hate Crime workshop and receive sensitivity training as part of the annual re-qualification training course.
- ❖ There were a total of 5,748 school visits (elementary and high school) by York Regional Police Officers in 2007, 6,672 in 2008 and 5,995 in 2009.
- ❖ Tri-Regional Blind Low Vision Service added to 1-888-703-KIDS line service.
- ❖ Owned and maintained approximately 5,100 streetlights, and

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT YORK REGIONAL POLICE MULTILINGUAL ON-LINE REPORTING

York Regional Police online reporting feature has been enhanced to include multiple languages (English, Russian, Farsi and Chinese). Online reporting allows you to file a police report for damage to vehicle, theft (under \$10,000), identity theft, lost property, theft from vehicle and mischief/damage to property. In 2009, there were over 7,000 reports submitted online.



Did you know...

Since 2003, York Region has implemented over 500 accessibility planning initiatives by addressing barriers to accessibility in our programs, services and facilities.

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT YORK REGION H1N1 INFLUENZA RESPONSE

- York Region Public Health hosted 5 mass influenza A (pH1N1) immunization clinics.
- York Region physicians, community health centres, pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care homes, and workplaces also acted as vaccine delivery agents.
- 199,805 vaccine doses were administered in York Region between October 28, 2009 and December 13, 2009.
 - 106,161 vaccine doses were administered by York Region Public Health immunization clinics.
 - 93,644 vaccine doses administered by York Region vaccine delivery agents (i.e., physicians, hospitals).
- An estimated 20% of residents were administered vaccine doses, allowing York Region Public Health to lessen the impact of this novel influenza outbreak and continue to support strong healthy communities in York Region.

maintained approximately 500 more for other jurisdictions including MTO and 407 ETR along the Regional road network.

Public Health

- ❖ Evaluated five new parenting workshops reaching 335 families. Improved outreach to York Region families through specialized parenting workshops in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Farsi and to the Ahmadiya Muslim community.
- ❖ Initiated the syndromic surveillance program for early detection of infectious disease outbreaks by all hospitals and select physician offices.
- ❖ Food for Learning Community Partnership initiated 32 new programs to provide healthy breakfast and snacks for York Region students.
- ❖ West Nile virus exposure reduced by treating 82,897 catch basins across York Region in 2009.
- ❖ Expanded Psychogeriatric Outreach Program to older adults with mental issues.
- ❖ The Provincial Human Papillomavirus (HPV) school-based immunization program for Grade 8 girls began in 2008.

Moving Forward into 2010

Key Objectives

- Long-term housing mix target of 53% low density and 47% multiples Region-wide by 2031.
- Minimum 25% new affordable housing units Region-wide.
- The York Region Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan 5-year targets include: 260 km of bike lanes/paved shoulders, 34 km of multi-use trails, 85 km of signed bike routes and 45 km of sidewalks.

- ❖ Initiate York Region Archaeological Management Plan.
- ❖ Develop map of complete network of existing cycling facilities (bike lanes, routes, and trails) in York Region with educational and promotional information.
- ❖ Bicycle lanes will be implemented in selected areas on Highway 7 from Highway 50 to Don Cousens Parkway.
- ❖ Install bike racks on all YRT buses and expand to Viva buses.
- ❖ Complete the design of coordinated street furniture which includes waste/recycling receptacles, bike racks, and bus shelters.
- ❖ Conduct Region-wide Housing Requirements Study.
- ❖ Update York Region's Affordable Housing Strategy.
- ❖ Finalize "Evergreen" Community and Health Services Multi-Year Plan.
- ❖ Advocate for a mandatory food handler certification program for all food premises.
- ❖ Deliver the dental Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) expansion and Low Income Dental program.
- ❖ Begin Phase 1 of Food Safety at Home Strategy.
- ❖ York Regional Police goals include increasing visibility in neighbourhoods, meeting the needs of the youth population, maintaining effective large-scale emergency response capabilities and ensuring inclusive and equitable delivery of police services.

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN 2009

This plan, "Moving on Sustainability" addresses future transportation needs in a sustainable manner. The plan is based on eleven sustainability principles and emphasizes walking, cycling and transit. Key Improvements include:

- bus rapid transit and light rail transit;
- fare integration for passengers crossing regional boundaries
- HOV/transit lanes for widenings to six lanes.
- Regional Parking Authority in coordination with local municipalities.
- Plan to focus development on the street and place parking behind buildings.
- Public Awareness Campaigns to market sustainable transportation initiatives.

- ❖ There will be 31 new Police Officers hired in 2010, all of whom will be deployed to Front Line Patrol in York Region communities.
- ❖ The Integrated Domestic Violence Unit (IDVU) will be enhanced to centrally locate domestic violence. Investigators partner with other investigative units and the community, and engage in community outreach and education.
- ❖ York Regional Police completion of Investigative and Support Services Facility will include a collision reporting centre and customer service desk.
- ❖ Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan.



Did you know...

Approximately, 4,227 units are proposed and 532 units are being constructed under the *Sustainable Development Through LEED™* program.



