



Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan: Partnership Opportunities

In November 2018, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks released for consultation, [Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#). As a municipal environmental action leader, Oxford County appreciates proactive approaches and practical initiatives that produce results.

Oxford County has a proven track record of environmental leadership and action, including commitments to zero waste, 100% renewable energy, and low carbon transportation. We see opportunities to work with the Province of Ontario to model how municipalities can pursue environmental projects in innovative ways that truly connect with the people of Ontario.

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OXFORD'S ACHIEVEMENTS



Low-carbon transportation

Municipal green fleet

Oxford County is a **vehicle transformation leader**. The County introduced Canada's first compressed natural gas-hybrid (CNH) snow plow and Canada's first plug-in electric hybrid ambulance in 2017, with plans to operate a total of seven by the end of 2019. The County now maintains more than 20 compressed natural gas (CNG) light duty vehicles, an initiative made feasible through a public-private partnership with Rural Green Energy. Oxford County operates both a Chevy Volt and a Chevy Bolt as the first step in a future electric vehicle fleet.

EV public infrastructure

Oxford has a **growing electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure**. Leveraging available provincial funding for electric vehicle charging stations, Oxford County, along with multiple private investors, installed more than 20 EV charge locations reaching a total of more than 40 vehicle charge points across the County.

Regional transportation planning

Of equal importance, Oxford County continues to take a leadership role through the development of the **SouthwestLynx plan** for a fully integrated public transportation solution for southwestern Ontario. This proposal includes a passenger rail strategy within optimized existing railway corridors and a fully integrated inter-community transportation system strategy to connect smaller urban centres and settlement areas across Southwestern Ontario.

AT A GLANCE

Protecting our air, lakes and rivers

- Council commitment to achieving 100% Renewable Energy by 2050
- Beachville and area air quality monitoring program addresses community concerns about aggregate industry
- Green Fleet Plan leverages private sector investment in low-carbon transportation options like compressed natural gas and electric vehicles
- Consistently outstanding annual water and wastewater treatment plant performance reports
- Locally driven Source Water Plans underway, encompassing municipal well-head protection and wellhead rehabilitation programs
- Active municipal sewer use by-law, hauled liquid waste by-law, and wastewater over strength agreement management
- Public and private investment in over 20 MW of renewable energy generation, including Oxford's development of over 1 MW of renewable solar energy investment that makes economic and environmental sense
- Leading advocacy for a fully integrated Southwestern Ontario transportation solution, culminating in the development of the SouthwestLynx plan

Conserving land and greenspace

- Sought broad community input to update Woodlands Conservation Bylaw, which protects Oxford's woodland areas and natural heritage
- Recognizing municipalities have a say and a role, through active engagement, in the private landfill siting and EA process along with Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw responsibilities and accountabilities

OXFORD'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Building transformation

Oxford County understands that, next to the transportation sector, our building environment is one of the largest consumers of fossil fuel energy sources contributing to climate change. Oxford further believes that the best energy dollar is the energy dollar saved.

With energy conservation identified as a critical element of our strategy to achieve 100% renewable energy, we looked at how buildings –new and existing– could be transformed to achieve our future goals while improving the quality of life for those living and working in them. Our answer lay in advanced building technologies that can achieve up to a 90% reduction in heating and cooling energy demands: Passive House (PHI and PHIUS), EnerPHit and NetZero building standards exist, are practical, and are cost effective.

Oxford's first high energy efficiency social housing venture evolved through the Investments in Affordable Housing Ontario (IAH) programs leveraging Federal, Provincial and County funding with private sector investment. Through Oxford's **Build Better** program, the County has leveraged \$12M in public funding to deliver over \$75M investment to create 386 new affordable housing units since 2014. Impressively, over 50% of the new units are being constructed to achieve ultra-high energy standards and will be monitored to show the energy achievements planned have been delivered.

Oxford next took the step to achieve ultra-high energy standards in its new **Waste Management and Education Centre**. This state-of-the-art facility has been constructed to net-zero energy standards

through rammed earth walls, high airtightness, triple-pane windows and energy recovery ventilators that dramatically reduce the carbon footprint of the facility. The final ultra-low energy demand of the facility is fully off-set by a solar photovoltaic system. Through partnership with the University of Waterloo, the Centre will serve as a living demonstration of what can be achieved through today's building technology.

AT A GLANCE

Addressing climate change

- Over 600 acres of wetlands rehabilitation and forestry management in progress through partnership with community, private sector and conservancy organizations
- Building resiliency through ultra-high energy efficiency applications including Build Better for affordable social housing, an ultra-high energy performance standard developed in partnership with numerous not-for-profit housing partners
- New state-of-the-art, net-zero Waste Management and Education Centre
- Renewable energy net metering building retrofits
- Ongoing support for higher Ontario Building Code standards, including ultra-high energy efficiency standard
- Ongoing investment in water and wastewater system enhancements, standby emergency power, and opportunities for WWTP biogas offset of natural gas demands
- Road rehabilitation using Cold-In-Place asphalt recycling technology to reduce cost, energy use and GHG emissions
- Ongoing specialized municipal well rehabilitation to maintain well yields

OXFORD'S ACHIEVEMENTS



The future of waste management

Oxford County has formally committed to achieving “zero waste” by 2025 and extending the life of the current municipal landfill from 2043 to 2100.

With a 60% residential curbside waste diversion, Oxford County currently ranks among the top of its peer municipalities. Recognizing the challenges of our small urban/rural geography, we also appreciate that our waste solutions lie in both waste reduction and resource recovery.

Zero waste events are beginning to form part of the culture of Oxford County. The Canterbury Folk Festival, held in Ingersoll each summer with an audience of 12,000, achieved 99% waste diversion from landfill at its 2018 event. Other events across the County are also joining the challenge, including Canada's Outdoor Farm Show with 40,000 attendees as well as many others, both large and small.

With the County's zero waste work to date already resulting in an extended landfill life to 2063, there is still much to be done to achieve our 2100 goal. Through a guided procurement process aided by engagement with Zero Waste Oxford, Oxford County is currently **developing plans to procure an Enhanced Material Recovery and Biological Treatment system** designed to recover up to 90% of material resources from the incoming mixed solid waste stream, thereby limiting the amount of residual waste entering our landfill site.

AT A GLANCE

Reducing waste and litter

- Formally committed to achieving Zero Waste and, by 2025, extending municipal landfill lifespan from 2043 to 2100
- Home of the Canterbury Folk Festival, a three-day special event attracting more than 12,000 visitors that achieved 99% waste diversion in 2018
- 2018 residential curbside waste diversion at 60%
- Ongoing wastewater biosolids land application program
- Seeking private end-markets and new technologies for recovered waste resources

Municipal leadership

- Community-led community sustainability plan recognizes intrinsic relationships between a vibrant economy, community wellbeing and environmental stewardship
- Exploring public/private partnership of biogas utilization opportunity
- Established Legacy Fund to seed business opportunities that advance the Future Oxford Community Sustainability Plan



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