



# Corporate Environmental Action Plan

July 2018



# WELCOME

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The Town of Aurora is a beautiful municipality offering urban amenities and a small town lifestyle. Located on the Oak Ridges Moraine, Aurora is an environmentally savvy town that is dedicated to the management and protection of our local environment.

We are pleased to present you with the Town of Aurora's Corporate Environmental Action Plan (CEAP) Update. This plan outlines how the Town intends to protect and enhance its natural environment. It also describes the steps to promote environmental sustainability, integrity and conservation of resources.

Aurora is proud to support several conservation initiatives to improve our natural surroundings. We are a strong supporter of renewable energy, green technology and protection of our natural resources. Recently, the Town completed Solar PV projects at Town Hall, Aurora Public Library, Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex and the new Joint Operations Center. The Town also incorporated energy saving technology and systems such as 2 electric vehicle charging stations, LED street lighting, mixed recycling bins, motion sensor lighting controls, compact florescent lighting, water bottle refilling stations, Eco-Chill refrigeration and more.

This plan adds strength to Aurora's corporate culture of environmental leadership. I invite you to browse through these pages to become familiar with the Plan's environmental initiatives and our Town's environmental successes. As a community, we can provide a sustainable future for our families and preserve our natural surroundings to enjoy for years to come.

Sincerely,

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Town of Aurora’s Corporate Environmental Action Plan (CEAP) would not have been successfully completed without the dedication, professional attitude and energy of many individuals, including Members of Council, the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and the Environmental Management Team (EMT). This project was executed under the leadership and co-ordination of Christina Nagy-Oh Program Manager, Environmental Initiatives. Environmental Intern, Sara Akib was instrumental in updating the format and overall visual style of this Plan.

The Mayor and Council, EAC, ELT and EMT provided valuable external direction and critique at key points in the process.

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Councillor Wendy Gaertner  
Councillor Jeff Thom  
Councillor Paul Pirri  
Councillor Tom Mrakas  
Councillor Harold Kim  
Councillor Michael Thompson

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Corporate Environmental Action Plan (CEAP) is a five-year action plan that allows the Corporation of the Town of Aurora to meet its environmental goals. The original Plan and its updated 2017 version received input from 3 Advisory committees, staff and senior management. The purpose of the Plan is to protect and enhance the natural environment, promote environmental sustainability, integrity and conservation of resources and create a practice of environmental stewardship within the community.

The CEAP is intended to provide corporate direction on key strategic environmental initiatives that will be initiated over the next five years. The Plan has been developed to assist council to plan for and implement specific actions to improve the Town's environmental performance and sustainability for future generations.

The success of the Plan will require a coordinated approach to implementation that includes all departments within the corporation. As the town moves forward with the implementation of this Plan, we will need to build and enhance internal and external partnerships and synergies and commit to continually updating and monitoring this Plan.

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# INTRODUCTION

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## About Aurora

The Town of Aurora is located in York Region on the rolling hills of the Oak Ridges Moraine. The Town population is 59,000 resident's doubling in size since 1986. This growth is anticipated to continue with an additional 11,000 residents planned in the community by 2031.

Aurora is also home to more than 1,300 businesses including approximately 150 major industries and head offices. The Town features a strong entrepreneurial spirit with over 84 per cent of Aurora businesses employing less than twenty employees. The town's business community has grown significantly in recent years and this growth is forecasted to continue with an additional 10,000 jobs anticipated by 2031.

Aurora is a welcoming and unique town with a strong sense of community pride and volunteerism. We are committed to healthy and inclusive lifestyles inspired by natural heritage, historic culture, diverse neighborhoods, thriving businesses and natural environment.

Aurora is a mosaic of contemporary living in charming heritage surroundings that continues to attract those looking for the ideal mix of small town and urban amenities. The Town is a popular residential destination for those commuting to Toronto or the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

Residents will enjoy a variety of sporting and cultural facilities, more than 500 acres of parkland, pedestrian trail systems, valley lands, creek system, a community Arboretum, championship golf courses, fine dining, theatre, shopping, and a myriad of community activities. The Town is home to land with soil capability to accommodate agriculture, encompass three separate headwaters, open spaces, natural areas, wildlife and wildlife habitat/corridors. Figure 1 illustrates Aurora's greenlands, open spaces and environmental protection lands (next page).

The Town of Aurora takes pride in its environmental stewardship actions and is continually working towards greater sustainability. The development and update of the Corporate Environmental Action Plan reflects the town's long term commitment to the protection and management of this environmentally sensitive landscape.



## Background and Context - Corporate Environmental Action Plan

The physical environment is the basis for our health, economy and well-being. It is also an intricate and delicate web of microorganisms, flora, fauna, biodiversity and hydrological cycles. The Corporate Environmental Action Plan (CEAP) supports a broader sustainability vision that integrates the Town's environmental commitment with community and economic considerations.

Aurora Town Council is committed to supporting policies and initiatives and a vision of a more sustainable Aurora. Based on this commitment, the CEAP was created with the support and strategic guidance of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC). The creation and implementation of the CEAP is a clear indication of Council's dedication to environmental stewardship – to protect and preserve natural areas, maintain biodiversity and advance key environmental initiatives across the corporation.

At the Council meeting on January 26, 2016, the following Blue Dot motion had been passed.

All people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:

- a) The right to breathe clean air;
- b) The right to drink clean water;
- c) The right to consume safe food;
- d) The right to access nature;
- e) The right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment; and
- f) The right to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment.

The Town also recognizes and values the partnerships and contributions of the community in a number of environmental initiatives. Residents and stakeholders are crucial to the Town's ongoing success and commitment to continued public engagement across the community. The development of this updated Plan was based on several consultation workshops/meetings held with staff, senior management. The goal of the meetings included developing:

- The purpose and rationale for the CEAP
- Key themes of the Plan
- Key objectives and actions; and
- Options for implementation.

Based on the feedback received, an inter-departmental Environmental Management Team was formed for the purpose of implementing the plan and give feedback for the update of the plan. Initial meeting with the group addressed the structure, context, environmental indicators, objectives and actions of the Plan as they relate to each department. The later meeting involved discussions relating to review the final draft. Many corporate departments are responsible for the implementation of this Plan.

