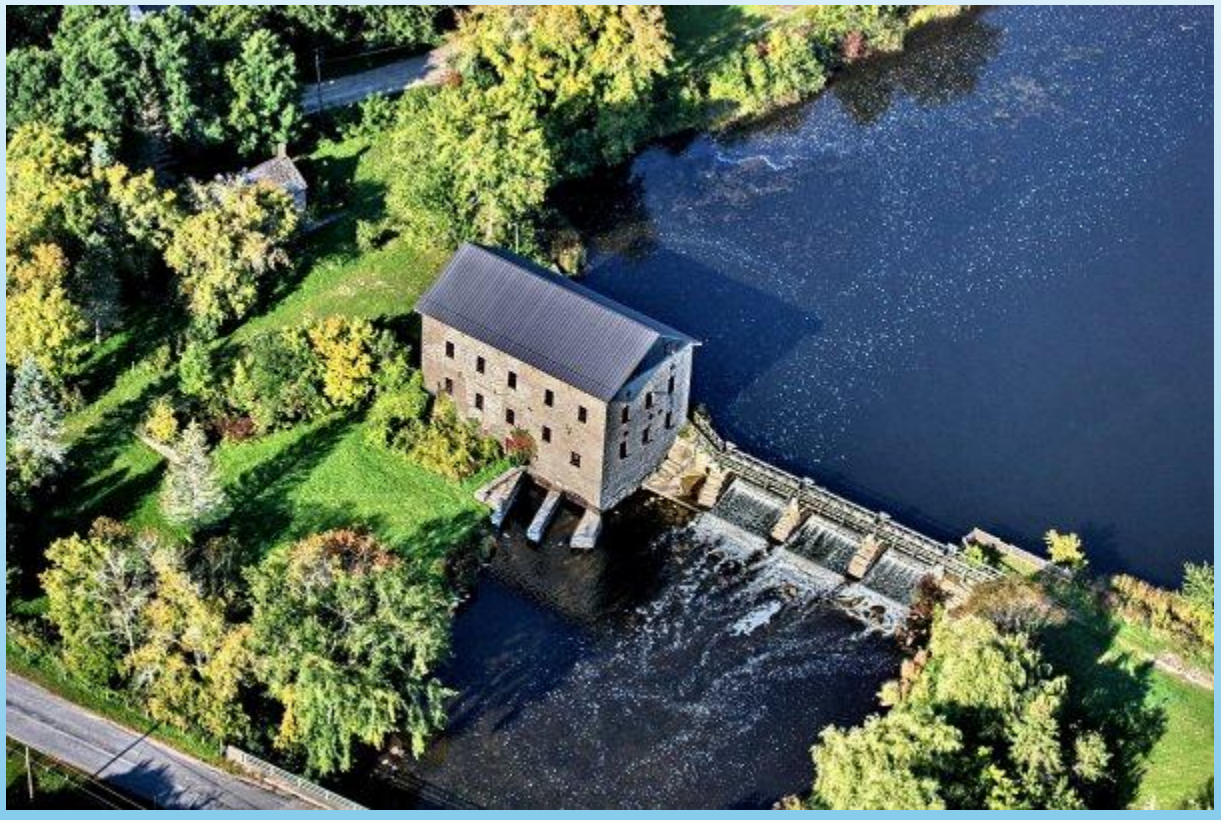
Our History-Your Future

Peterborough County Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan: 2026-2050



2026

Peterborough County

Our History - Your Future

Land Acknowledgement

With deep respect, we acknowledge the lands and interconnected waterways that bind us together, the foundation for all life. These lands serve as a keeper of history and stories and are a source of inspiration.

In recognizing this, we embrace that all living things possess an important energy and purpose. We extend the utmost gratitude to the Original Peoples who have been caretakers of these lands and waters of this region from time immemorial, and to this day who continue this commitment.

Peterborough County's dedication to reconciliation remains steadfast. In this spirit, we are committed to nurturing meaningful partnerships and connections that contribute to an environment of prosperity and well-being for all generations to come.

This acknowledgement is made on the Treaty 20 land and the territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg and within the traditional lands of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaty First Nations. Further, our gratitude is extended to the nations of Alderville, Beausoleil, Curve Lake, Georgina Island, Hiawatha, Rama, and Scugog Island.

Our Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan reflects a shared responsibility: to protect and restore the health of our environment for future generations.

Message from the Warden

“Our History – Your Future” is more than our tagline, it is a promise. It reminds us that the decisions we make today will shape the lives of generations to come. Climate change is no longer a distant concern; it is here, impacting our communities, our economy, and our way of life.

This Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan reflects our commitment to innovation, resilience, and leadership. It builds on the progress we have already made—reducing emissions, advancing waste management solutions, and setting measurable targets for a healthier environment. By embracing sustainable practices, we strengthen our local economy, safeguard our natural resources, and ensure a vibrant future for all residents.

Our priorities—responsible growth and development, thriving agriculture, and a strong tourism sector—depend on a healthy environment and resilient communities. Sustainability is the foundation that supports these pillars. It ensures that as we grow, we do so thoughtfully, preserving the character of our County while creating opportunities for future generations.

We recognize that we can learn from traditional knowledge and build a future rooted in respect, understanding, and shared stewardship of the land with Indigenous peoples. Our duty is to act decisively and collaboratively to protect what we value most.

Our history reminds us of where we’ve come from, and our actions today will define where we go. Together, we can turn challenges into opportunities, reduce emissions, and lead by example. Let’s make sustainability the foundation of everything we do for our history, and for your future.

Warden Bonnie Clark

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the many residents, community groups, businesses, elected officials, Peterborough County staff, and government partners who have contributed their time, passion, and expertise over the years toward a healthy and sustainable Peterborough County, and through the process of creating our new Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan. Thank you particularly to Sustainable Peterborough and GreenUP. Their dedication has laid the foundation for continued progress and long-term environmental, social, and economic well-being in our County. We wish to thank ClimateData.ca[1] for providing some of the climate information used in this plan. ClimateData.ca was created through a collaboration between the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium, Ouranos Inc., the Prairie Climate Centre, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Centre de Recherche Informatique de Montréal.

[1] "ClimateData.Ca."

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Executive Summary

Peterborough County is an upper tier municipal government serving residents, visitors, and eight townships to meet the needs of our community, in consultation with First Nations. Since 1989 the County has been a key partner in advancing sustainability across the greater Peterborough area. This Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan 2026-2050 provides an update to the 2012 Sustainable Peterborough Sustainability Plan[2] and the 2016 Sustainable Peterborough Climate Change Action Plan[3]. With the dissolution of Sustainable Peterborough in 2024, Peterborough County Council made the decision to bring on sustainability work in-house, and to update the previous plans collaboratively between the County and participating Townships.

While many of the initiatives outlined in the previous plans have yet to be implemented, some meaningful progress has been achieved. They also provide valuable insights and a foundation upon which future efforts can build.

This Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan recognizes the need for Peterborough County to step into a leadership role in local sustainability and climate action, by providing a framework, strategic guidance, and facilitating engagement in support of our community and our corporate vision and values. Grounded in science, equity, and collaboration, this plan aims to bring First Nations, Member Townships, County Residents, Local Businesses, and Visitors together to take meaningful steps towards our collective sustainability and climate goals for the benefit of all.

The following goals were set and maintained throughout the process of creating this plan:

- Building partnerships and relationships internally and externally
- Setting initiatives that are actionable
- Ensuring initiatives are fiscally responsible, and have potential for cost savings
- A final document that is concise and easy to follow
- Identifying opportunities to learn from, and work together with Townships and First Nations with their own sustainability and climate action goals

The updated plan will strive to meet the Federal commitment to achieving greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions of 40 to 45% below 2005 levels by 2030[4], a 50% reduction by 2035[5], and net zero GHG emissions by 2050. The plan also aims to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals[6].

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[2] Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation et al., (2012) "Greater Peterborough Area Community Sustainability Plan."
[3] Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation et al., (2016) "Greater Peterborough Area Climate Change Action Plan."
[4] Environment and Climate Change Canada, (2022) *2030 Emissions Reduction Plan*.
[5] Environment and Climate Change Canada, (2024) "2035 Emissions Reduction Target Compendium"
[6] United Nations, n.d. "THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development."

Peterborough County corporate GHG emissions totaled 5.6 $ktCO_2e$ in the 2025 inventory year. This marks an achievement of 18% reduction from emissions reported in 2018, selected as the current baseline year. Continued progress of an additional 1.5 $ktCO_2e$ by 2030 will meet the 40% reduction goal. Peterborough County community emissions were last calculated for 2011, included in prior sustainability plans. Updated community emissions will be included in future plan updates.

Keeping in line with the goal of building partnerships and relationships, it was imperative to engage with our Community throughout the development of this plan. The engagement process took place with:

- Member Township and First Nations Staff- All 10 organizations provided input
- Community Stakeholders- 13 stakeholder organizations from a range of sectors
- County Residents- 147 residents engaged
- County Staff- 9 Division meetings, with additional input received at All Staff meeting

The helpful feedback that we received through the engagement process is directly reflected in the initiatives and five-year action plan to follow.

The initiatives set out in this plan include work the County can do over the next five years to meet our goals and targets. The initiatives are broken down into the following categories:

Sustainability

- Land
- Water
- Agriculture
- Sustainable Tourism

Climate Change-Mitigation-Corporate

- Fleet
- Buildings
- Waste Reduction
- Procurement

Climate Change-Mitigation-Community

- Supporting Residential Home Retrofits
- Transportation
- Green Development Incentives
- Supporting Businesses

Climate Change-Adaptation

- Developing a Climate Adaptation Plan

Over the next five years the County will work toward achieving the initiatives set out in this plan update. Our work plan over the next five years supports:

- Reducing our overall corporate GHG emissions by 40-45% from 2018 levels to meet the Federal 2030 target[7]
- Doing our part to reduce community GHG emissions
- Improved sustainability and resilience across the County
- A completed Climate Adaptation Plan

To ensure success, our five-year 2026-2030 Action Plan will adopt the following best practices:

- Leveraging funding
- Building community partnerships
- Ensuring staff capacity
- Strategic prioritization

Progress on the five-year action plan and GHG emissions will be reported to Council annually. In 2030, any outstanding initiatives will be reviewed, and the next five-year action plan (2031-2035) will be presented to Council for approval.

Together, through this plan, we have the opportunity to create a resilient, sustainable future for Peterborough County.

[7] Environment and Climate Change Canada, *2030 Emissions Reduction Plan*.

Background: Peterborough County's Shared Vision

Figure 1. The James A. Gifford Causeway, Selwyn Township, 2025

Peterborough County has long been a key partner in advancing sustainability across the greater Peterborough area. Since the first community forum in 1989, regional efforts have grown through collaboration between citizens, organizations, and all levels of government.

The County, including eight (8) member Townships and two (2) First Nations, joined the City of Peterborough and other stakeholders in 2007 to support a regional sustainability initiative called Sustainable Peterborough, leading to the creation of the Sustainable Peterborough Sustainability plan in 2012[8]. This plan marked a shift from conversation to action, reinforcing the County's ongoing commitment to a sustainable future.

In 2014, the Greater Peterborough Area communities joined the Partners for Climate Protection[9] (PCP) program aimed at reducing GHG emissions from corporate operations and community sources.

In 2016, County Council adopted (in principle) the Sustainable Peterborough Greater Peterborough Area Climate Change Action Plan[10]. GHG emission reduction targets of 31%

[8] Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation et al., "Greater Peterborough Area Community Sustainability Plan."
[9] "Partners for Climate Protection. https://www.pcp-ppc.ca/"
[10] Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation et al., "Greater Peterborough Area Climate Change Action Plan."

for the community sector and 26% for the corporate sector by 2031 were adopted and set to be implemented as approved through the annual budget process.

The first GHG emission inventories were calculated for the Greater Peterborough Area member communities in 2011 for both corporate operations and community emissions. These were set as baselines in the 2016 Climate Change Action Plan[11].

The Plan identified targets of a 31% reduction of GHG emissions for community sources and a 26% reduction for corporate sources from the baseline year of 2011 by 2031 as well as strategies to meet those targets.

In 2018, the corporate GHG inventories were updated by Sustainable Peterborough to review changes and progress. The 2018 report[12] identified that the County's corporate emissions increased by 14% between 2011 and 2018 largely due to fleet expansion and the combustion of gasoline and diesel. The County's building and streetlight emissions went down, but not enough to offset the fleet emissions.

With the dissolution of Sustainable Peterborough in 2024, Peterborough County Council made the decision to bring on sustainability work in house, and to update the previous plans collaboratively between the County and participating Townships.

Progress on the previous plans

Progress on the initiatives outlined in the previous Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plans was significantly constrained due to the absence of dedicated staff resources, and limited budget. Without resources specifically assigned to drive these efforts forward, many of the proposed initiatives remained aspirational rather than actionable. This gap in resourcing has highlighted the need for a more structured and supported approach to ensure meaningful advancement in this area.

While many of the initiatives outlined in the previous plans have yet to be implemented, some meaningful progress has been achieved reflecting the commitment and creativity of staff working within existing limitations. These accomplishments demonstrate the potential for impact when opportunities align with available resources. They also provide valuable insights and a foundation upon which future efforts can build.

[11] Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation et al., (2016). "Greater Peterborough Area Climate Change Action Plan."
[12] Byrne, (2019). "Greater Peterborough Area Climate Change Action Plan."

Corporate Milestones

- Reductions in emissions and energy usage through facilities upgrades including LED lighting retrofits, HVAC replacements, and a 100% decrease in oil energy consumption with the removal of oil-fired furnaces for heating[13].
- The County successfully received funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities[14] (FCM) to complete a feasibility study for a new high-efficiency municipal administration building.
- Installation of direct solar tubes to an ambulance base to allow charging of solar panels on an ambulance which enables the electrical/mechanical systems to operate from solar acquired and stored power, reducing idling time.
- In 2024 the Operations Division began right-sizing vehicles during their annual replacement schedule[15]. Each purchase has been reviewed to ensure the right vehicle for the right job. In 2024 and 2025 16 vehicles have been right sized to smaller vehicle types.
- Waste diversion driven by City and County initiatives like organics diversion and clear bag policies resulting in reduced landfill emissions[16].

Community Milestones

- In 2020, the County partnered with GreenUP, a local non-profit which provides community programming, with the goal of achieving GHG emissions reductions[17].
- A Climate Change Action Committee was initiated including staff from the County, Townships, First Nations Communities, and GreenUP as well as a County Council appointed representative with the intent to address community GHG emissions reductions.
- In 2021, Green Economy Peterborough (GEP) was founded in partnership between the County, the City of Peterborough, and GreenUP. GEP supports businesses to become more sustainable and reduce GHG emissions[18].
- The County has provided support to GreenUP for home energy services, providing educational opportunities that support homeowners in gaining access to affordable and efficient home heating options.

[13] Justynski and Jegeris, “2024-2029 Peterborough County Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan.”
[14] Federation of Canadian Municipalities, “Home | Federation of Canadian Municipalities [https://fcm.ca/En].”
[15] County of Peterborough, “Appendix A - Asset Management Plan.”
[16] Cambium Inc., “Waste Management Master Plan.”
[17] Peterborough Green-Up, “2024 Annual Report.”
[18] Green Economy Peterborough, “https://Greenup.on.ca/Green-Economy-Peterborough/.”

- In 2025, the County began the process of developing a Watershed Plan to provide a framework for establishing goals, objectives, and direction for the protection of water resources.
- Peterborough County Council has adopted a new Official Plan[19], which encourages sustainable development practices like development in existing settlement areas, encouraging complete communities, and protection and preservation of the natural environment.
- The Engineering and Construction Division has partnered with GreenUP on several active transportation initiatives to support the Active Transportation Master Plan[20] including school programs and a program to encourage businesses and community members to reduce vehicle trips by cycling or walking.

[19] County of Peterborough, (2022). "Peterborough County Official Plan."
[20] BT Engineering Inc., "County of Peterborough-Active Transportation Master Plan."

Definitions

Adaptation: Any initiatives or actions in response to projected climate change impacts which will reduce the effects of climate change on constructed, natural, and social systems within the County[21].

Climate Change: refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas[22]. Burning fossil fuels generates GHG emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun's heat and raising temperatures.

Global mean surface temperature: This is the average temperature of the Earth's surface area[23]. This includes land area, the surfaces of the oceans and seas, and ice cover. Earth's surface is approximately 71% water, which has a high heat capacity in comparison with air[24]. Heat capacity is the amount of heat energy a substance can absorb before its temperature is significantly raised. The vast majority of heat energy is absorbed by Earth's oceans, meaning that any increases are the result of more extreme temperatures over land masses.

Greenhouse Gas: Gases that gather in the atmosphere and reflect heat radiated from the Earth back down to the surface instead of allowing it to escape into space. Examples include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. Climate change is caused by increased concentrations of these gases in earth's atmosphere[25].

Mitigation: Process of limiting the severity of various hazards including GHG emissions by the implementation of project-based, policy, and regulatory measures[26].

Net-Zero Emissions: Refers to the achievement of regulating a balance between the amount of GHGs produced and the amount of GHG emissions removed from the atmosphere[27].

Sustainability: Generally refers to the avoidance of depletion of natural resources to maintain an ecological balance[28]. The County asked residents through the engagement process of this plan's creation what sustainability meant to them. Most residents identified

[21] Canada, "Climate Change Adaptation in Canada."
[22] Canada, "Climate Change Concepts."
[23] Bush and Flato, *Canada's Changing Climate Report*.
[24] Lindsey and Dahlman, "Climate Change."
[25] Canada, "Greenhouse Gas Emissions."
[26] Environment and Climate Change Canada, *Climate Science 2050*.
[27] Canada, "Net-Zero Emissions by 2050."
[28] Canada, "Sustainability."

sustainability as using resources wisely, planning for future generations, and protecting the environment.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The SDGs were developed in 2015 by the United Nations and are a set of 17 interconnected goals[29] designed to provide a roadmap for communities and organizations to define and achieve a more sustainable future. The SDGs provide a holistic framework for understanding sustainability and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030.

Abbreviations

AR6: Sixth Assessment Report (of the IPCC)

ECCC: Environment and Climate Change Canada

ECDM: Energy Conservation and Demand Management

EV: Electric vehicle(s)

FCM: Federation of Canadian Municipalities

GEP: Green Economy Peterborough

GHG: Greenhouse gas(es)

GMST: Global mean surface temperature

IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

KPI: Key performance indicators

LPH: Lakelands (formerly Peterborough) Public Health

MECP: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks

PCCIA: (Ontario) Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment

PCCP: Peterborough County City Paramedics

PCCWMF: Peterborough County City Waste Management Facility

PCP: Partners for Climate Protection

RFP: Request for proposal

ROD: Rural Ontario Development

RTO8: Regional Tourism Organization 8

[29] United Nations, "THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development."

SDG: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

tCO2e: Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. A standardized unit of measurement that makes comparing the impacts of different GHGs to each other possible.

ktCO2e: kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Equivalent to tCO2e x 10^3.

Introduction

Peterborough County is an upper-tier municipal government serving residents, visitors, and townships to meet the needs of our community, in consultation with First Nations.

Peterborough County is comprised of eight townships:

- Trent Lakes
- Selwyn
- Otonabee-South Monaghan
- North Kawartha
- Havelock-Belmont-Methuen
- Douro-Dummer
- Cavan-Monaghan
- Asphodel-Norwood

Peterborough County is also home to Curve Lake and Hiawatha First Nations communities.

The County's vision is to work together with our townships and service delivery partners to provide high quality municipal services to our communities. Peterborough County values respect by honouring our commitment to the environment, history, culture, and one another.

This Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan recognizes the need for Peterborough County to step into a leadership role in local sustainability and climate action by providing a framework, strategic guidance, and facilitating engagement in support of our community and our corporate vision and values. Grounded in science, equity, and collaboration, this plan aims to bring First Nations, member Townships, County Residents, Local Businesses, and Visitors together to take meaningful steps towards our collective climate goals for the benefit of all.

This Plan provides a steppingstone for advancing future County climate action, building on the meaningful work completed to date and aligning with international commitments like the Paris Agreement[30], United Nations Sustainable Development Goals[31], Federal and Provincial targets and priorities, neighboring local plans like the City of Peterborough's Climate 2.0 Plan[32], and other County strategic plans and priorities.

