



Lanark Highlands

Integrated Sustainable Community Plan

November 2007

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2005, the Township of Lanark Highlands applied to the Federation of Green Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund to cover half of the costs of conducting an Integrated Sustainable Community Plan. Funding came through in 2006, and a consulting team, headed by REIC Perth, was contracted in late summer of 2006 to carry out the study.

This Integrated Sustainable Community Plan (ISCP) sets out a framework and mechanisms that ensures that sustainable thinking and approaches are woven into the fabric of local municipal decisions making, and into the community itself. It acts as a sustainable road map, and identifies the locally appropriate sustainable policies and projects that would help turn "talk" into "walk". It also identifies what has already been accomplished locally, and what resources the community might turn to as it moves ahead on its sustainable path.

There were no comparable examples of small rural municipalities carrying out this sort of study, so the Township and the study team came up with a process and report that was uniquely suited to the local community and situation. Given the limited budget and wide range of topics and issues to be covered, the process had to be as efficient as possible, and focus on establishing a framework that would allow the community to respond to the rapidly changing and evolving challenges and opportunities.

The process began with a series of three open community meetings which introduced the community to the study, and solicited input on what were the key issues. Using input from those meetings, five *Theme Teams* were established, with 5 to 10 interested member of the community participating in each. The teams were:

- Shelter and Energy
- Food
- Transportation and Communication
- Waste and Water
- Natural Environment

The Theme Teams met from November 2006 to March 2007, discussing key issues and opportunities, identifying resources, and in some case, launching new initiatives. Surveys were also conducted during this period, both to profile current greenhouse gas emissions, and public attitudes to sustainability. This input was then consolidated, taken to Council and the public, and refined further, leading to this report.

This process and report recognize that the township is already well on the road to sustainability, with a variety of impressive initiatives and planning processes. This study builds on these initiatives and reports, and provides guidance to how to continue moving towards sustainability.

Section 6 of the report identifies various policies and mechanisms that could be adopted by the Township as a framework to ensure good sustainable decision-making in the future. It is seen as the core of the study, as it will allow the community to respond appropriately not just to current opportunities and challenges, but to emerging ones.

This is followed by the equally essential Section 7, which deals with how to make sure this ISCP is a "living plan", and not just a snapshot in time. The most critical recommendation in this section is to follow the model of the very successful Joint Planning Committee that was set up to follow through with *The Highlands We Want By The Year 2020* report, and strike a similar Council/Community committee to both track progress and facilitate implementation of the recommendations of the report.

Section 9 provides a Community Greenhouse Gas Profile for the township, which will serve as a useful baseline for measuring progress in greenhouse gas reductions. It also makes the important point that currently, almost \$13 million dollar are spent on various energy and greenhouse gas emitting services, and most of that money leaves the community. Finding ways to be more efficient and sustainable means less money leaving the community which means more money staying and circulating in the community.

The report also includes, in Section 11, a number of specific projects that were identified during the study process, as starting points for future actions. Input from the community regarding the importance and priority of the various projects is included.

Groups and individuals pursuing specific projects will also want to refer to the appendices for each of the theme teams. These appendices, among other things, identify local and external resources that should provide an effective "running start" to people pursuing specific sustainable initiatives.

1. OVERVIEW

Lanark Highlands, like many other rural municipalities, is facing change. Many of these changes, whether development pressures that threaten its rural charm, or climate change, or dealing with ever-increasing energy costs, are environmental, or more broadly, sustainability issues. In commissioning this study, the Township and its residents have decided to act now to prepare for coming changes.

Environmental issues are likely to become increasingly dominant in the years to come. The future holds a great deal of uncertainty due to factors such as:

- Climate change and the impact of burning fossil fuels
- Decrease or uncertainty of supply of energy, especially in the supply of electricity to meet provincial demand
- Increasing energy costs as a result of the decreasing supply of easily accessible oil and increasing demand
- Potential disruption to global energy supply as a result of natural disasters, political turmoil, and threats of terrorism
- Changing climate patterns and their potential impact on water supplies
- Increased stress on local natural systems including forestry and fishery

The ability of the township to respond to these and other challenges is limited by the financial realities of decades of downloading, and the conflicting pressures of increasing the tax base through new residential and business development versus protecting the existing rural character. With the Highlands in particular, much of the township is either crown land or community forests which generate little or no taxes. However the township is still expected to provide all of the services demanded by residents and tourists. To aggressively move forward on sustainability, there needs to be more support from senior levels of government.

