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Town of Aurora

# Information Report

No. PDS25-121

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**Subject:** 2024 Energy and the Environment Progress Report

**Prepared by:** Natalie Kehle – Program Manager, Energy and Environment

**Department:** Planning and Development Services

**Date:** December 2, 2025

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**In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any Member of Council may request that this Information Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole or Council meeting agenda for discussion.**

## Executive Summary

This report presents Council with an overview of the environmental initiatives completed in 2024, highlighting continued progress toward the goals and aspirations outlined in the Town's Strategic Plan for fostering an innovative and sustainable community.

- The 2024 Energy and Environment Progress Report outlines the progress made on recommendations from Council-approved strategic environmental plans.
- The Report was developed in consultation and collaboration with affected Town departments and communicated publicly.
- There were several key projects and achievements made in 2024 that helped progress strategic environmental plans.

## Background

Since 2019, annual updates are presented to Council on the progress made from the 2018 Corporate Environmental Action Plan (CEAP). The updates track progress, improve transparency and allow interested parties to assess successes and challenges. The updates are an important accountability tool and supports decision making by providing data-driven updates on goals, performance and need for policy or plan adjustments.

The annual progress reporting window has a one-year lag due to the timing of key data being released by external groups in the late fall of the following reporting year. It also allows time for staff to collect, verify and analyze all the data needed for tracking and reporting purposes.

## Analysis

**The 2024 Energy and Environment Progress Report outlines the progress made on recommendations from Council-approved strategic environmental plans.**

This Report includes the progress made on initiatives from the following Town strategic plans:

- 2024 Official Plan
- Corporate Strategic Plan
- 2018 Corporate Environmental Action Plan
- Community Energy Plan
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Tannery Creek Flood Relief Study
- Green Fleet Action Plan
- 2024-2029 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan
- Natural Capital Asset Management Plan
- Active Transportation Master Plan

The report is divided into the following themes as they best capture the Town's priorities:

- Water Conservation
- Natural Capital and Biodiversity

- Energy and Carbon Emissions
- Climate Change Resiliency
- Waste Reduction and Diversion
- Sustainable Development
- Environmental Awareness

Attachment 1 provides key performance indicators in each priority area and trends observed.

Attachment 2 includes an update of actions and recommendations for each area, for 2024.

**The report was developed in consultation and collaboration with affected Town departments and communicated publicly.**

The annual progress report is developed in collaboration with the following Town staff:

- Community Services
- Planning & Development Services
- Operational Services
- Finance
- Corporate Services
- Corporate Communications

Attachment 3 is a summary infographic that will be shared on the Town's social media and website.

**There were several key projects and achievements made in 2024 that helped progress strategic environmental plans.**

Some highlights and new commitments that occurred in 2024 include:

- Award of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority 2024 Healthy Water Award for improving local waterways, ecosystems, and access to nature through four engineering rehabilitation projects: Willow Farm Lane, Jones Court, Devlin Place, and Henderson Drive Wildlife Passage.
- Completion of the Urban Forest Study with a new 40 per cent tree canopy target by 2051 for the community.

- Completion of the Natural Capital Asset Management Plan with increased investments in maintaining, expanding, and protecting Town-owned natural capital assets.
- Completion of the Active Transportation Master Plan with a 25-year planning horizon for active transportation investments.
- Completion of the Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan, setting a new net-zero emissions target by 2050.
- Opening of John Abel Park and a new 55 plot community garden space.
- Kick off of a Town-wide Home Energy Retrofit Program Feasibility Study.
- Purchase of two electric ice resurfacers and a fourth hybrid vehicle.
- Completion of Aurora Town Square including sustainable design features such as water efficient landscaping, a green roof, bird friendly glass design, high efficient HVAC and building controls and construction waste diversion.
- Several public waste diversion events including electronic waste collection, community clean-up days, and curbside giveaway days.
- Environmental public awareness campaigns promoting active transportation, electric vehicle technologies, anti-idling, and emergency preparedness.

## Advisory Committee Review

The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) received a presentation on the 2024 Energy and Environment Progress Update on October 20, 2025. This presentation included the purpose and themes of the report, reporting process, objectives, and energy performance at Town-owned facilities. The following comments were received:

**Table 3: EAC Comment Summary**

Comments	Responses
There were concerns related to development and the removal of mature tree canopy.	Staff explained that the existing tree policies in place and that Town staff are in the process of reviewing them.
There were comments related to public stream rehabilitation on public and private lands.	Comment received and shared with appropriate staff. This will be further investigated through the Stream and Stormwater Master Plan.
Tree canopy and street trees were discussed, and a new concept of “mini forests” was suggested to Town staff. These mini forests utilize small plots of land and plant low shrubs, medium trees, and tall trees to maximize biodiversity.	Comment received and shared with appropriate staff.