This Plan outlines a strategic path to reducing GHG emissions, adapting to unavoidable climate impacts, and mitigating future impacts by building a more resilient and sustainable

[30] Canada, "Paris Agreement."
[31] United Nations, "THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development."
[32] Sustainability Solutions Group, "Peterborough Climate Change Action Plan 2.0."

future. The Plan aims to outline our current actions and provide feasible, actionable next steps towards a sustainable and climate ready Peterborough County.

The success of this updated plan depends on Peterborough County identifying sustainability and climate change actions as a priority in our Strategic Plan. Sustainability can be a lens that can be applied to everything we do at the County.

It is imperative that we align the updated Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan with our other existing and future strategic plans including the following:

- Active Transportation Master Plan[33]
- Asset Management Plan[34]
- Official Plan[35]
- Watershed Plan
- Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan[36]
- Waste Management Master Plan[37]
- GROW Economic Development Plan
- Tourism Plan

Recognizing that the cost of inaction[38], including economic and social costs, far outweighs the cost of a proactive approach, this plan brings together government and community in a united response to one of the greatest challenges of our time.

Sustainability

Sustainability is essential to Peterborough County, not as an abstract ideal but as the very foundation of the County's success. The beauty of the County's rivers, lakes, wetlands, forests and farmland is more than a backdrop, it's a magnet that draws over three million visitors annually who collectively spend more than $300 million[39] and sustain local businesses and agriculture.

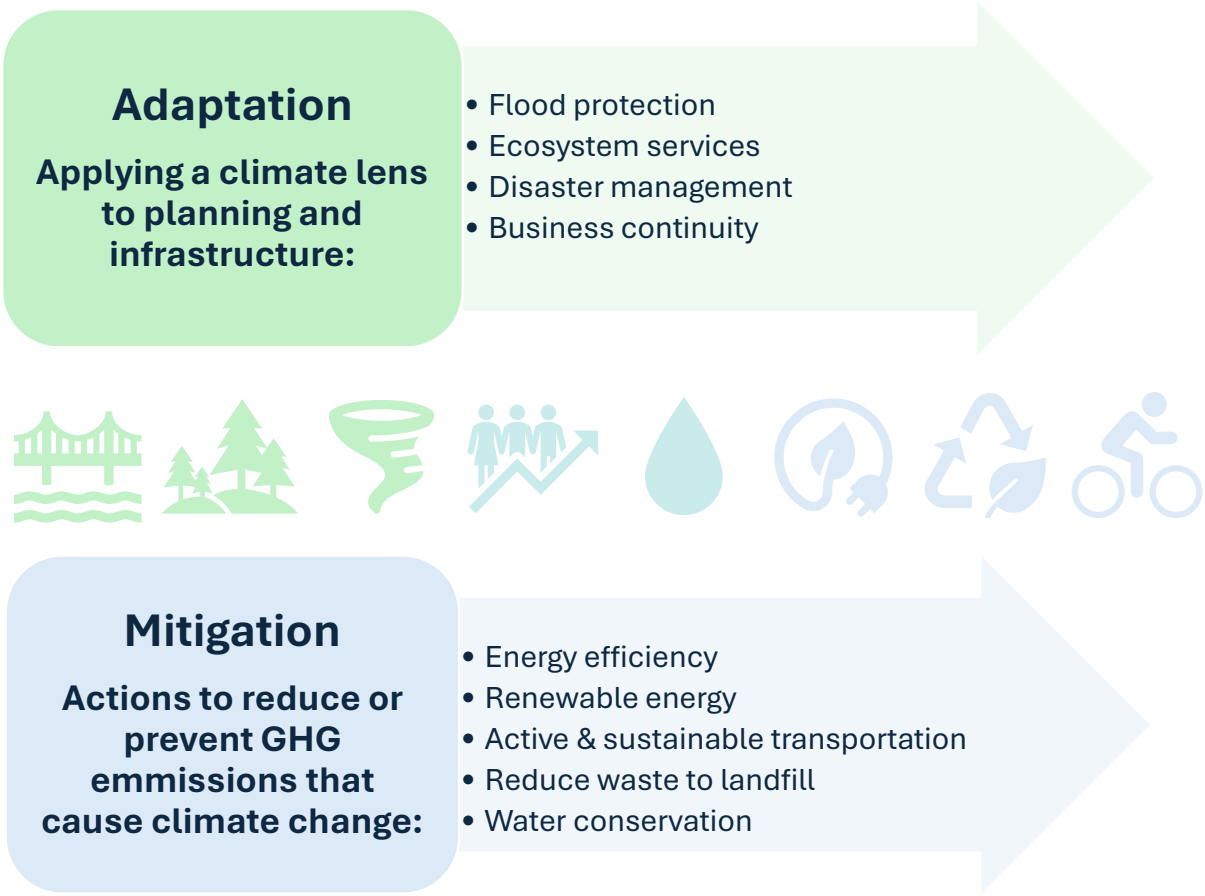
Our agriculture sector, rooted in more than 200 years of history, depends directly on healthy, fertile land and clean water to support vibrant farmers markets, agri-tourism, and innovation in sustainable food systems[40].

[33] BT Engineering Inc., "County of Peterborough-Active Transportation Master Plan."
[34] County of Peterborough, "Appendix A - Asset Management Plan."
[35] County of Peterborough, "Peterborough County Official Plan."
[36] Justynski and Jegeris, "2024-2029 Peterborough County Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan."
[37] Cambium Inc., "Waste Management Master Plan."
[38] Sawyer, "Damage Control: Reducing the Costs of Climate Impacts in Canada."
[39] The Kawarthas Tourism, "Https://Thekawarthas.ca/Industry-2/."
[40] County of Peterborough, "County of Peterborough: Brand Identity."

Natural assets like the Trent-Severn Waterway and protected landscapes foster outdoor recreation, improve resident wellbeing, and attract new residents, entrepreneurs and talent.

By embracing responsible sustainability, we can safeguard what makes Peterborough County distinctive, ensuring resilience and a thriving economy and quality of life for generations to come.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation



Within the context of this plan, climate change adaptation is addressed through applying a climate lens to planning infrastructure and services, with the consideration of changing conditions[41]. This includes strengthening flood protection methods, the preservation and enhancement of natural ecosystems (such as wetlands and forests), emergency and disaster management plans, and business continuity planning.

[41] Canada, "Climate Change Adaptation in Canada."

Climate mitigation includes the steps we can take to reduce or prevent GHG emissions and meet targets[42] such as increasing waste diversion and reducing waste sent to landfill, promoting energy-efficient residential and commercial buildings, expanding the use of renewable energy sources, supporting active and sustainable transportation options, alongside encouraging water and energy conservation practices.

Addressing Climate Change Starts at Home

The causes and solutions to the global problem of climate change start locally. Our community can join the growing number of Canadian municipalities that are answering the call to help mitigate our GHG emissions and adapt our communities to a changing climate.

"Human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming[43]".

The state of global climate change

Global GHG emissions continue to increase due to unsustainable energy use, and average global surface temperatures in the decade 2011-2020 have reached 1.1°C above 1850-1900 average surface temperatures[44]. The IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)[45] demonstrates that the proof of human-caused climate change is certain and that immediate action is required. The warming of our planet has led to rapid, intensifying, and unprecedented changes to weather and climate that has been documented in all regions globally. This change increasingly impacts ecosystems and the well-being of people everywhere. The AR6 warns that maintaining status quo will result in Earth's surface warming beyond 1.5°C in the near term, and experts agree that it will be challenging to contain warming below 2°C within this century, given reported national GHG commitments for 2030. The rate of warming is felt disproportionately by Canada's North, where warming is occurring at double the global rate[46].

In 2015, Canada and 194 other countries reached The Paris Agreement[47], a binding international agreement which sets the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C and below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Immediate climate action and strong commitments are

[42] Environment and Climate Change Canada, "National Inventory Report 1990–2023: Greenhouse Gas Sources and Sinks in Canada."
[43] Calvin et al., *IPCC Climate Change 2023 – Synthesis Report*.
[44] Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change (Ipcc), *Climate Change 2021 – The Physical Science Basis*.
[45] Calvin et al., *IPCC Climate Change 2023 – Synthesis Report*.
[46] Bush and Flato, *Canada's Changing Climate Report*.
[47] Canada, "Paris Agreement."

required from all sectors and regions, including Peterborough County [48]. In addition to mitigating GHG emissions, adaptation measures are essential for adapting communities to climate changes[49].

A rise of 1.5 to 2°C may not seem to be a large increase in temperature, but those degree points are added to the reference Global Mean Surface Temperature (GMST)[50] of 13.7°C from the pre-Industrial period (~1850-1900)[51]. Major changes to GMST are mainly the result of land surface temperature changes because of the ability of water to absorb a lot of heat energy without a significant temperature increase in the water itself. A rise of 1.5-2°C would result in a GMST of 15.2-15.7°C by the end of the century, stemming from land surface temperatures high enough to pose disastrous risks to the health of humans and ecosystems all over the world[52].

Globally, and in North America, these impacts include hot extremes with an increased number of heat waves, fewer total rainfalls but more severe storms, and droughts that threaten agriculture and ecosystems[53]. Flash flooding is also a concern, as the extended periods of high heat will cause surface soils to dry out. Very dry soils compact easier and they actually become hydrophobic, meaning that flash floods are more likely when there is a severe rainfall as the soil repels more water than it can absorb[54].

Local impacts of climate change

Climate change is causing unprecedented impacts within Ontario, including damage to infrastructure, disrupting business operations, and impacting human health and wellbeing. The Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment (PCCIA)[55] agrees that rapid and deep reductions in GHG emissions alongside adaptation measures are required to address locally evident changes to our climate. Between 1948 and 2016, Ontario's mean annual temperature increased by 1.3°C and mean annual precipitation increased by 9.7%[56]. Locally this is felt as heatwaves, flooding, and increased damage caused by more frequently occurring extreme weather events. The costly impacts to built-up and natural

[48] Canada, "Net-Zero Emissions by 2050."
[49] Canada, "Climate Change Adaptation in Canada."
[50] Bush and Flato, *Canada's Changing Climate Report*.
[51] Lindsey and Dahlman, "Climate Change."
[52] United Nations, "1.5°C"; Bush and Lemmen, *Canada's Changing Climate Report - Changes in Oceans Surrounding Canada; Chapter 7*; Lindsey and Dahlman, "Climate Change."
[53] Leahy et al., "Climate-Change-Vulnerability-Assessment-Technical-Report-2023"; Bush and Lemmen, *Canada's Changing Climate Report - Changes in Oceans Surrounding Canada; Chapter 7*; Ipcc, *Global Warming of 1.5°C*.
[54] Bush and Lemmen, *Canada's Changing Climate Report - Changes in Oceans Surrounding Canada; Chapter 7*.
[55] Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks et al., *Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment: Technical Report: January 2023*.
[56] Bush and Flato, *Canada's Changing Climate Report*.

areas in Ontario include water shortages, forest fires, power outages, and outbreaks of disease.

The 2023 PCCIA report[57] identifies risks and opportunities across **Ontario sectors**, aimed at stimulating adaptation measures across Ontario. The report lists the sectors already at high risk including:

- **food and agriculture**: field crops and fruit and vegetables.
- **infrastructure**: stormwater management.
- **natural environment**: fauna, aquatic systems, and regulating services.
- **people and communities**: population, healthcare, and Indigenous communities.
- **business and economies**: arts, entertainment and recreation, forestry, fishing and hunting economies.

The climate impacts felt currently in Ontario are expected to increase. Governments need to increase their preparedness in the context of a changing climate. Adaptation measures contribute to emergency preparedness in response to extreme weather promoting resiliency within communities[58]. Peterborough County has already begun to see the effects of the changing climate. Extreme temperatures, heat waves, severe storms, and other dangerous weather phenomena have started to occur more often and will only become more frequent and severe going forward (table 1).

[57] Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks et al., *Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment: Technical Report: January 2023*.
[58] Canada, "Climate Change Adaptation in Canada."

Table 1: Non-Exhaustive List of Extreme/Severe Natural Phenomena Associated with Climate Change that have Impacted Peterborough County Over the Past Ten Years.

	Phenomenon	Time	Impacts
	Low water warning	June, 2016 to March, 2017	Drought conditions, recommendations to reduce water use
	Derecho	May, 2022	Estimated $3.3 million in damage to infrastructure, extensive damage to trees and power lines, power outages, and 2 deaths in Peterborough County
	Tornado	July, 2022	Tree and structural damages in Rockdale (Havelock-Belmont-Methuen township)
	Extreme fire risk	June, 2023	Burn bans and high levels of caution in the region
	Blue-green algae bloom	Summer, 2023	Closing of Peterborough beaches, health risks due to potentially contaminated water
	Ice storm	March, 2025	Extensive damage to buildings and trees, declaration of a State of Emergency lasting 24 days, widespread power outages lasting multiple weeks in some areas.
	Wildfire smoke	Summer, 2025	Poor air quality leading to respiratory illness in some cases
	Blacklegged tick range expansion	Ongoing	Warming climates allow blacklegged ticks to survive further and further north every year, they are the biggest vector for the spread of Lyme Disease

Extreme weather events are expected to get worse as the climate continues to change, posing ever-growing risks to the people of Peterborough County. For example, in the area monitored by the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, more than 25% of people live in floodplains. Projected precipitation trends put a significant number of households at risk of damage from flooding in Bridgenorth, Lakefield, Millbrook, and Norwood, as well as hundreds of people in the City of Peterborough[59]. Other projected changes will have an impact on a large amount of the population, such as extreme heat days which are days with a temperature above 30°C. Since average seasonal temperatures are expected to increase by up to 3.5°C in the 2050's and could be up by as much as 6°C in the 2080's[60], Peterborough County is likely to experience a significant increase in extreme heat days.

[59] Leahy et al., "Climate-Change-Vulnerability-Assessment-Technical-Report-2023."
[60] Leahy et al., "Climate-Change-Vulnerability-Assessment-Technical-Report-2023."

- **Baseline**: 7 days per year above 30°C in Peterborough County (30-year average 1971-2000)

Middle of the road, warming ~2°C

- **By 2050**: 21 heat days/year (average number of heat days will triple)
- **By 2080**: 32 heat days/year (average number of heat days will be greater than a month)

Business as usual, warming >2°C

- **By 2050**: 22 heat days/year (average number of heat days will be higher than the middle of the road outcome)
- **By 2080**: 48 heat days/year (average number of heat days will increase by seven times)

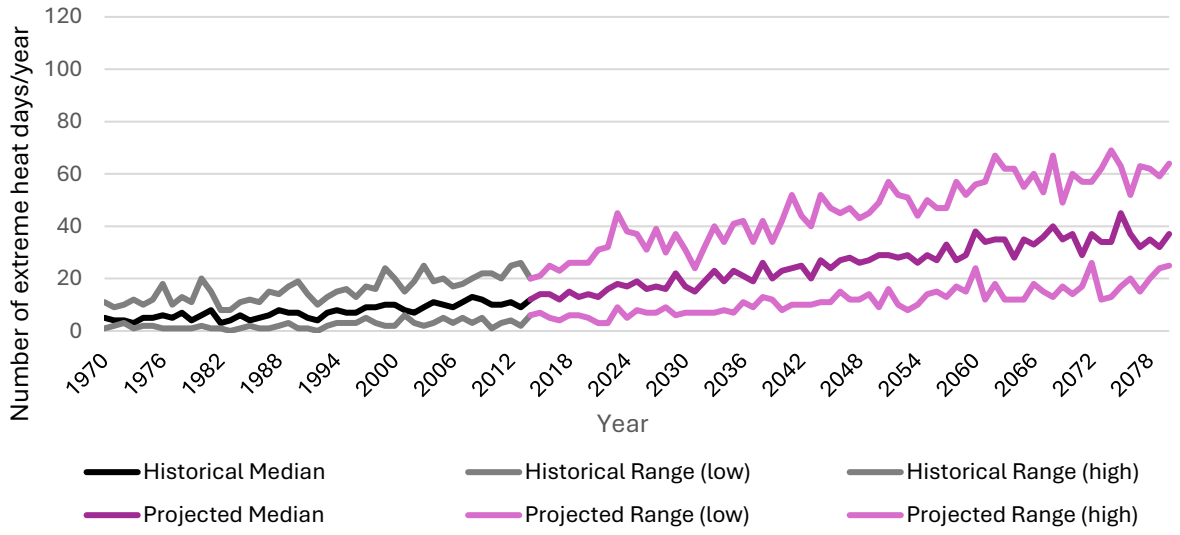


Figure 1: Middle-of-the-road temperature data. Black line represents modeled historical median temperature, grey lines show the high and low temperature range. Purple (middle) line shows projected median temperatures and pink bars show the projected high and low temperature range. Data from ClimateData.ca[61]

[61] "ClimateData.Ca"; Sobie et al., "Multivariate Canadian Downscaled Climate Scenarios for CMIP6 (CanDCS-M6)."

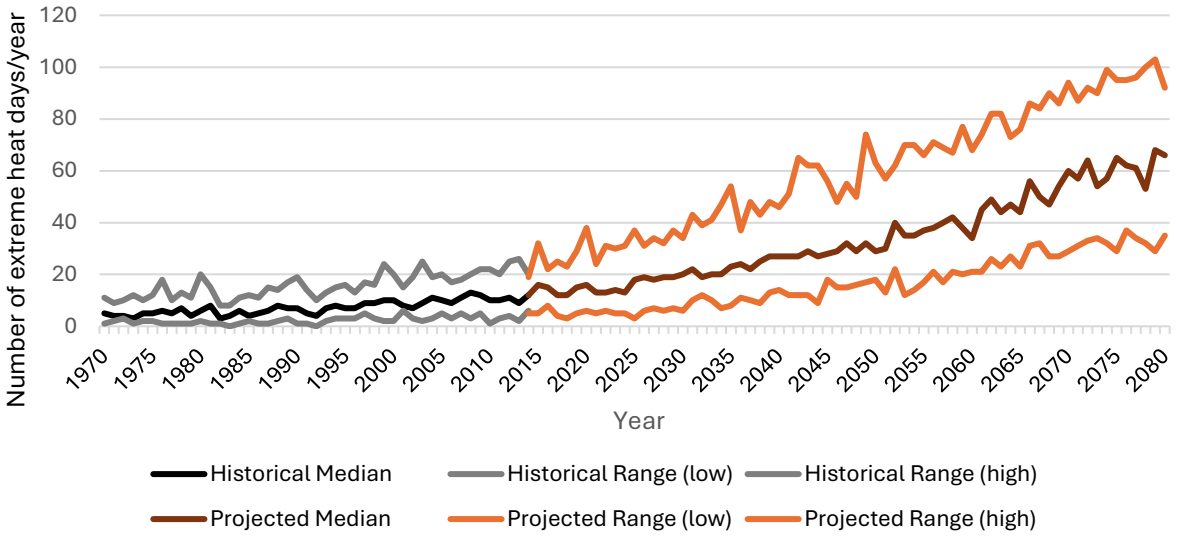


Figure 2: Business-as-usual temperature data. Black line shows modeled historical median temperature, grey lines show the high and low temperature ranges. Brown (middle) line shows projected median temperatures and orange bars show the projected high and low temperature ranges. Data from ClimateData.ca

An increased number of hot days (>30°C) per year will result in more heatwaves. This will in turn lead to a rise in heat-related illnesses in Peterborough County[62]. Heat-related illness is an umbrella term covering illnesses caused by prolonged exposure to extreme heat and to conditions worsened but not caused by extreme heat. These include a range of physical and mental health symptoms, ultimately leading to more hospital visits and higher mortality rates. While this cannot be avoided completely, taking actions to mitigate climate change and keep global warming ideally to 1.5°C[63] but at least below 2°C will go a long way to protect the health and safety of County residents.

The need for local climate action

To make meaningful change, we must reflect on our shared human values and conditions that shape our daily lives. The discomfort we feel when confronted with the urgency of and call to climate action can cause us to look away, or to feel powerless to the task at hand, or to feel that it should be someone else's responsibility.