This Integrated Sustainable Community Plan is about developing a strong environmental foundation that will position the Township to cope effectively with change, keeping in mind the fiscal realities facing it. This is a plan that realizes that everyone has to play a part – the Township alone cannot solve these problems. Individual residents, community groups, local businesses, the County of Lanark, and the provincial and federal government all have to move forward on the road to sustainability.

It's about planning now so that our children and grandchildren don't regret our actions.

2. WHAT IS AN INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY PLAN?

This Integrated Sustainable Community Plan (ISCP) sets out a framework and mechanisms that ensure that sustainable thinking and approaches are woven into the fabric of local municipal decisions making, and into the community itself. It acts as a sustainable road map, and identifies those policies and projects that are the most locally appropriate ways of turning “talk” into “walk”. It also identifies what has already been accomplished, and what resources the community might turn to as it moves ahead on its sustainable path.

In order to achieve these lofty goals, the ISCP:

- provides rationale for embracing a sustainability approach
- outlines sustainable policy directions
- identifies areas where the Township could play a role in encouraging partners and other levels of government to adopt sustainable policies that impact on the Township
- identifies specific “doable” priority projects that will give residents tangible examples of why sustainability makes economic, environmental and social sense
- outlines what is currently already being done in the Township on the sustainability front
- identifies relevant best practices and resources upon which the Township, its community groups and its residents can draw

An absolutely critical part of the ISCP, and the process adopted to create it, is ensuring it comes from and reflects local community realities. Although the plan has been prepared for the Township (meaning the Corporation of the Township of Lanark Highlands), it has also been written to guide the community at large and its residents, as sustainability has to be embraced by all elements of society in order to be successful.

One other key to a successful ISCP is making sure it is a “sustainable” sustainable plan – meaning that the plan itself is given life, and evolves over time to adapt to changing circumstances and issues.

3. THE PROCESS

The Township of Lanark Highlands applied in 2005 for funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Green Municipal Fund to cover half of the costs of this study. Funding was approved in July of 2006, and two months later, the contract was awarded to REIC Perth.

The consultants and facilitators who made up the REIC Perth Team included Alfred Von Mirbach, Bob Argue, Cheryl Nash, Christine Peringer, Jeff Kohl, Patricia Larkin, Peter Dixon and Glenn Tunnock.

General guidance and direction was provided to the Study Team by a Study Advisory Team, consisting of:

- Tim Simpson, Chief Administrative Officer, Lanark Highlands
- Beth Peterkin, Community Services Co-ordinator, Lanark Highlands
- Tom Lalonde, Councillor, Lanark Highlands
- Peter McLaren, Councillor, Lanark Highlands
- John Jordan, Executive Director, Lanark Health and Community Services
- Colin Sangster, Chair of the Board, Lanark Health and Community Services
- Bobby Clarke, Environmental Advisory Committee, Lanark Highlands
- Deborah Duffy, MERA and member at large

The project started with a series of three general community meetings that focused on introducing residents to the project and process, identified key issues, and provided a running start to a series of five theme teams that would take the lead in the second phase of the study. The three community meetings were:

- September 18th, Sylvania Lodge, McDonalds Corners
- September 25th, Tatlock Community Hall
- October 3rd, Lanark Village

In November, five Theme Teams were established, with a facilitator for each, and members were solicited to participate in each team. The teams met numerous times during November, December and January to outline the various issues related to their theme. The five theme teams and their facilitator are:

- Shelter and Energy, Bob Argue
- Food, Cheryl Nash
- Transportation and Communication, Jeff Kohl
- Waste and Water, Christine Peringer
- Natural Environment, Alfred Von Mirbach

Starting in February 2007, the focus moved to consolidating the findings of the various theme teams into this integrated working report that would provide the direction, focus, principles and mechanisms that will ensure that the report is what was referred to throughout the study as a "sustainable sustainable" report – that is a report that, like the Lanark Highlands 2020 report, leads to on-going actions and accomplishments.

Concurrent with the various general and theme team activities, the study team worked on preparing a simplified Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory, as described later in this report. It provides a baseline against which future actions can be measures to determine changes over time in the environmental footprint of the township.

4. WHY SHOULD LANARK HIGHLANDS EMBRACE SUSTAINABILITY?

By embarking on this ISCP process, the Township has demonstrated their understanding of the importance of embracing sustainability. However, it is worth restating why municipal sustainability matters.

The time is right – Not only are the threats and risks becoming more real and immediate, but the environment is becoming much more prominent on many government, business and public “radar screens”.

It’s a chance to show leadership – Very few small rural municipalities have had the combination of foresight and necessary resources to engage in serious sustainable planning, but it is clearly the way of the future. By being an early adopter, the Highlands not only accessed financial support, but potentially puts itself in the enviable position of showing other municipalities how to do it right.