## What is the Corporate Environmental Action Plan?

The CEAP is a five-year plan that allows the Corporation of the Town of Aurora to meet its environmental objectives. The Plan focuses on what the Town can do to protect and enhance the natural environment. The Plan also supports the implementation of the Town's Strategic Plan, new Official Plan, master plans, and other ongoing environmental activities. The CEAP planning process, consultation, and outcome will provide the Town with an opportunity to capitalize on past experiences and implement change that will empower Aurora to deliver progressive environmental policies and ensure that all departments are working together to achieve common environmental objectives. The purpose of the Town of Aurora's Corporate Environmental Action Plan is to:

- *Protect and enhance the natural environment*
- *Be a catalyst for local initiatives that promote environmental sustainability, integrity and conservation of our resources and ecosystem; and,*
- *To enhance environmental stewardship within the community.*

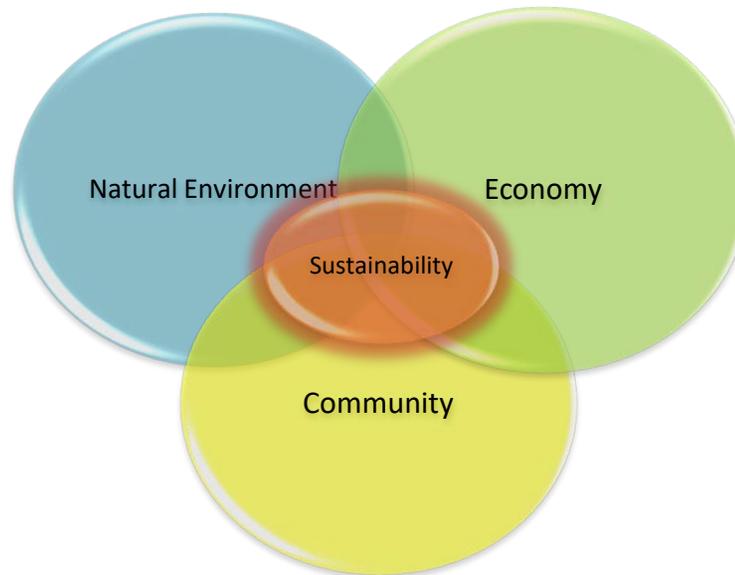
## Aurora's Community Sustainability Vision

Our Vision for Aurora in 2031 is an innovative and sustainable community where neighbours care and businesses thrive. Also, an integrated community seamlessly connected by trails and open space that promote energy efficiency and provides accessible and convenient transportation and sustainable development.

Our mission for sustainability in the Corporate Environmental Action Plan is the Town's commitment to educate, inspire, and empower our corporate demands to act sustainably for the benefit of current and future generations through a responsible balance of Aurora's environment, Social/cultural and economic needs.

Creating the CEAP is one of the ways the Town is continuing to advance sustainability and move us towards a sustainable community. Aurora will be integrating the Community Sustainability vision in decision-making processes that will interconnect the natural environment, the economy, and the community (as illustrated in Figure 2 below).

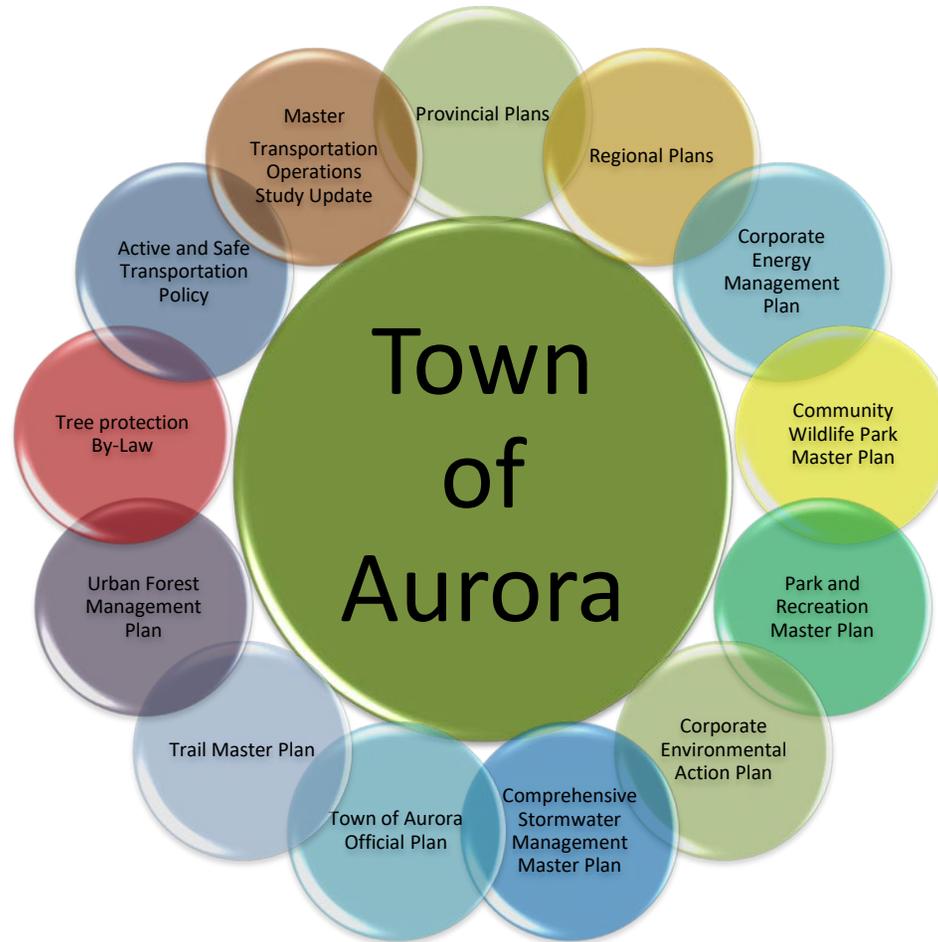
**Figure 2: Sustainability Vision**



## Linkages to Other Plans, Reviews and Projects

The Town of Aurora has a number of plans that guide priorities, daily actions and planning for the future (Figure 3 – below). These include plans developed by the town as well as other jurisdictions that were critical to the development of this Plan. Examples include:

**Figure 3: Current Environmental Plans and Policies**



# CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

The Corporate Environmental Action Plan (CEAP) has been structured around water conservation, sustainable development, waste reduction, natural environment, climate change and energy, and public education– to provide a direct link between the prescribed actions and the natural environment. The CEAP includes six categories supported by a number of objectives and action items that are outlined in this section. The actions are summarized in **Figure 5** (Page 17).