It is our responsibility to make these commitments for the generations to come. Most Peterborough County residents will live to witness the changing climate into 2050 and beyond, and every single person will feel the effects of those changes. But some people are more vulnerable to the negative effects than others. This is because everybody faces different amounts of exposure to those changes and some people are naturally more sensitive to feeling the effects. Depending on many factors, everyone's adaptive capacity,

[62] Leahy et al., "Climate-Change-Vulnerability-Assessment-Technical-Report-2023."
[63] United Nations, "1.5°C What it means and Why it Matters [explanatory]."

or ability to cope with and recover from the effects, will all be different as well[64]. To approach climate action equitably, we must consider the many different needs and circumstances of the County's residents.

As of 2021, children aged 0-14 make up 14.4% of the County's population, and older adults (65+) make up more than a quarter of the population at 25.2% [65]. Both age groups are more sensitive to the effects of extreme heat, and prolonged exposure will reduce their ability to withstand heat-related illnesses[66]. Social factors like socio-economic status also have a large effect on vulnerability to the changing climate. The prevalence of low income (after tax) households in the County was at 10.9% in 2021[67], which translates to more than one-in-ten of families in the County.

Together, we can act on the opportunities available to us to make changes in our behaviours and lifestyles. We can make changes that are supported by our community and local government. We can ensure that these actions are distributed in equitable ways and consider the unique individual needs within Peterborough County. We can make progress towards a climate-resilient future.

Planning Process

Goals

At the earliest stages of planning for this completed plan the following goals were set and maintained throughout the process.

- Building partnerships and relationships internally and externally
- Setting initiatives that are actionable
- Ensuring initiatives are fiscally responsible, and have potential for cost savings
- A final document that is concise and easy to follow
- Identifying opportunities to learn from, and work together with Townships and First Nations with their own sustainability and climate action goals

Targets

Canada's commitment to achieving emission-reduction targets is set out in the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act, which received Royal Assent in June 2021. The Act sets out Canada's 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement of 40% to 45% below 2005 levels, as well as Canada's target of net-zero emissions by 2050, and it requires the Government of Canada to set additional targets every five years to 2050. The Act specifies that future milestone targets must be informed

[64] Leahy et al., "Climate-Change-Vulnerability-Assessment-Technical-Report-2023."
[65] Government of Canada, "2021 Census of Population - Data Products."
[66] Leahy et al., "Climate-Change-Vulnerability-Assessment-Technical-Report-2023."
[67] Government of Canada, "2021 Census of Population - Data Products."

by the best available science[68]. In February 2025, Canada, under its 2035 NDC, committed to achieving a further reduction of 45 to 50% below 2005 levels[69].

Meeting the federal targets will be challenging at a corporate and overall community level and will take effort from much more than just the County to achieve. However, striving to achieve these targets is crucial for mitigating the severe consequences of climate change, protecting human health and well-being, and fostering a sustainable economy. At the same time, the County can develop a climate adaptation plan to deal with the impacts of climate change to come.

Many of the action items within this plan support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)[70]. Without commitments at the local level and action from municipal governments and communities, progress on the SDGs is not possible. The SDGs provide a useful framework for the development of local policies, programs and initiatives that support sustainable development. Municipal governments also play an active role in localizing the SDGs, which is the process of adapting the global goals to local context.

Engagement

Keeping in line with the goal of building partnerships and relationships, it was imperative to engage with our community throughout the development of this plan. The following summaries outline the engagement process that was undertaken with the groups who were engaged. This includes our member Townships, First Nations, Community Stakeholders, County Residents, and County Staff.

The helpful feedback that we received through this engagement process is directly reflected in the initiatives and five-year action plan to follow.

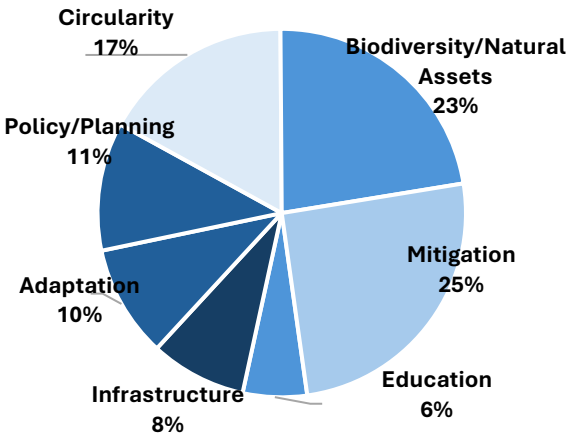
[68] Environment and Climate Change Canada, *Climate Science 2050*.
[69] Environment and Climate Change Canada, "National Inventory Report 1990–2023: Greenhouse Gas Sources and Sinks in Canada."
[70] United Nations, "THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development."

Township & First Nations Survey

How we engaged: In July 2025, Peterborough County distributed a survey to First Nations and member Townships.

Who we heard from: Responses were received from Staff at all eight townships, Hiawatha First Nation, and Curve Lake First Nation.

Current and future sustainability and climate change initiatives are underway. Topics include:



Current challenges: Townships currently experience limiting constraints with allocating resources towards sustainability initiatives. Barriers to action identified included funding access (35%), Staff capacity (29%), political support (24%), and community engagement (12%).

How the County can provide support:

Note: Detailed survey information in Appendix A1.

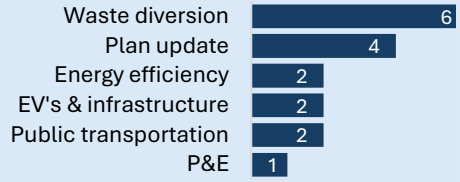
What we heard

First Nations and Townships identified their **top priorities**

Balancing progress with funding and capacity constraints: All respondents want to collaborate on resources, funding opportunities, and programming.

Striving for emissions reduction: Respondents are active in building retrofits, and are exploring renewable energy, fleet modernization, and GHG emissions tracking.

Potential County initiatives were identified:



Respondents want to see more opportunities for circular initiatives including waste diversion. They are looking for guidance from County plans, and want to see programming in support of mitigation efforts including reducing transportation emissions. Further, through community engagement and education.

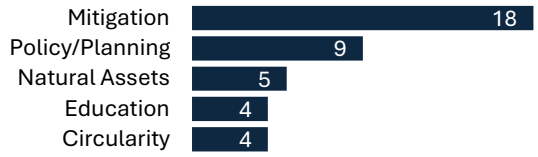
Stakeholder Survey

How we engaged: In June 2025, Peterborough County distributed a sustainability survey to Stakeholders. Among other questions, Stakeholders were asked **"What Sustainability/Climate change initiatives or projects would you like to see the County take on in the future?"**

Who we heard from: Survey responses were received from 13 stakeholders across stakeholder groups:

- **Public sector**: The City of Peterborough
- **Health & public safety**: Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough Health Unit
- **Community-Based Organizations & non-profits**: GreenUP, Farms at Work
- **Community advocacy groups**: For Our Grandchildren, Clean Up Peterborough, Circular Peterborough Collective, Peterborough Alliance for Food and Farming
- **Business & Economic Stakeholders**: Lake Edge Cottages, Woodleigh Farms
- **Educational & Institutions**: Camp Kawartha
- **Environmental & Natural Resource Stakeholders**: Peterborough Field Naturalists, Kawartha Climate and Conservation Partnership Network (Kawartha Land Trust)

Potential County initiatives were identified:



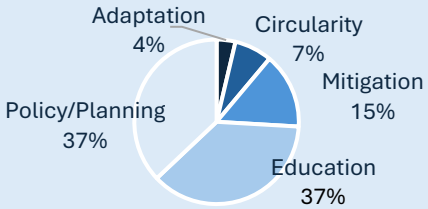
Stakeholders would most like to see the County build on mitigation initiatives for both Corporate and Community GHG sources, including through home and building retrofits and EV infrastructure.

Note: Detailed survey information in Appendix A2.

What we heard

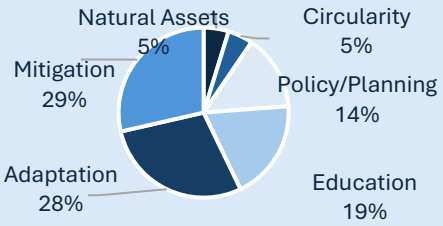
Stakeholders identified how the County can support Stakeholders, and opportunities for County-Stakeholder Collaboration.

Current and future Stakeholder initiative types the County could support:



Stakeholders have implemented and planned diverse projects/programs that align with County sustainability goals. They seek County support through shared resources, plans, communication, education programs, infrastructure, and incentives.

County-Stakeholder collaboration opportunity types:



Resident Survey

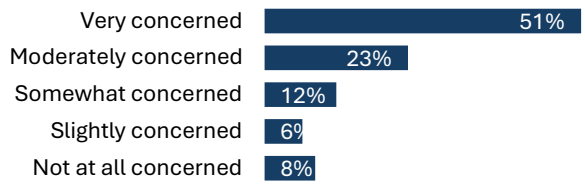
How we engaged: Aug 5—Sept 8, 2025, Peterborough County distributed a sustainability survey to Residents via engage.ptbocounty.ca. A post card with Q/R code was mailed to residents in addition to promotion on social media channels.

Who we heard from: Survey responses were received from 147 County Residents across 8 member Townships:

- Asphodel Norwood (5%)
- Cavan Monaghan (20%)
- Douro-Dummer (12%)
- Havelock-Belmont-Methuen (15%)
- North Kawartha (10%)
- Otonabee South-Monaghan (12%)
- Selwyn (14%)
- Trent Lakes (12%)

Residents say that sustainability means prioritizing the wise use of resources (77%), and planning should look ahead to future generations (71%) while protecting the environment (68%). Further, sustainability prioritizes waste reduction (58%). Though not the defining theme, sustainability also supports local jobs (37%) while keeping costs low for families (35%).

Residents describe their concern for climate change:



Nearly **9 in 10 residents** (89%) surveyed have noticed changes in the local climate in the past decade.

What we heard

Peterborough County Residents identified what **worries** them most about climate change:

61% are worried about extreme weather: destructive storms, prolonged draught, flood risk.

39% are worried about environmental quality: Poor air and water quality, ecosystem and biodiversity loss.

37% are worried about social welfare and health: Concern for future generations and vulnerable peoples, heatwaves.

22% are worried about government and policy: Inaction, funds allocation, need for investment.

21% are worried about food security: Crop failure, impacts to agriculture, rising food prices.

20% are worried about economic impacts: Damages to property, power outages, home energy needs.

Residents state that weather is becoming more extreme and unpredictable (56% of responses).

Most residents (53%) do not know if the County is doing enough to address climate change. **This supports the need for an updated climate action plan that is an accessible and easy to read document, allowing residents to stay informed.** A further 28% state that not enough is being done. Additionally, 14% of residents say that the County is currently doing enough, and the remaining 5% express that too much is being done.

1. **Homeowner upgrades** were ranked as the top priority among residents. Residents support programs that help individual homeowners with heating/ energy cost reduction via home upgrades. These programs deliver immediate, tangible benefits to individuals (cost savings and comfort).
2. There was strong interest in natural/ **ecosystem solutions**: Land stewardship (tree planting, wetland/shoreline conservation) was highly supported. These programs offer multiple co-benefits such as carbon sequestration, flood mitigation, erosion control, supporting biodiversity, and local temperature regulation.
3. Support for **agricultural sustainability** was also strong. Partnering with sustainable farming practices is well supported, reflecting the value of local food systems. Sustainable farming practices further reduce runoff and soil erosion, improve water quality, and protect pollinators. *Note: Detailed survey information in Appendix A3.*

What we heard

Peterborough County Residents **ranked** potential climate initiatives:

1. Incentives or financing to help homeowners reduce heating and energy costs through home upgrades.

2. Land stewardship programs (tree planting, wetland/forest conservation, shoreline protection).

3. Partnering with organizations to help promote sustainable farming practices.

4. Climate adaptation programs to improve resilience (reducing flood risk and protecting infrastructure).

5. Transportation emissions reduction (public transportation, EV charging, walking and biking trails).

6. Water conservation programs (residential rainwater, rain barrels).

7. Reducing the County's corporate GHG emissions (energy efficiency in buildings, greening fleet).

Division Meetings

How we engaged: May 2025 through July 2025, meetings were held between Sustainability Staff and other Peterborough County Divisions to facilitate knowledge and resource sharing and to inform actionable sustainability goals within the Plan.

Meetings were held with divisions:

- Planning
- Operations
- Facilities
- Engineering and Construction
- Economic Development
- Tourism & Communications
- Peterborough County-City Paramedics
- Purchasing
- Waste Management and Sustainability

The inter-divisional meetings allowed for cross-departmental collaboration, enabled data sharing, and fostered mutual understanding on actionable items included in the plan.

The main themes identified:

- Enthusiasm for climate lens
- Resource and funding allocation
- Operational support and capacity
- Accountability and ownership of initiatives
- Desire for leadership and training

What we heard

Peterborough County Staff identified their **top priorities**

Desire to focus on key sustainability initiatives: Staff identified a strong interest in concentrating efforts on priority sustainability projects to drive meaningful impact.

Among divisions there were many initiatives identified that were already in place and working well. The meetings established that foundational work is currently in place and that aligning the plan with actionable goals will support further progress.

Staff are poised for progress but looking for direction: Among all divisions, Staff expressed that some work needs to be done to clearly define the sustainability goals that best reflect the needs of the County.

Opportunities for inter-divisional collaboration and data sharing: Staff identified that further collaboration is required to facilitate data sharing and to provide additional training and support as new initiatives are adopted.

Initiatives

The following initiatives are work that the County can do over the next five years to meet our goals and targets set out in this Plan. The initiatives were determined through research on best practices, as well as feedback received through the engagement process. The initiatives are broken down into the following categories:

- Sustainability
- Climate Change-Mitigation-Corporate
- Climate Change-Mitigation-Community
- Climate Change-Adaptation

Sustainability

As we advance our sustainability goals, our initiatives will prioritize the protection and enhancement of our natural assets such as our forests, wetlands, lakes, and rivers, ensuring they remain resilient in the face of climate change and development pressures. We will also work to align tourism practices with conservation principles, promoting responsible recreation and eco-tourism that celebrate our natural heritage while safeguarding it for future generations. Sustainable agriculture is essential for protecting the environment, supporting local economies, and ensuring long-term food security[71]. The Sustainability Initiatives are divided into the categories of Land, Water, Agriculture, and Sustainable Tourism.

Land

Actions

The County should seek opportunities and funding to naturalize properties to include planting native plants and trees where practical. This can help beneficial insects and wildlife and provides an opportunity to reduce maintenance required to water and cut grass in some areas. County properties that have been identified as candidates for planting include the Millbrook Public Works Depot, Havelock Public Works Depot, Central Victoria Park, and the new Administrative Building property.

The County should also encourage residents to plant native plants on their properties to support local biodiversity, improve soil health, and reduce water usage. This could be done through education, workshops, and recognition programs.

Invasive species have significantly impacted Peterborough County and surrounding regions by outcompeting native vegetation, degrading natural habitats, and reducing ecological resilience. The County should identify opportunities to work with local partners to spread awareness of invasive species and educate residents on how to identify and remove

[71] Canada, “Sustainable Agriculture Strategy.”

invasive species on their properties responsibly. The County should find ways to support and incentivize invasive species removal throughout the County.

The County should review and identify opportunities for the Peterborough County Forest including planting opportunities as well as carbon offsetting.

These actions support SDG 15. Life on Land, by taking action to reduce degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity, and reducing invasive species.

Water

Actions

The County is currently in the process of completing a Watershed Plan which will identify proposed development/land uses and associated impacts, identify natural heritage and hydrological features, approaches for protecting, improving, and restoring quality and quantity of water, and identify best management practices for development to minimize risks to the watershed. The County should complete this process and implement recommendations within the plan.

The County should look for opportunities to partner with conservation authorities, and other stewardship groups like cottage/lake associations to promote and educate on lake protection, as well as implement a shoreline protection (grant/incentive) program.

These actions support SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation, by making efforts to improve water quality and protect water resources and water-related ecosystems.

Agriculture

Actions

The County should partner with local organizations to support development of programs and ongoing funding sources to encourage farming practices and on-farm activities that are sustainable and help mitigate climate change

These actions support SDG 2. Zero Hunger, which identifies the importance of achieving food security, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Sustainable Tourism

Actions

Peterborough County can implement a variety of sustainable tourism initiatives that align with the O'de Piitaanemaan Pledge[72], which encourages visitors to respect the land, water, and communities of the region. The O'de Piitaanemaan Pledge is about respect: respect for the land, respect for each other, and respect for those who will come after us. The Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg of Curve Lake First Nation and Hiawatha First Nation uphold the

[72] Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development (PKED), "The O'de Piitaanemaan Pledge."

traditional teaching, Mnaadendamowin—to give respect to all creation—as a means of living sustainably and in balance with the land, waterways and each other.

Initiatives could include incorporating the pledge at visitor touch points and creating a guide for tourism operators to provide guests on visiting sustainably, promoting active transportation and sustainable experiences.

The County should continue to promote local and Indigenous-led tourism experiences that share knowledge and stewardship values, and continue to highlight local artisans, food producers, and eco-friendly accommodations in tourism marketing.

The County and the Regional Tourism Organization 8 (RTO8)[73] have worked together to become a Green Step Certified Sustainable Tourism Destination. Green Step[74] is recognized by the Global Sustainability Council and aligned with the United Nations SDGs. Waste Management & Sustainability have participated in the group's action planning committee, and the certification has outlined sustainable goals/initiatives for our region to implement.

These actions support SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth, by implementing practices to promote sustainable tourism that create jobs and promote local culture and products.

[73] Regional Tourism Organization 8, "RTO8 — Regional Tourism Organization 8."
[74] GreenStep Solutions Inc., "Sustainable Tourism 2030."

Climate Change

(Mitigation)Corporate

In 2025 Peterborough County corporate emissions totaled 5.6 $ktCO_2e$, reflecting an 18% reduction compared to 2018 (baseline) levels. A further reduction of 1.5 $ktCO_2e$ is required to meet the 40% (4.1 $ktCO_2e$) target by 2030. An additional reduction of 0.7 $ktCO_2e$ is required to meet the 50% (3.4 $ktCO_2e$) target by 2035. The amount required to meet the 2035 target is roughly the equivalent of removing the average annual emissions of eight (8) Peterborough County-City Paramedics (PCCP) Ambulances, or seven (7) diesel powered plow trucks, or diverting approximately 800 metric tonnes of waste from landfill (6% of 2025 solid waste), cumulatively each year.

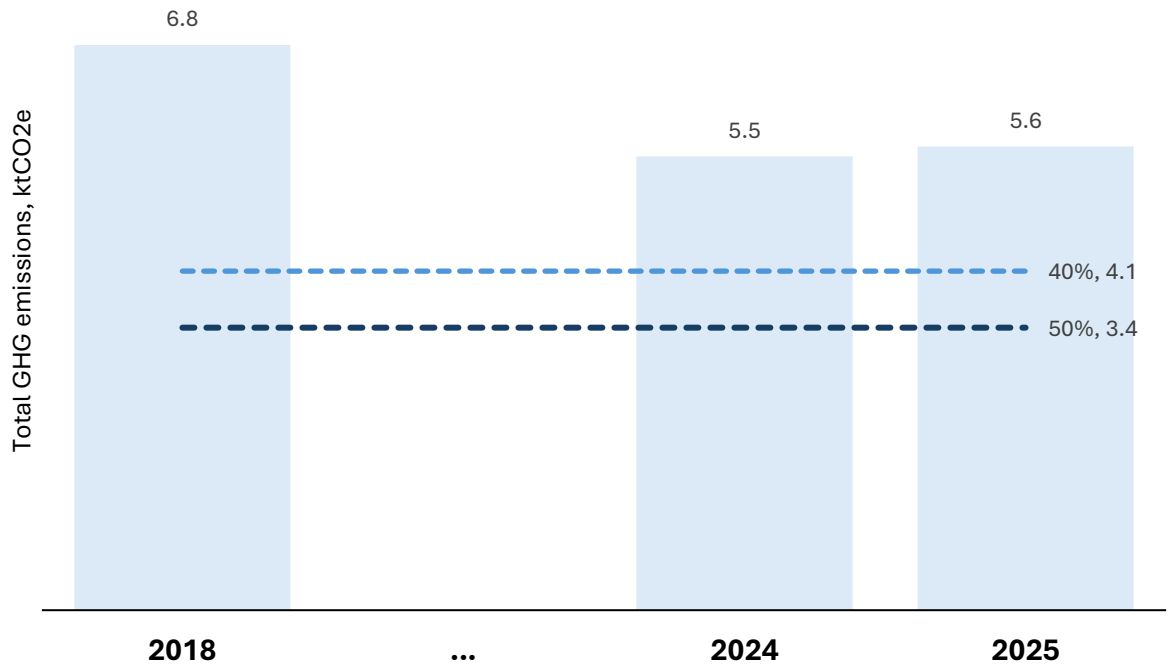


Figure 3: Total Peterborough County corporate GHG emissions, 2018, 2024, and 2025. The dashed lines represent the total emissions reduction goals (from 2018 levels) of 40% and 50% by 2030 and 2035 respectively.

