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VISION 2026: SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS REPORT 2010

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated June 1, 2011 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 2010 (Attachment 1)*.
2. *Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report 2010 (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 2010*.

3. BACKGROUND

The 2010 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.

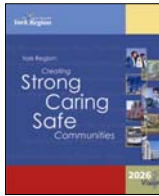
As Figure 1 demonstrates, these two strategic documents, along with the Regional Official Plan, represent the Corporation's 'foundation documents' that inform all Council decisions. The Region's Strategic Plan, departmental plans and budgets, and



Figure 1

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 Sustainability 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*”.

In the coming year, *Vision 2026* is being updated to *Vision 2051*; taking a 40 year outlook on York Region's future. The Regional Municipality of York was created by the Province of Ontario on January 1, 1971; making 2011 the 40th anniversary of York Region. As illustrated in Figure 1 below, *Vision 2051* will build on the successes of the past 40 years, and will look 40 years ahead to our future. The annual monitoring report will continue to be produced to address progress on Vision 2026 and Vision 2051 once adopted by Regional Council.



Vision 2051
2011 is the 40th Anniversary of York Region



The following section describes how the Vision 2026 Progress Report for 2010 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

In 2009 Vision progress report format was 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 2011” 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 2010 Progress Report.

The *Vision 2026* update process will be closely co-ordinated with the Strategic Plan process. The Strategic Plan will take the direction within *Vision 2051* and provide priorities for the next four years. The strategic plan will be updated every 4 years to coincide with the terms of Regional Council.

SUMMARY OF VISION 2026: SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS REPORT 2010

The Region made progress in 2010

The Region continues to make innovative and leading-edge decisions in each of the Sustainability Strategy theme areas. Key accomplishments for 2010 include:

Corporate Culture of Sustainability

- York Region was named one of the top employers in the GTA (2011)
- Thirteen new Regional buildings designed to LEED® standards, of which seven have been built.
- Over 250 senior managers and managers/supervisors have attended the Sustainability Training Program.
- Council endorsed 40-year time frame for the update to the Regional Municipality of York's future vision statement, Vision 2051.
- Installed the Region's first SolarWall® air heater at the Mount Albert Water Pollution Control Plant.
- Implemented fluorescent lamp recycling to divert glass, aluminum, phosphors and mercury from waste.
- The Region has developed and approved a sustainable procurement strategy for the purchase/supply of office furniture.
- Ministry of Environment approved York Region's energy from waste facility, the first in the province in 22 years.

Healthy Communities

- Provincial approval of the New Regional Official Plan that guides sustainable economic, environmental and community building decisions to manage growth.
- There are 179 bicycle racks at YRT/Viva transit stops and terminals.
- Housing York Inc. added a total of 123 units bringing the total number of units in the portfolio to over 2000.
- Invested \$9M in a new 140-unit affordable housing building in Richmond Hill.
- Released *Investing in Our Communities: A Multi-Year Plan for the Community and Health Services Department 2010-2015*.
- Commencement of York Region's Archaeological Management Plan.
- Approval of the Climate Change Adaption Strategy workplan.
- Approved the development of the first shelter/transitional housing facility for homeless, single women.

Economic Vitality

- York Region's total population was estimated to be 1,062,000 on 31 December 2010, an increase of approximately 29,000 residents
- Approximate 9,000 jobs were created in 2010, compared to 5,000 jobs in 2009, and 15,000 jobs in 2008.
- Combined ridership on YRT and Viva increased from 18.3 million in 2009 to 19.4 million in 2010.
- 83% of the urban area in York Region is within 500 metres of a transit route, compared to 81% in 2009.
- Construction of a rapid transit station and dedicated lane for Viva vehicles (rapidway) within a planned pedestrian mall located in Markham to open in spring 2011.

- Amended the 2007 Development Charge Bylaw to better reflect growth-related capital infrastructure costs.
- Aging Workforce Study.

Sustainable Natural Environment

- Water for Tomorrow Program conserves approximately 22.4 million litres of water per day, enough to service 88,000 people.
- In 2010, 63 ha of greenlands were secured by the Region or our partners with Regional support, with an estimated property value of \$2.6 million.
- There were 77,361 trees and shrubs planted in 2010 with the support of Regional Greening dollars.
- Due to Smart Commute initiatives, approximately 32,526 car trips were avoided and 466.48 tonnes of Green House Gas and polluting emissions were reduced.
- York Region diverted 63% of waste from landfill in 2010 which includes the waste diversion from the Dongara Pelletization facility.
- The first accessible trail (1 kilometre) officially opened on September 20, 2010 at the Hollidge Tract to provide universal access to the York Region Forest.
- Endorsed final Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Watershed Plans, which detail the sustainable management of both ground and surface waters in areas of new and intensifying growth.
- Constructed enhancements in Bob Hunter Memorial Park including paved multi-use trails, parking, a visitor kiosk and improvements to meadow, wetlands and riparian areas.
- Risk Assessment reports completed for source water protection regions that analyze threats to drinking water quality and quantity.

Education, Engagement and Partnerships

- York Region communities benefitted from approximately 2,107 volunteers representing a total of 32,666 volunteer hours.
- Human Services Planning Board of York Region appointed.
- Approved \$310,413 for the City of Vaughan's streetscaping improvements on Keele Street in conjunction with the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program.
- Community Collaborative Planning Guide: Weaving Collaboration into a Tapestry of Change, a step-by-step educational tool for communities to increase collaboration.
- Members appointed to Community Partnership Council.
- The York Regional Police Diversity & Cultural Resources Bureau hosted 18 events, attended 234 events and delivered 46 community presentations.

Other highlights of 2010 include:

- Construction of BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) rapidways along Highway 7 and Davis Drive have begun.

- Installation of a 4.8 kW solar photovoltaic system adjacent to the Stouffville Pumping Station is the Region's first microFIT Program contract. The system is designed to generate approximately 7,700 kWh per year.
- Keswick Water Pollution Control Plant is using innovative membrane technology to reduce phosphorous loading to Lake Simcoe, the first water pollution control plant of this scale in Ontario to use this state-of-art treatment technology.
- Installed the Region's first zebra crosswalk in Vaughan to increase visibility for pedestrians and drivers
- Installed the Region's first SolarWall® air heater at the Mount Albert Water Pollution Control Plant.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The *Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report 2010* was completed within the existing staff complement and budget for the Planning and Development Services Department with assistance from all Regional Departments and the Police. Print copies of the progress report will be printed on Forest Stewardship Council certified paper, with vegetable based inks, using a waterless printing process, at 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 2010 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 2010* covers the Region's two foundation documents, *Vision 2026* and the *York Region Sustainability Strategy*. The 2010 progress report is based on the six theme areas of the Sustainability Strategy and contains a section entitled "Moving Forward into 2011". The 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 2010. Significant progress was made in transit and trip reductions, human services, housing diversity, green development, and accessibility.

Additional highlights include the first accessible trail (1 kilometre) officially opened in the Hollidge Tract Regional Forest, construction of BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) rapidways along Highway 7 and Davis Drive, use of using innovative membrane technology to reduce phosphorous loading to Lake Simcoe at the Keswick Water Pollution Control Plant, and installation of the Region's first SolarWall® air heater at the Mount Albert Water Pollution Control Plant.