Theme Area 3

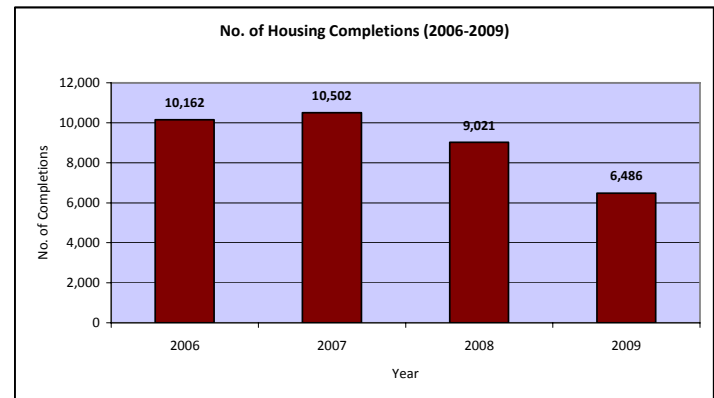
Economic Vitality

Sustainability will help make York Region more competitive. This approach can result in efficiencies and savings, create attractive, balanced communities, and help attract a talented labour force and leading edge companies. The Region can provide a climate for the growth of innovative and competitive companies that can contribute towards a resilient, diverse and prosperous economy. In short, sustainability makes good business sense.

Sustainability Indicators

Population and the Economy

- York Region's total population was estimated to be 1,032,650 on December 31, 2009, an increase of approximately 20,650 people from December 2008.
- Approximately 1,000 jobs were created between 2008-2009, compared to 14,000 jobs between 2007-2008 (mid-year figures).
- As of 2009, there were 43 private businesses in York Region with 500 employees or more.
- At the end of 2009, the unemployment rate was 7.7%, an increase of 2.6% from 2007.
- Ontario Works participants who found paid employment: 2009 – 1,200, 2008 - 1,000 and 2007 - 1,300.
- Housing completions decreased to 6,486 in 2009.
- Total construction value in 2009 was an estimated \$2.5 billion, a decrease from 2008.
- Two million more people visited York Region in 2007 than the previous year for a total of 29 million people. In the same year, York Region tourists spent an additional \$504 million than in 2006 for a total of \$334.8 million.



SOURCE: York Region Planning Department, Year end figures.

Moving York

- Modal Split: 79% automobile, 10% public transit, 6% walking and cycling and 5% school bus (TTS, 2006).
- 73% of residents think the pace of improving Viva Rapid Transit should be increased.
- Combined ridership on YRT and Viva increased from 17.1 million in 2006 to 18.3 million in 2009.
- Transit revenue vehicle hours were 968,377 in 2009.
- As of 2006, 55.3% of residents worked in York Region, an increase of 1.5% from 2001 (Census of Canada, update in 2011).
- 20% of residents took 10-19 minutes to travel to work, followed by 19% who took 30-39 minutes and 8% who took over an hour.
- Average trip to work (ie one-way) is 16.0 linear kilometres (TTS, 2006).
- There are 124 YRT and Viva Routes including school special routes.
- 81% of the urban area in York Region is within 500 metres of a transit route (includes the unbuilt area).

Council Initiatives

- Toronto-York Region Spadina Subway Extension to Vaughan Metropolitan Centre.
- Yonge Subway Extension to Richmond Hill Centre.
- New Regional Official Plan protects employment lands for employment purposes.
- 2009 Tourism Marketing and Industry Relations Program.
- *A Guide to Greening Your Business* to adopt environmentally sustainable business practices.
- Approved 2009 Capital Budget of \$104 billion commits \$461.2 million to transit compared to \$110.9 million for roads.
- York Region Economic Development Marketing Initiative.
- In each of the years 2007 to 2010, the equivalent of a 1% increase to the tax levy has been added to provide funding for the future replacement of physical infrastructure, thus ensuring that funds will be available as assets require rehabilitation or replacement.

Did you know...

Council adopted a new six-lane design standard to include transit/HOV and on-street bicycle lanes. The first road segment designed to this standard was completed on Dufferin Street between Steeles Avenue and Highway 407.

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT YORK REGION GLEANING PROGRAM

The York Region Gleaning Program enables residents living on a limited income to pick or “glean” their own fresh produce from York Region farmers who donate fruits and vegetables at no cost. In 2008, there were seven gleaning trips serving 361 participants with a total retail value of produce gleaned of \$13,805. In 2009, the number of trips more than doubled to 16.

Successes and Innovations

- ❖ 25-year Fiscal Impact Study underway to assess the cost of growth and investments in infrastructure.
- ❖ Economic Analysis of Human Service Costs: 2006–2031 report is underway.
- ❖ Maintained asset replacement fund.
- ❖ Discover York Region Guide: 2007, 2008 and 2009.
- ❖ York Region Farm Fresh: “Just Picked” Map and Guide to Fresh Produce.
- ❖ International Investment Attraction program launched to attract environmentally sustainable companies to York Region. Three cities were visited in 2009.