**Figure 4: Five sections of Aurora’s Corporate Environmental Action Plan**



## **WATER CONSERVATION**

Water is an important and limited resource. The Town of Aurora will take the appropriate steps towards reducing corporate water consumption in order to conserve water resources. The corporation is also responsible for managing stormwater. Stormwater management controls the stormwater runoff for the purpose of reducing downstream erosion, water quality degradation, and flooding as well as mitigating the adverse effects of changes in land use on the aquatic environment. Stormwater management facilities include stormwater retention and detention ponds, which retain water to control the runoff or improve the stormwater quality by reducing the concentration of nutrients, sediments, hazardous substances and other pollutants. Low impact development (LID) stormwater management involves infiltrating and/or filtering stormwater runoff into the ground either on individual lots, through the stormwater conveyance system, or at storm sewer outlets. LID's also control the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater.

### **Objective W1: Reduce town owned facility water consumption**

**Action 1:** Reduce corporate water consumption.

To reduce corporate water consumption through increased efficiency techniques such as:

- Computer-automated irrigation systems;
- Water-efficient landscaping;
- Rainwater harvesting; and
- Greywater collection and reuse

**Action 2:** Implement a water loss reduction strategy.

To implement a water loss reduction strategy, involving the installation of updated water meters to both residents and businesses and the relining of aged sanitary sewer incrementally each year.

### **Objective W2: To reduce the uncontrolled and inadequately controlled stormwater areas with respect to both quality and quantity by following recommendations of the Town's Comprehensive Stormwater Management Master Plan**

**Action 1:** Investigate ways to enhance and optimize the functioning of the current stormwater management facility inventory by:

- Reducing the amount of phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe via Tannery Creek and East Holland River;
- Restoring a self-sustaining coldwater fishery, where possible;

- Improving water quality to meet Town's, LSRCA, and Lake Simcoe Protection Plan requirements;

**Action 2:** Improve stormwater quality in all new road reconstruction projects.

To improve stormwater quality for all road reconstruction projects, where possible, by installing oil/grit separators or using Low Impact Development (LID's) to treat the road's stormwater runoff.

- Implement the Stormwater Management (SWM) Rate Program
- Develop a stormwater infrastructure maintenance program and facility monitoring and inspection program
- Update SWM Design Standards
- Develop low impact development (LID) design guidelines/ incentives
- Apply LID techniques during construction/renovation of infrastructure and Town buildings

**Action 3:** Encourage at source storm water management control measures on private property.

- By developing and implementing a marketing strategy to raise awareness within the community of how they can manage their storm water within their private properties and the positive impact this can have; and
- By refining, updating or altering existing by-laws as required related to implementing source control measures on private property
- Source control measures on private properties include rain barrels and rain gardens and on private site plans include green roofs, vegetated swales, rain gardens and permeable pavement.

**Action 4:** Investigate new practices that may enhance pollution prevention including:

- Safer Alternative Products;
- Materials Storage Controls;
- Pool Drainage Controls;
- Erosion and Sediment Control;
- Cross Connection Control Program (ensuring sanitary services do not outlet to a storm drainage system);
- Public Education;
- Business Education and Awareness;
- Yellow Fish Road Program, in cooperation with York Region;
- Salt Management measures; and
- Snow Disposal practices.

## ***SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT***

Aurora is over 50 square kilometres in size. The variety of the Town's land assets is a big part of our economic strength and high quality of life. With increasing urban intensification pressures in Aurora, it is important to manage and protect significant natural resources. This section supports the protection of natural areas and their amenities as well as to promote more sustainable, accessible and environmentally compatible land development.

**Objective S1: Foster a sustainable green development and alternate methods of transportation to improve the quality of life of Aurora's residents and Town staff.**

**Action 1:** Promote Sustainable Transportation to Town staff.

Various Sustainable Transportation initiatives to reduce single occupancy vehicle use and maintain the smart commute gold designation such as:

- Creating and offering flexible work hours opportunity for staff
- Creating and supporting a telecommuting policy
- Designating carpooling parking spots at Town hall
- Encouraging employees to actively transport themselves to work (cycle, walk)
- Encourage staff utilization of the e-bike share program
- Offer discounted transit passes for Town staff
- \*Increase bike parking at Town owned public facilities for both staff and residents; and
- \*Improve walking / cycling network including safer grade-separated routes and cycling signals

Continue to implement and promote the Active and Safe Routes to School Program:

This program focuses on active transportation to increase physical activity of students to promote healthy, active travel to and from school in the Town of Aurora. Town staff in coordination with School Boards and York Region community and health services work with each school to develop a plan to reduce barriers to walking, reduce traffic congestion and increase walking and cycling safety skills.

**Action 2:** Implement Sustainable features in the construction or reconstruction of Town infrastructure including buildings, facilities and roads.

**Action 3:** Set up new areas for additional community gardens in Aurora.

**Opportunity:** Apply for green infrastructure grant funding.

## **WASTE REDUCTION and DIVERSION**

The Town's waste management strategy continues to concentrate on waste reduction programs with significant focus on reducing over waste tonnage collected while maximizing material recoveries and increase promotion and education. To ensure our diversion rate continuously increases, we will focus on specific targeted promotion and education to residents about reducing over waste through the 4 R's, reduce, reuse, recycle and recover. The Town works collaboratively with the Region, via the York Region SM4RT Living Plan to implement specific planning processes that form part of the Integrated Waste Management Master Plan.

### **Objective D1: Implement sustainable construction practices to reduce waste, incorporate sustainable design and reclaim or recycle materials.**

**Action 1:** Implement sustainable construction and building practices for town buildings and facilities that considers 'Sustainable Sites Guidelines':

- Reuse/recycle existing materials and support sustainable production practices
- Maximize the efficient use of aggregates through the recycling of recovered materials to minimize waste volumes and utilize non-aggregate supplements (e.g. shredded tires) to minimize demand for new aggregates.
- Minimize effects of construction-related activities
- Maintain the site for long-term sustainability
- Utilize biodegradable and low impact *green* building cleaning products.