Economic payoffs – Most sustainable initiatives create local employment opportunities, and ensure that money that was leaving the community in the form of energy and other payments stays in the local community.

Impact of increasing energy costs – As energy costs increase, the relative economic paybacks associated with being more efficient also increase, and sustainable decisions made now will look even better in a few years or decades.

To access future infrastructure funding – The federal government has indicated that in the near future, municipalities will be required to demonstrate they have an Integrated Sustainable Community Plan in order to access some federal infrastructure funds. The federal government is doing this to ensure that infrastructure funds get used for long-term eco-efficient solutions.

To leverage other funding opportunities – Increasingly, other funders, including the provincial government, are likely to be making a demonstration of long term sustainable planning and action a condition of some types of funding. An ISCP will also open the doors to accessing other types of government or foundation funding related to green/environmental/sustainable projects.

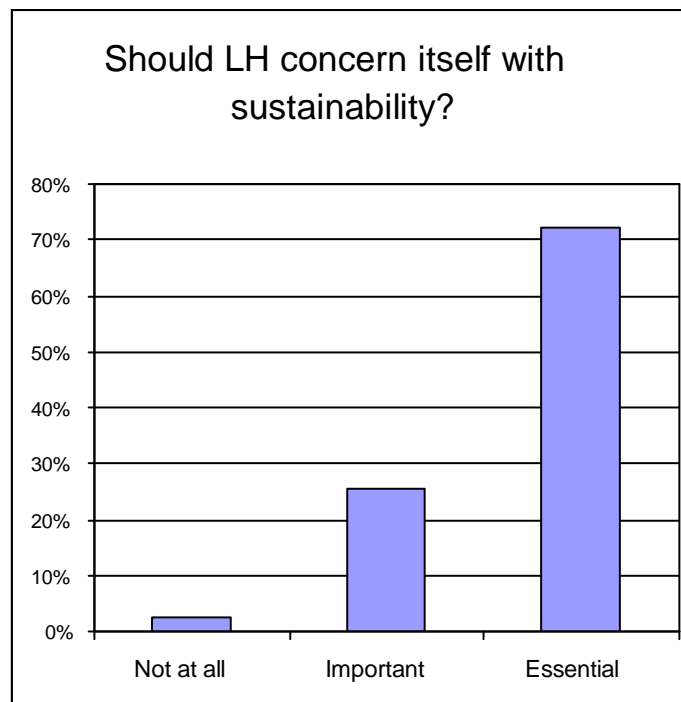
Doing what is “right” – This report is about guiding the township to make decisions that are truly best, in the long run, for the township, its residents and its future residents. It’s about getting beyond making decisions based simply on short-term economic or political expediency.

5. LOCAL SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The 2007 Highland Voice, a publication distributed to every resident in the spring, included information about the ISCP as well as a brief survey. This survey was also made available on the township's website, and distributed at public events. The survey asked a number of general questions about what sustainable issues were important to residents.

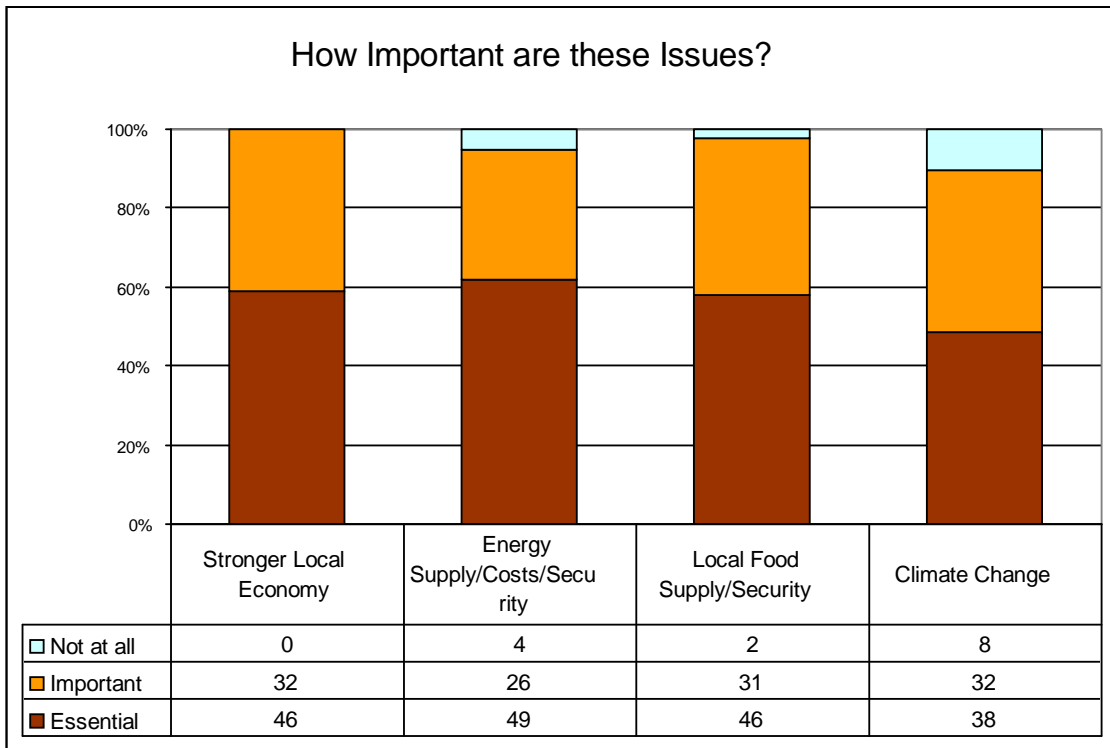
Most respondents feel it is essential that the Highlands be concerned with sustainability issues. In all, 79 surveys were submitted. The questions and responses are presented below, followed by a brief analysis of the results.