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 2010 (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 Laura Atkins-Paul, Senior Planner at 905-830-4444 ext 1534 or John Waller, Director of Long Range and Strategic Planning at 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

**Sustainability Progress Report
2010**

Draft for Planning and Economic
Development Committee
June 15, 2011

We'd Like to Hear from You...

Tell us what you think of the Vision 2026: Sustainability Report on Progress 2010 or simply let us know if you would like more information on anything in this report.

Mail or in Person:

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

www.york.ca



Mayor
Frank Scarpitti
Town of Markham



Regional Councillor
Jack Heath
Town of Markham



Regional Councillor
Jim Jones
Town of Markham



Regional Councillor
Gordon Landon
Town of Markham



Regional Councillor
Joe Li
Town of Markham



Mayor
David Barrow
Town of Richmond Hill



Mayor
Maurizio Bevilacqua
City of Vaughan



Chairman and CEO
Bill Fisch



Regional Councillor
Vito Spatafora
Town of Richmond Hill



Regional Councillor
Gino Rosati
City of Vaughan



Regional Councillor
Michael Di Biase
City of Vaughan



Regional Councillor
Deb Schulte
City of Vaughan



Mayor
Robert Grossi
Town of Georgina



Regional Councillor
Danny Wheeler
Town of Georgina



Mayor
Geoffrey Dawe
Town of Aurora



Mayor
Virginia Hackson
Town of East Gwillimbury



Mayor
Steve Pellegrini
Township of King



Mayor
Wayne Emmerson
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

A Message from York Regional Council

York Regional Council has a long-standing commitment to acting for the lasting good of our communities. *Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report 2010* describes the progress made by The Regional Municipality of York in implementing the Region's *Vision 2026* and *Sustainability Strategy*, two initiatives that map out our collective expectations for our communities.

Vision 2026 outlines what residents want to see happen over the next 25 years and the *Sustainability Strategy* provides a framework for making informed decisions that better integrate the economy, community and environment.

These strategic documents provide direction to the Region's departmental plans, budgets and individual performance plans, where strategic ideas are put into action. The *Sustainability Progress Report* tracks these actions and accomplishments and helps us evaluate our goals.

The new *Regional Official Plan* deserves mention as a key highlight among the many achievements of 2010 listed in this report. It will guide our decisions as we manage growth and ensure our efforts are truly sustainable.

We encourage you to read this report and provide your comments. This year, *Vision 2026* will be updated to *Vision 2051*, taking a 40-year outlook on York Region's future. We invite you to participate in the development of *Vision 2051* to ensure we continue building strong, caring and safe communities that achieve your vision of a sustainable York Region. Look for more information on the Region's website at www.york.ca



Regional Councillor
Brenda Hogg
Town of Richmond Hill



Mayor
Tony Van Bynen
Town of Newmarket



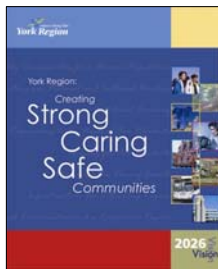
Regional Councillor
John Taylor
Town of Newmarket

Towards a Sustainable Region 2010: Are We Making Progress?

"We protect nature not for nature's sake but for our own sake because it's the infrastructure of our communities, and if we want to meet the obligations of our civilization and our culture which are to create communities for our children that provide them with the same opportunities for dignity and enrichment as the communities that our parents gave us, we've got to start by protecting that infrastructure; the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, the landscapes that enrich us."

-Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

The Regional Municipality of York was created by the Province of Ontario on January 1, 1971 making 2011 the 40th anniversary of York Region. Since that time, York Region's population grew from 169,000 to over 1 million people and from 47,800 jobs to 500,000 jobs. By 2031, these numbers are expected to increase to 1.5 million people and 780,000 jobs. 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. This sustainability progress report addresses both Vision 2026 and the York Region Sustainability Strategy.



Vision 2026 is York Region's strategic plan for the next quarter century and was created in partnership with our community. Vision 2026 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.

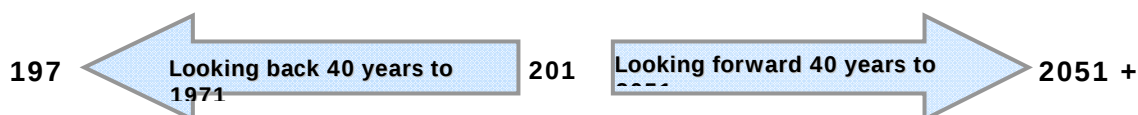
Vision 2026 was created to be a living document, continually being monitored for progress and updated as appropriate to respond to emerging issues and trends. Implementation and monitoring are important components of a plan's success. To ensure *Vision 2026* is successful, the Region must measure how goals are being achieved and monitor the appropriateness of these goals as the Region advances, or as circumstances and trends change.

In the coming year, *Vision 2026* is being updated to *Vision 2051*; taking a 40 year outlook on York Region's future. As illustrated in Figure 1 below, *Vision 2051* will build on the successes of the past 40 years and will look 40 years ahead to our future. The annual monitoring report will continue to be produced to address progress on Vision 2026 and Vision 2051 once adopted by Regional Council.



Vision 2051

2011 is the 40th Anniversary of York 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 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. *Vision 2051* will further integrate the theme and action areas of the Region’s Sustainability Strategy.

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



This 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 2010 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 assists the Region in optimizing productivity, resiliency, performance and overall employee well-being.

Sustainability Indicators

- York Region was named one of the top employers in the GTA (2011)
- York Region maintained is AAA credit rating for the 10th consecutive year
- Over 250 senior management, managers and supervisors have attended the York Region Sustainability Training program since it was established in 2007
- The Region Corporate Waste Diversion rate is expected to be 90% (pending 2011 audit)
- The total number sheets of paper printed in the York Region Print Shop in 2010 was 5.5 million, a decrease of 2.6% from 2008
- The total number sheets of paper used by Regional copiers and printers in 2010 was approximately 18 million, a decrease of 14.8% from 2008
- 76% of all competitive bids were released electronically, an increase of 90% from 2009. Over 2,500 vendor/courier vehicles were able to avoid driving representing reduced emissions

Council Initiatives

- ❖ Thirteen new Regional buildings designed to LEED® targeting certification under the LEED® green building rating system of which seven have been built.
- ❖ York Region participation in Earth Hour Challenge.
- ❖ Endorsed a 40-year time frame for the update to York Region's future vision statement, Vision 2051.
- ❖ Endorsed first annual Environmental Services Energy Management Program Update.