**Action 2:** Develop a Green Procurement Policy for the Town of Aurora and its contractors.

### **Objective D2: Reduce waste going to landfill disposal.**

**Action 1:** Implement Waste Reduction Strategies.

- A bag tag system and enforce 3 bag maximum
- A full recycling program with parks and open spaces
- Increase the number of multi-residential buildings within the recycling and green bin program
- Develop initiative to promote reduction and re-use with radio, e-advertising and newspaper
- Develop a video campaign to increase awareness about the current blue box and waste programs
- Amend the current by-law requiring residents to source separate recyclables and organic materials from the waste stream, including textiles, electronic waste, household hazardous waste-batteries
- Capture baseline data of 3 stream diversion and complete business case of effectiveness
- New Diversion options to be developed for public events
- Implement fee for bulky waste items and appliances

## **BIODIVERSITY and NATURAL HERITAGE**

A large portion of Aurora is located on the Oak Ridges Moraine which forms a portion of the provincial Greenbelt. Through biodiversity and the benefits it provides, ecosystems are the fundamental units for supporting life on earth. Ecosystem services are the foundation for natural processes of climate, water and air regulation. These are some of the benefits:

- Supply clean water;
- Filter contaminants naturally;
- Stabilize water flows;
- Mitigate greenhouse gas;
- Control soil erosion;
- Cycle nutrients;
- Create habitat, recreation, opportunities; and
- Provide health benefits and cultural pursuits

The Town strives to maintain an environment that is ecologically sound and protect the natural heritage systems and their biodiversity.

### **Opportunities for Innovation:**

Use naturalization incentives to improve and create new wildlife habitat for invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

### **Objective B1: Enrich Aurora's ecology by protecting and preserving biodiversity.**

**Action 1:** \* Encourage ecological design in landscaping of parks and retrofit projects.

- Extending the area of natural grassland, wood edge and increasing the core areas of existing woodlands where possible
- Implement options to naturalize parks and include landscaping for shade
- Develop a maintenance protocol to improve survival of newly planted/restored areas

**Action 2:** Improve natural heritage significant wildlife habitat.

- Re-evaluate by-laws that address wildlife feeding

**Action 3:** Implement the Urban Forest Management Plan.

- Promote Conservation authorities' tree planting programs to encourage planting trees on public and private property
- Update standards and specifications for tree health, including soil

**Action 4:** Implement the Invasive Species Act in partnership with York Region and the Province.

- Apply for grant funding to help annually reduce the spread of invasive plant species
- Eradicate Noxious weeds within proximity to trails and actively used public areas to make them pedestrian friendly

## *CLIMATE CHANGE and ENERGY*

### **What is Climate change?**

“Climate change is a change in the usual weather found in a place. This could be a change in how much rain a place usually gets in a year. Or it could be a change in a place's usual temperature for a month or season. ‘It’ is also a change in Earth's climate. This could be a change in Earth's usual temperature. Or it could be a change in where rain and snow usually fall on Earth. Weather can change in an hour. Climate takes hundreds or even millions of years to change”.

Climate change is expected to place increased stress on natural, social and built environments particularly on infrastructure, planning and social services, environmental conditions and buildings. Increasingly, communities across Ontario are feeling the effects, from more frequent and heavier rainstorms, to longer summers. This will create challenges for municipalities as they work to minimize the impacts of extreme weather through the development and implementation of climate change adaptation plans.

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change predicted an increase of temperature variability and precipitation patterns and increasing occurrences of extreme events such as droughts, extreme heat, storms and flooding for York Region. Aurora is planning to model its greenhouse gas reduction targets after the Provincial targets set as part of the climate change Action Plan. The Province committed to reducing 37 per cent by 2030 and 80 % by 2050.

**Adaptation measures** are the process of adapting to the changing climate by seeking to lower the risks posed by the consequences of climatic changes. The following actions should be taken to ensure that the Town of Aurora begins to adapt better for future weather conditions and storms.

### **Objective C1: Prepare a Climate Change Adaptation Plan**

**Action 1:** Identify climate change risks by completing a vulnerability risk assessment of key departmental priorities.

**Action 2:** Develop a Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan that will assist the Town to mitigate the risks of climate change. The Plan would benefit from climate change planning partnerships with other municipalities, conservation authorities and York Region.

**Mitigation measures** address the root causes, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The following objectives consist of actions to mitigate the magnitude or rate of the changing climate.

**Objective C2: Implement the Provincial Climate Change Plan Actions**

**Action 1:** \*Province Propose amendments to Municipal Act.

**Action 2:** \*Require electric charging in surface lots.

**Action 3:** \*Set green development standards.

**Action 4:** \*Eliminate minimum parking requirements over the next 5 years for municipal zoning bylaws.

**Action 5:** \*Make climate change mitigation and adaptation mandatory in municipal official plans.

**Objective C3: Reduce the town's greenhouse gas emissions by town staff and at town facilities.**

**Action 1:** Implement an anti-idling initiative.

- To implement an anti-idling initiative that will include working with schools to educate parents and public. This will also include the implementation of an anti-idling education campaign for town staff and contractors.

**Action 2:** \*Develop a Green Fleet Plan.

- To develop a corporate Green Fleet Plan that addresses new green fleet procurement and replacement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Plan should consider alternative fuels, higher efficiency vehicles, hybrid and electric options that meet the required need.
- Develop Electric Vehicle Charging Station usage fee Policy and maintenance plan
- \*Consider installing an EV charging station at SARC

**Action 3:** Improve energy efficiency of existing building and business operations.

- Engage with town owned facility operators, businesses and institutions to implement corporate sustainability initiatives aimed at reducing GHG emissions
- \*Reduce emissions/ energy costs by implementing energy conservation measures

**Action 4:** Consider all green infrastructure options as part of new corporate builds.

- Placing trees in and around Parking lots
- Redesign and retrofit water collection and conveyance infrastructure due to climate change  
Implement water quality and water and wastewater conservation strategies and incentives

\* Actions pulled from the Provincial Climate Change Plan

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**

Public education and awareness is the cornerstone of environmental outreach and it is reflected in the Town values to have a positive impact on the environment. The Town continues to engage staff and the community about environmental initiatives and accomplishments.