Moving York and Reducing Trips

- ❖ Viva Rapid Transit has 101 vehicles, 118 stations and 132 off-board fare vending machines.
- ❖ The percentage of trips made by residents during the morning period by GO Train or conventional transit in the Regional Centres is 16% and 11% in the Regional Corridors.
- ❖ Real-time bus arrival information at all stations.
- ❖ Traffic signal priority system processed 5,000 requests resulting in significant time savings to passengers and reduction on idling
- ❖ Added five new bus stations to the Viva network to provide service to the Cornell Community in Markham.
- ❖ There are 3 GO train services, 14 GO train stations, and 10 GO bus shuttles in York Region.
- ❖ Pedestrian bridge and elevators at Richmond Hill Centre Terminal.
- ❖ Traveller Information Interactive voice response system resulted in 10 to 15% less calls to call centre and annual savings of \$75,000.
- ❖ Ridequest Call automated transit information 24 hour telephone line served 566,361 calls in 2008, and 177,318 in 2007 (over six month periods).
- ❖ Launched YRT/Viva Ridequest Click on-line trip planner.
- ❖ Recycling or thin resurfacing technique was used for approximately 60% of the road resurfacing projects, reducing of greenhouse gas emission and fuel consumption.

Did you know...

The highest transit passenger loading within the YRT/Viva system occurs at Richmond Hill Terminal with 14,278 average weekday boardings, followed by Finch GO Bus Terminal with 10,444 average weekday boardings.

- ❖ New Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Strategic Plan to optimize use of the existing transportation infrastructure over the next 10 years.
- ❖ Completed nine capital expansion projects including 36 new lane-kilometres and one highway crossing helping to reduce congestion.
- ❖ Developed Municipal Streetscaping Partnership Program.
- ❖ Three Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) continue to operate in York Region.
- ❖ Partnered with Metrus Development to provide a commuter parking lot and GO station shuttle service as part of a new residential development in Georgina.
- ❖ Employee commuter behaviour assessments and surveys underway.
- ❖ Emergency Ride Home programs for employees using alternative transportation.



Economic Development

- ❖ Consumer Lifestyle Magazine “In Your Backyard” Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter editions.
- ❖ Formed York Region Small Business Green Connections Mentoring Group.
- ❖ Developed and delivered Sustainable “Green Business” Workshop series, 3 are completed.
- ❖ Launch of Green Economy Jobs Project focusing on job profiling and training requirements.
- ❖ Comprehensive Guide for York Region employers with education and training resources.
- ❖ Initiated Aging Workforce Study.
- ❖ Implemented business information centres at all northern six municipalities in 2008.
- ❖ Industry Education Partnership with York University and Seneca College.

Moving Forward into 2010

Key Objectives

- 1.5 million residents, 510,000 households and 780,000 jobs by 2031.
- Overall transit modal split of 30% in the peak periods in the urban area and 50% in the Regional Centres and Corridors by 2031.
- In the urban area, 90% of residents live within 500 metres of a transit stop, and 50% live within 200 metres of a transit stop.

- ❖ Purchase 15 new Viva rapid transit vehicles to add to the existing fleet of 101 Viva buses and 25 YRT buses.
- ❖ New Transit Operations & Maintenance Facility (8300 Keele) to open designed to LEED® silver certification.
- ❖ Rapid transit stations as connection hubs to YRT, TTC and GO systems, and mix of uses to live work and play.
- ❖ Launch Traveller Information Systems to manage congestion, increase transit market share and decrease emissions.
- ❖ Begin Personal Travel Planning pilot project involving 400 households in Markham and Vaughan to encourage alternative modes of transportation.
- ❖ Launch RideNow real-time bus updates technology to tell customers when the next five times their bus is due either on-line, email or phone.
- ❖ Develop new Marketing plan aimed at attracting non Transit users.

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT vivaNEXT INITIATIVE

The vivaNext plan includes a network of several rapidways across York Region: the Highway 7 rapidway from Highway 50 in Vaughan to Reesor Road in Markham; the Yonge Street rapidway from the Richmond Hill Centre Terminal in Richmond Hill to Green Lane in East Gwillimbury; and, the Davis Drive rapidway from Yonge Street to the Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket. Eventually, light rail vehicles will operate on dedicated centre lanes on roadways estimated to be 40% faster.

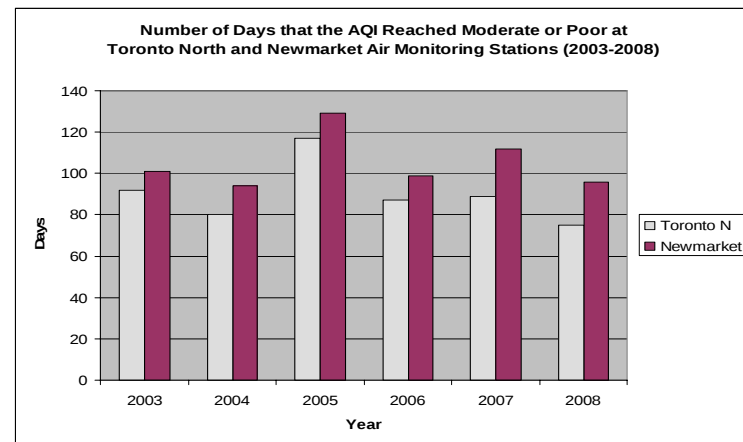
Theme Area 4

Sustainable Natural Environment

York Region's natural environment is one of our greatest assets. The Greenbelt includes 69% of the Region's land area. It contributes to the quality of life of our residents and helps attract new business to the Region. Our goal is to not only protect, but to enhance and strengthen our natural heritage.