QUESTION ONE - *Is it important for Lanark Highlands to be concerned with sustainability?*



QUESTION TWO - *How important are the following issues to you and your community?*

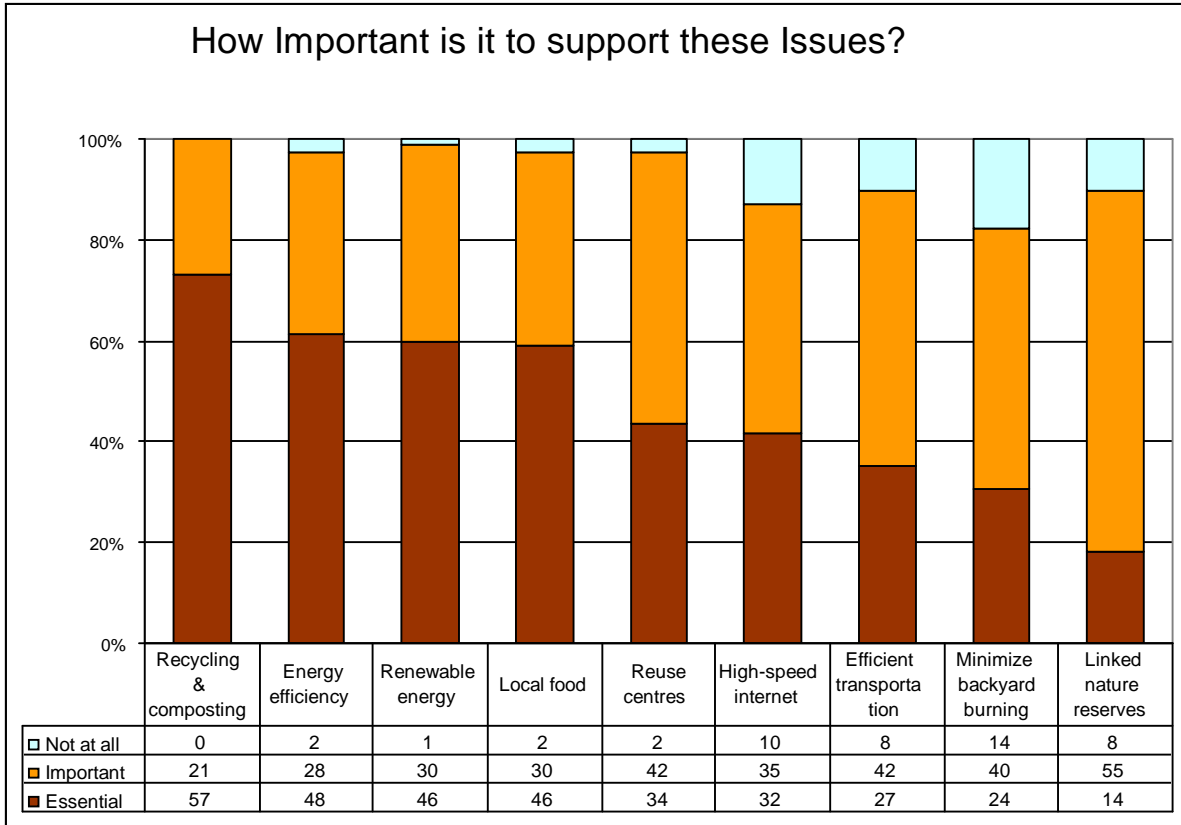
- Climate Change
- Energy Supply/Costs/Security
- Local Food Supply/Security
- Stronger Local Economy