### **Objective A1: Encourage the stewardship of Aurora's natural resources and advance green initiatives by promoting community involvement**

**Action 1:** Promote the use of reusable water bottles in conjunction with the new water bottle filling stations. Communication campaign is aimed at the community including staff and should include but may not be limited to the following:

- Waste caused by disposable water bottles
- Promote town's municipal water as being clean, safe and drinkable
- Promotion of Blue W, web application in order to fill water bottles at no cost in participating businesses
- Town to partner with York Region's education and outreach programs for water conservation and local water source protection
- Minimize disposable water bottle usage at group organized events or meetings

**Action 2:** Increase overall community awareness of climate change:

- Increase awareness of natural hazards from flooding and erosion
- Increase public awareness and education on stormwater management
- Promote idling reduction and education campaigns (community/corporate)
- Public awareness campaigns encouraging good behaviour using incentives supported by corporate sponsorship
- Increase uptake of sustainable transportation options
- Promote actions to reduce the creation of GHG emissions and support our ability to adapt to climate change

**Action 3:** Develop an urban forest communication plan that delivers key messages to target audiences within the community:

- Promote "Adopt a Park" Program as "Community Stewardship Program"
- Support and promote LEAF's Backyard Planting Program
- Support stewardship programs through planting trees/shrubs/maintenance with partners LSRCA, Arboretum, and Neighbourhood work

**Action 4:** Develop a community based communications strategy to help protect and enhance our biodiversity:

- Provide targeted outreach for residents surrounding the natural system via stewardship and education programs
- Maintain an invasive species web page on the town website linking residents to additional informational websites

Figure 5: Overview of the Corporate Environmental Action Plan (CEAP)

## WATER CONSERVATION

**Objective W1: Reduce Town owned facility water consumption.**

- Action 1:** Reduce corporate water consumption
- Action 2:** Implement a water loss reduction strategy

**Objective W2: To reduce the uncontrolled and inadequately controlled stormwater areas with respect to both quality and quantity by following recommendations of the Town's Comprehensive Stormwater Management Master Plan**

- Action 1:** Investigate ways to enhance and optimize the functioning of the current stormwater management facility inventory
- Action 2:** Improve stormwater quality in all new road reconstruction projects
- Action 3:** Encourage at source storm water management control measures on private property
- Action 4:** Investigate new practices that may enhance pollution prevention

## SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

**Objective S1: Foster a sustainable green development and alternate methods of transportation to improve the quality of life of Aurora's residents and Town Staff.**

- Action 1:** Promote Sustainable Transportation to Town staff
- Action 2:** Implement Sustainable features in the construction or reconstruction of Town infrastructure including buildings, facilities and roads.
- Action 3:** Set up new areas for additional community gardens in Aurora.

## WASTE REDUCTION and DIVERSION

**Objective D1: Implement sustainable construction practices to reduce waste, incorporate sustainable design and reclaim or recycle materials.**

- Action 1:** Implement sustainable construction and building practices for Town buildings and facilities that considers 'Sustainable Sites Guidelines'
- Action 2:** Develop a Green Procurement Policy for the Town of Aurora and its contractors

**Objective D2: Reduce waste going to landfill disposal.**

- Action 1:** Implement Waste Reduction Strategies

## BIODIVERSITY and NATURAL HERITAGE

**Objective B1: Enrich Aurora's ecology by protecting and preserving biodiversity**

- Action 1:** \* Encourage ecological design in landscaping of parks and retrofit projects
- Action 2:** Improve Natural Heritage Significant Wildlife Habitat
- Action 3:** Implement the Urban Forest Management Plan
- Action 4:** Implement the Invasive Species Act in partnership with York Region and the Province.

## CLIMATE CHANGE and ENERGY

**Objective C1: Prepare a Climate Change Adaptation Plan**

- Action 1:** Identify climate change risks by completing a vulnerability risk assessment of key departmental priorities.
- Action 2:** Develop a Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan that will assist the town to mitigate the risks of climate change.

**Objective C2: Implement the Provincial Climate Change Plan Actions**

- Action 1:** \*Province Propose amendments to Municipal Act
- Action 2:** \*Require electric charging in surface lots
- Action 3:** \*Set green development standards
- Action 4:** \*Eliminate minimum parking requirements over the next 5 years for municipal zoning bylaws
- Action 5:** \*Make climate change mitigation and adaptation mandatory in municipal official plans

**Objective C3: Reduce the Town's greenhouse gas emissions by Town staff and at Town facilities.**

- Action 1:** Implement an anti-idling initiative
- Action 2:** \*Develop a Green Fleet Plan
- Action 3:** Improve energy efficiency of existing building and business operations
- Action 4:** Consider all green infrastructure options as part of new corporate builds

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

**Objective A1: Encourage the stewardship of Aurora's natural resources and advance green initiatives by promoting community involvement**

- Action 1:** Promote the use of reusable water bottles in conjunction with the new water bottle filling stations communication campaign
- Action 2:** Increase overall community awareness of climate change
- Action 3:** Develop an urban forest communication plan that delivers key messages to target audiences within the community
- Action 4:** Develop a community based communications strategy to help protect and enhance our biodiversity



# IMPLEMENTATION



The Town of Aurora’s Corporate Environmental Action Plan (CEAP) unites a number of programs, policies and initiatives that will help position the town as a leader in promoting environmental sustainability. The town will place a strong emphasis on achieving the objectives and Actions outlined in this Plan. The CEAP demonstrates council’s continued commitment to protecting and enhancing the environment. To ensure implementation, the town will need to:

- Integrate the CEAP framework into the day-to-day function of the municipality;
- Maintain and enhance internal and external partnerships; and
- Review and enhance Plan every 5 years.