2018 was selected as the baseline year as it is the most complete historical dataset with which to measure progress to date. The emissions inventory will continue to be updated annually, which may include baseline and subsequent year recalculation based on improvements to data availability and computational methods. Carbon dioxide equivalent

was calculated according to the IPCC Greenhouse Gas Protocol[75] for carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O) emissions for scope 1 & 2 sources.

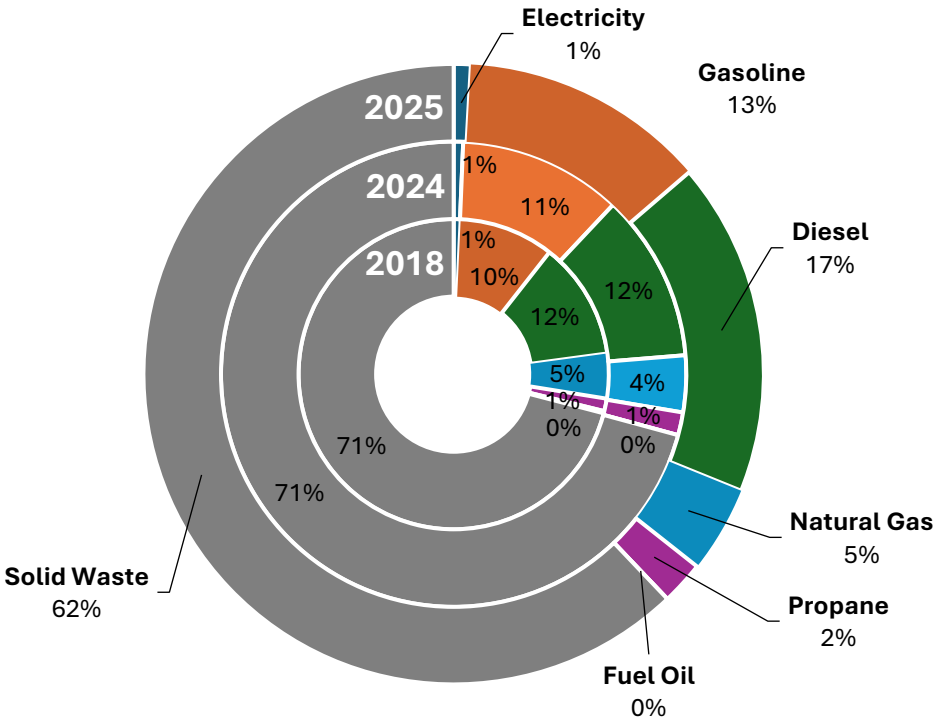


Figure 4: Distribution of Peterborough County corporate emissions (tCO_2e) by Fuel type in 2018, 2024 & 2025.

The Peterborough County corporate inventory includes scope 1 (direct fuel combustion) and 2 (indirect energy consumption) emissions. Solid waste contributes the largest proportion of total emissions and has achieved a 28% reduction since 2018. This includes a 60:40 (City: County) proportional split with the City of Peterborough of annual landfilled material to the Peterborough County City Waste Management Facility (PCCWMF), according to City of Peterborough methodology. The estimated annual non-fossil methane emissions (tCO_2e) reflect the increased diversion of organic material to the Peterborough Compost Facility, which is favourably reflected in both City and County Corporate GHG inventories.

[75] Ranganathan et al., *GHG Protocol A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard*.

Table 2: Emissions (tCO_2e) by Fuel type in 2018, 2024, & 2025. Progress indicates the change compared to 2018 baseline emissions.

Fuel type	2018	2024	2025	Progress
Gasoline, tCO_2e	676	625	721	↑ 7%
Diesel, tCO_2e	840	643	979	↑ 16%
Electricity, tCO_2e	49	36	50	↑ 1%
Solid Waste, tCO_2e	4858	3894	3490	↓ -28%
Natural Gas, tCO_2e	319	217	254	↓ -21%
Propane, tCO_2e	89	87	127	↑ 42%
Fuel Oil, tCO_2e	16	0	0	↓ -100%

Note: 2018 values have been recalculated to reflect revised methodology to solid waste and PCCP Buildings and Fleet in collaboration with the City of Peterborough.

The County has seen positive progress in total emissions from solid waste (↓ -28%), natural gas (↓ -21%), and elimination of fuel oil (↓ -100%) consumption since 2018. Emissions from electricity (↑ 1%) and gasoline (↑ 7%) remain similar to 2018 levels. Combustion of propane (↑ 42%) and diesel (↑ 16%) have increased since 2018, with this increase occurring in 2025.

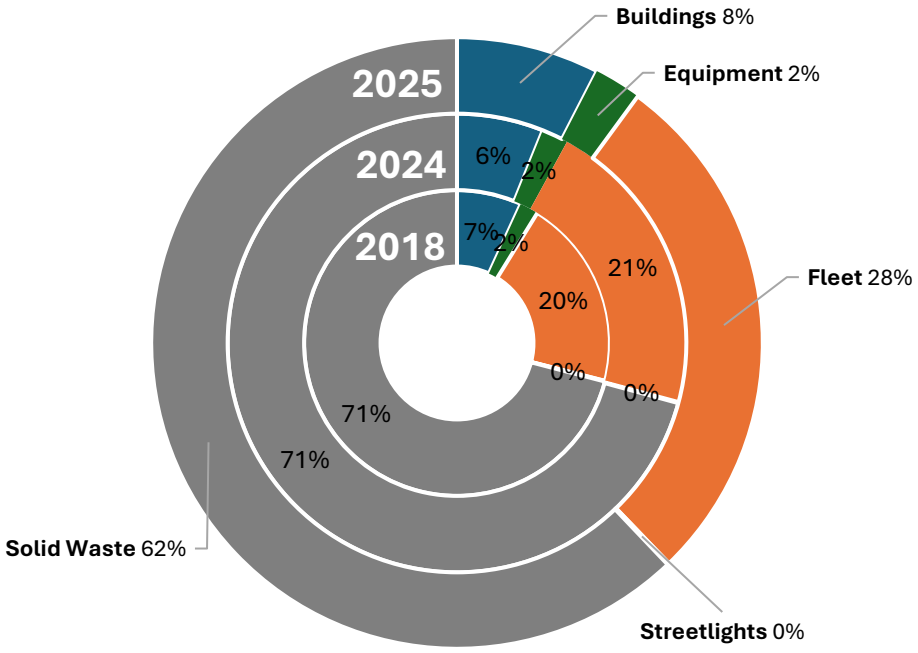


Figure 5: Distribution of Peterborough County corporate emissions (tCO_2e) by source in 2018, 2024 & 2025.

In 2025, GHG emission sources including 17 buildings (8%), various diesel-powered equipment (2%) and 22 streetlights (0.1%) remain consistent with 2018 emissions. Meanwhile, fleet (28%) emissions continue to grow, partially influenced by addition of fleet vehicles. The 2025 fleet emissions consist of vehicle level fuel consumption from 25 diesel vehicles including 21 plow trucks (incl. 1 gasoline), and 117 gasoline light- and heavy-duty vehicles, including 23 PCCP ambulances, 13 community paramedic and a few other light duty vehicle additions across several divisions.

Table 3: Emissions (tCO_2e) by Source in 2018, 2024, & 2025. Progress indicates the change compared to 2018 baseline emissions.

Source	2018	2024	2025	Progress
Buildings, tCO_2e	469	336	425	↓ -9%
Equipment, tCO_2e	134	102	141	↑ 5%
Fleet, tCO_2e	1382	1165	1559	↑ 13%
Solid waste, tCO_2e	4845	3894	3490	↓ -28%
Streetlights, tCO_2e	5	4	5	↑ 10%

Note: 2018 values have been recalculated to reflect revised methodology to solid waste and PCCP Buildings and Fleet in collaboration with the City of Peterborough.

In 2025, Snow removal activity (fuel consumption by plow trucks) increased by 54%, contributing to most of the rise in fleet emissions from 2024. Electricity related emission increases in 2025 (Including buildings and streetlights) are due to increases in the Ontario power grid, where natural gas use increased to fill power demand gaps[76].

Fleet

Peterborough County's corporate fleet is a vital backbone of our operations enabling essential services like road maintenance and emergency response. These vehicles ensure that the County remains clean, safe, and functional. However, despite its importance, our fleet is one of the largest sources (28%) of our corporate emissions, due to the high fuel consumption and frequent operation of heavy-duty vehicles which rely on gasoline and diesel.

Actions

The Operations Division should continue identifying opportunities for right-sizing vehicles through replacement schedules when new vehicles are required to be purchased. PCCP has previously right-sized their fleet through the purchase of smaller body ambulances. Right sizing could continue to occur with Supervisor and Community Paramedics vehicles.

The Operations Division should develop an anti-idling policy. An anti-idling policy across the corporation could directly target unnecessary engine running which could lead to lower GHG emissions and less fuel consumption[77]. The policy will encourage environmental responsibility and awareness, re-enforcing the idea that small actions matter, like turning off the engine during stops. Accountability could be encouraged through training, signage, and regular reminders.

A training program should be provided to staff that operate County vehicles. The training program can equip drivers with sustainable driving techniques that reduce fuel consumption and lower emissions. Techniques can include smooth acceleration and breaking, maintaining steady speeds, avoiding unnecessary idling, anticipating traffic flow, and efficient route planning.

Staff should assess the practicality, benefits, and financial implications of transitioning municipal fleet vehicles to alternative fuel and low emission technologies such as the utilization of hydrogen fuel cells to lower emissions, plug in hybrid, or electric vehicles. Through the upcoming Depot Rationalization Study, an assessment of charging infrastructure capability and ideal locations should be completed. Existing funding opportunities for capital purchases should be utilized.

[76] Environment and Climate Change Canada, "National Inventory Report 1990–2023: Greenhouse Gas Sources and Sinks in Canada."
[77] Canada, "3 A Model Idling Control By-Law."

Buildings

Peterborough County's corporate buildings, ranging from administrative offices to public works facilities, consume energy for heating, cooling, lighting, and equipment. They represent an opportunity for the reduction of emissions. Addressing this, the Facilities division has implemented an Energy Conservation and Demand Management (ECDM) Plan[78]. The plan sets out strategies, goals, and objectives for managing and reducing our energy consumption. Through the plan the County also reports our annual energy and GHG emissions for our facilities and buildings to the province.

Through the ECDM Plan, the Facilities division is already making strides in emissions reductions. From 2018-2025 the County's GHG emissions related to buildings and facilities were reduced by 9%. This was a result of various energy retrofit projects and initiatives.

Actions

Continue to implement ECDM Plan. The organizational goals in the ECDM include:

- Reduction of overall GHG emissions in buildings and facilities by 1.5% per year from 2024-2029, an overall emissions reduction of 7.5% over five years
- Exploring renewable energy opportunities
- Improving financial health by pursuing grants and incentives and reinvestment of utilities savings through energy efficiency projects into new projects
- Improving and enhancing operational efficiency of existing buildings by utilizing best practice maintenance and carrying out upgrades to electrical, mechanical, and building envelopes
- Building future municipal facilities to ensure an elevated level of environmental performance and sustainability

Waste Reduction

The PCCWMF is the largest source (62%) of our corporate GHG emissions. This is due to methane emissions attributable to the decomposition of organic waste[79].

Through the process of updating the County's Waste Management Master Plan[80] in 2024 curbside waste audits were completed for all townships in the County. These audits identified that over 50% of the waste being landfilled from curbside collection could be diverted through an organics program.

Our internal departments also generate a wide range of waste including paper and packaging, organic materials, construction debris and medical equipment. In the summer

[78] Justynski and Jegeris, "2024-2029 Peterborough County Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan."
[79] Canada, "Waste and Greenhouse Gases."
[80] Cambium Inc., "Waste Management Master Plan."

of 2025 Waste Management & Sustainability staff completed waste audits in communal garbage bins at County administrative offices. The audits identified a significant opportunity for waste reduction and diversion, particularly of organics. The total waste composition of the audited material consisted of over 60% organics.

Actions

The County should implement the initiatives and recommendations in the updated Waste Management Master Plan which was approved by County Council. Key focuses of this should be organics diversion from landfill, food waste reduction, and education.

Waste reduction and diversion training for staff should be developed and additional diversion opportunities at County administrative offices should be explored. There is an opportunity to significantly reduce our organics waste at administrative offices through diversion programs tailored to each building. However, simply adding the diversion program will likely not reach the desired outcome; training for staff, as well as staff involvement and buy, in will be imperative for success.

Waste Reduction Guidelines should be developed for Staff Events. A significant amount of waste can be generated through internal corporate meetings and events like All Staff Meetings, Council Meetings, etc. Guidelines for waste reduction at events should be developed. These could include measures like encouraging staff to bring their own water bottles and mugs, using real dishes and cutlery and washing them after meetings, and ordering meals in a way that reduces overall food waste/wasted packaging, etc. Staff should be trained on the Guidelines and they should be put into place for internal events.

Additional corporate waste reduction and diversion opportunities should be reviewed. There is additional waste generated corporately that was not captured through administrative audits. Examples include expired medical equipment generated from the PCCP Operations or construction waste generated through capital projects. Staff should review these sources of corporate waste and identify additional reduction or diversion opportunities.

Procurement

The County should implement policies and guidelines that support social[81] and sustainable[82] procurement. These policies could have a powerful impact on our climate goals, local community well-being, and economic development.

By prioritizing the purchase of goods and services that are environmentally responsible and socially inclusive, we have the potential to lower our impact. Sustainable procurement helps lower emissions by favoring energy-efficient products, low-carbon materials, and suppliers with strong environmental practices. At the same time, social procurement

[81] Buy Social Canada, *A Guide to Social Procurement*.
[82] Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, “Green Procurement.”

supports local businesses, Indigenous enterprises, diverse and innovative suppliers such as social enterprises, creating jobs and fostering economic resilience within the community. Together, these approaches not only advance climate action but also promote equity, innovation, and long-term value for residents. When embedded into municipal policies, sustainable and social procurement becomes a strategic tool for driving systemic change from the inside out.

Actions

Develop a sustainable and social procurement framework to be embedded in the existing purchasing policy. The framework could outline different measures to achieve sustainable and social procurement objectives.

For example, the County currently has an environmental section identified in our Request for Proposal (RFP) templates. However, this section is not weighted effectively to influence the overall outcome of the RFP. The County should review options to add social procurement considerations, and how to weigh this section to make a more meaningful impact. This section should also be tailored to each individual RFP to ensure that information being asked for is relevant to the purchase and will make a meaningful contribution. Tailored suggestions could be made for each division/individual RFP.

The County should develop a registry of local companies or social enterprises to use for small purchases below a certain threshold. Guidelines and a checklist could be developed for smaller purchases that require staff to include sustainable and social considerations when making these smaller purchases.

Corporate Mitigation Actions support SDGs 13. Climate Action, and 12. Responsible Consumption and Production. Working to reduce our corporate emissions, promoting sustainable procurement practices, and reducing our own waste supports these goals.

(Mitigation)Community

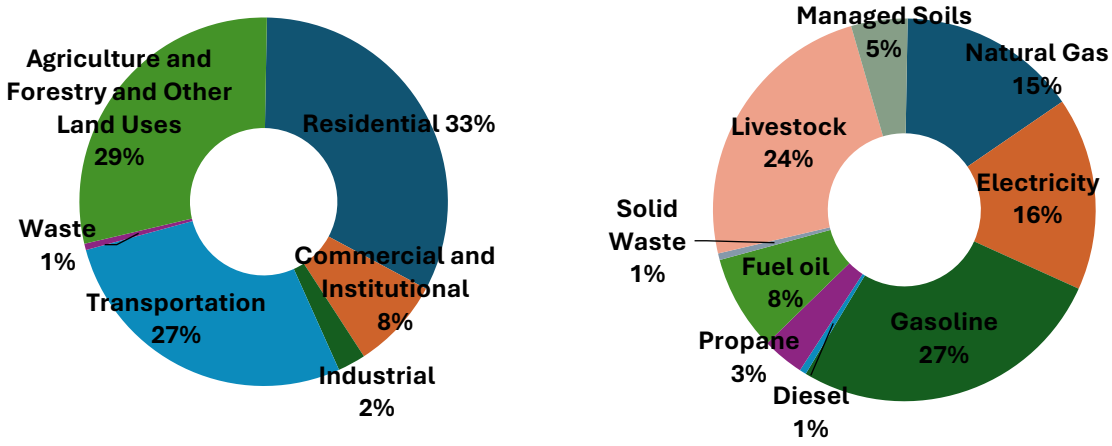


Figure 6: Emissions tCO_2e by community sector and source in 2011.

The most up to date GHG inventory with the County's Community emissions is from Sustainable Peterborough's 2011 baseline data[83]. The inventory shows that the greatest sources of emissions in the County are from transportation, residential buildings, and agricultural or other land uses. County staff will be working to update this Community GHG inventory in 2026 through our five-year action plan to identify progress up to now and moving forward.

Supporting Residential Home Retrofits

An opportunity to lower our overall community emissions is through supporting residential home retrofits. Retrofits that are simple and cost effective can have a big impact on home emissions as well as energy bills, like air sealing through caulking and weather stripping to remove drafts and leaks. Other options include insulation upgrades, installing new windows and doors, using smart thermostats, or utilizing a heat pump for heating or cooling. Due to the lack of natural gas infrastructure in Peterborough County, high percentages of residents use propane or oil for heating their homes. These are expensive and are carbon-intensive fuels. Heat pump upgrades would help save residents money and reduce emissions.

The County has successfully received funding from the FCM to complete a feasibility study and program design for a home retrofit program where the County, with assistance from the

[83] Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation et al., "Greater Peterborough Area Community Sustainability Plan."

townships could offer low interest loans to residents to complete home retrofits. This study is ready to present to Council for consideration.

Actions

The County should expand promotion of existing home retrofit incentives and loan programs. There are existing incentive programs and loan programs available through the Provincial/Federal Government, Utility Companies etc. that residents in the County could take advantage of. These programs often change and can be challenging to navigate. The County should continue to work with GreenUP and other organizations to provide education opportunities for residents through workshops, videos etc. and promote options available.

The County should explore funding opportunities for a County-led home retrofit loan program. The existing funding and loan program through FCM is ending, however if funding opportunities arise the County will have a program study and design completed to explore a home retrofit loan/grant program.

Transportation

Due to the rural nature of the County, transportation is a high source of emissions. The three main methods for transportation emissions reductions include: an increase in electric or hybrid vehicle usage, an increase in usage of public transportation, and residents choosing active transportation methods (walking, cycling, etc.).

Actions

The County should review opportunities and potential interest for a public-private partnership that allow third parties to install and operate electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in the County. The approach increases EV charging infrastructure through a cost-offsetting or a “no-cost to the municipality” model that de-risks local government and shifts the capital costs for installation and maintenance onto an external partner. Other municipalities have successfully implemented this model. The County should undergo a study to identify strategic locations for charging infrastructure and be ready to work with a private partner or apply for funding for charging infrastructure on our own when the opportunity arises. EV charging stations strategically placed can also have a beneficial impact on our economy and tourism if there are opportunities close by for people to engage in while waiting for their vehicles to charge.

At home charging infrastructure is also essential for potential EV owners. Some municipalities offer loans for Level 2 at-home charging stations through their home retrofit programs. If the County implements a home retrofit program, this could be included as part of it.

The County should play a role in educating residents on the benefits of EVs, charging options, and available rebates and incentives.

In partnership with Community Care, the County has committed funds for a joint application to Rural Ontario Development (ROD) to undertake a county-wide transportation feasibility and needs assessment study. If the ROD application is successful, the study will commence in 2026.