QUESTION THREE – *How important is it to you that the Township and your community support and encourage:*

- Maximizing recycling and composting
- Local production of renewable energy (solar, wind, wood, small hydro)
- Production and consumption of local food
- Improved access to high-speed internet services
- Creation of a linked network of nature reserves and trails
- Programs and policies to minimize backyard burning
- Measures to improve energy efficiency and stimulate energy conservation
- More efficient transportation options (e.g. car-pooling, transit etc)
- More and expanded reuse centres

How Important is it to support these Issues?



The responses indicate that there is very strong support from the community for sustainability generally, with 97% of respondents thinking it was essential (72%) or important (25%). In terms of the issues facing the township, residents generally felt that all four issues were important or essential, with climate change being of slightly less importance than the other three. Responses to the nine specific initiatives were more varied, though again over 80% of respondents found that all nine issues were at least important.

Clearly, the initiative shown by the Township in developing this ISCP does have strong support in the community, and is likely to be supported by the community as planning moves forward into action.

6. SUSTAINABLE POLICIES AND MECHANISMS

Although the actions and projects that come out of a sustainable plan are the most visible demonstration of success, without a strong municipal policy and administrative framework, they may well end up as little more than “random acts of sustainability”.

Accordingly, this section outlines a series of municipal policies and procedural mechanisms that will ensure that sustainability is woven into the fabric of municipal decision-making, and that the Township moves efficiently and effectively down a sustainable path.

It should be recognized that some of these policies and mechanisms might take some time to implement, as they have specific staff and budget resource implications that must be accommodated.

Include a Sustainability Assessment on staff reports - All reports from staff to council should include a “Sustainability Assessment” section. This ensures that staff has, in some way, given thought to the sustainability implications of any recommendations, which council can then take into consideration prior to making their decision. The sustainability assessment section could include a brief discussion, for all options that were considered in the report, of:

- greenhouse gas considerations of all alternatives
- the extent to which each alternative supports local business and individuals
- payback analysis (see below)
- other environmental and long term implications of the recommendation

Require long term cost calculations for procurement decisions – Any purchasing decisions (above a set amount) should include a calculation of the long term cost of all options considered that takes into account expected life span, operating costs and maintenance costs.

Use a minimum 10 year payback principle in decision-making – Assuming other things are equal, Council agrees that when making a purchasing decision, cost comparisons will be on the basis of total capital and operating costs for the first 10 (or more) years. For example, if two heating systems were being compared, and one cost \$2000 more initially but is projected to save \$220 in energy costs per year, Council would select the one that costs more initially, as it would save the municipality money down the road.

Effectively, it is a commitment to treat initial capital expenditures that generate operational efficiencies as investments, as a 10 year payback is a better return on investment than the municipality currently gets on its reserves.

Include escalating energy cost assumptions in any cost/payback calculations – Given that it is generally accepted that energy costs will continue to rise in the future, a true sustainable cost/payback calculation should assume that energy costs will escalate faster than inflation. Without accounting for anticipated increases in energy costs, payback calculations will be unnecessarily conservative, and might lead council to discard an option that in fact makes good economic sense.

Review and revise Procurement Policy - The municipal procurement policy should be reviewed and, as appropriate, revised to accommodate the above considerations. Any tenders, RFPs, or RFQs should require the bidder to address relevant sustainability issues.

Incorporate a sustainability “lens” into annual budget deliberations – The previous policies deal primarily with decisions on individual items, but it is also essential that sustainability considerations are incorporated into the annual budget-setting process. This would ensure that staff and council look at the cumulative and interactive impacts of budget decisions. Perhaps at one or two points in the budget deliberation process, the overall sustainability impacts of the options under consideration would be outlined. One key question to be asked before making cuts or decisions on the final municipal budget should be “In 10 years (and even in 50 or 100 years) how will future councils and residents look on this decision?”

Enhanced consideration of sustainability in the Official Plan – The Official Plan of the Highlands already incorporates many green and sustainability concepts. However, when the plan comes up for review in 2008, it is important that the review process consider and, where possible, incorporate key concepts from this ISCP. Of particular importance is the need to provide as much direction as possible with respect to future residential developments, with a thought to residential form, location, density and use of innovative features to minimize impacts on the Township, its infrastructure and the surrounding environment and rural character. See Appendix I for highlights of sustainability-related clauses in the current Official Plan.