Summary of York Region LEED® Projects (as of Jan 2011)		
Project	Project Status	LEED Certification Level & Status
Scott Somerville Fire & EMS Station	Completed 2007	LEED Gold in 2007
Macleary Court Community Environmental Centre	Completed 2008	LEED Gold in 2010
Tom Taylor Place-Housing York Inc.	Completed 2009	LEED Gold in 2010
Stouffville Zone 2 Pumping Station	Completed 2009	Certified target
Leeder Place - Housing York Inc.	Completed 2009	LEED Silver in 2010
York Regional Police Central Services Building	Completed 2010	Silver target
York Region Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility	Completed 2010	Silver target
Kingview Addition-Housing York Inc.	Construction in progress for 2011 completion	Silver target
Bales EMS Ops Centre	Construction in progress for 2011 completion	Silver target
Mapleglen Residences-Housing York Inc.	Construction in progress for 2011 completion	Silver target
Leslie Street Pumping Station Upgrade	Preliminary design	Certified target
Central Services Centre	Preliminary design	Silver target
Richmond Hill Bus Maintenance Facility	Preliminary design	Silver target
Source: York Region Property Services Branch 2011		



Successes and Innovations

- ❖ Completed photovoltaic feasibility study at ten Regional locations.
- ❖ Explored feasibility of LEED® for Existing Buildings certification of the Administrative Centre.
- ❖ Completed lighting upgrades at seven Regional locations to gain greater energy efficiency.
- ❖ Region's first SolarWall® air heater installed at the Mount Albert Water Pollution Control Plant.

Sustainability Spotlight: York Regional Police

York Regional Police's Central Services Building opened in November 2010 and has been designed to achieve a LEED® silver rating. Some of the many design elements that have been incorporated into the building include:

- Efficiencies in energy and water consumption
- Use of recycled materials and sustainable products
- Daylight and occupancy lighting sensors
- Green/white roof, retains hot and cold
- Energy-efficient mechanical and electrical systems
- Individual waste containers with three streams of recycling
- Printers in common areas only
- Online employee training on sustainability
- Environmentally friendly heating and air-conditioning systems.



- ❖ Regional property energy upgrades of \$1.2 million in 2010 and energy savings of \$1.5 million annually.
- ❖ Energy and Environmental Management System (EEMS) licence municipal clients increased to seven.
- ❖ Implemented fluorescent lamp recycling to divert glass, aluminum, phosphors and mercury from waste.
- ❖ Expanded corporate waste recycling and organics program to four additional sites.
- ❖ Preventative maintenance work order system will save 10,000 sheets of paper annually.
- ❖ Real-time GPS service vehicle tracking results in more efficient dispatch and reduced vehicle mileage.
- ❖ Construction of a YRT Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility in Vaughan designed to LEED® Silver Certification.



Sustainability Spotlight: vivaNext Demolition Waste Diversion

Over 90% of the materials from demolished buildings are being recovered, recycled and diverted from landfill sites. This included relocating several businesses, transplanting trees and shrubs to churches and a public school, salvaging historical materials with the help of the historical society and recovering building demolition materials with Habitat for Humanity which were then resold in their York Region ReStore locations.



vivaNext
way to go. way to grow

Relocating Trees

Reusing Materials

Recycling Materials

Did You Know? York Region's Sustainable Office Furniture Procurement and Disposal Strategy

York Region has developed and approved a sustainable procurement strategy for the purchase/supply of office furniture. The Region also introduced a furniture program to recycle all furniture planned for disposal to the non-profit/charitable sector.

- ❖ Started construction of a new EMS Operations Centre targeted to achieve LEED® Gold Certification.
- ❖ Continued implementing the Facility Rehabilitation Program to extend the life cycle and energy efficiency of Regional assets.
- ❖ Human Resources Corporate Learning successes:
 - o Utilizing whiteboards to reduce paper use
 - o On-line refresher courses
 - o Re-useable biodegradable tokens and re-useable tent cards
 - o Using compostable cups (made of corn)
 - o Distributing re-useable bags at New Employee Corporate Orientation
 - o Electronic course workbooks and evaluation forms
 - o Recognizing training participants who walk, carpool and take public transit to sessions.
- ❖ External career postings direct candidates to apply for positions electronically at www.york.ca.
- ❖ Electronic bid system for vendors.
- ❖ Expanded employee medical e-claims.
- ❖ Completed Early Intervention Staff Mobile-Telework Pilot.
- ❖ Integrated principles of sustainability (LEED® and Integrated Design Process) into Environmental Services project management and delivery projects.
- ❖ Seven solid waste management facilities achieved ISO14001 registration.
- ❖ Implemented energy and space saving measures in Regional data centres.

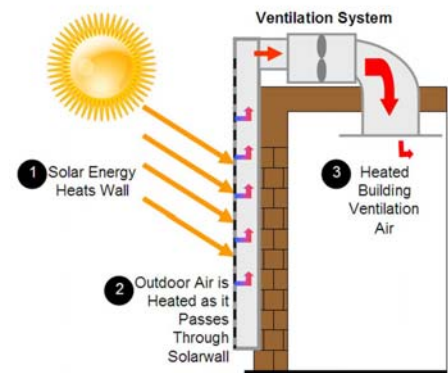
Moving Forward into 2011

Key Objectives

- Corporate waste diversion target of 90% in 2012
 - Establish corporate greenhouse gas emission target
 - York Region Print Shop to obtain 'Forest Stewardship Council' (FSC) certification by 2012
-
- ❖ Major upgrade to in-house energy tracking and reporting software to meet increasing demands.
 - ❖ Implement a 10kW+ solar photo voltaic installation at the Bales EMS Central Service Facility.
 - ❖ Retender green power contract in early 2011.
 - ❖ Continue energy retrofits at a number of Regional facilities.
 - ❖ Establish benchmarks and set targets to enhance corporate energy reporting under the Province's Green Energy Act and the Region's Corporate Air Quality Strategy.
 - ❖ Expand organics collection program to additional sites. Conduct waste audit to measure improvements in waste diversion.
 - ❖ Implement video conferencing for Corporate Learning sessions at South Service Centre and Administrative building.
 - ❖ Move forward with results from energy audits conducted at seven water and wastewater facilities.
 - ❖ Develop sustainable procurement strategy for operations, maintenance and monitoring of water and wastewater services.
 - ❖ Explore opportunities for improving facility energy management and improving fleet vehicle fuel efficiency.
 - ❖ Complete the Waste Management and Elgin Mills Community Environmental Centres by 2012.



York Region's first SolarWall® air heater installed at the Mount Albert Water Pollution Control Plant.



Above is a simple diagram of how a Solarwall works

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 decreased 3.8% from 2009 to 2010
- Charges for impaired driving decreased by 5.3% between 2009 and 2010. York Regional Police conducted 215 RIDE deployment days in 2010
- York Regional Police inspected 3,385 commercial motor vehicles in 2010 resulting in 2,709 charges
- There were 106 reported cases of hate-motivated crime in 2010, an increase of 31 cases from the previous year
- Tobacco sales to minors dropped from 10% in 2009 to 8.7% in 2010

Promoting Wellness

- Life expectancy at birth for 2003-2005 is 83.0 years of age, compared to the Ontario average of 80.4
- The percent of the adult population (18 years of age and over) that were current smokers in 2010 was 13% compared to 15% in 2008
- Low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) for York Region was 4.9 per 100 hospital births, the same as the Ontario average (2009 data available only)
- In 2010, York Region Public Health issued 2,029 food handler certifications, compared to 1,820 in 2009 and 1,489 in 2008
- In 2010, York Region Public Health responded to 28,492 calls to the Health Connection Call Centre. In 2009, the Health Connection Line responded to 32,048 calls