Sustainability Indicators

- Scored 99.8 per cent on Ministry of the Environment inspections for water facilities in 2009 and increase of 0.5% from the previous year.
- York Region's Waste Diversion Ontario diversion rate increased to an estimated 57% in 2009, an increase of 17% since 2006.
- Water for Tomorrow Program conserves approximately 21.5 million litres of water per day, enough to service 90,000 people.
- Between 2003 and 2008, the Air Quality Index reached the moderate or poor category an average of 105 days annually as measured at the Newmarket Air Monitoring Stations and 90 days annually as measured at the Toronto North Air Monitoring Station (to be confirmed).
- In 2008, ground level ozone, as measured at the Newmarket and Toronto North Air Monitoring Stations, exceeded the Ministry of Environment 1-hour ozone standard on 4 days and 0 days respectively, and the 8-hour Canada Wide Standard on 8 days and 4 days respectively (to be confirmed).
- The Region's forest cover was 22.5%.
- In 2009, 73 ha of greenlands were secured by the Region or our partners with Regional support, with an estimated property value of \$3.0 million.
- Approximate trees and shrubs planted with the support of Regional Greening dollars: 80,000 in 2009, 100,000 in 2008 and 85,000 in 2007.



SOURCE: Ministry of the Environment

Council Initiatives

- Water and Wastewater Master Plan emphasizing sustainable servicing.
- Water Efficiency Master Plan.
- York Region Natural Heritage Discussion Paper and Strategic Directions.
- Sustainable Homes Incentive Program (SHIP) for Developers building low-density residential.

Successes and Innovations

- ❖ Sustainable Building standards incorporated into Regional Official Plan to ensure higher level of energy and water efficiency in new buildings.
- ❖ Completion of Land Evaluation and Agricultural Area Review (LEAR) to map and protect the Region's agricultural and rural lands.
- ❖ Significant Woodlands Study incorporated into new Regional Official Plan.
- ❖ Forest cover target of 25% becomes policy with the adoption of the new Regional Official Plan.
- ❖ Annual audit and confirmation of Forest Stewardship Council certification of the York Regional Forest.
- ❖ Implementation of Lake Simcoe Protection Plan underway.
- ❖ Invested \$23 million over 10 years to reduce Inflow and Infiltration in sewer infrastructure.
- ❖ Between 2006 and 2007 the amount of source separated organics diverted by residents more than doubled with the Region wide green bin program, resulting in 60,000 tonnes of diverted organic waste. In 2009, the program diverted 89,000 tonnes of organic waste.
- ❖ Completion of the Stouffville Zone 2 Pumping Station designed LEED® standard to be the Region's second "net-zero" building. One-third of the building's energy use will derive from solar photovoltaic panels with the remaining energy supplied by Bullfrog Power.
- ❖ Implemented the Air Quality Health Index Pilot to help residents to protect themselves from the effects of air pollution.
- ❖ Viva bus bio-diesel fuel pilot program ongoing.
- ❖ Implementation of solar powered lighting at YRT/Viva bus shelters locations.
- ❖ Solar powered bollards installed at Bernard transit terminal.
- ❖ YRT tests emissions on all buses every two years to ensure regulatory conformity.

Greening Strategy

- ❖ New three-year (2010-2012) land securement partnership agreements approved with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust.
- ❖ Regional Acquisition of Walter's Property of 28 ha.
- ❖ Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority (TRCA) acquisition of Klees property of 16 ha with 1/3 funding from York Greening.
- ❖ NCC Acquisition of the 29 hectare Klady Property under the York/NCC partnership agreement.
- ❖ Regional Street Tree Program: enhanced maintenance program included watering 3,032 recently planted trees in 2009.
- ❖ The York Natural Planting Partnership for the reforestation of private property.
- ❖ The Adopt a Stream Crossing Program to restore stream side vegetation within the Regional Road Right-of-way.
- ❖ Rouge Park Partnership Reforestation Tree Planting initiative with Trees Ontario and TRCA.

Did you know...

Over the past 10 years, Water for Tomorrow has saved 47 billion litres of water.

Since 2001, over 800,000 trees and shrubs have been planted with the support of Regional Greening Strategy dollars.

Since 2001, approximately 872 ha of greenlands have been secured by the Region or our partners with Regional support, with a total property value of \$50 million .

York Region stopped shipping waste to Michigan in 2008.

100% of the YRT and Viva fleet operate on biodiesel fuel.

Between 2005-2008, Smart Commute removed the equivalent of 10,000 cars saving more than 17 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, and prevented more than 1,000 tonnes of air pollution.