Comments	Responses
Xeriscaping/ No-Scaping/ no maintenance lawns have been revoked by by-law or residents told they need to cut their lawns due to violating the 8" height.	Comment received and shared with appropriate staff.
Invasive species control on Town-owned property should be increased. If the Town is looking to prevent invasive species (plants and animals) on private property, they should be eliminating it from public land to prevent the spread onto private lands.	Comment received and shared with appropriate staff.
How can the tree canopy be increased in older neighbourhoods? Questions related to increasing street trees and tree programs for the Town.	Comment received and shared with appropriate staff. Tree policies under review by Town staff.

## Legal Considerations

None.

## Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implication as a result of this report's recommendations.

## Communications Considerations

This report will be posted on the Town's website. In addition, Attachment 3 is a summary infographic that will be shared on the Town's social media and website to further highlight the Town's progress.

## Climate Change Considerations

The annual progress report supports the Town's environmental commitments and is used as a tracking and accountability tool for Council-approved initiatives. The report itself does not have a direct impact on greenhouse gas emissions nor the Town's ability to adapt to a changing climate but rather informs interested parties of the Town's progress on environmental actions plans, including climate change strategic plans.

## **Link to Strategic Plan**

The 2024 Energy and the Environment Progress Report is aligned with Aurora's Strategic Plan, which is based on the three pillars of sustainability – environment, community, economy – and establishes a vision for Aurora as “an innovative and sustainable community where neighbours care and businesses thrive”.

## **Alternative(s) to the Recommendation**

None.

## **Conclusions**

The 2024 Energy and the Environment Progress Report highlight the actions taken in 2024 to further the Town's energy and environmental plan. These include achievements, tracking key performance indicators and highlighting areas for enhancement. Continued support, collaboration and investment from all Town interested parties and Council is vital to meeting the Town's energy and environment goals and objectives in building a more sustainable future for the community.

## **Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Key Performance Indicators Update for Energy and the Environment  
Attachment 2 – Plan Recommendations Update for Energy and the Environment  
Attachment 3 – Infographic

## **Previous Reports**

PDS25-102, 2024 Energy and Environment Progress Update, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 presented to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

## **Pre-submission Review**



















Agenda Management Team review on November 12, 2025

## **Approvals**

**Approved by Marco Ramunno, Director, Planning and Development Services**

**Approved by Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer**

## Attachment #1 — Key Performance Indicators Update for Energy and the Environment

Area	Performance Measure	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend
<b>WATER CONSERVATION</b>	Total material collected from Oil Grit Separators and catch basin cleanout activities (tonnes)	545	481	484	509	483	
	Rain Barrels sold to residents	-	-	-	-	289	
<b>NATURAL CAPITAL AND BIODIVERSITY</b>	Total hectares of Town-owned natural and enhanced natural areas	531	552	553	566	585	
	Percentage of residential homes within 500 meters of natural or enhanced natural areas	99.4%	99.4%	99.4%	99.4%	99.5%	
	Total number of Town-owned urban trees inspected	25,128	25,828	25,528	27,228	27,926	
<b>WASTE REDUCTION AND DIVERSION</b>	Pet waste collected at Town parks (kg)	-	-	-	3,796	3,973	
	Percentage of curbside waste diverted from landfill	64%	66%	70%	70%	65%	
	Curbside waste going to landfill per capita (kg)	0.114	0.100	0.085	0.081	0.080	
<b>ENERGY AND CARBON EMISSIONS</b>	Town fleet ethanol 10 consumption (L)	148,655	149,455	139,353	120,922	135,668	
	Percentage of Town fleet that is electric or hybrid	0%	2.6%	2.6%	2.5%	3.3%	
	Town facility energy consumption (MWhe)	18,705	18,805	19,900	24,506	24,405	
	Corporate emissions from Town facilities, fleet, water/wastewater, streetlights, waste (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)	3,551	3,149	3,243	4,015	4,451	
	Percentage of registered vehicles in Aurora that are electric or hybrid	1.0%	1.4%	2.3%	3.2%	4.4%	
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCY</b>	Percentage of Town-owned sewer pipes assessed (sanitary and stormwater)	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	
	Percentage of Town-owned vertical infrastructure deemed critical with backup power (sewage pumping stations, community centres, etc.)	71%	71%	71%	71%	75%	
<b>SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT</b>	Total number of Green Development Standard reports received	-	-	-	20	25	
	Total distance of Town-owned active transportation facilities (km)	-	-	-	293.1	294.5	
	Total distance of Town-owned trails (km)	56.5	60.1	60.1	61.0	61.9	