7. MAKING THE ISCP A LIVING PLAN

The best-written report is of little use if it does not lead to action, and is not continuously referred to and updated to reflect changing municipal and external realities. This report was designed from the outset to be a living document, following in the footsteps of the earlier *The Highlands We Want By The Year 2020* report.

In order to ensure that it is a living and evolving plan, there should be a commitment by the Township to:

- Review and update the ISCP every 5 years
- Prepare an annual “On The Road To Sustainability” Report and circulate it to residents, perhaps in the Highland Voice. Among other things, the report should show what the Township has achieved to date, and what it hopes to achieve in the coming years.

- With the help of the Environmental Advisory Committee, create an informal Sustainability Team of local “experts” to act as a resource or filter that staff can use with respect to sustainability issues, including input with respect to the Sustainability Assessment portion of staff reports. The exact format and function of the team will need to be worked out, but it may be most effective, at least initially, if it functions as a “virtual” team, responding primarily to email requests from staff.
- Task a specific body or newly created body with meeting regularly (at least quarterly) to assess and drive progress on achieving the elements of the plan. This would be much the same role played by the Joint Planning Committee for the 2020 report, which was made up of representatives of Council and the Community Health Centre.
- Recognizing that most sustainable issues extend well beyond the Township boundaries, it is important for the Township to track and, where appropriate, support sustainability policies and projects being spearheaded by other groups, businesses, individuals and governments in the area.

8. THE LOCAL CONTEXT

Before proceeding to specific projects and recommendations arising out of the Theme Teams, it is worthwhile highlighting some of the more general local issues that were raised by residents at the initial round of public meetings, or gathered from other research or discussions related to the study.

The most crucial and oft-stated issues included:

- Maintain the Highland’s wonderful rural character, the reason many current residents chose to live here.
- Preserve and protect natural beauty and resources, with a specific emphasis on the lakes, rivers and wetlands in the area, as they are both most sensitive to and most in demand for development.
- Deal pro-actively with the substantial development pressures that are likely to result from Highway 7 expansions.
- Support local businesses and services and identify and support new opportunities that will help make the Highlands more self-sufficient.
- Keep area youth engaged, and provide them with reasons and opportunities to stay in the Highlands or move back.
- Acknowledge that many residents are living close to or below the poverty line, and therefore may have limited resources to respond to opportunities and be potentially more vulnerable to some coming changes.
- Build on what the Highlands has already accomplished (e.g. Vision 2020, Art of Being Green etc.)

In 2006, Lanark Highlands led all municipalities in Lanark County in terms of population growth. This growth brings not just opportunities, but also a range of development pressures.

It is also important to note that years of downloading of responsibilities, deteriorating infrastructure, and pressures to keep taxes at less than inflation have created a situation where Lanark Highlands is effectively operating in a crisis mode. Staff are already overworked and budgets under constant pressures, so engaging in any "new" activities must be carefully assessed in terms of current and future municipal capacity.

It is also important consider that the Highlands are all lands the originally belonged to the Algonquin people, and they claim that their Aboriginal rights and titles to the lands of the Ottawa River Watershed have never been extinguished. As a result, there are unresolved land claim issues that include lands in the Highlands that are yet to be resolved. Recent protests related to uranium exploration in this area has brought much media attention to the land claim, though any claim resolution is likely still a long way off (See Appendix H for more information on the Algonquin Land Claim).

This study and its various theme teams built on work that had already been done in other local and regional strategic planning documents. These provide good context and insights into local visions. Excerpts of the following documents, as they pertain to sustainability, have been included in the appendices:

- The Highlands We Want By The Year 2020 (Appendix H)
- Lanark Highlands Official Plan (Appendix I)
- Lanark County Community Vision and Strategic Plan (Appendix J)

9. GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

The ISCP study includes a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. This inventory estimates the total GHG directly generated annually by the residents and business of Lanark Highlands. This includes heating and lighting of buildings, running appliances, and operating motor vehicles. It also includes an estimate of the GHG generated through landfilling waste. It does not include indirect generation related to the transportation and production of goods and food.

Estimates were made based on survey results of almost 100 households, Ontario-wide consumption data, data from local municipalities, and GHG generation data from Natural Resources Canada. A summary of the results is presented below, with further detail contained in Appendix B.

In total, the residential GHG generation amounts to 40,150 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. That represents about 8,000 kg per person (8 tonnes). This is slightly higher than the provincial average due mainly to higher generation from cars and trucks. Typically, a rural population tends to drive more kilometres in older and larger (less efficient) vehicles than the average.