Did you know...

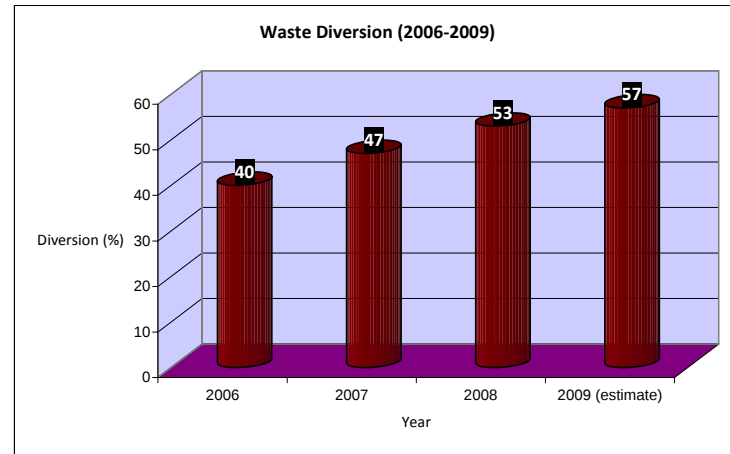
Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) is a major contributor to smog and can cause breathing problems, trigger asthma, reduce lung function and cause cardiovascular diseases. Major sources of PM 2.5 are the residential and transportation sectors.



- ❖ Initiated Urban Forest field inventories and assessments in partnership with the TRCA and the Cities of Vaughan and Markham to guide management decisions.

Servicing our Population

- ❖ 120 flow meters and 26 rain gauges have been installed to locate and quantify the amount of inflow and infiltration as part of the Local Municipal Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Program.
- ❖ Distributed 3,792 rain barrels to residents as part of York Region's first rain barrel subsidy program in 2008.
- ❖ Distributed more than 3,000 water efficient WaterSense® toilets to residents through rebate program, the first of its kind in Canada.
- ❖ Initiated "Make the Drop" public space recycling/composting pilot program.
- ❖ Introduction of recycling containers at 415 transit facilities with over 18 tonnes of recyclable collected per year.
- ❖ Increase of 27% usage of Household Hazardous Waste Depot through promotion and educational efforts on diversion.
- ❖ Began shipping waste to the Dongara Pelletization Plant in the City of Vaughan to convert waste into fuel pellets in 2008.
- ❖ Launch of Used Tire Program and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Program.



SOURCE: York Region Environmental Services

1. 2009 is an estimate pending official Ontario Waste Diversion verification.

Moving Forward in 2010

Key Objectives

- Surpass waste management regulatory requirements by achieving 80% diversion from landfill by 2010 and over 90% by 2016, and eliminating the disposal of unprocessed waste in landfill by 2020.
- Forest cover target of 25% by 2031.

- ❖ Plan a second Community Environmental Centre in Richmond Hill.
- ❖ Update York Region's Towards Great Regional Streets Study.
- ❖ Install 30 more solar power YRT/Viva bus shelters.
- ❖ Undertake additional Urban Forest Assessments with local municipalities.
- ❖ Update Water and Wastewater unit rates for residential and ICI to reflect water consumption.
- ❖ Complete the York Region Greenlands Trail Strategy.
- ❖ Convert to Green Power for all Viva Stations and terminals owned by YRT/Viva.
- ❖ Develop new Presto Smart Card System to minimize the use of paper transfers and tickets.

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT McCLeary Court Community Environmental Centre (CEC)

The new CEC opened in 2009, operating in partnership with charitable agencies Goodwill Industries and Habitat for Humanity York Region. The first of its kind in York Region, the CEC provides residents with a convenient one-stop location for reusing, recycling and disposal. All reusable and recyclable materials such as furniture, building supplies, and bulky recyclables such as wood, drywall and scrap metal can be dropped off at the CEC free-of-charge. In 2009, the McCLeary Court CEC collected 72 tonnes of reusable goods in partnership with Goodwill and Habitat for Humanity. The building was awarded LEED™ gold certification (2010) and features a ground-source heat pump.

Theme Area 5

Education, Engagement and Partnerships

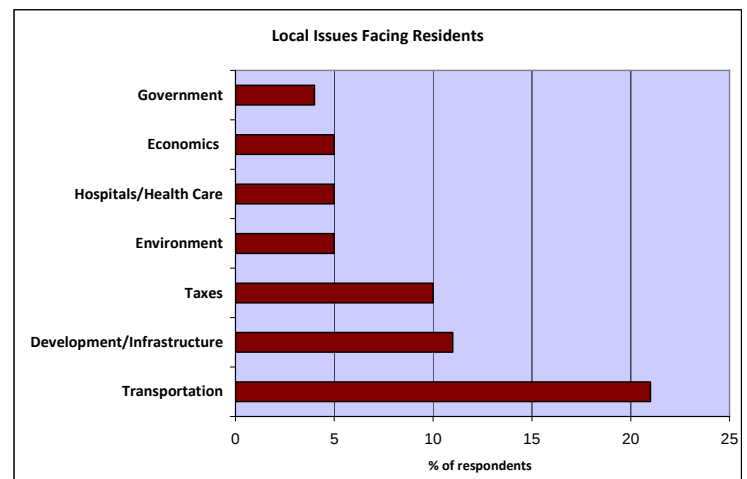
Many of the elements of sustainability lie outside traditional municipal responsibilities. The strength and resiliency of a community is very much linked to the inclusion and engagement of individuals, community and organizations in community life.