## Attachment #2 – Plan Recommendations Update for Energy and the Environment

Action/ Recommendation	2024 Highlights
<b>WATER CONSERVATION</b>	
Optimize the management of the stormwater management facility inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All stormwater ponds inspected annually by LSRCA</li> <li>• 10% of sewer inventory assessed annually to identify maintenance or rehabilitation needs</li> <li>• 10-year Capital Plan includes identified sewer rehabilitation projects</li> <li>• Annual oil grid separator and catch basin cleanouts</li> </ul>
Improve stormwater quality in road rehabilitation projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024 Design Criteria Manual update included Storm Water Management Design Standard and Low Impact Development (LID) guidelines</li> </ul>
Encourage at source stormwater management control measures on private property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New LID requirements found under the Town's Green Development Standards.</li> <li>• Annual Town-run rain barrel sale and public education campaign</li> </ul>
Investigate new practices that may enhance pollution prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aurora received Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority 2024 Healthy Water Award for improving local waterways, ecosystems and access to nature through four engineering rehabilitation projects: Willow Farm Lane, Jones Court, Devlin Place, and Henderson Drive Wildlife Passage.</li> </ul>
<b>NATURAL CAPITAL AND BIODIVERSITY</b>	
Encourage ecological design in landscaping of parks and retrofit projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening of the John Abel Park includes many natural features such as; grassland, shaded sitting areas, linking to the trail system, and a new 50+ plot community garden</li> <li>• Subdivision projects adhere to the Town's Landscape and Design Guidelines and Private Tree Protection By-Law</li> </ul>
Implement the Urban Forest Management Plan and improve natural heritage significant wildlife habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban Forest Study completed, setting a commitment of 40 percent canopy cover.</li> <li>• Natural Capital Asset Management Plan completed with increased investments for natural capital</li> <li>• Annual partnership with LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests) Backyard Tree Planting Program for private properties.</li> </ul>

Action/ Recommendation	2024 Highlights
<b>ENERGY AND CARBON EMISSIONS</b>	
Update the Town of Aurora's Official Plan to include climate change objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town 2024 Official Plan Update includes energy, carbon mitigation and adaptation objectives</li> </ul>
Improve fuel economy of Town-owned fleet and other decarbonization initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usage of vehicle GPS data to improve route optimization, anti-idling behaviours and identify fleet electrification candidates</li> <li>Investigation into alternative fuels and new fleet technologies</li> <li>Continued procurement of electrified fleet vehicles and equipment</li> </ul>
Improve energy efficiency and other decarbonization initiatives of <b>existing</b> Town-owned building operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New 2024 five-year energy plan approved with net-zero carbon by 2050</li> <li>Energy efficiency measures included into the Aurora Town Square (ATS)</li> </ul>
Improve energy efficiency and other decarbonization from <b>new</b> residential, commercial and institutional buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decarbonization objectives included into the 2024 Official Plan</li> <li>Town's Green Development Standards requires EV charger and solar roof ready design for most new development</li> </ul>
Encourage EV and low carbon vehicle adoption in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of Town-owned public EV chargers at ATS, addition of two chargers</li> <li>Town-owned parking lot projects considering public EV charger needs</li> <li>Third EV Show education and awareness event on electric vehicles</li> </ul>
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY</b>	
Improve climate resiliency in the Town's sewer system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed the Town's Sanitary and Storm Infrastructure condition Assessment Report with projects identified under the 10-year Capital Plan</li> <li>Repair of maintenance chambers are performed annually</li> <li>Rehabilitation of sanitary and stormwater sewer mains and laterals</li> </ul>
Increase the resilience of assets identified as vulnerable and maintain the asset Management system to prioritize and track resilience actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through the delivery of the 10-year Capital Plan</li> <li>Preventative maintenance and rehabilitation of several Town stormwater ponds that improved flood resilience and system improvements</li> </ul>
Update 2013 study on natural capital in Aurora to reflect current assets and values for integration into the Asset Management Plan as required by Regulation 588/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed the Natural Capital Asset Management Plan (NCAMP) with increased investment in protecting, planning and enhancing natural capital</li> <li>NCAMP updates provided via the Asset Management Plan Progress Report</li> </ul>
Increase climate resiliency during extreme weather events to all Town-owned critical infrastructure that is essential during power outages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critical infrastructure identified include designated Town facilities, sewage pumping stations and a road weather monitoring information system</li> <li>Aurora Town Square includes a generator (natural gas), used as a cooling/warming centre during extreme heat/cold events</li> <li>Sewage pumping stations also equipped with generators to ensure continued functioning during a power outage</li> </ul>