Healthy Communities

- 6% of commuters either walked or biked to work compared to 2.4% in 2001 (Transportation for Tomorrow (TTS) 2006, update in 2013)
- Mobility Plus accommodated 322,788 trips in 2010, compared to 298,794 in 2009
- 100% of the York Region Transit (YRT)/ Viva Rapid Transit fleet is accessible for people with disabilities, compared to 92% in 2009
- There are 182 bicycle racks at YRT/Viva transit stops and terminals to date

Housing for a Diverse Population

- The proportion of compact multiple housing units of the total housing supply mix increased from 29% in 2007 to 33% in 2009 and in 2010 (includes semis, rows and apartments)
- The average resale price for a single-detached dwelling at the end of 2010 was \$578,229, compared to \$520,895 in 2009 and \$508,892 in 2008
- Housing York Inc. Inc increased its portfolio to over 2000 units with the expansion of 39 units in a seniors building in King City and the construction of an 83 units seniors building in Maple

- As of December 31, 2010 there were 7,626 households on the Region's Centralized Rent Geared to Income Wait List: 2,348 families with dependents; 1,602 households without dependents and 3,676 seniors

- The long-term care bed waiting list in York Region was 463 in 2010 compared to 220 in 2009 (figures for Maple Health Centre and Newmarket Health Centre only)



Council Initiatives

- York Region Community Partnership Council members appointed to implement the Immigrant Settlement strategy through the Local Immigration Partnership initiative.
- Invested \$9M in new 140-unit affordable housing building in Richmond Hill.
- Investing in Our Communities: A Multi-Year Plan for the Community and Health Services Department 2010-2015.
- Accessing York: York Region's 2010 Accessibility Plan.
- Adoption of three York Region Official Plan amendments to meet 2031 growth forecasts.
- Commencement of York Region's Archaeological Management Plan.
- Approval of the Climate Change Adaption Strategy workplan.



Sustainability Spotlight: York Region's First Homeless Womens' Shelter

York Region will build the first shelter/transitional 40-bed housing facility for homeless, single women. York currently does not have a shelter for women who are homeless and not fleeing abuse. This is a significant gap within the Region and a women's shelter is needed to provide support, stability and assistance to homeless women.

Successes and Innovations

- ❖ *Economic Analysis of Human Service Costs to 2031 - Recommendations for Enhancing Human Services Planning in The Regional Municipality of York.*
- ❖ York Region's United Way 2010 campaign successfully met its quarter-million dollar goal of \$325,000.
- ❖ Provincial approval of the new Regional Official Plan that guides sustainable economic, environmental and community building decisions to manage growth.
- ❖ Developed 3D and fly-through visualization of planned & proposed development in Regional centres and corridors to help visualize sustainable development scenarios.
- ❖ Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan implementation of 24.5 km of on-road bike facilities.
- ❖ Bicycle racks were installed on more than 300 conventional YRT vehicles.
- ❖ Promoted active lifestyles of students and families within participating Healthy Schools using the Active Tools for Schools resource.
- ❖ New pedestrian countdown signals installed at intersections and new standard for crossing times.
- ❖ York Region's first pilot zebra crosswalk installed in Vaughan to increase visibility for pedestrians and drivers.
- ❖ Installed 5 accessible pedestrian signals at signalized intersections in response to resident requests.
- ❖ EMS vehicles in York Region will be equipped with traffic signal pre-emption technology that will improve their on-time arrival, route efficiency and safety.
- ❖ Enhanced York Regional Police crime prevention initiatives and partnerships including a pilot of the Business Watch program, Graffiti Management Strategy, revitalization of the Neighbourhood Watch programs and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design course for community and municipal representatives.
- ❖ Pilot of York Regional Police Integrated Domestic Violence Unit in two of five police districts with plans for future expansion.
- ❖ The York Regional Police *Safe Roads...Your Call* program resulted in 2,188 calls from citizens that led to 281 arrests for impaired driving in 2010.
- ❖ High police visibility due to increased deployment on the front-line patrols.
- ❖ Commenced construction of Housing York Inc. development projects including:
 - 1) Mapleglen Residences, an 84-unit seniors' building on the Vaughan Civic Centre campus
 - 2) Kingview Court addition of 39 new units to existing seniors' building.
- ❖ Worked with community non-profit housing providers to ensure program timelines and guidelines were met and completed:
 - 1) A four unit group home for people with disabilities
 - 2) 25-unit seniors' building was completed in 2010
 - 3) A 120-unit multi-residential apartment building located in Markham.
- ❖ Continued improvements to existing social housing units under the Social Housing Renovation & Retrofit Program (SHRRP).
- ❖ Implemented Housing Innovations Fund Phase II to help housing providers pay for playground replacements, repairs and accessibility upgrades.
- ❖ Housing York Inc. implemented the following sustainability initiatives:
 - 1) Acceleration of Housing York Inc.'s five-year Strategic Energy Management Plan
 - 2) Continued to procure goods and services applying the Green Procurement Strategy principles
 - 3) Developed strategies for multi-residential waste management for social housing applications
 - 4) Implemented Water for Tomorrow recommendations to update gardens with indigenous plants that require little or no water at five Housing York Inc. buildings per year.
- ❖ Partnership with Habitat for Humanity York Region enabled two low income families to move into their own homes in 2010.



- ❖ Assisted newcomers and internationally trained individuals on Social Assistance with innovative employment programs and career assistance.
- ❖ Implemented first year of Ontario's Enhanced Employment Services Initiative to assist vulnerable Ontario Works participants experiencing multiple barriers to employment.
- ❖ Increased clients served by 25% through the enhanced Family Strengthening Programs.
- ❖ Trained hospital emergency, mental health and community agency staff to increase community awareness on Domiciliary Hostel Programs.
- ❖ Developed Enhanced Emergency Shelter Standards of Care and introduced compliance monitoring.
- ❖ Continued work with Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Centre in a study on interventions for children with Cerebral Palsy.
- ❖ Worked with Markham Stouffville Hospital Child Development Programs to enhance intake efficiency for Early Intervention unit.
- ❖ Developed a plan for joint Neo Natal Follow up Clinic operations with Southlake Regional Health Centre.
- ❖ Opened new Alternative Community Living Sites in Markham.
- ❖ Expanded the acquired Brain Injury Day Program to Newmarket northern York Region municipalities.
- ❖ Public Health staff conducted 197 risk assessments of small drinking water systems.
- ❖ Continue to advocate for mandatory food handler certification under the Food Premise Regulation.
- ❖ Public Health Dental clinics provided screening to 565 youth and access to treatment for urgent dental needs for 381 youth in 2010.
- ❖ Healthy Smiles Ontario/Public Health Dental Program provided dental treatment for children under 18 from families with incomes less than \$20,000.
- ❖ Agreements for Syndromic Surveillance with 2 hospitals provide real-time emergency room surveillance data.
- ❖ Opened Sexual Health Clinic in partnership with the Vaughan Community Health Centre.
- ❖ West Nile virus exposure reduced by treating 89,519 catch basins for mosquito control across York Region.
- ❖ Updated draft speed limit policy approved by Council.