Sustainability Indicators

- 91% of York Region residents responded that they feel the quality of life in York Region is good or excellent, an increase of 3% from 2007.
- Satisfaction with Regional government maintained a 74% approval rating for 2009 and 2008.
- Transportation (21%), development and infrastructure (11%) and taxes (10%) are the top three most important local problems facing York Region residents.
- The Region has high effectiveness ratings for the provision of safe neighbourhoods (88%) and the availability of human services (85%).
- The Region has a lower effectiveness rating for easy and affordable public transit (64%) and inviting local input (61%).
- York Region residents with a University education (26.4%), with a highschool diploma (25.6%) and with no certificate or diploma (19.0%) (Census of Canada 2006, update in 2011).

Council Initiatives

- An estimated 166 people attended the Regional Official Plan Public Meetings in 2009. Since 2007, over 600 people participated in York Region's Planning for Tomorrow Public Meetings.
- Planning for Tomorrow Public meetings to present 2031 growth management scenarios to consult on a preferred growth option for York Region.
- Public consultations and stakeholder meetings for the Water and Wastewater Master Plan and the Transportation Master Plan updates.
- Public consultation and stakeholder meetings on the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan.
- Developed and launched myRide Travel Training Program.
- York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings to advise Council on annual accessibility plans and monitor compliance with accessibility legislation.
- Approval to set up Human Services Planning Board and Community Partnership Council that will develop an immigrant settlement strategy.



SOURCE: York Region Planning Department, 2009

Successes and Innovations

- ❖ York Region Greening Strategy educational initiatives such as Forest Events and Nature's Classroom programs had more than 2,000 participants in 2009.
- ❖ Over 5,700 elementary and highschool students participated in the Children's Water Festival in 2009.
- ❖ Held a Centres and Corridors Forum with industry experts to share ideas on transit-oriented development and intensification.
- ❖ In 2008, 9 out of 10 Viva riders and 7 out of 10 YRT riders rated service good, very good or excellent.
- ❖ Youth On-Board (YO! Program) led by student volunteers in 46 participating schools.
- ❖ YRT student ambassadors held information sessions regularly at schools.
- ❖ GTA transit agencies partnership with Google to provide a high quality web-based trip planner available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Police and Safety

- ❖ Auxiliary Police Volunteer hours increased approximately 43% from 16,884 hours in 2007 to 24,203 hours in 2009.
- ❖ Youth Opportunities Camp in 2008 for 50 young people at the Community Safety Village.
- ❖ Youth Gang Forum during Crime Prevention Week.
- ❖ Diversity and Cultural Resources Bureau: hosted 43 events, attended 451 events and delivered 65 community presentations.
- ❖ York Regional Police partnered with more than 50 local organizations serving religious and ethnic communities to deliver recruiting messages.

Community Services and Health

- ❖ The Welcome Centre continues to provide one-stop settlement services for York Region immigrants.
- ❖ Launch of York Region Immigrant Portal on-line gateway to support and services.
- ❖ Training for 280 front line community workers to provide services and resources for substance abuse prevention.
- ❖ Held Osteoporosis Forum for 244 members of the Chinese community.
- ❖ Approximately 2,000 students participated in the 20/20 The Way to Clean Air Ecoschools Program.
- ❖ Promoted the Air Quality Health Index resources at physicians' offices, child care centres, community events, local municipalities and workplaces.
- ❖ Going Somewhere...Go Active education and awareness campaign.
- ❖ Community-wide Shade Education and Awareness Campaign partnership with the Province and York Region.
- ❖ Public Health and Community Partners delivered the Power Stream Energy and Education Pilot Project to 1,100 Grade 5 students.
- ❖ "Party in the Right Spirit" engaged 23 high schools on substance abuse and prevention and other harm reduction issues related to safer celebrations.

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT YORK WORKS: SUSTAINABLE WORKS! PROGRAM

York Works is a newsletter published twice annually by Transportation Services and Environmental Services departments to help residents understand their impacts on the environment. April and May are Sustainable Works! months, characterized by a number of public events to celebrate accomplishments in water conservation, forest expansion, advances in waste management and making transit a sustainable option for residents.

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT myRIDE TRAVEL TRAINING PROGRAM

The myRide travel training program enables people of all ages with varying disabilities and skill levels, senior and new immigrants to familiarize themselves with using transit and rapid transit. YRT provides training manuals, handbooks and other supporting materials to trainers conducting sessions. Trainers later verify that trainees can safely use transit by themselves. Approximately, 278 individuals participated in the one-year pilot program in 2008 and 70% are now using the YRT/Viva system with greater independence.