Action/ Recommendation	2024 Highlights
<b>WASTE REDUCTION AND DIVERSION</b>	
Implement programs to reduce waste generation in the community and increase waste diversion from landfills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued education through the Recycle Coach App and York Region annual education campaigns including the Repair Café</li> <li><u>Public Waste Diversion Events in 2024:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electronic waste collection</li> <li>Community cleanup</li> <li>Community garage sale</li> <li>Curbside giveaway days</li> <li>Town Park used battery collection</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Set Green Development Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed in 2022, highlights include minimum requirements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Onsite stormwater management and LIDs</li> <li>Permeable materials (green roofs, permeable pavement, vegetated swales, rain gardens etc.)</li> <li>Solar rooftop and EV charging ready infrastructure</li> <li>Low-flow water fixtures</li> <li>Drought-resistant and native plantings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Encouraging sustainable transportation in the Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council-approved Active Transportation Master Plan (2024)</li> </ul>
Include green infrastructure and sustainable features in corporate projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New John Abel Park has natural features like trail connection and new 50+ plot community garden</li> <li>Construction tenders updated to include material and soil reuse when possible</li> <li>Poplar Crescent rehabilitation project added an oil and grit separator to reduce impact on local waterways</li> <li>Aurora Town Square constructed with sustainable building design features</li> <li>Active transportation facilities added on: Earl Steward Dr, Edward Street, David Tomlinson Nautre Reserve, Highland Gate subdivision, and Woodhaven subdivision.</li> </ul>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS</b>	
Increase overall community awareness of environmental topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Anti-Idling Education Campaign Every Second Counts</li> <li>Third EV Showcase educating and promoting low carbon transportation</li> <li>Town promoted Smart Commute for alternative transportation options</li> <li>Town website for emergency preparedness during extreme weather events and warming and cooling centres information</li> <li>Annual rain barrel sale includes a public awareness campaign on onsite stormwater management and water conservation measures</li> <li>Annual Town waste events throughout the year</li> </ul>

Aurora Town Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, recognizing the **URGENT** need for action to address climate change impacts and committing to an **80% reduction of community greenhouse gas emissions by 2050**.

Water Conservation

Protecting the urban environment

**Keeping local waterways clean**  
10 Oil Grit Separator & 1,465 Catchbasin cleanouts  
482 Tonnes of waste removed

**Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority 2024 Healthy Water Award**  
Aurora was recognized for improving local waterways, ecosystems, and access to nature through natural capital asset rehabilitation

**289 Rain Barrels sold** at First Annual Public education campaign

Waste Reduction and Diversion

**Public Waste Diversion Events:**

- Electronic waste collection
- Community Cleanup days
- Community Garage sale
- Curbside Giveaway Days

**Textile waste collected & diverted:**  
2023 74,000 lbs    2024 120,000 lbs  
62% increase

**Community Curbside Waste to Landfill**

Natural Capital & Biodiversity

Greener Spaces, Healthier Community

**99.5%** Percentage of residential homes within 500 meters of natural or enhanced natural areas

**585** Total hectares of Town-owned natural and enhanced natural area

**Aurora Urban Forest Study complete**  
**John Abel Park** opens new naturalized park with 55 plots of community garden  
**Natural Capital Asset Management Plan complete**

Energy and Carbon Emissions

**Aurora Community Emissions**  
300,000 tCO2e    From 2023 - 0.5%

**Town Corporate Emissions**  
4,500 tCO2e    +10.0%

1 Community Energy

- Active Transportation Master Plan completed
- "Aurora Idle-Free Campaign"
- Project Kick off - Home Energy Retrofit Program Kick Off
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Showcase Public Education Event

**Community Carbon Emissions**  
2022 -3.2%    2023 -0.7%    2024  
312,000    302,000    300,000

**Percentage of Electric Vehicles Registered in Aurora**

**Energy Used from Public Electric Vehicle Chargers**  
2023 16,300 kWh    2024 27,355 kWh  
67% increase

2 Town Corporate Energy

**Carbon Emissions Change Since 2018**  
Increase of 11%

**Fleet Decarbonization:**

- Purchased two electric ice resurfacers
- Purchased fourth hybrid vehicle

**Aurora Town Square sustainable design features:**

- HVAC and building controls
- LED Lights and lighting control systems
- Daylighting design
- EV charging, bike racks, public transit

**Town Building Energy Use**

Climate Change Resiliency

**Annual Precipitation**  
Annual Precipitation (Snow & Rain) is expected to increase  
In 2005 Aurora saw 8.8m of Precipitation  
By 2080, Aurora is expected to see almost a meter more in a year

**Climate Resilient Projects:**

- Creek Rehabilitation and Flood Control Projects
- Annual Low Impact Development and Stormwater pond inspections, maintenance, and rehabilitation
- Climate consideration infrastructure project planning