The County should continue implementing the Active Transportation Master Plan[84], working with Green-UP on Active Transportation initiatives, and continue paving shoulders for cycling opportunities on County roads during rehabilitation work when safe, and feasible. As part of their work the County's Engineering and Construction Division are phasing in up-to-date traffic signal timing plans to promote traffic efficiency, minimize delays, and provide environmental benefits through lower emissions from reduced idling. This will occur over the next several years commencing in 2026 and will be reviewed at least every five years.

Green Development Incentives

Green Development Incentives are voluntary measures to encourage and incentivize green development through planning processes. These can be developed for both County and Township application and approval processes.

Actions

Through County application processes, a checklist or scorecard for green development practices (such as making trail connections, building mixed use, complete communities and opportunities for active transportation) could be developed that incorporate sustainability measures recommended in our Official Plan.

The County can also work with Townships to develop a similar system for their approval processes to support more specific green development (building standards, electric vehicle ready, stormwater management, etc.).

Potential incentives could include waived application fees, provision of grants/loans through Community Improvement Plans, reduced parking requirements, density bonuses, recognition programs, and or development charge rebates.

[84] BT Engineering Inc., "County of Peterborough-Active Transportation Master Plan."

Supporting Businesses

Climate change and economic development are deeply interconnected. A resilient economy depends on stable ecosystems, reliable infrastructure, and predictable weather patterns. By embedding climate action into economic development strategies, the County can future-proof its economy, support job creation in emerging sectors, and position itself as a leader in sustainability.

Actions

The County should continue to champion and invest in GEP as part of our climate leadership strategy. This partnership not only supports local businesses in reducing their environmental impact but also strengthens the County's reputation as a proactive climate leader. By expanding and diversifying our support over time through funding, resources, and collaborative programming we can help accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy.

To complement this effort, the County should develop a comprehensive climate mitigation and adaptation toolkit tailored for businesses. This toolkit would provide practical guidance on reducing GHG emissions, improving energy efficiency, managing waste responsibly, and preparing for climate-related risks such as flooding, extreme weather, or adapting business to a changing climate.

The Community Mitigation Actions support SDGs 13. Climate Action, and 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities. These actions support these goals by working toward lowering community emissions and improving sustainable transportation.

Adaptation

Peterborough County should prioritize climate adaptation planning to safeguard our communities, infrastructure, and natural assets from the increasing impacts of climate change. With rising temperatures, more frequent extreme weather events, and heightened flood risks, especially in low-lying and rural areas, the County faces growing challenges to public safety, infrastructure resilience, and service delivery.

Adaptation planning will enable the County to assess vulnerabilities, protect critical infrastructure like roads and bridges, and ensure that emergency services and rural communities remain accessible and supported. By acting now, Peterborough County can build resilience, reduce long-term costs, and lead by example in preparing for a changing climate. Lakelands (formerly Peterborough) Public Health (LPH) published a 2023 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment[85]. This report noted that next steps were to work collaboratively with partners to develop a community adaptation plan. The County can

[85] Leahy et al., "Climate-Change-Vulnerability-Assessment-Technical-Report-2023."

build off this work for our Climate Adaptation Plan. There may also be funding opportunities in the future for infrastructure adaptation projects if this plan is in place.

Actions

Complete a community wide, all hazard climate risk assessment and adaptation plan. This could include a risk assessment of climate hazards and vulnerable populations, infrastructure, and ecosystems. Strategies within the plan could look at ensuring infrastructure is able to withstand extreme weather events, protection of natural areas to buffer climate impacts, public health messaging and preparation, and enhancing community preparedness and emergency response plans. It could also include incorporating a climate lens into asset management and capital planning.

The Adaptation Actions support SDG 13. Climate Action, by strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters.

5 Year Action Plan (2026-2030)

Over the next five years the County will work toward achieving the initiatives set out in this plan update. Our work over the next five years will support:

Reducing our overall corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 40-45% from 2018 levels to meet the Federal 2030 target

This achievement will largely depend on Council investment in the proposed initiatives. An organics diversion program, continued implementation of the Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan initiatives, and Fleet initiatives will have the biggest impacts toward this target.

Doing our part to reduce Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The County is unlikely able to reduce the overall Community GHG emissions in the entire County to meet the Federal 2030 target through the implementation of our plan alone. Our goal through this five-year action plan is to set a standard for leadership and develop a reputation for the County as a positive role model for change. We want to set accountability and walk the talk by implementing visible, measurable actions, as well as doing our part to support and encourage Community GHG emission reductions.

Improved Sustainability and Resilience Across the County

Implementation of our sustainability initiatives, encompassing land conservation, water resource management, agricultural innovation, and tourism development we create a foundation for a more resilient and thriving county. Protecting land and water ensures long-term environmental health, while sustainable agriculture supports local food systems and economic stability. At the same time, responsible tourism promotes cultural and natural heritage without compromising future generations' needs. Together, these initiatives will help pave the way for a county that can adapt and prosper in the face of environmental and economic challenges.

A Completed Climate Adaptation Plan

The five-year action plan includes training for staff and the development of a completed Climate Adaptation Plan for Peterborough County. A Climate Adaptation Plan will help us prepare for the impacts of climate change rather than react to crises as they occur. The plan will identify vulnerabilities and outline strategies to reduce those risks. A completed plan will help secure funding and partnerships for future climate related projects.

Ensuring Success

Through a review of climate action implementation in Ontario[86], key drivers for climate action implementation success in Ontario municipalities have been identified that will be utilized in safeguarding the success of our Action Plan[87]:

Leveraging Funding

Leveraging available funding opportunities will be essential to accelerate progress on our initiatives. External funding, whether from provincial, federal, or private sources, can enable our initiatives at a quicker pace. To take full advantage of these opportunities, we must be proactive by having plans in place, clear priorities, and internal capacity to respond quickly when funding is announced. Being prepared will ensure that the County doesn't miss out on time-sensitive grants.

Building Community Partnerships

This has been a key priority from the start of this planning process. Building strong community partnerships is essential for the County to advance our goals in a meaningful and inclusive way. By collaborating with local organizations, businesses, and residents, the County can harness diverse expertise, resources, and perspectives to co-create solutions that are both practical and impactful. These partnerships foster shared ownership of climate initiatives, increase public engagement, and will help align our efforts with broader regional and provincial strategies.

Staff Capacity

To ensure success it will be essential to invest in dedicated staff capacity, specifically, by re-allocating a resource to coordinate this work. This will be instrumental in driving forward climate initiatives, coordinating efforts across internal departments, and fostering collaboration with Township Staff, First Nations, and community groups. Prioritizing this work would help maintain momentum, track progress, and ensure accountability. Without this focused leadership, the County risks delays and missed opportunities in achieving our Action Plan.

[86] Climate Action Partnership, "Climate Action Partnership – Fostering Sustainable Cities."
[87] Kukadia, "Drivers and Barriers to Climate Action Implementation in Ontario."

Strategic Prioritization

To truly advance climate action, the County must embed sustainability and climate action as a core priority within our strategic plan and organizational practices through the next update process. This means applying a climate and sustainability lens to all decision-making, planning, and service delivery, ensuring that environmental considerations are not an afterthought but a guiding principle. Institutionalizing climate action helps align departments, policies, and resources toward shared goals, while also signaling long-term commitment to residents, partners, and funders.

Action Plan

The five-year action plan is set out by Ongoing Initiatives that will recur on a frequent (ex. resident education) or as needed basis (ex. vehicle right sizing). Many of these initiatives are already occurring and will continue. Following are initiatives broken down by each year of the five-year action plan and when they will occur from 2026-2030. Progress on this Action Plan will be reported to Council annually. In 2030, any outstanding initiatives will be reviewed, and the next five-year action plan (2031-2035) will be presented to Council for endorsement.

The Action Plan identifies each initiative, which division is overall responsible for the initiative, the GHG emission reduction potential, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure success.

For new initiatives that would not already be accounted for during the annual budget process or other plans, a symbol for a budget estimate has been added. As noted previously, funding opportunities will be leveraged whenever possible to reduce financial impacts, and budget for any initiatives will be considered by Council during the annual budget process.

$ (Less than $30,000)
$$ ($30,000-$100,000)
$$$ (Over $100,000)

The GHG emission reduction potential for each initiative was estimated. This will depend on many factors. If the initiative is identifying a planning measure, for example charging infrastructure assessment at County depots, the GHG reduction potential is based on the implementation of that initiative (charging infrastructure), not the planning phase. The reduction potential is also based on whether the initiative is corporate and part of the corporate GHG inventory, or a community initiative and part of the overall community GHG inventory.

With the target of reaching a 40% GHG reduction from our baseline year (2018 for corporate emissions) by 2030, which equates to a further reduction of 1.5 ktCO_2e, the GHG

reduction potential percentages below are based on a total of a 1.5 $ktCO_2e$ reduction for the corporate initiatives.

Incremental (1-9% or 0.02-0.14 $ktCO_2e$)
Moderate (10-24% or 0.15-0.36 $ktCO_2e$)
Significant (25%+ or 0.37+ $ktCO_2e$)

Ongoing Initiatives

Initiative	Responsible Division/Budget Estimate if New Initiative	GHG reduction potential	KPIs
Vehicle Right Sizing	Operations & PCCP-annual replacements	Incremental	Assessment Completed for every vehicle replacement/purchase Reduction in corporate GHG emissions
Existing Active Transportation Initiatives	Engineering & Construction	Incremental	Monitor annual participation in initiatives to track progress
Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan Initiatives	Facilities	Incremental	Ongoing retrofits and implementation of Plan Initiatives Reduction in corporate GHG emissions Annual reports to Council on progress
Waste Management Master Plan Initiatives (organics diversion)	Waste Management & Sustainability	Significant	Progress on initiatives annually reported to Council Reduction in corporate GHG emissions
Support Local & Sustainable	Tourism & Communications	Incremental	Continued highlights and showcasing of sustainable tourism options in the County

Tourism Experiences			
Resident Education on Home Retrofit Options and Incentives	Waste Management & Sustainability, Communications	Incremental	Additional home retrofits completed Increased social media and website posts annually Continue workshops for residents with GreenUP Reduction in community GHG emissions
Annual Updates on Implementation and Corporate and Community GHG Emissions	Waste Management & Sustainability	n/a	Progress on Plan Implementation, and Corporate and Community GHG emission inventories presented to Council annually

2026

Initiative	Responsible Division/Budget Estimate if New Initiative	GHG reduction potential	KPIs
Develop Anti-Idling Policy and Driver Training Course	Operations with Assistance from Waste Management & Sustainability	Incremental	Policy and driver training course developed and approved All staff review policy and complete training course periodically Policy is implemented and enforced
Corporate Waste Reduction and Diversion in Buildings	Waste Management & Sustainability ($)	Incremental	Individual assessments and implementation of organics/other diversion initiatives in County administration buildings

Home Retrofit Program Feasibility and Program Design	Waste Management & Sustainability (Funded through FCM)	Incremental	Report completed and presented to County Council for consideration
Rural Transportation Feasibility Study	Economic Development with Assistance from Waste Management & Sustainability	Incremental	If Rural Ontario Development Program funding is received, complete study
Climate Adaptation Training & Planning	Waste Management & Sustainability and Emergency Management ($)	n/a	Climate adaptation training completed Planning process for Climate Adaptation Plan begins
Complete Watershed Plan	Planning	Incremental	Plan completed and presented to Council Recommendations from the plan implemented
RTO8 Sustainable Tourism Destination Certification & Initiatives	Tourism with Assistance from Waste Management & Sustainability	Incremental	Peterborough County certified as a Sustainable Tourism Destination Sustainability action items practiced
Determine Method and gather data for Calculating Annual Community GHG Emissions	Waste Management & Sustainability	n/a	Process developed for annual community GHG emission inventory 2025 community GHG emission inventory completed and presented to Council
Charging Infrastructure Assessment at Depots	Operations	Moderate	Operations Depot Study Completed to include charging infrastructure assessment at all depots
Review Options for Hydrogen	Operations	Moderate	Review of options completed and presented to County Council for approval

Fuel Cells in County Vehicles			

2027

Initiative	Responsible Division/Budget Estimate if New Initiative	GHG reduction potential	KPIs
Develop procedure for environmental section in RFPs	Waste Management & Sustainability and Purchasing	Incremental	Procedure developed staff are trained Support process developed for divisions
Develop waste reduction staff training and event guidelines	Waste Management & Sustainability	Incremental	Training and guidelines developed and completed Staff are trained Guidelines followed for staff events Reduction in corporate waste
Curbside Organics Program Implementation or Alternative Organics Diversion	Waste Management & Sustainability ($$$)	Significant	Organics diversion program implemented Reduction of corporate GHG emissions Reduction in waste to landfill
Identify Strategic Locations & Partners for EV Charging Stations	Waste Management & Sustainability ($$)	Incremental	REOI issued for partners Strategic locations identified Reported to Council Prepared for funding opportunities
Implement Home Retrofit Loan Program	Waste Management & Sustainability ($$$)	Incremental	Program developed and implemented for County residents if approved by Council

			Reduction in community GHG emissions
Develop Climate Adaptation Plan	Waste Management & Sustainability and Emergency Management ($)	n/a	Adaptation Plan developed and presented to Council for approval Initiatives from plan implemented as scheduled
Implementation of Hydrogen Fuel Cells in County Vehicles	Operations potential funding ($$$)	Moderate	If approved by Council, hydrogen fuel cell program implemented Reduction in corporate GHG Emissions
Identify Partners and develop Lake Health Education/Shoreline Protection Program	Waste Management & Sustainability	Incremental	Meet with potential partners Complete program designs
Implement Recommendations from completed Watershed Plan	Planning	Incremental	If Watershed Plan approved by Council, work on implementing recommendations

2028

Initiative	Responsible Division/Budget Estimate if New Initiative	GHG reduction potential	KPIs
Develop Sustainable & Social Procurement Guidelines/Policy	Purchasing with assistance from Waste Management & Sustainability	Incremental	Policy developed, approved, and implemented Policy being followed with each procurement
Resident EV education program	Waste Management & Sustainability and	Incremental	Education program designed and implemented focused on benefits and common misconceptions

	Communications		Continue to educate in future years and partner with local groups
Review of Green Development Incentives (County Approval Processes)	Planning and Waste Management & Sustainability	Incremental	Options reviewed and presented to Council for approval Program developed and implemented in County Planning Process
Review Options for Expansion of GEP Support	Waste Management & Sustainability ($$)	Incremental	Options reviewed and presented to Council Additional County businesses join GEP
Develop Climate Toolkit for Businesses	Waste Management & Sustainability and Economic Development ($)	Incremental	Toolkit completed and distributed
Develop Sustainable Tourism Guide	Waste Management & Sustainability, Communications and Tourism ($)	Incremental	Guide completed and distributed
Identify Partners and Options for Sustainable Agriculture Initiatives	Waste Management & Sustainability	Incremental	Research and identify partners Meet with partners to better understand needs and opportunities
Implementation of Lake Health Education/Shoreline Protection Program	Waste Management & Sustainability ($$)	Incremental	Program initiated and continued in future years
Potential Application for Funding Vehicle Charging	Operations and Waste Management & Sustainability ($$$)	Moderate	Applications for funding completed and submitted

Stations/Alternative Technology			

2029

Initiative	Responsible Division/Budget Estimate if New Initiative	GHG reduction potential	KPIs
Develop Registry of Local and Social Enterprises and Guidelines for Small Purchases	Purchasing and Waste Management & Sustainability	Incremental	Research and development of registry available to staff
Review of Green Development Incentives (Township Approval Processes)	Planning and Waste Management & Sustainability	Incremental	Options reviewed and presented to Council for approval Program developed and provided to Townships for Planning Process
Expand Visitor Pledge (Tourism Touch Points)	Waste Management & Sustainability, Communications and Tourism ($$)	Incremental	Identify locations and opportunities to expand touch points, implement
Develop Recognition/Incentive Program for Planting Native and Invasive Species Removal	Waste Management & Sustainability ($$)	Incremental	Partners identified and program developed for Council consideration and implementation
Identify County Properties for Native Planting	Waste Management & Sustainability ($$) potential funding	Incremental	Identify properties and complete funding applications for planting projects

2030

Initiative	Responsible Division/Budget Estimate if New Initiative	GHG reduction estimate	KPIs
Complete Any Outstanding Initiatives	various	n/a	Outstanding initiatives completed, and if not, reviewed for next five year action plan
Review of Future Initiatives and complete next five-year Action Plan	Waste Management & Sustainability	n/a	2031-2035 Action Plan presented to County Council for approval

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Appendices

A1. Township Survey Summary and data

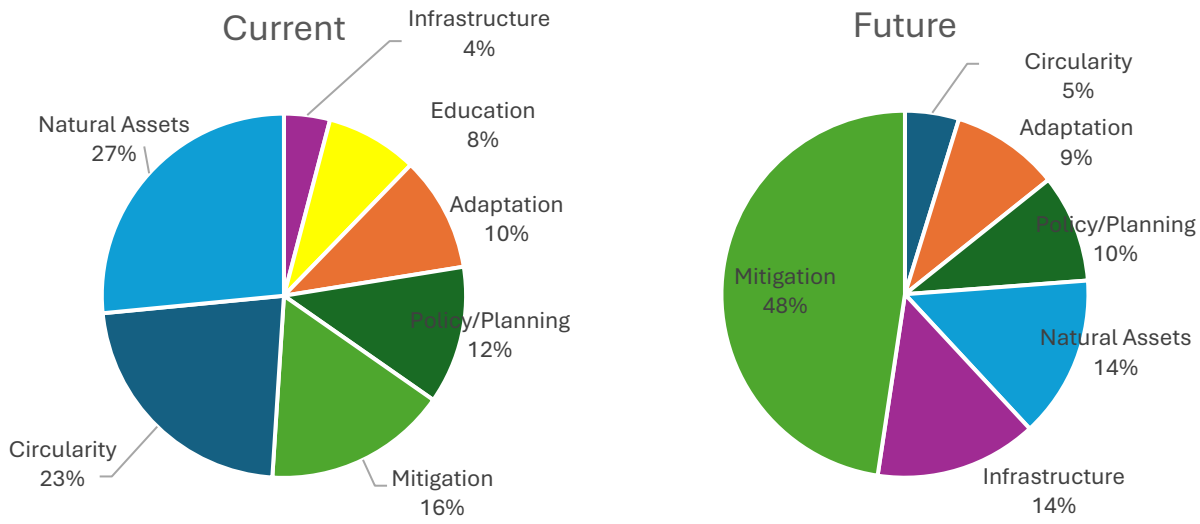
A2. Stakeholder Survey Summary and data

A3. Resident Survey Summary

Appendix A1. Township Sustainability Survey Summary

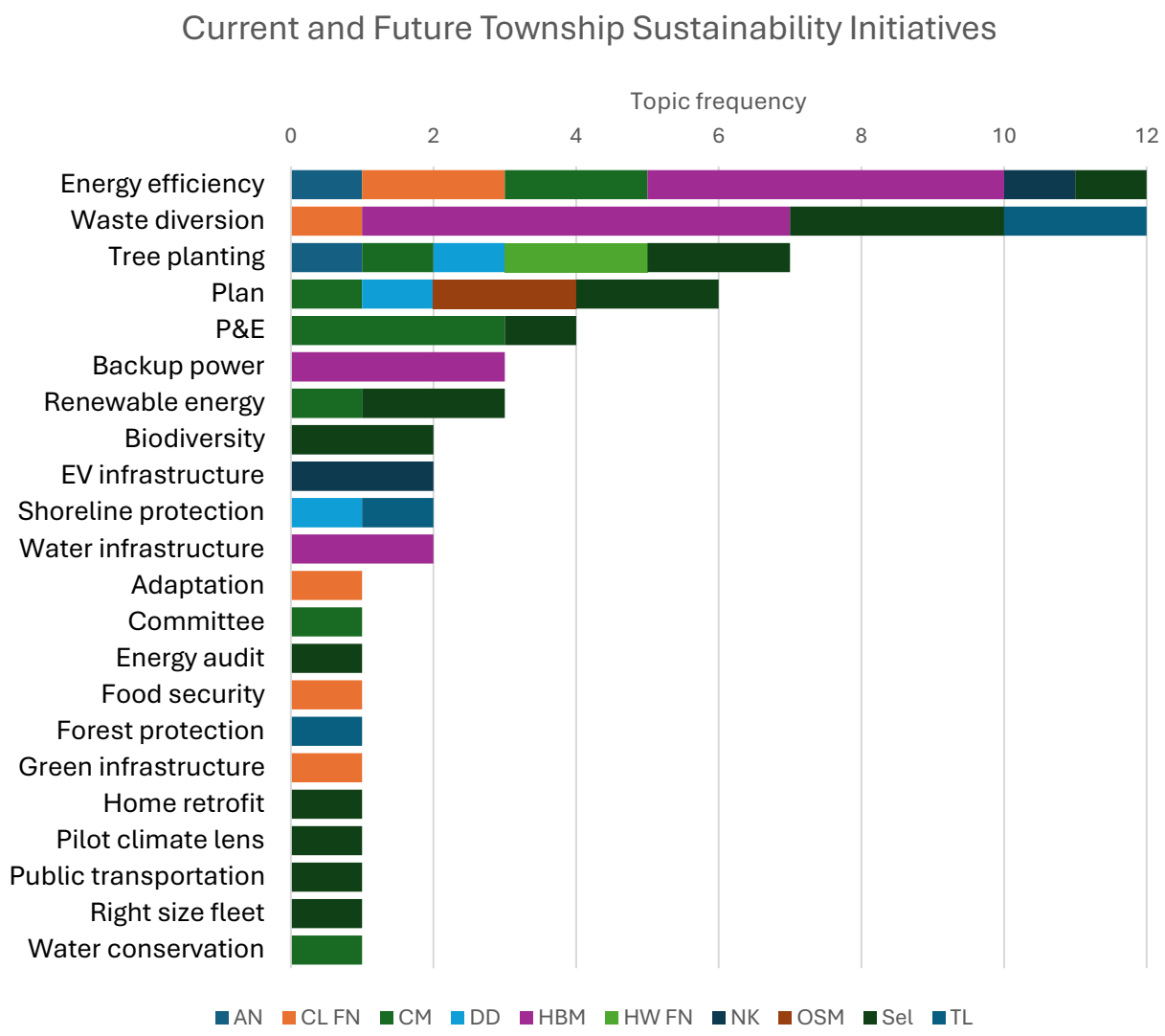
In July 2025, Peterborough County distributed a sustainability survey to First Nations and Townships. Eleven (11) survey responses were received from Selwyn, Cavan Monaghan, Asphodel Norwood, Hiawatha First Nation, North Kawartha, Curve Lake First Nation, Trent Lakes, Havelock Belmont Methuen, Douro Dummer, and Otonabee South Monaghan.