The commercial and industrial sector is responsible for a significantly smaller generation of GHG due to its relatively smaller size (for example, over 95% of the assessment in the Township is residential). It is estimated that the

commercial and industrial sector is responsible for an additional 4,760,000 kg of GHG.

Between the two sectors, direct expenses on energy that generates the GHG costs over \$13 million a year, most of which leaves the community.

Residential GHG Generation	kg CO2	est. \$
Heating	13,280,000	\$3,900,000
Electrical	4,130,000	\$1,820,000
Waste	2,030,000	\$50,000
Transportation	20,710,000	\$6,260,000
Total	40,150,000	\$12,030,000

Commercial GHG Generation	kg CO2	est. \$
Heating	780,000	\$230,000
Electrical	1,550,000	\$680,000
Waste	670,000	\$20,000
Transportation	1,760,000	\$530,000
Total	4,760,000	\$1,460,000

10. SUSTAINABILITY THEME TEAMS

As discussed in "2.0 Process", the study broke out into five Theme Teams in November of 2006. These teams, composed of community volunteers with interest in one of those areas, met a number of times over the next few months to identify local issues, opportunities, and challenges. The meetings were informal, typically with a "kitchen table" type feel, and allowed considerable freedom in terms of process and outcomes.

The following definitions were used to help focus discussions. In order to keep the number of teams to a manageable number given the number of potentially interested Theme Team members, Transportation and Communication were combined into one team, as were Waste and Water.

Energy and Shelter focuses on the energy consumption of our homes, business, and institutions, including energy use by our municipal infrastructure. This area deals with both energy supply (both conventional and alternative) as well as energy use (energy efficiency and energy conservation).

Transportation focuses on the need to conserve energy and reduce vehicle emissions – from private, public, commercial and municipal vehicles - while improving residents' access to services, employment, recreation and cultural opportunities.

Communication focuses on the need to provide township residents with programs and services that substitute telecommunications, such as cell phone coverage, high-speed internet and video conferencing, for physical travel.

Waste is any unwanted matter that emerges from a household or a business. We use the word “waste” guardedly as our vision of a sustainable Lanark Highlands includes the approach that most of what we currently consider “waste” is an unrecognized resource.

Water refers to that water which is used by a household or a business and covers both supply and treatment.

Food issues focuses of the re-creation and maintenance of a locally-based food system, one that is fair and respectful of the relationships between consumers and farmers. Food is grown in a manner that benefits the long-term health of not just consumers and the local economy, but also the soil, air, and water.

Natural Environment focuses on sustainable ways to protect, preserve and enhance natural areas, ecosystems, and resources in the Highlands for present and future generations.

Tasks of the Theme Teams included helping to identify:

- a local context for their theme, in terms of local issues of importance, challenges and opportunities
- specific “sustainable” projects or policies that could be implemented in the area, whether by the Township itself or the community at large (or where the township could take a role in lobbying for the required change from a higher level of government)
- local and external resources (groups, individuals, reports, websites, etc.) that would give a “running start” to any groups or committees that might come forward to in the future to implement any suggested projects

Theme teams were also asked to provide some input into prioritization of projects and policies, recognizing that there were many more good ideas than could realistically be implemented in the next few years.

Although it was deemed necessary for process reasons to break discussions into theme teams, from the standpoint of moving ahead down the road to sustainability and being an *integrated* plan, the input from the various theme teams was then woven back into an overall community approach. This will hopefully help ensure that future decisions are made in an integrated manner.

Some theme team input has been incorporated into *Section 6: Sustainable Policies and Mechanisms*, while potential priority projects from the teams have been incorporated into *Section 11: Potential Projects*. Summaries of the input and findings from each of the Theme Team can be found in the appendices. These theme team appendices cover:

- Vision
- Issues
- Existing Local Initiatives
- Potential Initiatives
- Resources

11. POTENTIAL INITIATIVES

As discussed above, one of the tasks for each Theme Team was to identify specific projects and policies that would be appropriate for Lanark Highlands. While each team approached this in a different way, there were two predominant outputs that emerged. These were:

- A long list of possible projects or policies that could be implemented in Lanark Highlands. These are presented in the relevant Theme Team Appendices. They are included as a *sample* of sustainability projects rather than a recommended list of action items.
- A short list of possible projects or policies. These were considered either more important or more likely to be initiated in the short to mid-term.