### ***Integrate the CEAP Framework into the Day-to-Day Functioning of the Municipality***

Key to the implementation of the CEAP is the governance and accountability structures that will be in place to move the Plan forward. The Program Manager of Environmental Initiatives will be responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this Plan. The following actions will be pursued to integrate the CEAP into the day-to-day function of the municipality:

Actions	Suggested Timeframe
CAO to support the ongoing role of the Environmental Management Team (EMT) to manage the implementation of the CEAP. The implementation team will include representatives from all departments and will report to ELT.	Ongoing
Individual Departments, with the assistance of EMT, will consider the implementation of this Plan when developing departmental priorities and preparing budgets.	As part of annual budget process
Implementation of CEAP to flow through directors and CAO, who will be responsible for assigning respective departmental staff to implement.	ongoing
Staff are strongly encouraged to reference the relevant CEAP objectives in the Link to the Strategic Plan section of all Council reports.	New / ongoing
The Program Manager of Environmental Initiatives, to include a semi-annual informal progress update of CEAP’s implementation to Council.	*New / Annual in Q3

Actions	Suggested Timeframe
EMT, through department heads, to report to council by way of annual Progress Report regarding the progress of the CEAP's implementation.	Annually in Q1
The Green Initiatives Reserve Fund (the "Fund") is hereby established to receive and hold donations or budgetary contributions for purposes of funding or lending funding for projects or initiatives which further the objectives or support the strategic directions of the Town's Corporate Environmental Action Plan as amended from time to time. Council may direct that portions of revenues or saving arising from certain projects are to be contributed to the Reserve Fund. Balances in the Fund will be planned for specific projects recommended to or by Council during the annual budget process, or other times throughout the year, having consulted with the Environmental Advisory Committee. The Green Initiatives Reserve Fund was established in September of 2012.	Ongoing
During the next (second) review and enhancement of this plan, Stakeholders are seeking to strengthen the community component which will include a thorough and varied community consultation process which engages community members, local businesses, staff and council with the renewal of this Plan.	CEAP update to be added to 2022 capital budget
Develop, distribute and promote a staff Environmental Handbook; to be maintained and updated on the intranet and printed and distributed to new and existing staff during Earth Week annually. The handbook will highlight some new environmental initiatives as well as some basic energy saving and environmentally friendly living tips.	Complete version 1 of handbook by Q2 2020
Set up a green team of staff who are passionate about specific environmental initiatives to advise the project lead until the project is being implemented. This team should also help raise awareness, promote various environmental programs and choose to help at various environmental events throughout the year.	Form green team by Q1 2020

***Maintain and Enhance Internal and External Partnerships***

As the Town moves forward with implementation of the CEAP, we will need to continue to build/enhance existing internal (between departments) and external partnerships (with community groups and residents, e.g. Community Arboretum). Further, the Town will continue to take a leadership role with respect to environmental protection and preservation in the community, in part, by establishing any relevant new partnerships.

***Review and Enhance Plan every 5 years***

The CEAP is a 'living plan' that must be recognized by staff and council as an evolving document. Council is committed to:

- Review and update the Plan every five years;
- Review annual implementation plans in concert with departmental business plans; and
- Prepare an annual progress report.

## Appendix A: Town of Aurora Environmental Progress Indicators

For more information on **Actions** within **Appendix A** please refer to the corresponding actions found on pages 8- 15 of this policy.

Priority Area	Actions	Responsibility	Measures/ Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Tasks (Target)	Timeline
Water Conservation	<b>Action W1.1:</b> Reduce corporate water consumption (CWC)	OS- Parks, CMS -Facilities	CWC Facility Total	Develop annual CWC reduction targets.	Q1 2020
			CWC Parks Total	Add CWC to Progress Report	Q2 2020
	<b>Action W1.2:</b> Implement a water loss reduction strategy	OS - Water	# of Water meters installed per year	Add KPI's to Progress Report	Ongoing
			Sanitary sewer Km relined per year		
	<b>Action W2.1:</b> Investigate ways to enhance and optimize the functioning of the current stormwater management facility inventory	PDS – Engineering	# of stormwater ponds enhanced & optimized from their current function	(1 to 2 ponds enhanced & optimized from their current function)	2023 Q4
	<b>Action W2.2:</b> Improve stormwater quality in all new road reconstruction projects	PDS – Engineering	Km's of road treated by oil grit separators or Low Impact Development controls	As opportunity arises as determined during design of road reconstruction projects	Ongoing Progress to be reported yearly in Q1
	<b>Action W2.3:</b> Encourage at source stormwater management control measures on private property	PDS – Planning, PDS-PMEI	# of source stormwater management control measures on private property installed that the Town is aware of / year	Encourage residents to install private LIDs such as rain barrels during public engagement & design of road reconstruction projects	Ongoing Progress to be reported yearly in Q1

Priority Area	Actions	Responsibility	Measures/ Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Tasks (Target)	Timeline
	<b>Action W2.4:</b> Investigate new practices that may enhance pollution prevention. Ex's: salt management measures, pool drainage measures, yellow fish road program	PDS – PMEI , PDS - Engineering	# of new practices implemented to enhance pollution prevention	(5 new practices to enhance pollution prevention by 2023)	2023 Progress to be reported yearly in Q1
<b>Sustainable Urban Development</b>	<b>Action S1.1:</b> Promote Sustainable Transportation to Town staff	PDS, CS – HR	Annual Smart Commute designation Award (Maintain Gold Standard)	Annual update on Progress Report Q1	Ongoing
	<b>Action S1.2:</b> Implement Sustainable features in the construction or reconstruction of Town infrastructure including buildings, facilities and roads	CMS – Facilities, PDS – Engineering	# and types of sustainable features installed on construction projects	(1 sustainable feature per construction project, when feasible)	Ongoing, as construction projects arise.
	<b>Action S1.3:</b> Set up new areas for additional community gardens in Aurora	OS- Parks	# of community gardens	Continue to explore opportunities to add additional community gardens as appropriate	Ongoing
	<b>Opportunity:</b> Apply for green infrastructure grant funding	FS	# of Town projects funded/year	(2 Town projects funded)	2023 Q2 Progress to be reported yearly in Q1
<b>Waste Reduction</b>	<b>Action D1.1:</b> Implement sustainable construction and building practices for all Town infrastructure including buildings, facilities and roads	PDS – Engineering	# and types of sustainable construction practices implemented that will reduce waste	Development of best practices	2021 Q4
		CMS – Facilities		Implementation of best practices	As opportunity arises