Question 1. What are some sustainability/climate change initiatives you are working on currently, or would like to work on over the next five years?



Township responses identified current and future initiatives. Currently, Townships are largely implementing circular initiatives including existing waste diversion programs, Supporting natural assets such as tree planting, and mitigation through improving energy efficiency of buildings and introducing EV infrastructure. Planned and future initiatives largely include expanding mitigation efforts, while continuing to protect natural assets (trees and shoreline), and infrastructure improvements.

The main programs identified in survey responses (in order of topic frequency) included energy efficiency and circularity, promoting tree planting programs, and plan updates supported by improving communications with residents.



2. What barriers or challenges do you face if any, when working on implementing sustainability/climate change initiatives or projects?

Limited staff, rising costs, and lack of sustained funding are major barriers. All respondents expressed desire to collaborate with other municipalities and need for County guidance on funding opportunities and facilitating shared resources.

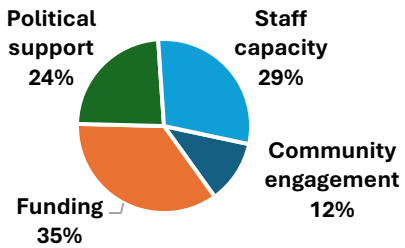
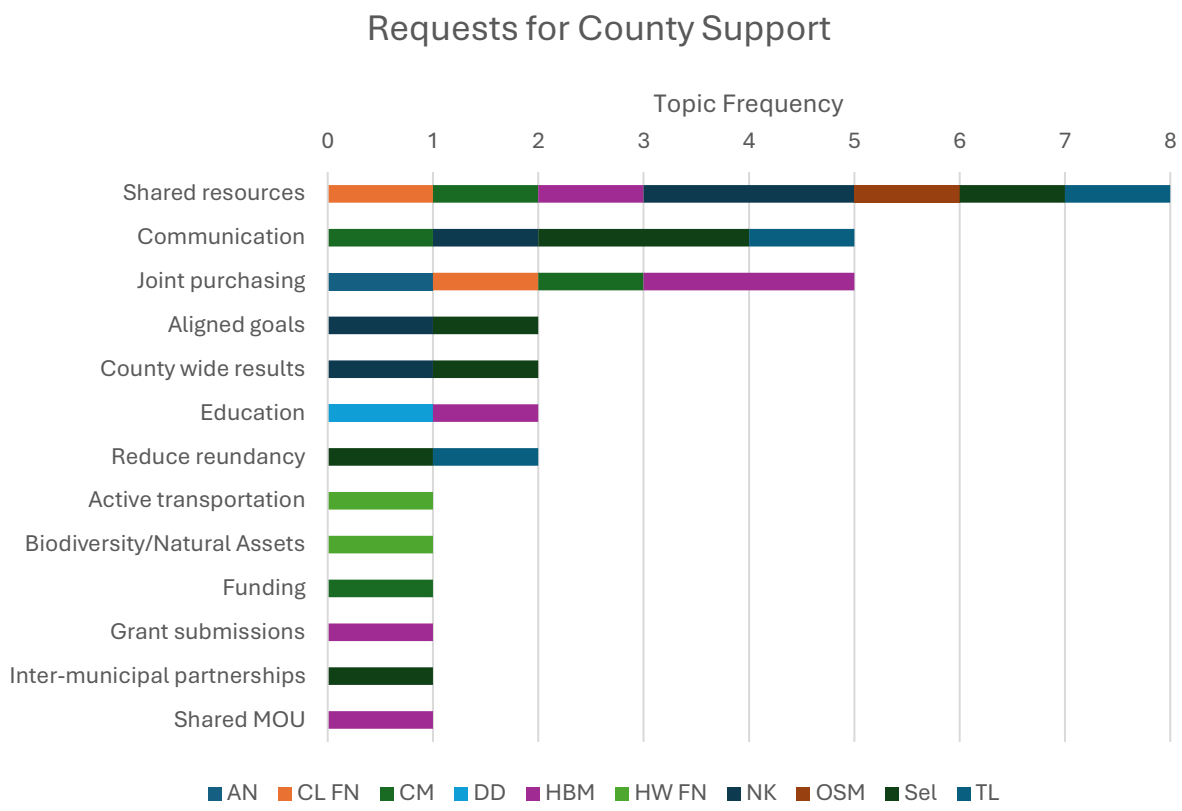


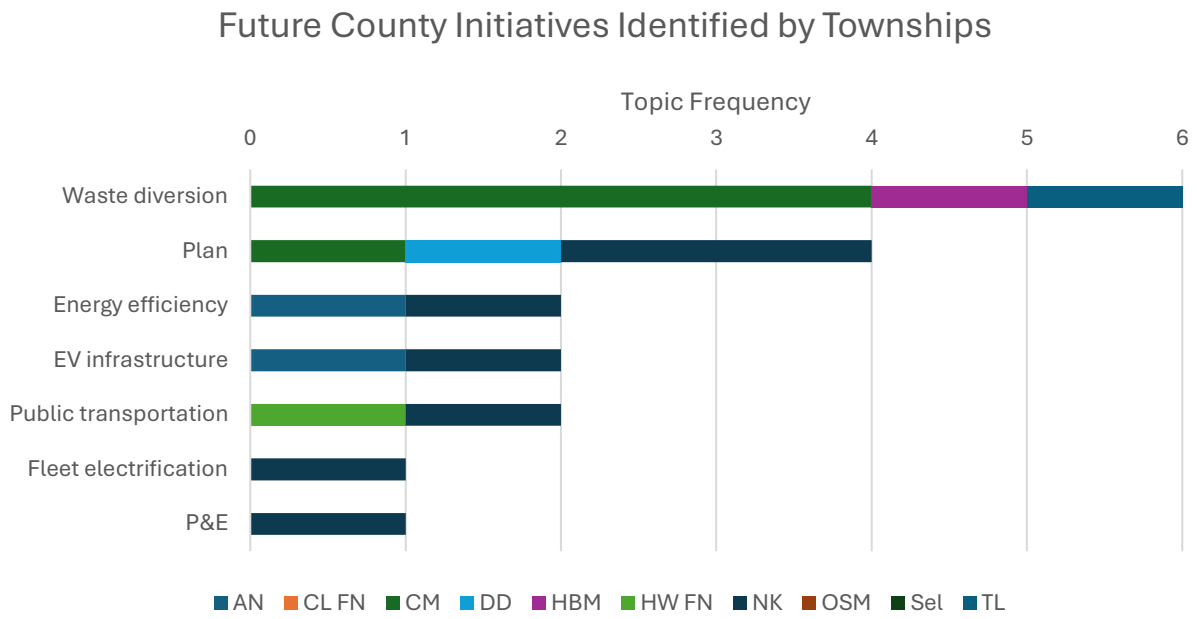
Figure. Townships identified barriers to sustainability action.

3. How can we best work together and collaborate with you on sustainability/climate change initiatives? What types of support (if any) would you like to see from the County?



Respondents identified that they are interested in sharing resources between municipal tiers, and identified that this could be supported though regular collaboration/meetings. There was interest in collaborating on purchasing, grant/funding applications with County-wide benefits.

4. What sustainability/climate change initiatives or projects would you like to see the County take on in the future?



Respondents identified that they are interested in increasing County-led waste diversion projects and sustainability planning, along with collaborations to support planning and funding for future mitigation and adaptation projects.

Appendix: Township Sustainability Survey Data

Survey responses are provided in the following tables.

Respondent	**What are some sustainability/climate change initiatives you are working on currently, or would like to work on over the next five years?**
Selwyn	Some current projects: (Selwyn) Climate Change Action Plan (2016) Solar Panels at 6 Township Facilities FoodCycler Program (2024 Pilot) The **Link Bus** Service (Pilot Program) and community shuttles **Pollinator** Paradise Bee City **Climate Lens** Tool (Pilot Program) ReLeaf Program - **native tree** giveaway for National Forest Week 2025 Monthly Waste Calendar **Waste Diversion** efforts for Construction & Demolition materials, the Hazardous Waste Depot and TerraCycle bins for Oral care products, Razors and E-cigarettes and vapes

	Tree planting initiatives following the storms - applied for funding Future plans: (Selwyn) Continue to focus on the Climate Change Action Plan (2016) **Energy Audit** for Corporate Facilities Explore FCM **funding** for Home Energy Retrofit More **LED** Lighting Explore utilization of **renewable energy** sources e.g. solar powered signage, lighting and hot water heaters **Right size fleet** (fit-for purpose) and explore low emission/alternative fuel vehicles
Cavan Monaghan	**Reduce GHG Emissions** (Greater Peterborough Area Climate Change Action Plan) Sustainable **Community Initiatives** (Sustainability Committee) **Rain Barrel** Program (Sustainability Committee) I created a Sustainability Committee, which is a Committee of Council, to carry out many initiatives including a **tree** program**, rain barrrel** program, weatherstripping program, earth day events, various educational items, **energy audit** reviews and more.
Asphodel Norwood	Eliminating gravel road surfaces and replacing them with paved or surface treated surface, this will reduce our maintenance and **fuel consumption maintaining** gravel roads. We are also reviewing the Townships **tree canopy** policy and tweaking it for additions after removals
Hiawatha	Ensuring that proponents that are developing are ensuring that **indigenous trees** are being replaced or added to site, as well as **pollinator** plant.
North Kawartha	None currently with the exception of installing our first EV chargers at the North Kawartha Community Centre and we continue to look for more funding for **EV** chargers in other areas. We are also considering our options when renovating our **municipal facilities** to ensure that they are as sustainable as possible eg. LED lighting. We have recently moved to steel roofs rather than shingled.
Curve Lake	Reducing waste - **organics** or composting initiative. Upgrading to **energy efficient** appliances and lightening within community and band own business. Climate change **adaption** initiatives. Increasing **green infrastructure and food security**.
Trent Lakes	The EAC is focused on **shoreline** protection, **forest** protection, increased **organic** waste collection, proper **diversion** of C&D waste.
HBM	- Alternate Power Supply: all main municipal buildings now have backup power - Heating Efficiency: i. converted PW garage to propane heating source ii. installed energy efficient windows in Stone Hall iii. planned replacement of windows in Old Town Hall iv. converted water heater(s) in arena to natural gas

	v. plan to replace furnace at arena with natural gas unit - Lighting conversion: i. converted lighting for public works and office buildings, libraries, and HBM Community Centre ii. aim to convert other recreational properties (Stone Hall, and Old Town Hall) iii. Town lights were changed out in (2019) and all new lighting is LED-based - Waste management and diversion: i. had a very successful Food Recycler pilot and another offering is under consideration ii. diverting all transfer station waste and recycling iii. diverting working/used items to the "Free to You or Reuse Area" iv. Biodegradable composters at 6th Line v. Continued bottle return program vi. Established clear bag program in place - Infrastructure: i. Reconstructed village streets replacing all Trans AC piping (Quebec, large portion of George, King, MacLean, Donald, Victoria, and Mathison with other planned) ii. Planned upgrade of WWTP and plans to source new well water
Douro Dummer	The township is currently working towards completion of three projects. First, the Douro Dummer Low Carbon Plan -Warsaw Community Centre & Douro Community Centre. Second, working with consultants (DM Wills) to develop a shoreline setback policy. Finally, we have offered an annual subsidized tree sale for the past 3 years to encourage residents to replace trees lost in the Township due to extreme weather events.
OSM	part of the Greater Peterborough Area Community Sustainability Plan (2012) and Climate Change Action Plan (2016).

Respondent	**What barriers or challenges do you face if any, when working on implementing sustainability/climate change initiatives or projects?**
Selwyn	#NAME?
Cavan Monaghan	**Funding**, community **engagement & education**

	Funding. We are a new committee and the programs are running well, so we are hopeful we will continue to get funding. However, when council are trying to keep tax rates low, non-required services are usually scrutinized more.
Asphodel Norwood	**Funding** projects is huge with the ever rising costs of construction and materials.
Hiawatha	The Ford Government
North Kawartha	By not having a project lead in this area, very little is done in this regard.
Curve Lake	**funding and capacity.**
Trent Lakes	**Financial barriers and staff capacity**.
HBM	- EIA, ESA permitting (administrative burden, timing, costs) - Funding - Capacity limitations (staffing, knowledge, time) - Political will
Douro Dummer	Council and resident buy in
OSM	I can foresee our challenges being funding and resources.

Respondent	**How can we best work together and collaborate with you on sustainability/climate change initiatives? What types of support (if any) would you like to see from the County?**
Selwyn	Strengthening **communication and collaboration** between Selwyn Township and Peterborough County would greatly enhance the effectiveness of sustainability and climate change initiatives. A coordinated approach allows us to align goals, share resources, **avoid duplication**, and amplify the impact of our efforts across the region. We would welcome opportunities for **regular dialogue** - supporting inter-municipal partnerships would be especially valuable.
Cavan Monaghan	**Funding** & additional **direction** (ex. WMMP)
	We could partner in our programs to possible get better **purchase** rates in bulk. We could sit on your committee as well for county wide initiatives.
Asphodel Norwood	**Group purchasing** initiatives are always a huge benefit to **collaborate** on
Hiawatha	More **bike** and **electronic** lanes for safe travel. More fruit bearing **trees**. and berry bushes
North Kawartha	When the County hired a Sustainability Co-Ordinator it worked very well for the lower tier municipalities. They became the expert in the field and lead many initiatives that lower tiers were able to join or implement. They also conducted research and made recommendations for initiative and **worked interactively and collaboratively** with each Township. I would like to see the County take the **lead** on sustainability / climate change and provide this resource to the lower tiers. We simply don't have the **capacity or resources** to properly address these important issues. Kaitlyn Itterman was a great champion !
Curve Lake	**collaborations on projects** and inclusion in programming such as the **organic waste**.

Trent Lakes	Maybe something where there is a biannual or quarterly **update** on what the County and each Township is doing for initiatives and what everyone is in need of for **more efficient collaboration and partnerships** and to **reduce duplication** of efforts.
HBM	- Incinerator – a County/Township project to converting waste to energy (collaborative grant application)
DD	Projects that are countywide and not focused on Douro Dummer.

Respondent	**What sustainability/climate change initiatives or projects would you like to see the County take on in the future?**
Selwyn	#NAME?
Cavan Monaghan	Identification of climate based federal/provincial **funding** and notification to municipalities. Continue Mattress **Diversion** Program Implement Bale/Boat Wrap Diversion. Implement polystyrene diversion program. Implement bulky plastic collection program.
	TBD
Asphodel Norwood	energy efficient **agriculture and fuel alternatives** would be 2 that come to mind
Hiawatha	Enhancing **travel** route for other source of travel and buses.
North Kawartha	Analyze and revisit the **emission** reduction targets. Investigate **public transportation** options. Analyze pros and cons of changing some of the municipal / public works vehicles to electric and plan for more **EV** charging stations. Develop **land use policy** that supports building complete communities that are mixed-use, compact and higher density. Conduct various and continued employee **training and education** sessions. Assist with facilitating **energy audits**.
Curve Lake	can we do follow up on this to discuss when timing is better for CLFN.
Trent Lakes	County-wide waste **diversion** for less common items, eg. Boat wrap
HBM	- County and Municipality could use same depot, equipment, and at time staff (e.g. mechanics) - Shared MOU – project related where there are clear roles, responsibilities, and rules of engagement - Shared Tenders – clear guidelines, selection process, and decision-making authority - Consumer education support, e.g. Heat Pump Seminars - Cooperative buying – EV vehicles, common goods, and materials - Collaborative grant submissions – EV chargers, infrastructure, etc.
DD	Based on initial experiences in this community, providing education and information is required. We lack the community capacity to bring stronger climate change initiatives forward currently.

OSM	

Respondent	**What resources would you like the County to be aware of? Funding opportunities, reports or organizations etc.**
Selwyn	https://greenmunicipalfund.ca/funding/tree-planting https://www.thelandbetween.ca/blue-lakes/
Cavan Monaghan	A repository of Waste Management reports from the whole County could be helpful. This way lower tiers know what one another is doing and the County gets a full picture as well.
	We recently conducted a community wide energy data analysis that showed energy trends by sector throughout the municipality. This will be beneficial in rolling out energy reduction programs and long term energy plans
Asphodel Norwood	Unsure of **opportunities**
Hiawatha	Some partnerships could be developed which could help **funding with indigenous led** projects. I cant think of any off hand but they are out there.
North Kawartha	We are continually looking for funding opportunities.
Curve Lake	can we do follow up on this to discuss when timing is better for CLFN.
HBM	- Continued collaboration on major infrastructure projects/funding (e.g. George St reconstruction grant approval)
DD	Nothing currently.
OSM	

Respondent	**Is there any other information you would like to share with us? Or any questions you may have for us that you would like us to follow up with you on?**
Selwyn	No response provided
Cavan Monaghan	Sustainability is tied with waste management practices, I would love to see wider range of **diversion** programs available to residents (and promoted). We do not have the staff availability to dedicate to **research** of programs, I would love to see continued direction and program **lead** from the County level (WMMP, etc.).
Asphodel Norwood	NA
Hiawatha	not at the moment
North Kawartha	We are all in this together. I feel it is important to have someone at the County that can do the **research**, seek out **funding** opportunities and encourage lower tiers to implement common initiatives. The upper tier level allow for a bird's eye view of how we are doing **collective**ly. There may be strength in numbers / quantities for funding and / or procurement opportunities. Consistency across the lower tiers is beneficial. Thank you for allowing me to contribute to this survey ! I look forward to future developments ! Alana
Curve Lake	can we follow up at a later date for the last two questions.

HBM	- Nothing currently.
DD	Nothing currently.
OSM	

Appendix A2. Stakeholder Sustainability Survey Summary

In June 2025, Peterborough County distributed a sustainability survey to Stakeholders.