Moving Forward into 2011

Key Objectives

- Long-term housing mix target of 53% low density and 47% medium- to high-density Region-wide by 2031
- Initiated a 5 year program in 2008 to retrofit all affordable housing properties to current energy efficient standards
- 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



- ❖ Design and implement a transit subsidy pilot program to assist the low income working age population.
- ❖ Developing the Complete Streets policy to achieve sustainable urban roadway designs.
- ❖ Implementing pedestrian safety improvements including zebra pavement markings, signal timing adjustments and pedestrian countdown signals at signalized intersections.
- ❖ Implement a noise barrier review and policy within existing communities.
- ❖ Plan and implement services and program standards for the emergency shelter system and assess requests for expanded shelter services.
- ❖ Improve customer service between domiciliary hostel services and medical and emergency services.
- ❖ Begin implementation of York Region's Immigration Settlement Strategy in collaboration with the Community Partnership Council.
- ❖ Lead the York Region Community Social Data Strategy Initiative.
- ❖ Complete construction of:
 - 1) Mapleglen, a seniors' building comprising of 84 units with 51 rent-geared-to-income units
 - 2) The 39-unit expansion of a seniors' building, including energy efficient upgrades and accessible units
 - 3) A mixed family 140-unit building in Richmond Hill to be owned and operated by Housing York Inc.
- ❖ Investigate intensification of a social housing site in Woodbridge owned by Housing York Inc.
- ❖ Design new Housing York Inc. buildings to target LEED® certification.
- ❖ Support non-profit housing providers with the completion of over 180 affordable housing units.
- ❖ Continue to develop a comprehensive Regional housing strategy.
- ❖ Enhanced support for victims of crime including the expansion of the York Regional Police Integrated Domestic Violence Unit and further integration of services for victims of crime.
- ❖ Review York Regional Police resource deployment strategies to address the increasing urbanization and intensification in York Region.
- ❖ Increased interaction with at-risk youth.
- ❖ Enhanced tools and resources for parents and caregivers to promote the safety of young people.
- ❖ York Regional Police Traffic Management Strategy focusing on aggressive driving, impaired driving, distracted driving, pedestrian and cyclist safety.
- ❖ Enhanced crime suppression activities to target existing crime problems and emerging crime trends.

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 1,062,000 on December 31st 2010, an increase of approximately 29,000 residents
- Approximately 9,000 jobs were created in 2010, compared to 5,000 jobs in 2009 and 15,000 jobs in 2008
- As of mid-year 2010, there were 38 private businesses in York Region with 500 employees or more.
- At the end of 2010, the unemployment rate was 6.6%, compared to 7.7% in 2009
- Ontario Works participants who found paid employment: 1,300 in 2010, 1,200 in 2009 and 1,000 in 2008
- As of 2010, 2.1% of York Region residents receive Social Assistance
- Housing completions increased to 9,529 units in 2010, recovering from the recessionary low of 6,486 units in 2009
- Total construction value in 2010 was an estimated \$3.08 billion, a 22% increase from 2009
- Total industrial, commercial and institutional construction was \$1.12 billion, a 52% increase and the highest annual value ever recorded in York Region
- In 2009, there were 2.9 million person visits to York Region with visitors spending a total \$289.4 million (2010 figures available in 2011 report)

Moving York

- Modal Split during the morning period: auto driver 65%; auto passenger 14%; public transit 9%; walking and cycling 6%; school bus 5% (TTS, 2006, update in 2013)
- 44% of residents think more should be spent on public transit and 25% think York Region is a better place to live because of public transit, 23% feel that more and better public transit is the most important issue related to growth
- Combined ridership on YRT and Viva increased from 18.3 million in 2009 to 19.4 million in 2010.
- Transit revenue vehicle hours were 1,117,579 in 2010, compared to 968,377 in 2009, an increase of 15.4%
- 55.3% of residents worked in York Region, an increase of 1.5% from 2001 (Census of Canada, update forthcoming in 2011)
- Average trip to work (i.e. one way) is 16.5 linear kilometres (TTS, 2006, update in 2013)
- There are 116 YRT routes and 5 Viva routes, which includes TTC contracted routes
- 83% of the urban area in York Region is within 500 metres of a transit route, compared to 81% in 2009 (includes the unbuilt area)

Council Initiatives

- Toronto-York Region Spadina Subway Extension to Vaughan Metropolitan Centre.
- Yonge Subway Extension to Richmond Hill Centre.
- 15 new Viva Bus Rapid Transit vehicles purchased to increase transit reliability and efficiency.

- MyRide Training Program: Removing barriers to transit use by seniors, new Canadians, persons with developmental disabilities, etc).
- Construction of a rapid transit station and dedicated lane for Viva vehicles (rapidway) within a planned pedestrian mall located in Markham to open in spring 2011.
- Dedicated lanes for Viva vehicles with new urban design elements.
- Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan Municipal Partnership Program provided almost \$500,000 to local municipalities to implement bicycle infrastructure.
- Innovation in Manufacturing Program to assist in the revitalization of York Region's manufacturing sector.
- Amended the 2007 Development Charge Bylaw to better reflect growth-related capital infrastructure costs.
- Released the Guide to Capital Sources, a comprehensive guide to sources of funding and finance available to York Region's entrepreneurs, and the 2010 YorkLink Directory.
- Approved Water Financial Plan under Ontario's Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.
- Aging Workforce Study.
- Export Development Program's 2010 Marketing Plan.
- Hospitality First – a Hospitality web based toolkit for York Region employers and employees.



Successes and Innovations

- ❖ Regional Innovation Centre - Merging of YORKbiotech & Innovation Synergy Centre in Markham to form ventureLAB, a Provincially recognized Regional Innovation Centre.
- ❖ Introduction of new national and York Region indicators, aiding in the measuring of the Region's economic health.
- ❖ Administered and supported the transition of the tourism function through creation of the Provincial Regional Tourism Organization Zone 6.
- ❖ Discovery York Region Guide - Moved from internal production to external partnership with York Arts Council and York Media Group.
- ❖ Regional and International Business Investment program has led to 200+ new jobs created.
- ❖ Produced "Farm Fresh" map to promote local farmers markets and produce growers.
- ❖ Construction of BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) rapidways along Highway 7 and Davis Drive have begun.
- ❖ Final York University and Vaughan Metropolitan Centre subway Stations station designs unveiled to the public.
- ❖ Introduced real-time bus arrival information on customer hand-held devices for YRT stops.
- ❖ Implemented web-based trip booking system for Mobility Plus customers.
- ❖ There were more than 1,000 concrete bus platforms installed and designed to meet AODA requirements, allowing universal access to the Viva/YRT transit system.
- ❖ Invest In York Marketing Toolkit - Restructuring of external marketing tools into one cohesive tool kit.

Sustainability Spotlight: viva Rapid Transit Station and Rapidway

The first new rapid transit station and rapidway segment in York Region is complete. Located at Warden Avenue and Enterprise Boulevard in Markham, this innovative station design showcases features for safety, comfort and accessibility.