Priority Area	Actions	Responsibility	Measures/ Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Tasks (Target)	Timeline
		OS - Roads		Update tender specifications to promote sustainable construction practices and waste reduction where feasible	2019 Q1  Progress to be reported yearly in Q1
	<b>Action D1.2:</b> Develop a Green Procurement Policy for the Town of Aurora and its contractors	FS - Procurement	Develop KPI as part of the Green Procurement Policy	Prepare a Green Procurement Policy for Council consideration	2020 Q1
	<b>Action D2.1:</b> Implement Waste Reduction Strategies	OS- Solid Waste	% reduction of waste from facilities / year	Develop baseline to measure the opportunities to reduce waste from Town facilities/ year.	2020 Q1  Progress to be reported yearly in Q1
<b>Biodiversity and Sustainability</b>	<b>Action B1.1:</b> * Encourage ecological design in landscaping of parks and retrofit projects	OS- Parks	Add 1 ecological design feature in new parks and park retrofits / year	Consideration of ecological design in all new park design and retrofits	Progress to be reported yearly in Q1
	<b>Action B1.2:</b> Improve Natural Heritage Significant Wildlife Habitat	OS- Parks	List existing partnerships and note partnerships as they occur	Ongoing partnerships with schools, Arboretum, Adopt-a-Park and bird box program	Ongoing Progress to be reported yearly in Q1
	<b>Action B1.3:</b> Implement the Urban Forest Management Plan	OS- Parks	Track the # of trees planted on Town property / year	Plant an average of 1000 trees or shrubs / year on Town property.	Progress to be reported yearly in Q1
	<b>Action B1.4:</b> Implement the Invasive Species Act in partnership with York Region and the Province	OS- Parks	Complete 1 invasive species pilot project per year. Apply for 1 grants per 3 years.	Document partnership with other organizations.	Progress to be reported yearly in Q1

Priority Area	Actions	Responsibility	Measures/ Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Tasks (Target)	Timeline
Climate Change and Energy	<b>Action C1.1:</b> Identify climate change risks by completing a vulnerability risk assessment VRA of key departmental priorities	PDS –PMEI responsible to organize. All relevant departments to contribute to risk assessment Creation	Completion date of each climate change risk assessment	Apply for funding, document proposal approvals	2020 Q3 for first risk category 2021 Q3 for second category
	<b>Action C1.2:</b> Develop a Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan that will assist the town to mitigate the risks of climate change	PDS –PMEI	The preparation of a climate change action plan approved by Council	consultant fee - 2020 budget	2021 Q1
	<b>Action C2.1:</b> *Province Propose amendments to Municipal Act	PDS - Planning	<b>RMOY</b> is the approval authority for Official Plan, amendments & municipal consolidation	Update the Town of Aurora’s Official Plan	
	<b>Action C2.2:</b> *Require electric charging in surface lots	PDS - Planning	Develop KPI as part of <b>GDS</b>	Add this requirement to the Town’s Development Policy	2021 Q4
	<b>Action C2.3:</b> *Set green development standards	PDS - Planning	Develop KPI as part of <b>GDS</b>	Prepare Green Development Standards ( <b>GDS</b> ) for Council	2020 Q4
	<b>Action C2.4:</b> *Eliminate minimum parking requirements over the next 5 years for municipal zoning bylaws	PDS - Planning	Develop KPI as part of <b>GDS</b>	Add this requirement to the Official Plan policy. Encourage <b>TDM</b> to replace parking requirements within development approval process	2024 Q4

Priority Area	Actions	Responsibility	Measures/ Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Tasks (Target)	Timeline
	<b>Action C2.5:</b> *Make climate change mitigation and adaptation mandatory in municipal official Plan	PDS - Planning	Develop KPI as part of <b>GDS</b>	Add this requirement to the Official Plan policy	2021 Q4
	<b>Action C3.1:</b> Implement an anti-idling initiative	CS – HR: Organization of training timing	Full time staff completing anti-idling training / year.	Year 1 include full time staff who drive Town vehicles. Train remainder of staff.	All Staff trained by Q2 2020.
	<b>Action C3.2:</b> *Develop a Green Fleet Plan	PDS – PMEI OS - Fleet	Develop a KPI in process of preparing the Green Fleet Plan	Prepare a Green Fleet Plan Add to 2020 budget	2021 Q3
	<b>Action C3.3:</b> Improve energy efficiency of existing buildings	CMS - Facilities	Estimated Annual energy savings of newly implemented energy retrofits in Town owned facilities	Implement facility energy and water conservation measures within the Capital Plan	List new energy conservation measures implemented on Progress Report yearly in Q1
	<b>Action C3.4:</b> Consider all green infrastructure options as part of new corporate builds	OS PDS- PMEI	# of green infrastructure options included in new corporate projects	List chosen green infrastructure items implemented on Progress Report	Ongoing, as construction projects arise.
<b>Environmental Awareness</b>	<b>Action A1.1:</b> Promote the use of reusable water bottles in conjunction with the new water bottle filling stations.	PDS - PMEI	# of existing community events sharing reusable water bottle information	Prepare messaging to share at existing community based events.	First awareness campaign to take place in 2018
	<b>Action A1.2:</b> Increase overall community awareness of climate change	PDS – PMEI Communications	# of existing community events sharing Climate Change information	Prepare messaging to share at existing community based events.	2019 Q3

Priority Area	Actions	Responsibility	Measures/ Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Tasks (Target)	Timeline
	<b>Action A1.3:</b> Develop an urban forest communication plan that delivers key messages to target audiences.	OS – Parks, Communications	annual # of trees planted	Continue to promote planting and naturalization projects.	1000 trees planted / year
	<b>Action A1.4:</b> Develop an education and outreach communications strategy to help protect and enhance our biodiversity	OS- Parks, Communications	# of public outreach campaigns promoting and protecting biodiversity	Increase signage Increase partnerships	Ongoing