Did you know...

York Regional Police recruiting efforts have increased Officer Diversity levels to 15.5% up from 6% in 2002 .

- ❖ Promoted Municipal alcohol guide: A practical resource for successfully managing drinking in recreational settings.
- ❖ Healthy Beginnings Centre in Vaughan for parents and caregivers.
- ❖ Completed the 2009 Early Development Instrument (EDI) analysis to support community planning and dialogue related to child care and school readiness.
- ❖ Compost Awareness Week consisting of free seminars and purchase of discount backyard composters.
- ❖ Coordinated with the York Catholic District School Board to include transit-oriented development and city-building principles in teachers' professional development program.
- ❖ York Region Active and Safe Routes to School committee consultation with schools and local municipalities.
- ❖ Collaborated with Local Municipalities on intensification in the Regional Centres and Corridors by providing 3D visual models, training and advice.
- ❖ Developed YorkInfo Partners Website to provide one-window services and reduce paper and courier services.

Moving Forward into 2010

- ❖ Continue public consultation as implementation of the Water and Wastewater, and Transportation Master Plans progresses.
- ❖ Establish the Human Services Planning Board of York Region.
- ❖ Market the York Region Immigration Portal.
- ❖ Develop a web-based disclosure system that posts food premise inspection reports on the Regional website for all inspected food premises
- ❖ Public education and awareness campaign for cycling in York Region including CAN-BIKE safety training courses. Students in Newmarket, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, and Markham to become CAN-BIKE Junior Cycling Instructors.
- ❖ Promote the 20/20 The Way to Clean Air Ecoschools program in schools and workplaces across the Region.
- ❖ Liaise with local municipalities and schools to promote anti-idling and increase awareness of the link between vehicle fuel use, air quality, climate change and public health.
- ❖ Increase public awareness of the health impacts and response measures to reduce impacts of extreme weather events.
- ❖ Partnership with Habitat for Humanity York Region to deliver the Affordable Homeownership Program under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program.
- ❖ Increase awareness of children's environmental health risk factors and reduce childhood exposure to environmental toxins.

Did you know...

A new TTC/Viva fare integration program allows riders with TTC Metropasses or transfers to ride Viva Orange within the City of Toronto.



Theme Area 6

Sustainability Implementation and Monitoring

The key to a successful sustainability strategy is its implementation, continuous monitoring and improvement. A major component of this success is on-going communication and dialogue. It is important to identify and address the practical requirements for implementing the Regional Sustainability Strategy.

Successes and Innovations

- ❖ Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report 2009.
- ❖ York Region Annual Reports: 2007, 2008 and 2009 in progress.
- ❖ York Region Transportation Fact Book 2009.
- ❖ Public Health released its first Balanced Scorecard in 2007.
- ❖ Annual Corporate Energy Reports: 2007, 2008 and 2009 in progress.
- ❖ Annual York Region Greening Strategy Achievements Report: 2007, 2008 and 2009.
- ❖ Transportation Services Council Accomplishments: 2006-2009.
- ❖ Annual Economic Development Review and Employment and Industry Reports: 2007, 2008 and 2009 in progress
- ❖ Three annual accessibility plans – 2007, 2008, and 2009.
- ❖ 16,000 energy bills were inputted into the Energy and Environmental Management System (EEMS) that tracks the energy consumed and emissions generated by Regional operations.

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT YORK REGION ACCESSIBLE CUSTOMER SERVICE POLICY

Council endorsed the York Region Accessible Customer Service Policy in implementing the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA). The policy directs the following:

- Use of assistive devices that enable a person to access Regional goods and services.
- Use of service animals and support persons in Regional facilities and programs.
- Procedure to notify the public of temporary disruptions to goods or services.
- Process for receiving and responding to feedback on how services are provided to people with disabilities.
- Customer service training to staff, volunteers and agents who provide direct service to the public on the Region's behalf about the provision of goods and services to people with disabilities.

Moving Forward into 2010

- ❖ Release a York Region State of the Environment Executive Summary.
- ❖ Upgrade EEMS to further guarantee maximum value for each of its municipal licensees and to assist with compliance with the Provincial Green Energy and Economy Act
- ❖ Continue to produce various corporate and community-wide progress reports.
- ❖ Public Health developing surveillance plans in order to meet the surveillance and reporting requirements as identified in the Ontario Public Health Standards.
- ❖ Continue public health performance measurement and public reporting with the release of a 2008-2009 balanced scorecard.

Sustainability Strategy Priority Initiatives

The 2007 Sustainability Strategy identified Priority Initiatives to be implemented as a sign of York Region's commitment to sustainability and to generate momentum. The following is an update on these "Priority Initiatives":

1. Complete Sustainable Infrastructure Master Plan Updates that are integrated with the Natural Heritage System and the Growth Management Strategy

- ❖ Initiated coordinated update to Infrastructure Master Plans, Natural Heritage System and Growth Management Strategy.
- ❖ Ongoing public information and consultation program.
- ❖ Council adoption of Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan.
- ❖ Results incorporated into the Council Adopted New Regional Official Plan.