Moving Forward into 2011

Key Objectives

- 1.5 million residents, 510,000 households and 780,000 jobs by 2031
- Overall transit modal split of 30% during 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

- ❖ An updated transit facility strategy and roads yards to be completed.
- ❖ Development of a snow management strategy underway.
- ❖ Completion of construction of BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) rapidways along Highway 7 and Davis Drive by 2014.
- ❖ Update Traffic Impact Study guidelines to focus on transportation demand management and overall mobility, rather than solely on vehicle trips.
- ❖ Innovation in Manufacturing - Supporting York Region manufacturing businesses to innovate and stay competitive.
- ❖ Economic Strategy - Complete strategy to help guide York Region, in partnership with local municipalities and other economic partners, to sustain our economic vitality for the years to come.
- ❖ Mission to Israel - A joint (Markham, York Region) Technology Business Mission to Israel. Targeting venture capital firms, technology incubators, private equity firms, bio-medical companies and hi-tech companies.

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

- The Ontario Chief Drinking Water Inspector's Annual report gave York Region a 99.99% drinking water quality rating and 99.71% on Ministry of the Environment inspections for water facilities
- Water for Tomorrow Program conserves approximately 22.4 million litres of water per day, enough to service 88,000 people
- York Region's unverified Waste Diversion Ontario rate was 52% for 2010, compared to 57% in 2009.
- York Region diverted 63% of waste from landfill in 2010, which includes the waste diversion through the Dongara Pelletization operations
- In 2010, York Region issued 3 heat advisories over 9 days
- Between 2003 and 2009, the Air Quality Index reached the moderate or poor category an average of 100 days annually, as measured at the Newmarket Air Monitoring Station, and 82 days annually at the Toronto North Air Monitoring Station
- Ground level ozone, as measured at the Newmarket and Toronto North Air Monitoring Stations, exceeded the Ministry of Environment 1-hour ozone standard on 10 and 6 days respectively, and the 8-hour Canada Wide Standard on 6 and 3 days respectively (2009 figures available only)
- The Region's forest cover was 22.5%
- In 2010, 63 ha of greenlands were secured by the Region or our partners with Regional support, with an estimated property value of \$2.6 million
- There were 77,361 trees and shrubs planted in 2010 with the support of Regional Greening dollars.
- Due to the York Region Smart Commute initiatives, approximately 32,526 car trips were avoided and 466.48 tonnes of GHG and polluting emissions were reduced
- Between 2004-2007, all phosphorus loads to Lake Simcoe ranged from 71.5 to 77.3 tonnes per year (to be updated in 2012). The long-term phosphorus goal is a loading limit of approximately 44 tonnes per year

Council Initiatives

- The first accessible trail (1 kilometre) officially opened on September 20, 2010 at the Hollidge Tract to provide universal access to the York Region Forest.
- Endorsed final Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Watershed Plans.
- Approved guiding themes for York Region's integrated Waste Management Master Plan.
- Supported the Rouge Park Alliance's submission to the Government of Canada, seeking Federal Park status for Rouge Park.
- Approved purchase of 27 hectares of property in King Township under the Greening Land Securement Strategy.
- All new high-rise buildings in York Region required to provide three-stream waste management.



Successes and Innovations

- ❖ An additional 25 solar-powered bus shelters installed at locations with low lighting.
- ❖ Sustainable Development through LEED® Program - 118 housing units participating in 2010.
- ❖ Sustainable Home Incentive Program – 7022 housing units expected through East Gwillimbury Program through to 2016.

Spotlight on Sustainability: The York Region Greening Strategy

In 2010, 63 hectares (156 acres) of properties were protected for conservation purposes through the Greening Strategy Securement program in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust with the support of Environment Canada through the Natural Areas Conservation program. York Region will be adding 25 hectares of these newly secured properties to the York Regional Forest by establishing a new tract in King Township.



- ❖ A Street Tree health report documented significant improvement in tree health due to changes in stock selection, planting practices, watering and mulching program, as well as contractor inspections and audits. In 2010, a street tree health assessment showed that 75% of recently planted trees were in good condition, compared to only 28% in 2003.
- ❖ Integrated Waste Management Master Plan.
- ❖ Dongara Residual Waste Pelletization Contract continues to provide valuable diversion from landfill.
- ❖ Individual Environmental Assessment for the Durham/York Energy from Waste Plant approved by Ministry of the Environment, the first in the Province in 22 years.

Did You Know? Waste Management initiatives and programs continue to divert more material from landfills:

- Upgrades to York Region's Garfield Wright Material Recovery Facility to accommodate blue box processing up to 140,000 tonnes per year from 90,000 tonnes per year.
- Development and implementation of diversion programs for municipal hazardous and special waste, public space blue box recycling and compostable bag pilot program
- Expanded depot hours for waste electronics recycling, resulted in an increase of 20% usage of Household Hazardous Waste and Recycling Depots
- Held 10 Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment drop-off events for a total of 100 tonnes
- Continued advocacy on the Waste Diversion Act, extended producer responsibility, and compost guidelines.

Did You Know? The York Regional Forest has been FSC Certified again!

In 2010, the York Regional Forest received its second re-certification after an extensive audit of its management plan and operations. In 2000, the York Regional Forest became the first public forest in Canada to be certified as well-managed in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council standard (FSC). FSC is an international, independent, nongovernmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. FSC certification is recognized internationally as the 'gold' standard for forest management. Certification involves a third party audit of the management and operation of the forest and recertification every five years.

Spotlight on Sustainability: Community Air Quality

York Region Public Health joined the National Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) Outreach Working Group to share information and provide guidance on a National AQHI Outreach Strategy. The AQHI, which is currently reported at 40 locations across Canada including Newmarket, provides residents with a reliable indicator of the health risks of exposure to outdoor air pollution, empowering them to make informed decisions to protect their health and those in their care.

- ❖ Election sign recycling program diverted a total of 9.42 tonnes from disposal following the October 2010 municipal election.
- ❖ Seven solid waste management facilities successfully achieved ISO14001 registration.
- ❖ Continued major capital project environmental enhancements such as Bob Hunter Memorial Park, Rouge Park sensitive areas and the Lake Ontario waterfront trail.

Did You Know? In 2010, the Water for Tomorrow program provided approximately 20,000 WaterSense® toilet rebates and 4,000 subsidized rain barrels to residents and continues to grow with:

- Rebates on the purchase of central home humidifiers for homeowners
- Rebates on washing machines for businesses and multi-unit building owners
- Free water audits and capacity buy-back incentives for high water use industry within York Region
- Water efficient landscaping workshops and audits



- ❖ Enhanced protection of York Region's drinking water supply through well performance program.
- ❖ Stouffville Pumping Station's 4.80 kW solar photovoltaic system is the Region's first with a guaranteed payment to the Region of 80.2 cents/kWh for electricity produced by the system for 20 years.
- ❖ Keswick Water Pollution Control Plant is using innovative membrane technology to reduce phosphorous loading to Lake Simcoe, the first water pollution control plant of this scale in Ontario to use this state-of-art treatment technology.
- ❖ Four facilities and bus transit shelters are now green powered.
- ❖ Constructed enhancements in Bob Hunter Memorial Park including paved multi-use trails, parking, a visitor kiosk and improvements to meadow, wetlands and riparian areas.
- ❖ Risk Assessment reports completed for source water protection regions that analyze threats to drinking water quality and quantity.