#### Code Legend

**OS-** Operational Services

**CMS** – Community Services

**PDS** – Planning and Development Services

**CS** – Corporate Services

**FS** – Financial Services

\* – Actions per the Provincial Climate Change Plan

#### Acronym Legend

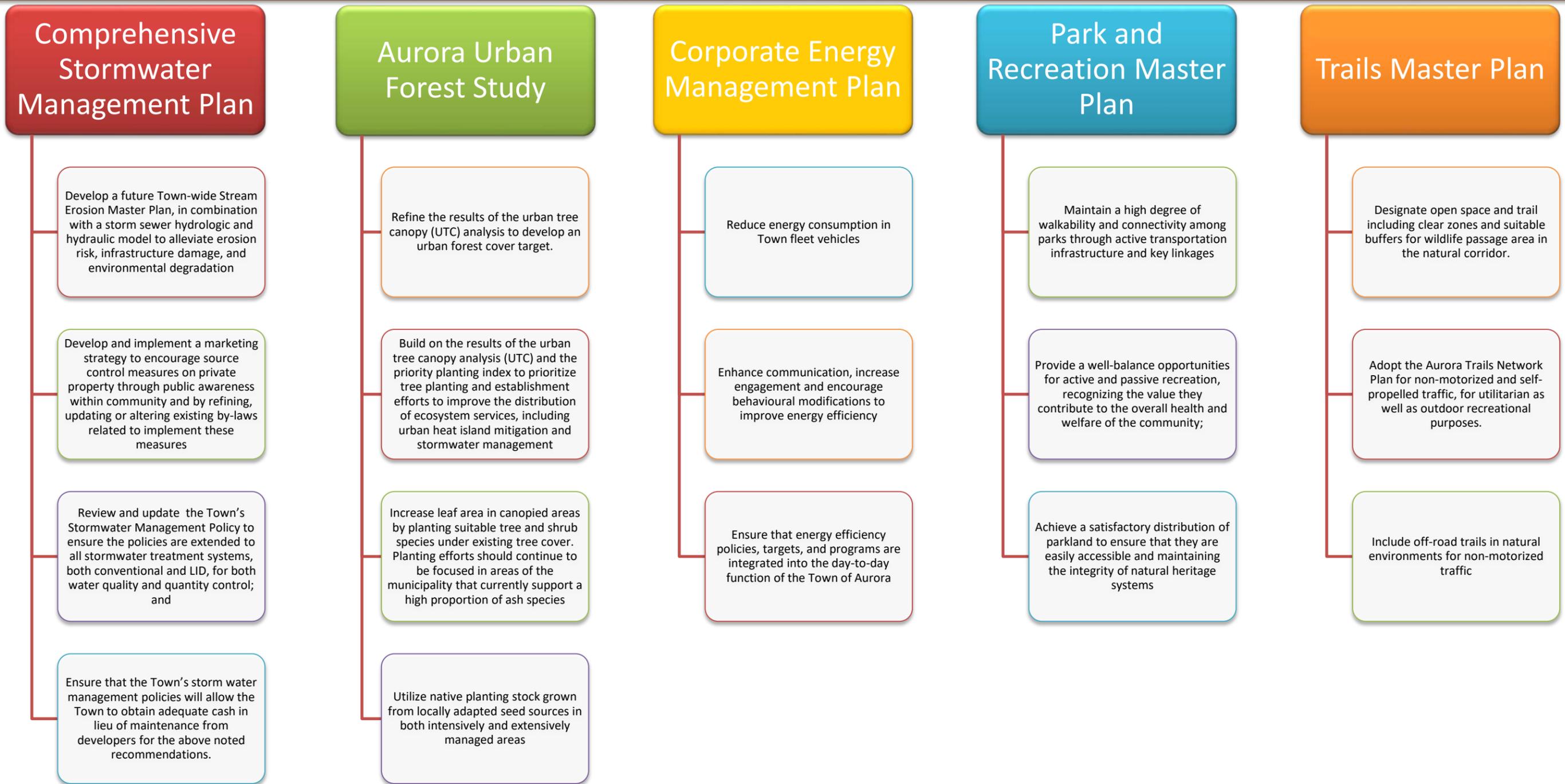
**LID** – Low Impact Development

**RMOY-** Regional Municipality of York is the approval authority for OPA and Municipal consolidation

**GDS** – Green Development Standards

**TDM** – Transportation Demand Management

# Environmentally Related Plans



Aurora Community Wildlife Park Place\*\*\*

## Appendix C: Blue Dot Campaign



### EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2016

#### 10. NOTICES OF MOTION/MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

##### (ii) Motions for Which Notice Has Been Given

##### (c) Councillor Mrakas Re: Blue Dot Campaign

**Main motion as amended  
Moved by Councillor Mrakas  
Seconded by Councillor Kim**

WHEREAS the Town of Aurora understands that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS as the Town updates its Corporate Environmental Action Plan, it will consider and have regard for the environmental consideration of the Blue Dot Campaign; and

WHEREAS the Town, as an environmental steward, respects, protects, fulfills and promotes rights for the benefit of existing and future generations; and

WHEREAS the Town is committed to supporting the protection, enhancement and restoration of the environment by fostering education and outreach, collaborating through partnerships, supporting the development of connected communities and reporting progress towards reaching goals;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Town of Aurora finds and declares that:

2. All people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:
  - a) The right to breathe clean air;
  - b) The right to drink clean water;
  - c) The right to consume safe food;
  - d) The right to access nature;
  - e) The right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment; and
  - f) The right to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment.
3. The Town of Aurora has the responsibility, within its jurisdiction, to respect, protect, fulfill and promote these rights.
4. The Town of Aurora shall specify objectives, targets and timelines and actions the Town will take, within its jurisdiction, to fulfill residents' right to a healthy environment, including priority actions to:
  - a) Ensure infrastructure and development projects protect the environment, including air quality;
  - b) Address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing adaptation measures;
  - c) Responsibly increase density;
  - d) Prioritize walking, cycling and public transit as preferred modes of transportation;
  - e) Reduce solid waste and promote recycling and composting; and
  - f) Establish and maintain accessible green spaces in all residential neighbourhoods; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Town of Aurora shall forward a copy of this declaration to the provincial government, calling for a public review of the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights in order to improve the Act and to include recognition that all people have the right to live in a healthy environment; and***

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Town of Aurora shall forward a copy of this declaration to the federal government calling for the development of federal legislation that recognizes that all people have the right to live in a healthy environment; and***

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Town of Aurora shall forward a copy of this declaration to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), to show support for recognizing the right of all people to live in a healthy environment.***

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**