Participants

- Woodleigh Farms
- Lake Edge Cottages
- City of Peterborough
- Peterborough Field Naturalists
- Clean Up Peterborough
- Kawartha Climate and Conservation Partnership Network (Kawartha Land Trust)
- Camp Kawartha
- For Our Grandchildren
- Circular Peterborough Collective
- Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough Health Unit
- GreenUP
- Farms at Work www.farmsatwork.ca - a registered charity
- Peterborough Alliance for Food and Farming (formerly the Food and Farming Working Group of Sustainable Peterborough)

Summary of Responses

Question 1. What Sustainability/Climate change initiatives or projects would you like to see the County take on in the future?

Stakeholders provided diverse potential initiatives, these are summarized by topic:

Biodiversity/Natural Assets
- Agricultural rewilding
- Invasive species management
- Preserving hedgerows
- Rewilding/ Natural corridors
- Shoreline protection

Circularity
- Carbon sequestration
- Circular programs

Education
- P&E
- Plan

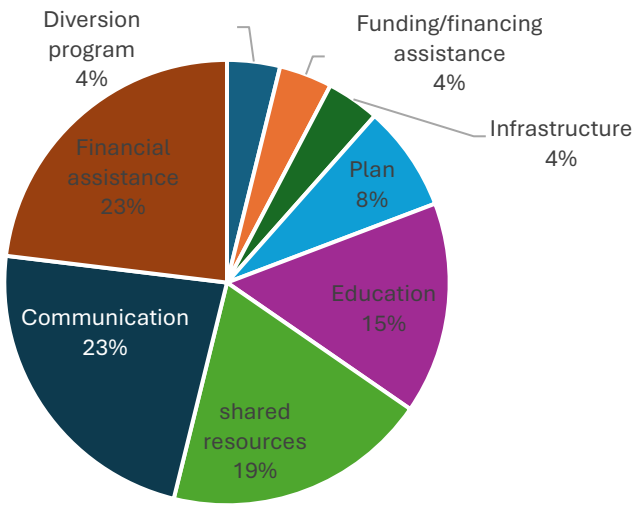
Mitigation
- Active transportation
- Energy efficiency
- Ev's & Infrastructure

- Federal targets
- Fleet electrification
- Green development standard
- Green infrastructure
- Home retrofits
- P&E
- Public transportation
- Renewable energy

Policy/Planning & Governance

- Agriculture funding access
- Circular procurement
- Equity lens
- Financial support
- Grant applications
- Plan

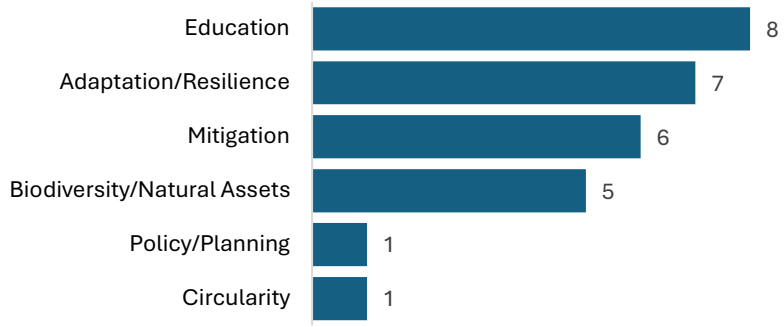
Question 2. Would you like the County to support the work your organization is doing? What kind of support would you like to see?



Stakeholders shared numerous ways that the County could support existing and future Stakeholder initiatives that align with County sustainability goals.

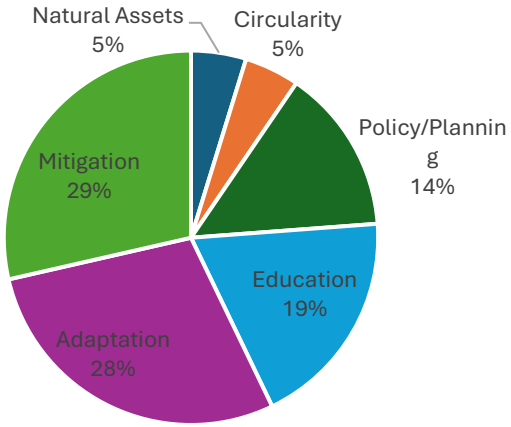
Question 3. Are there any initiatives/projects you are currently working on or planned that you would like the County to be aware of?

Stakeholders shared diverse initiatives currently underway or planned:



Question 4. Are there current or future initiatives/projects that you would be interested in the County collaborating with your organization on? What type of collaboration would you like to see?

Stakeholders shared diverse initiatives with which the County could collaborate. The main topics included supporting community adaptation and resilience (28%), Mitigation (29%) of transportation and building emissions, and supporting community engagement and education (19%).



20250704 Stakeholder Sustainability Survey Raw Data

We heard from 13 Participants

- Woodleigh Farms
- Lake Edge Cottages
- City of Peterborough
- Peterborough Field Naturalists

- Clean Up Peterborough
- Kawartha Climate and Conservation Partnership Network (KCCPN) (Kawartha Land Trust)
- Camp Kawartha
- For Our Grandchildren
- Circular Peterborough Collective
- Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough Health Unit (HKNPHU)
- GreenUP
- Farms at Work www.farmsatwork.ca - a registered charity
- Peterborough Alliance for Food and Farming (PAFF)(formerly the Food and Farming Working Group of Sustainable Peterborough)

Survey responses are provided in the following tables.

Respondent	What sustainability/climate change initiatives or projects would you like to see the County take on in the future?
Woodleigh Farms	Diversion of waste materials to carbon sequestering initiatives.
Lake Edge Cottages	You should start with an overall sustainability plan to determine where the greatest gains can be made. GreenStep can assist you with that. Green Economy Peterborough helped me with mine, but they took a long time due to resource constraints. For example, I like to think big with projects like this. My goal was to eliminate using the hydro grid altogether. I combined building a much needed barn/workshop with a large enough roof size to meet my objective. Looking back, I'm extremely satisfied with my decision. Today, I produce enough electricity to: 1) meeting all of my annual hydro needs; 2) offset my propane heating by 50%, and; 3) charge client EV's onsite. I am also looking at the EV market, with the intent to achieve dual use from the EV battery as a generator to keep the lights on when the grid is down, since I am on the net metering solution with Hydro One.
City of Peterborough	Residential home retrofits, public electric vehicle charging stations county-wide, and expanded rural transit partnership with the City to serve more communities (i.e., Norwood, Millbrook).
Peterborough Field Naturalists	In an environmental context, sustainability is about minimizing negative impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity while managing resources. We are concerned about the loss of hedgerows along county roads. This is valuable habitat for birds and small animals especially in the winter. While we recognize the need to keep open sight lines on county road intersections and facilitate snowplow operations, we are concerned about the large bush clearing machines removing more than is necessary and reducing wind and snow breaks. We would like to discuss ways to minimize the negative impacts of these machines.
Clean Up Peterborough	#NAME?

KCCPN	The County has a unique position of power at the local level with bylaws, resources, and relationships. The County also understands the intersections of both provincial and federal legislation and the local impacts regarding gaps, barriers, and opportunities. The County could be a leader in coordinating the townships on areas of collaboration and reducing duplication when it comes to protection and restoration of land and water. For example, lake associations often are divided between several townships and various bylaws. A sharing of best practices and a unified approach to, for example, shore line protection and restoration, would be a great initiative.
Camp Kawartha	Providing incentives for EV chargers. More incentives for building green. Reducing the building permit costs for those projects that can demonstrate that they are reducing their carbon footprint and using non toxic materials. Incentives to increase biodiversity in built areas. Rewilding backyards, creating natural corridors. Incentives for farmers to create green buffers on the perimeter of their farm fields. Even a meter of rewilded land can create significant corridors - especially if they are connected to other rewilded edges. Incentives for green energy infrastructure - solar panels, energy efficient windows, heat pumps etc. Investment in public transit throughout the county (where it makes sense and there is sufficient demand). Any new county road should include a wide enough paved shoulder to accommodate bikes and encourage active transportation.
For Our Grandchildren	▪ Assist the townships who have insufficient staffing and resources with sustainability initiatives. ▪ Monitor sustainability initiatives throughout the County, and identify gaps and overlaps. ▪ Coordinate/initiate county-wide sustainability events (in cooperation with others). ▪ Coordinate/initiate county-wide grant applications for funding for sustainability initiatives with implications for the County and the townships. ▪ Join sustainability events organized by others (e.g., the annual Peterborough Home Energy and EV Expo). ▪ Embark on a county-wide public awareness initiative to encourage the reduction of the carbon footprint of individuals, households and businesses throughout the County (in cooperation with others). ▪ Continue to join/connect with county-wide sustainability and environmental groups to share information, identify worthwhile initiatives, encourage joint ventures, and discourage overlaps. (see June 26th email for full response)
Circular Peterborough Collective	1. Initiatives focused on eliminating waste and keeping products and materials in use and in the economy through sharing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, remanufacturing and recycling. 2.Development and implementation of a focused, regional Share, Use, Repair initiative beginning with a website. 3. Completing a material flow analysis of the industrial/commercial sectors to

	understand materials flowing into these entities as inputs and materials leaving them as waste. 4. Implement a circular procurement purchasing strategy that supports the circular economy by prioritizing goods and services designed to minimize waste, extend product life, and keep materials in use for as long as possible. 5. Help bring attention to the concept of embodied carbon - which are the GHG emissions associated with making of products & materials. This includes raw materials extraction, manufacturing/production, and transportation of the products and materials to the buyer.
HKNPHU	It is very positive that the County is prioritizing sustainability and climate action and looking to update existing plans. Taking stock of progress since the completion of previous plans is an important first step. With our mandate relating to promoting and protecting human health, we would encourage initiatives where positive health impacts are identified as a desired outcome, or as a co-benefit. For example, maintaining adequate tree canopy in built-up areas benefits health of the environment and humans. We recommend considering health equity in planning. Use an equity lens to ensure that plans, policies and initiatives do not unintentionally harm populations that are already at a disadvantage (e.g. due to social or systemic conditions such as living in poverty, experiencing racism or colonialism).
GreenUP	GreenUP urges the County to invest in programs that reduce corporate and community emissions to meet Federal Climate Change targets. Key initiatives include: a Home Energy Retrofit Program with coaching, trades training, and rebates (e.g., oil to heat pump conversions); expanded support for Green Economy Peterborough via microgrants and promotion; sustained investment in rural transit as a vital community service; a phased commitment to full fleet electrification; proactive installation of EV chargers; support for active transportation through education and infrastructure; adoption of a Green Development Standard to ensure sustainable new builds; and integration of invasive species management into County operations to protect biodiversity.
Farms at Work	We can imagine many different ideas going forward. Here is one. Farms at Work was a founder of (and coordinate) the East Central Farm Stewardship Collaborative (ECFSC: ecfarmstewardship.org). In 2019, we wrote “Farm Stewardship in Peterborough County” for Sustainable Peterborough (link here: https://localfoodptbo.ca/learn/food-research/), describing the past efforts of farmers in the County to make environmental improvements on their farms. We would like to promote discussion on these questions, identified in 2019 for follow-up 1. How can we put the Climate Change Action Plan into action, encouraging farming practices and on-farm activities that help to mitigate climate change? 2. How can local public and or private funding sources be harnessed, to ensure

	ongoing project funding for environmental priorities on farms?
PAFF	Nothing other than what is mentioned below- we are just offering a few ideas re this organization. Thanks!

Respondent	Would you like the County to support the work your organization is doing? What kind of support would you like to see?
Woodleigh Farms	We are in a position to take in any and all chipped woody materials on our farm. These materials will be converted to a soil amendment through our composting process and if the materials are clean, there is also the possibility of processing these materials through our pyrolosis unit (biochar plant), where these materials are convert to carbon, and used as a soil amendment in agriculture.
Lake Edge Cottages	I'm currently working with my local Tourism DMO in Lakefield and RTO8 to attract more visitors to this region. We need an overall sustainablity plan from the County, which includes a business case to encourage both cost savings and revenue increase. For example, we have a few visitors that bring their EV's knowing that they can charge onsite at my resort. Your plan, needs to consider the stakeholder community business needs, and this survey is a good starting point. I would love to see more small businesses like mine getting onboard with implementing and advertising their contribution to sustainability as continual improvement to their overall operations.
City of Peterborough	Collaboration in the above-mentioned items.
Peterborough Field Naturalists	
Clean Up Peterborough	
KCCPN	
Camp Kawartha	
For Our Grandchildren	
Circular Peterborough Collective	
HKNPHU	

GreenUP	
Farms at Work	
PAFF	

Respondent	Are there any initiatives/projects you are currently working on or planning for the future that you would like the County to be aware of?
Woodleigh Farms	We have recently constructed a biochar plant on our farm, and have recently been awarded innovations awards from Peterborough Rotary, and Green Economy Canada for these initiatives.
Lake Edge Cottages	For us, sustainability is a journey. Today we are focused on continuous improvement, and leveraging what we have in place.
City of Peterborough	In Q1 2029, the Better Homes Peterborough program will have completed its original funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The City is likely to recapitalize the program and expand to retrofit commercial buildings as well as continuing with residential buildings. At that time, it would be a good moment for the County to join the City in a single offering, if interested.
Peterborough Field Naturalists	
Clean Up Peterborough	
KCCPN	
Camp Kawartha	
For Our Grandchildren	
Circular Peterborough Collective	
HKNPHU	
GreenUP	
Farms at Work	
PAFF	

Respondent	Are there current or future initiatives/projects that you would be interested in the County collaborating with your organization on? What type of collaboration would you like to see?
Woodleigh Farms	Our "Catching Carbon" initiative takes unusable and unmarketable biomass and converts these to soil amendments for agriculture. We will sequester over 1,000 tonnes of CO2e annually through this process, and future volumes may increase this number. There is an opportunity for the County to divert their materials to our facility and subsequently take credit for a portion of the sequestered carbon through this process, would love to discuss further.
Lake Edge Cottages	My next objective is to build resiliency into keeping our lights on after extreme weather events. As I mentioned above, there are EV's that can help achieve this, although this is a relatively new adoption of using the EV in this way.
City of Peterborough	Collaborating on renewable energy projects. Sustained funding for Green Economy Peterborough to attract businesses located in the county. EV fast charging stations along 7, 28, and the 115.
Peterborough Field Naturalists	
Clean Up Peterborough	
KCCPN	
Camp Kawartha	
For Our Grandchildren	
Circular Peterborough Collective	
HKNPHU	
GreenUP	
Farms at Work	
PAFF	

Respondent	What resources would you like the County to be aware of? Funding opportunities, reports or organizations etc.

Woodleigh Farms	N/A
Lake Edge Cottages	As I mentioned above, it all starts with proper planning and thinking big about what the end state looks like. Working with GreenStep or GreenUP can help with that, by providing you with a view of your current state and where gains can be made. But the County has to own the decision in how to move forward.
City of Peterborough	Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund. Natural Resources Canada's Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program
Peterborough Field Naturalists	
Clean Up Peterborough	
KCCPN	
Camp Kawartha	
For Our Grandchildren	
Circular Peterborough Collective	
HKNPHU	
GreenUP	
Farms at Work	
PAFF	

Respondent	Is there any other information you would like to share with us? Or any questions you may have for us that you would like us to follow up with you on?
Woodleigh Farms	We would welcome the opportunity to showcase the work we are doing on our farm, supporting local employment, and mitigate climate change through our practices. Woodleigh Farms is recognized as a Net Zero Farm through GreenUp Peterborough and a promoter of all things sustainable through our regenerative agricultural practices and partnerships with research organizations (Living Lab Canada, Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association, Regeneration Canada, Ecological Farmers of Ontario, University of Guelph, Trent University).

Lake Edge Cottages	At Lake Edge Cottages, we believe that sustainability must consider the impact to: 1) Preserving our Natural Environment 2) Enhancing Our business brand- People that care about the planet's environment, also care about plants, animals, and humanity. Our clients take comfort in knowing that they are contributing to a greener planet when they stay at Lake Edge Cottages - especially when we exhibit values that align with theirs. 3) Benefiting Our Community in which We Live, Work and Play - For example, our solar energy implementation enables our community to use excess hydro that is produced during the day (when hydro is at its peak usage). 4) Inspiring Hope for a Brighter Future - Becoming a sustainable business is a small price to pay, in doing our part to leave a better footprint behind for those who follow. And, that makes the value of our sustainability journey priceless.
City of Peterborough	No response provided
Peterborough Field Naturalists	
Clean Up Peterborough	
KCCPN	
Camp Kawartha	
For Our Grandchildren	
Circular Peterborough Collective	
HKNPHU	
GreenUP	
Farms at Work	
PAFF	

Respondent	Is there another organization that you think should be considered a stakeholder that the County should reach out to? Provide below.

Woodleigh Farms	N/A
Lake Edge Cottages	I would look at the Peterborough GreenUp webs for other stakeholder members that can add value. I would be happy to consult with the county (time permitting) if I can be of value to your organization.
City of Peterborough	No response provided
Peterborough Field Naturalists	
Clean Up Peterborough	
KCCPN	
Camp Kawartha	
For Our Grandchildren	
Circular Peterborough Collective	
HKNPHU	
GreenUP	
Farms at Work	
PAFF	

Respondent	

Appendix A3. Resident Sustainability Survey Summary

Analysis of Sustainability and Climate Change Action Survey

How we engaged: Aug 5—Sept 8 2025, Peterborough County distributed a sustainability survey to Residents via engage.ptbocounty.ca. A post card with Q/R code was mailed to residents in addition to promotion on social media channels.

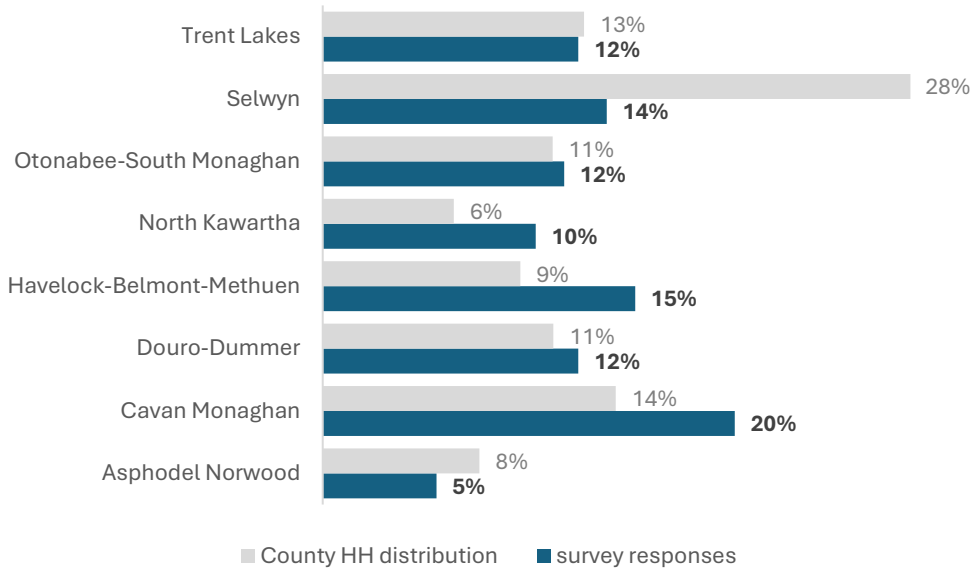
Who we heard from: Survey responses were received from 147 County Residents across all member Townships.

Summary of Results

Survey responses were dominated by long-term, older residents living in rural areas in Peterborough County. Over half of respondents (56%) live in rural and farm neighbourhoods, while 28% responded from more densely populated subdivisions or village areas. Further, the voices of younger generations were underrepresented (8% below 34 years), which indicates that further engagement is needed to represent this group. Residents from seasonal neighbourhoods were notably represented (14%), highlighting the influence and engagement of part-time residents in the County. This rural-heavy response from well established residents influences the priorities expressed in the survey which prioritize land stewardship and financial support for homeowners above Climate adaptation of County infrastructure and public transportation. This influence should be considered when using survey results to inform future planning.

The following is a summary of the responses and some analysis of the overall results.