Moving Forward in 2011

Key Objectives

- Completion of Long Term Water Conservation Strategy with an aspirational target of 'no new water' to reduce residential water demand in York Region to 150 litres per person per day
- Waste diversion from landfill: 59% in 2009, 80% in 2010, 90% in 2016 and 100% by 2020
- Forest cover target of 25% by 2031

- ❖ Sustainable Home Incentive Program/Sustainable Development through LEED® update.
- ❖ East Gwillimbury Sustainable Development Program - Targeting Regional Council approval in 2011 to implement a community-wide sustainable development incentive program.
- ❖ Partnership with local municipalities to pilot expedited approvals process as recommended in the Long Term Water Conservation Strategy.
- ❖ The development of a Long Term Water Conservation Strategy and implementation plan.

- ❖ Amend sewer use by-law to increase protection of public health and safety, the environment and infrastructure.
- ❖ Finalize the Long Term Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Strategy and begin implementation.
- ❖ On-going construction of Elgin Mills Community Environmental Centre planned for completion by Fall 2011.
- ❖ Renovation of Georgina Transfer Station to accommodate Community Environmental Centre design principles.
- ❖ Continue work for Energy from Waste Facility with Durham Region.
- ❖ Develop first Integrated Waste Management Master Plan, which will include a review of the Joint Waste Diversion Strategy.
- ❖ Host a local municipal Emerald Ash Borer Forum to raise awareness and share best practices in dealing with this invasive insect and develop an Emerald Ash Borer Management Strategy.
- ❖ Update Region's forest cover mapping.

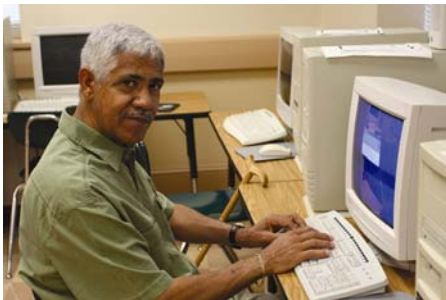
Theme Area 5

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

- Satisfaction with Regional government increased to 76% in 2010, continuing the upward trend from 66% in 2002
- York Region community agencies benefitted from the contributions of approximately 3,261 volunteers providing over 65,000 volunteer hours of service to the community through York Region's community funding initiatives.
- York Region residents with a University education (40%), College or other non-university diploma (7%) Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma (22%) high school certificate or equivalent (22%), and with no certificate or diploma (11%). (Census of Canada 2006 ages 25-64)



Council Initiatives

- ❖ Human Services Planning Board of York Region appointed.
- ❖ Community Collaborative Planning Guide: Weaving Collaboration into a Tapestry of Change.
- ❖ Community consultations and public outreach campaign underway for York Region immigration settlement strategy.
- ❖ The 2011-2014 York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee appointed.

Sustainability Spotlight: 20/20 The Way to Clean Air

Public Health promoted the 20/20 The Way to Clean Air program with 13 schools, 29 classrooms and 805 students. Public Health also participated in the Travel Smart Pilot Project promoting 20/20 and the Air Quality Health Index to over 400 residents in the communities of Cornell and Thornhill to encourage sustainable modes of transportation. 56% of residents from Cornell and 37% of residents from Thornhill requested the 20/20 Planner Guide as part of the personal travel planning kit.

Successes and Innovations

- ❖ Created 25 custom maps, leveraging Google Maps functionalities, to provide efficient travel directions to Regional service locations, promote use of York Region transit and consider alternate forms of travel such as cycling and walking.
- ❖ Travel Smart Pilot Project - Piloted a Personal travel planning outreach program.

- ❖ Provided 3D visual models, training and guidance to area municipalities.
- ❖ Collaborated with the York Region District School Board, Town of Markham, York Regional Police and York Region Planning to pilot Green Communities Canada's best practice School Travel Planning model.
- ❖ Collaborated with Mixed Company Theatre to bring the interactive *Project Act* to grades 7-9 about physical activity, healthy eating and substance misuse prevention.
- ❖ Trained 22 youth to act as CAN-BIKE Junior Cycling Instructors.
- ❖ Crime Prevention Trade Show hosted by York Regional Police to enhance crime prevention awareness.
- ❖ Enhanced support for victims of crime, including victim assistance awareness training provided to officers and enhanced partnerships with community support groups and victims advocates.
- ❖ Community information kiosks located in many of the York Regional Police facilities.
- ❖ Auxiliary Police volunteer hours exceeded 21,000 hours.
- ❖ Prevent Alcohol and Risk Trauma in Youth (PARTY) Program is a joint effort with York Regional Police and York Region Emergency Medical Services that brings students into the emergency and trauma departments to learn about the consequences of risky behaviour such as driving under the influence, not wearing a helmet when riding a bike and not wearing a seat belt during a collision.
- ❖ York Regional Police School Resource Officers educated and mentored youth through 5,512 high school visits.
- ❖ There were a total of 7,677 elementary and high school visits by York Regional Police Officers.
- ❖ The York Regional Police Diversity & Cultural Resources Bureau hosted 18 events, attended 234 events and delivered 46 community presentations in order to build stronger community relationships.
- ❖ There was a total of 40,824 youth who attended the Community Safety Village in 2010.



Sustainability Spotlight: ECOTRIP Youth Mentoring Program and York Regional Police

ECOTRIP is a year-long program providing youth between the ages of 14 and 17 the opportunity to receive mentorship from local police officers. The program is designed to develop leadership and life skills among youth through outdoor experiences; by creating positive relationships between youth, police personnel and youth workers; and by providing youth with opportunities to use their new skills as volunteers and mentors. The program which launched in 2010 is spearheaded by York Regional Police Community Services Bureau working in partnership with Wendigo Lake Expeditions, The Salvation Army, YMCA, Kinark Child and Family Services, Youth Speak and Point Blank Fitness.

- ❖ Coordinated with local emergency planners and Canadian Red Cross to select potential community centres for emergency social service delivery.
- ❖ Continued consultation to improve program planning and customer service to Ontario Works clients including those with disabilities.
- ❖ Provided feedback and disseminated information on the Pascal Report on Early Learning.
- ❖ Information for Newcomers promotional initiatives included multilingual information brochures and advertising in the multi-ethnic media resulted in increased traffic to the Immigration Portal.
- ❖ Public Health developed an extreme heat program including a dedicated webpage, educational material and a heat advisory protocol.
- ❖ Developed an Environmental Health Survey to determine residents' knowledge, attitudes and behaviours around exposure to health hazards in the environment.



- ❖ Health Protection staff contacted 195 owners of single family dwellings serviced by private wells with test results indicating unsafe drinking water.
- ❖ Food Safety at Home Strategy targeted women aged 25-45 who cook in the home.
- ❖ Conducted needs assessment and developed promotional campaign for a web-based disclosure system to post food premise inspection reports
- ❖ Approximately 700 tobacco vendors were educated on legislation prohibiting the sale of flavoured cigarillos.
- ❖ Supported York Region District School Board's Healthy Schools and Workplaces Policy.
- ❖ Public Health collaborated on the development of a public health reference tool and built environment indicators.
- ❖ Educated 58 child care practitioners on children's health relating to environmental exposures.
- ❖ Use of social media has increased visitors to vivanext.com by 3.8%, Twitter followers by 17% and Facebook fans by 6.6%.
- ❖ Established an Environmental Services Department Energy Working Group.