Progress 

2. Provide incentives for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) development in the Regional Centres and Corridors

- ❖ Implemented Sustainability Development Through LEED® incentive Program for mid- to high-density development built to LEED® standard in the Regional Centres and Corridors.
- ❖ Implemented Sustainable Homes Incentive Program for low-density housing built to LEED® standard.

Progress 

3. Update Regional Natural Heritage System policies

- ❖ York Region Natural Heritage Discussion Paper and Strategic Directions.
- ❖ Results incorporated into Council adopted New Regional Official Plan.

Progress 

4. Initiate a corporate dialogue on sustainability leadership and building a corporate culture of sustainability

- ❖ Council adoption of Sustainability Strategy in 2007.
- ❖ Held a number of Lunch and Learn "Know York" sessions to staff.
- ❖ Sustainability Theme for various Leaders Sessions.
- ❖ Commitment to produce Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report on a regular basis.

Progress 

5. Establish a Sustainability Training Program for regional employees

- ❖ Completed pilot program with senior management in partnership with the Sustainable Enterprise Academy at the Schulich School and Business and The Natural Step.
- ❖ Roll out of training program to management delivered in-house.
- ❖ As of 2009, over 200 managers and supervisors were trained.
- ❖ Investigating methods to roll-out program to all staff.

Progress 

6. Require sustainability assessment for regional decisions, major staff reports and proposed sustainability strategy actions

- ❖ Forthcoming in 2010.

Progress 

7. Establish a York Region Sustainability Internal Steering Committee to assist in the implementation, monitoring, resourcing and improvement of the Sustainability Strategy

- ❖ Staff Committee established to assist with production of Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report 2009.

Progress



8. Develop an implementation plan for each action including specific steps, outcomes and responsibilities

- ❖ Completed status update of Sustainability Strategy actions including department lead, key accomplishments, critical dates and next steps.
- ❖ Progress made on 105 of the total 117 actions items in the Sustainability Strategy.

Progress



9. Integrate sustainability values into the business plans for each regional business unit

- ❖ Sustainability Report Section included in the 2010 Business Plan Guidelines and Toolkit.

Progress



10. Develop a mechanism to monitor greenhouse gas emissions corporate wide

- ❖ Developed standard emission factors.
- ❖ Completed gap analysis for EEMS with respect to ISO 14064 greenhouse gas reporting standard.
- ❖ Prepared the Region's first 3-year greenhouse gas report.
- ❖ Identified top 3 greenhouse gas contributors: (1) Transit fleet, (2) Water and Wastewater process electricity, (3) Buildings.
- ❖ Identified data requiring further development, e.g. fleet fuel tracking, Environmental Services fugitive process emissions, business air travel.
- ❖ Started benchmarking, reporting and targeting exercise for energy and greenhouse gases.

Progress



11. Develop a sustainable purchase of service protocol and a green procurement strategy

- ❖ Corporate discussions initiated.

Progress



12. Prepare a business case for a proposed Sustainability Office within York Region

- ❖ Completed business case.
- ❖ Added part-time staff toward Sustainability Strategy Initiative.

Progress



Awards and Accomplishments

2009

- Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Award – **2009 York Region Budget Presentation**
- Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police Victims Assistance Award – **York Regional Police Project Lifesaver**
- Recycling Council of Ontario Gold Awards - **2009 Recycle More Campaign, Recycle Better Campaign, and the McCleary Court Community Environment Centre**
- Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) Environment Award - **Implementation of the York Region Greening Strategy**
- American Public Transportation Association, AdWheel Award - **Promotional Campaign "Gas Relief Campaign" York Region Transit**

2008

- First Place and Gold Award, International Liveable Community Awards – **York Region Sustainability Strategy "Towards a Sustainable Region"**
- American Public Transit Association (APTA) – **Bus Safety Gold Award**
- Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) Excellence in Planning Award in the Communications/Public Education category – **Smart Commute Initiative**
- OPPI Healthy Communities Award – **Smart Commute Initiative**
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Sustainable Communities Award for Sustainable Transportation – **Smart Commute Initiative**
- Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) Award for Planning Excellence - **Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan**
- Recycling Council of Ontario Gold Award - **Reuse Event Participation for Waste Reduction Week**
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – CH2M Hill, Sustainable Community Award, Transportation Category – **Smart Commute Initiative**

2007

- Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Sustainable Urban Transportation Award - **Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan**
- The Kaiser Foundation Award - Joint York Region Police and Public Health **Methamphetamine Strategy**
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA) AdWheel Award for Excellence in Marketing and Communication and Tri-Committee IP Project of the Year – **Viva Rapid Transit System Information Technology**
- American Public Works Association and Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA) Project of the Year - **St John's Sideroad/McKenzie Wetland Improvement Project**
- Ontario Good Road Association (OGRA) Better Practices Competition - **St John's Sideroad/McKenzie Wetland Improvement Project**
- Canadian Projects Excellence Award in the Environmental Category - **St John's Sideroad/McKenzie Wetland Improvement Project**