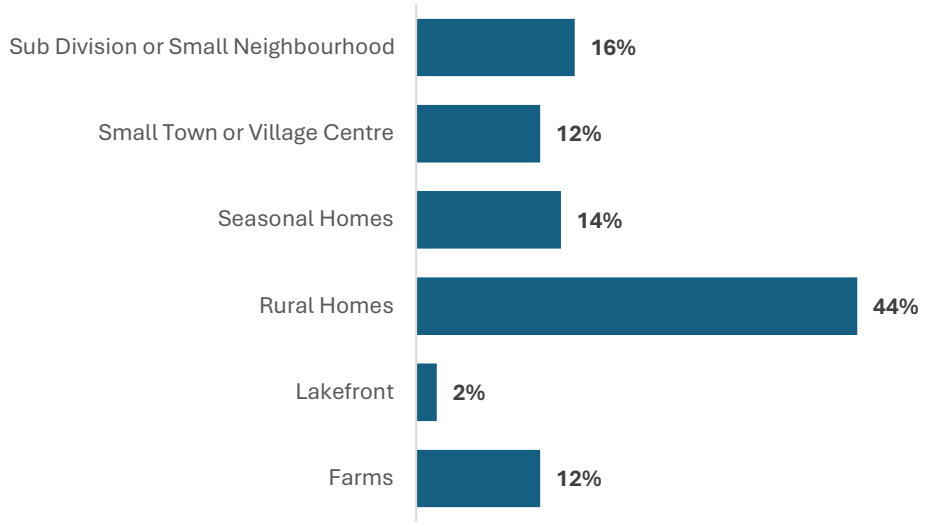
Q1: Which Township or First Nations Community do you live in (permanently or seasonally)?



The distribution of townships contributing to the Survey generally represented the distribution of households (HH), with notable underrepresentation of Selwyn Residents (-15%), and overrepresentation of Cavan Monaghan (+6%), Havelock-Belmont-Methuen (+6%), and North Kawartha (+4%) residents. No responses were received from Curve Lake First Nation or Hiawatha First Nation.

Despite these differences, no adjustments were made to the weighting of survey responses.

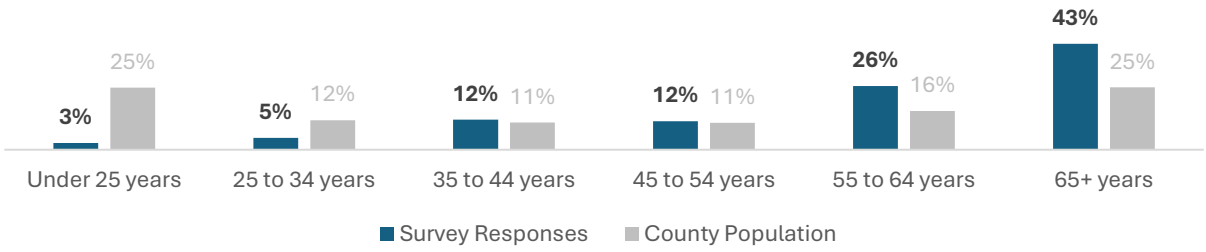
Q2. What best describes your neighbourhood?



We mostly heard from residents who live in rural neighbourhoods (44%). We also heard from residents in more populated subdivisions (16%), town/ village areas (12%), and from Farm households (12%). Seasonal residents were also represented (14%) alongside a few waterfront homes (2%).

Q3. **What is your age range?**

We asked surveyed residents to define their age range. The responses for ages 35 to 54 years were well represented compared with the general County population (2021 Sensus). However, youth and early adults were poorly represented, while later years were overly represented. This indicates that survey responses reflect the priorities, concerns, and opinions of older residents more heavily than younger generations who may have different needs and priorities.

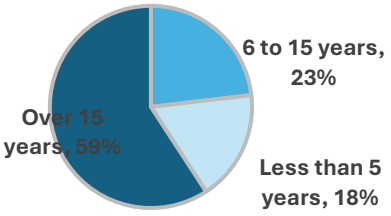


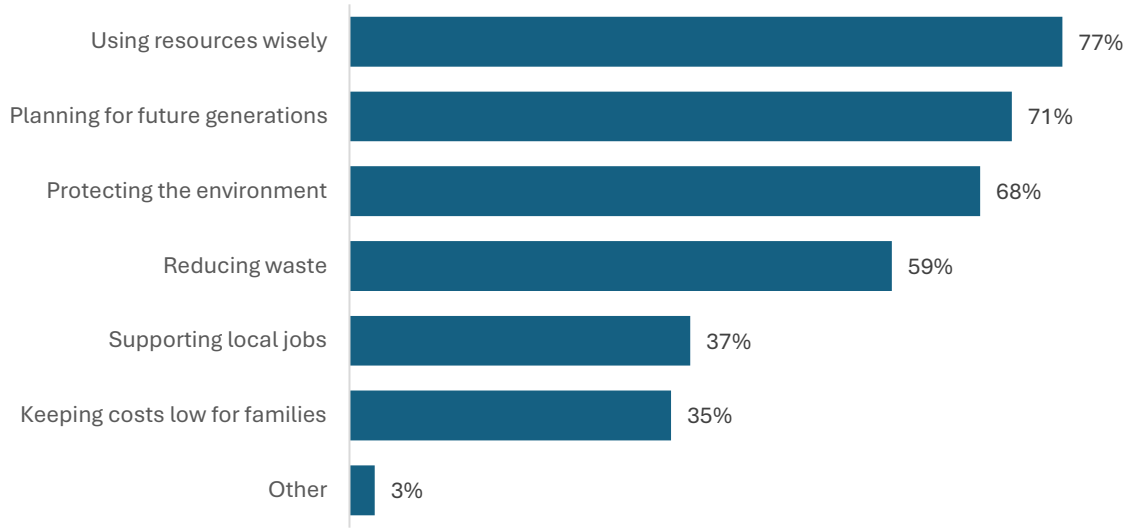
Q4. **How long have you lived in Peterborough County?**

Of surveyed residents, most have lived in Peterborough County for over 15 years (59%). This reflects a group of residents with strong roots in the community and a vested interest in long-term planning. A further 23% were settled, but not life-long residents, who demonstrate a growing investment in the future of the County. New residents were also well represented (18%), showing that this segment is engaged, reflecting recent growth in the County's population, possibly also indicating changing needs, preferences, and perspectives.

Q5. **What does "Sustainability" mean to you?**

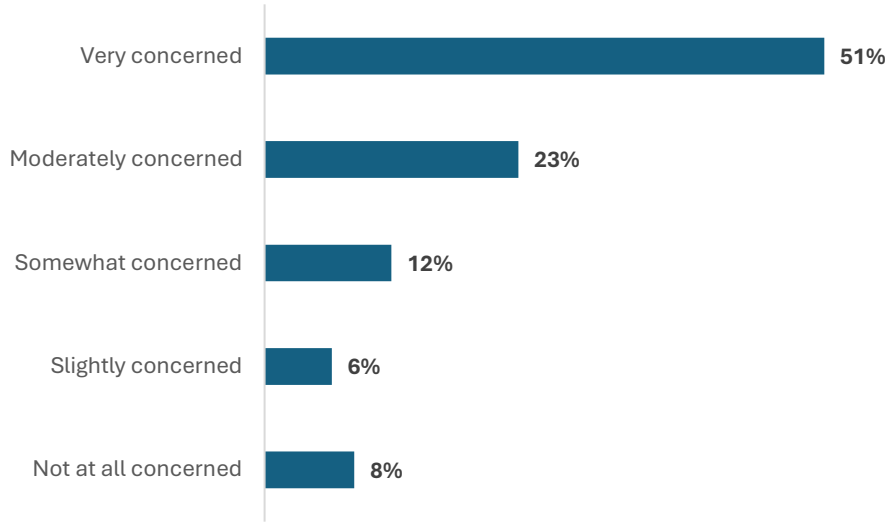
We asked residents to define the term "Sustainability". Residents say that sustainability means prioritizing the wise use of resources (77%), and planning should look ahead to future generations (71%) while protecting the environment (68%). Further, sustainability prioritizes waste reduction (58%). Though not the defining theme, sustainability also supports local jobs (37%) while keeping costs low for families (35%).





Q6. **How concerned are you about climate change?**

Most residents identify that they are very concerned about climate change (51%). Some are moderately concerned (23%), and a few are somewhat concerned (12%) or slightly concerned (6%). Yet a few more state they are not at all concerned (8%).



Q7. **If you are concerned, what worries you the most about climate change?**

We asked residents to explain what worries them most about climate change. Themes in the concerns expressed were identified:

61% are worried about extreme weather

Unpredictable and extreme weather, including destructive storms was the topmost concern expressed. Residents identified concerns for more frequent/prolonged draught events impacting water reserves. High temperatures and heatwaves and risk of wildfires were also top of mind. Extreme cold weather events and ice storms were also identified.

39% are worried about environmental quality

Residents worry about water quality and quantity declining due to more frequent high temperature days and periods of drought. Poor air quality due to wildfire smoke was also frequently noted as a concern. The loss of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems was also a major concern among residents.

37% are worried about social welfare and health

Residents expressed concern for future generations and for a healthy future for their children and grandchildren. The worry of health impacts to vulnerable populations from heatwaves and poor air quality was a concern.

22% are worried about government and policy

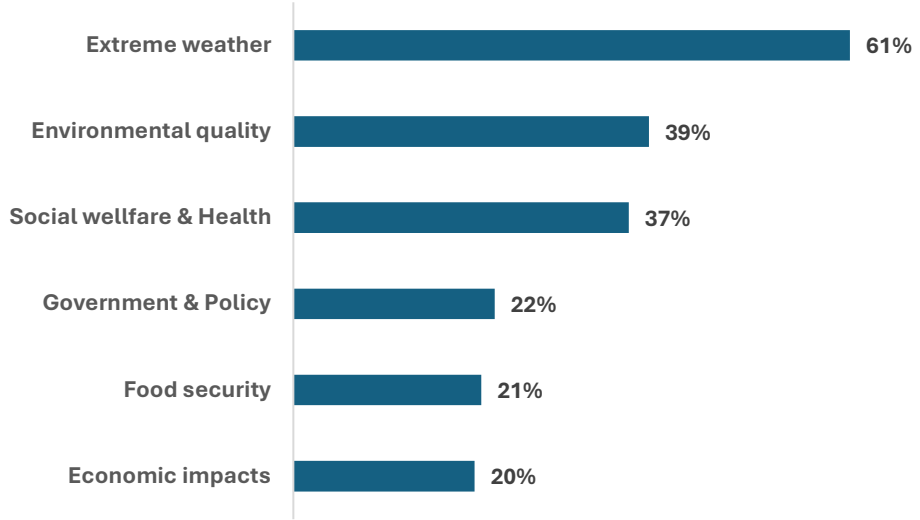
Residents expressed concerns about inaction by local municipal government as well as inaction by federal and international governments. Several residents expressed concern about financial resources being allocated toward climate change initiatives, yet more frequently residents expressed frustration about a lack of local investment in climate action.

21% are worried about food security

Crop failure and impacts to food production brough on by drought and other extreme weather conditions was a common concern expressed by residents. Residents expressed concern for impacts to agriculture and wildlife. Rising food prices resulting from climate related impacts to food production were also expressed.

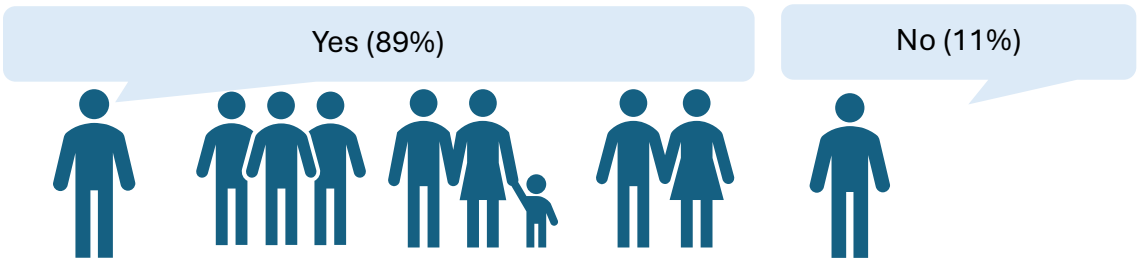
20% are worried about economic impacts

Residents expressed concern for the economic impacts including from damages to home and property alongside rising insurance costs due to impacts by increasing risks of severe storms. The affordability of resources including food and energy for heating and cooling homes was expressed. Costs related to power outages were also a concern.



Note: most residents expressed multiple concerns. Total exceeds 100% of surveys.

Q8. **Have you noticed changes in the local climate and environment over the past 10 years?**

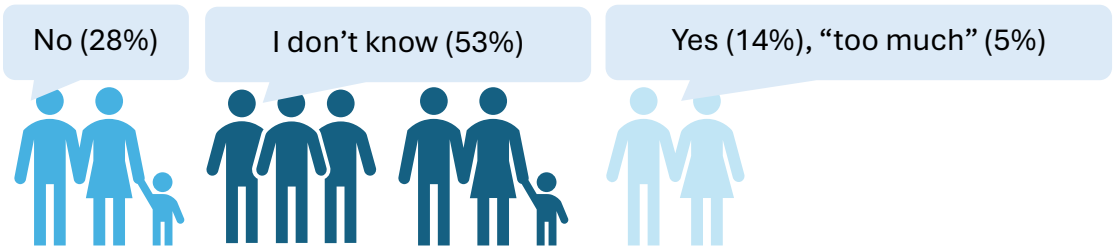


Nearly 9 in 10 residents surveyed have noticed changes in the local climate in the past decade.

Q9. **If you have noticed changes in the local climate and environment, what changes have you seen?**

Residents state that weather is becoming more extreme and unpredictable (56% of responses). They describe more frequent and intense storm events causing destruction to homes (tree damage, flooding, power outages) and more extreme heat in the summer causing heat stress, water quality and quantity issues (algae blooms, drought conditions, water restrictions) and exacerbating local wildfire risk (extended burn bans). Changes to water quality and quantity (precipitation changes- rain and snow) were described in half of all responses. Changes to temperature including heatwaves were even more frequently described (58%), alongside descriptions of local biodiversity loss – including observed shifts in bird species, more disease bearing ticks, changes to gardening zones (10%), and air quality warnings due to wildfire smoke (8%). A few residents (6%) do not attribute these changes to human (burning of fossil fuels) caused climate change, and express skepticism about how the changes to weather patterns are interpreted.

Q10. **Do you think Peterborough County is currently doing enough to address climate change?**



Most residents (53%) do not know if the County is doing enough to address climate change. This supports the need for an updated climate action plan that is an accessible and easy to read document to allow residents to stay informed. A further 28% state that not enough is being done. Additionally, 14% of residents say that the County is currently doing enough, and the remaining 5% describe further that too much is being done.

Q11. **Rank from highest to lowest, which sustainability/climate change initiatives Peterborough County should implement. (1-highest, 7-lowest)**

Overall rank (calculated)	List of potential initiatives
1 (2.82)	A program with incentives or financing to help homeowners reduce heating and energy costs through home upgrades.
2 (3.38)	Land stewardship programs like tree planting, wetland or forest conservation, and shoreline protection.
3 (3.71)	Partnering with organizations to help promote sustainable farming practices.
4 (4.33)	Climate adaptation programs to improve resilience to impacts of climate change like reducing flood risk and protecting infrastructure.
5 (4.34)	Initiatives to reduce transportation emissions like improved public transportation, more electric vehicle charging stations, and better walking and biking trails.
6 (4.38)	Water conservation programs like subsidies for residential rainwater projects and rain barrels.

7 (5.03)	Reducing the County's corporate greenhouse gas emissions by improving energy efficiency in our buildings and greening the County's fleet of vehicles.

High support (rank 1-3)

1. Homeowner upgrades were ranked as the top priority among residents. Residents support programs that help individual homeowners with heating/ energy cost reduction via home upgrades. These programs deliver immediate, tangible benefits to individuals (cost savings and comfort). Increasing home energy efficiency & insulation, and/or heat pump installation can reduce bills and yield savings for households. Grants, rebates, and local incentives reduce barriers to their implementation.
2. There was strong interest in natural/ ecosystem solutions: Land stewardship (tree planting, wetland, shoreline conservation) was highly supported. These programs offer multiple co-benefits such as carbon sequestration, flood mitigation, erosion control, supporting biodiversity, and local temperature regulation. This support reflects resident concern for ecological health, buffering of climate impacts, and support for visible local solutions that benefit communities.
3. Support for agricultural sustainability was also strong. Partnering with sustainable farming practices is well supported, reflecting the value of local food systems. Sustainable farming practices further reduce runoff and soil erosion, improve water quality, and protect pollinators. Many local farmers and farming organizations are already engaged in these programs.

Medium support (rank 4&5)

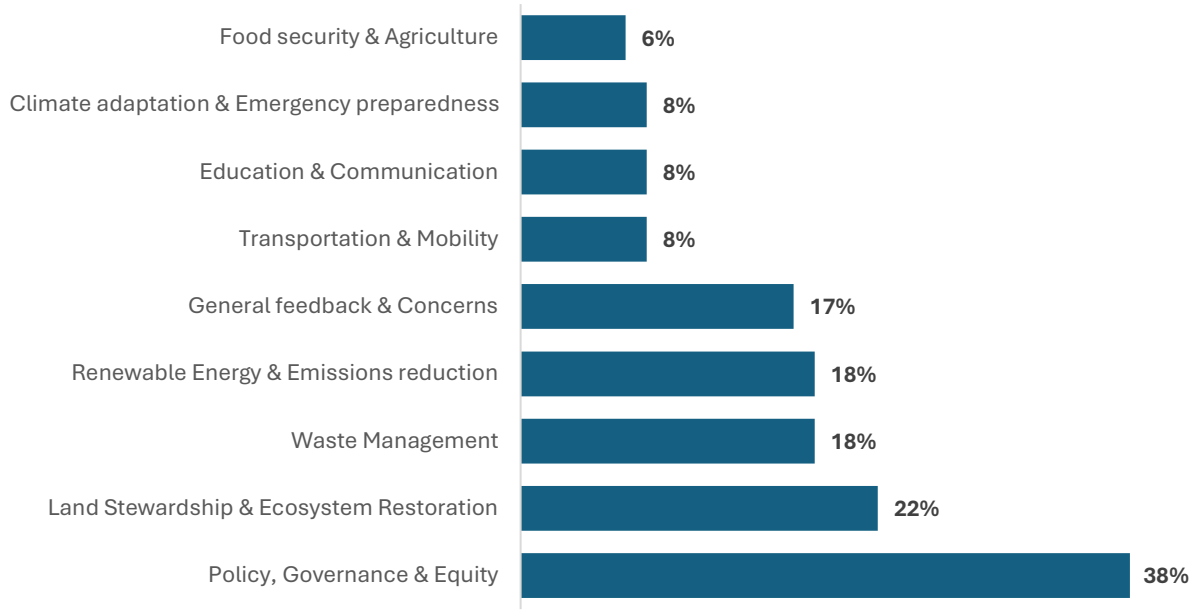
4. Climate adaptation programs (flood risk reduction, protective infrastructure) garnered mid-range support among residents reflecting the perception that while high ranking mitigation measures are valued, adaptation is also seen as important. These programs are necessary to reduce vulnerability to storms and flooding, however they require infrastructure upgrades and significant resources.
5. Transportation emissions reductions (public transit, EV charging, infrastructure for walking and biking) require upfront costs as well as behavioral and systemic change from participating residents, potentially reflecting the rural dominance in the survey results. These programs may grow in support through pilot programs in higher density areas.

Less support (rank 6&7)

6. Water conservation (residential rainwater, rain barrels etc.) programs are useful and beneficial but ranked lower than other programs that may be perceived as more impactful.
7. Reducing County Corporate GHG emissions (building & fleet) was ranked last by residents. Though less tangible to residents, these programs are important for modelling municipal leadership, and should be part of the County's long-term commitment.

Q12. **Are there any other sustainability or climate programs you'd like the County to pursue?**

Residents were asked to describe other sustainability or climate programs they would like to see implemented.



Most residents (38%) had suggestions related to policy, governance, and equity. The sentiments among these suggestions ranged from enthusiastic (requests for changes to building codes, incorporating Indigenous values, and calling for systemic change), to concerned (affordability, alignment with local contexts, measurable progress), critical of implementation (skeptical about how policies will be implemented, costs, capacity), to oppositional (approximately 5% of these responses express resistance to climate policy and spending, and are resentful of taxation).

Q13. **Please leave any additional comments or clarifications you'd like to make.**

We received 49 additional comments from surveyed residents.