Moving Forward into 2011

- ❖ Market York Region Immigration Portal website, identify partners, measure and evaluate Portal's effectiveness, and secure funding to expand Portal capability.
- ❖ Phase II of the Food Safety at Home Strategy will focus on men who BBQ at home.
- ❖ Implementation of the food premise inspection reports disclosure program will focus on finalization of the website and store-front signage for completed inspections.
- ❖ Continue to promote active lifestyles of students and families via a Comprehensive School Health approach within participating Healthy Schools.
- ❖ Keep York Region Safe Together Program implementation.
- ❖ Provide information and tools to our citizens about crime prevention including crime prevention checklists.
- ❖ Provide information about crime prevention, safety and York Regional Police Services to seniors, persons with disabilities and new residents.
- ❖ Work in collaboration with school boards and other community partners to promote safe schools and healthy lifestyle choices, including bullying awareness and education.
- ❖ Mobilizing our citizens and community partners to engage in crime prevention efforts including the utilization of our Auxiliary Officers and volunteers to assist in delivering crime prevention messages.
- ❖ Advance cultural proficiency and broaden community knowledge of our members to meet the needs of our diverse communities, which include an Inclusivity Strategy and hate crime prevention.
- ❖ Web site enhancements including crime mapping and automatic language translation.
- ❖ Enhanced on-line crime reporting and e-commerce capabilities.
- ❖ Pilot a Public Health Alert Notification system to disseminate important health information to key stakeholders and vulnerable groups.
- ❖ Conduct focus groups to inform a health communication campaign to reduce childhood exposures to environmental toxins.
- ❖ Collaborate with the Community Partnership Council in action planning and implementation of the York Region Immigration Settlement Strategy.

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.

Sustainability Indicators

- 89% of respondents indicate that they feel the quality of life in York Region is good or excellent
- Compared with 5 years ago, 73% of respondents feel that York Region is a better place to live

Council Initiatives

- Vision 2026: Sustainability Progress Report 2010.
- York Region Annual Report 2010 released.
- Annual York Region Greening Strategy Achievements Report 2010.
- Annual Economic Development Review and Employment and Industry Reports, 2010.
- York Region's 2010 Accessibility Plan approved.

Sustainability Spotlight: York Region's First Homeless Womens' Shelter

York Region will build the first 38-bed shelter/transitional housing facility for homeless, single women. York currently does not have a shelter for women who are homeless and not fleeing abuse. This is a significant gap within the Region and a women's shelter is needed to provide support, stability and assistance to homeless women.

Successes and Innovations

- ❖ Provided Corporate and Departmental coordination, planning and support for the implementation of the Customer Service Standards regulations under the AODA.
- ❖ The Balanced Scorecard for York Region Public Health 2009 was produced, reflecting trends in performance from 2007 to 2009.
- ❖ Produced a report of the York Region response to pandemic H1N1 influenza, analyzed staff feedback and prioritized recommendations for implementation to improve future pandemic response.
- ❖ Public health surveillance plans were completed and surveillance reports posted on the Regional website.
- ❖ Opening of the first accessible trail in the Hollidge Tract.
- ❖ Happy Valley Acquisition representing 25 new hectares of York Regional Forest Tract in the Township of King.
- ❖ Executed YRT/Viva Partnership with Peel Region's Züm for new cross-boundary agreement.
- ❖ Approval of governance agreement with Metrolinx and other transit agencies for the joint procurement of low-floor specialized mobility buses.
- ❖ Opening of the first major Region-owned transit operations and maintenance facility in Vaughan.
- ❖ Design of YRT/Viva street furniture approved.
- ❖ Approval of Municipal Streetscape Partnership program for the development of the South Yonge Street corridor streetscape master plan.

Moving Forward into 2011

- ❖ Visit workplaces to assist in identifying work locations not in compliance with the Smoke Free Ontario Act.
- ❖ Train 40 youth to act as CAN-BIKE Junior Cycling Instructors.
- ❖ Hold bike safety courses for over 1,000 children, aged 7 and up.
- ❖ Distribute the first edition of the York Region Cycling Map.
- ❖ Regional Forest recertification by the Forest Stewardship Council for well-managed forests for the period 2010-2015.



Awards and Accomplishments for 2010

- Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO), The Best in Class Award - **Municipal Energy Performance Benchmarking Project - Emergency Medical Services (EMS) facility category.**
- Bud Knight Award - **Outstanding Youth Police Officer for the Province of Ontario from the Committee of Youth Officers for the Province of Ontario.**
- Canadian Institute of Planners Award for Planning Excellence in Transportation and Infrastructure - **Transportation Master Plan update.**
- Canadian Hearing Society – Celebrating Accessibility Champions Award – **Making York Region programs and services more accessible for people who are deaf, deafened and hard of hearing through our work on the 2010 Accessibility Plan.**
- Canadian Public Works Association - **2010 Metropolitan Centres Award for Public Works Events**
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainable Community Award: Waste - **McCleary Court Community Environmental Centre.**
- Government of Ontario, H1N1 Certificate of Appreciation – **York Region Public Health's work during the 2009-2010 H1N1 influenza pandemic.**
- Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) - **GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program (6th consecutive).**
- International Association of Chiefs of Police National Law Enforcement Challenge Award for **Best Overall Traffic Safety Program.**
- Minister of Justice National Youth Justice Police - **Award Certificate of Distinction to a York Regional Police Community Liaison Officer for their work with the ECOTRIP Program**
- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority "Watershed Heroes" Education Award - **Creative water education programs, including the York Children's Water Festival and the "Tap'd In" promotional trailer.**
- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority "Watershed Heroes" Water Conservation Award - **Water for Tomorrow.**
- Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police Lifetime Achievement in **Traffic Safety Award.**
- The Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association, Going Green Award for environmental leadership in non-profit housing sector - **Housing York Inc.'s innovative steps in reducing its impact on the environment through a 10-year building investment plan.**
- MADD Award York Region Chapter - **Outstanding Contribution to Road Safety in York Region, York Regional Police**
- Moraine Hero Award – **York Region Advisory Team efforts to manage the York Regional Forest.**
- Municipal Waste Association Promotion and Education Gold Award - **McCleary Court Community Environmental Centre.**
- Municipal Waste Association Promotion and Education Bronze Award - **Compostable Bag Campaign**
- National Youth Justice Police Awards Certificate of Distinction.
- World Wildlife Federation Certificate of Appreciation - **Commitment to Sustainable Forest Management.**
- YRDSB Best School Resource – **York Regional Police: Best School Resource Officer Award (2009/2010 school year).**
- YRDSB Vice Principal's Association Award - – **York Regional Police: Success in mentoring and making a difference in the lives of students in York Region during the 2009/2010 school year.**
- Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) - **Canadian Award for Financial Reporting (CAnFR) for the 13th consecutive year.**
- **Recertification of the York Region Forest in accordance with Forest Stewardship Council of Ontario.**

United Way of York Region, Spirit Award – **York Region United Way 2010 Campaign exceeded target to raise more than \$320,000**