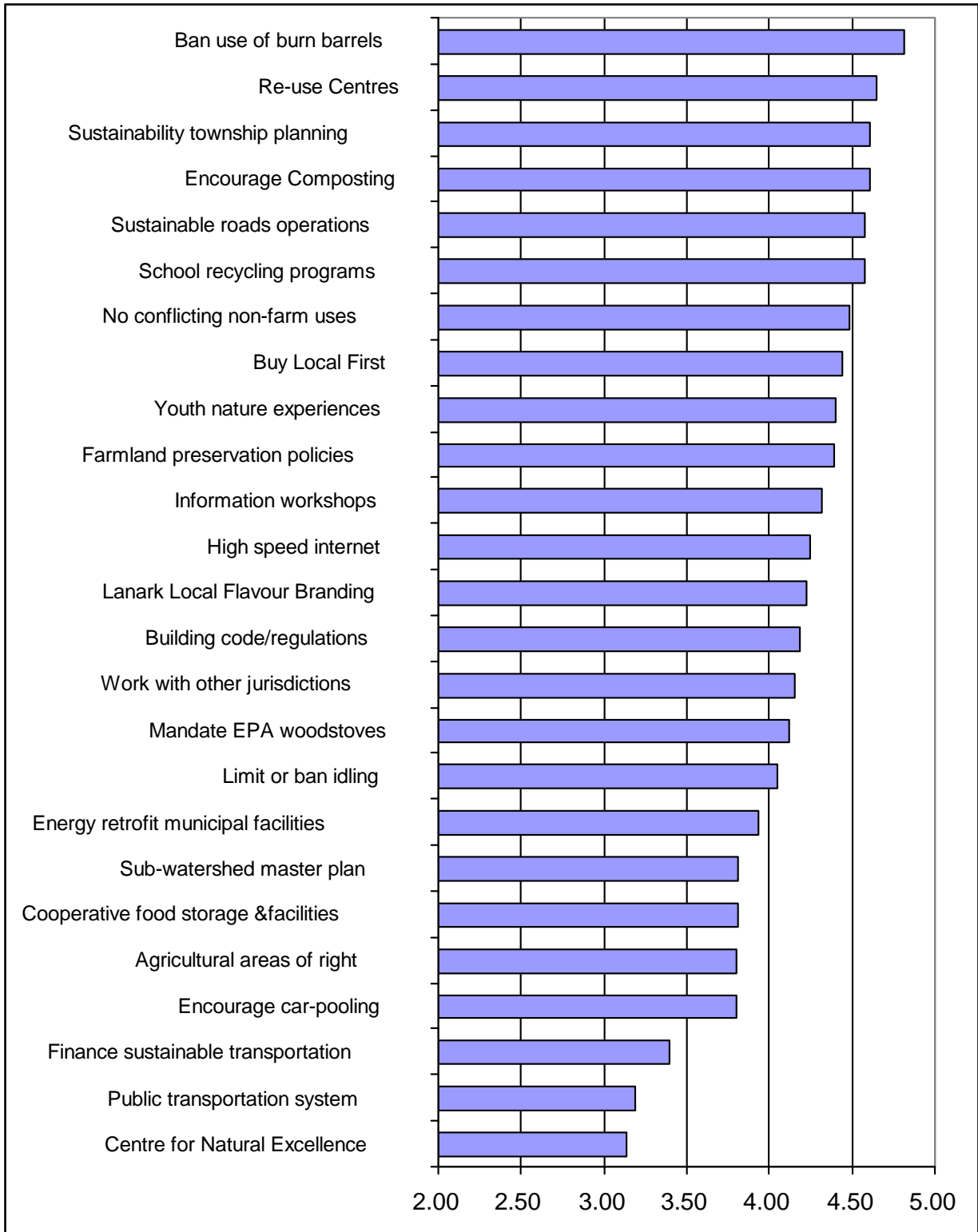
It should also be noted that a number of specific projects have already been directly or indirectly initiated or implemented through the team member activities. These include such actions as a Lanark Highlands Youth Centre Community Garden behind the municipal offices, a Meet & Greet workshop bring local producers together with local food-buying businesses, and workshops on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The short lists from the various theme teams were then consolidated into a list of 25 potential projects and policies that seemed to be most relevant to the community at this time. They were presented as one list to minimize the "silo" mentality that can result in keeping discussions broken down by theme, and encourage symbiotic thinking, where projects related to different themes link with and build on each other.

These 25 potential projects were then presented at a public meeting in Middleville on June 19th, 2007, which was attended by 40 residents. The participants were asked to evaluate each project or policy in terms of the following two criteria:

- Rank: **1** critical **2** important **3** good idea **4** not important
- Timeframe: **I** immediate **M** mid-term (next 5 years) **L** long term

The chart on the next page presents the summary results for the 25 projects/policies. The maximum points that are available would be 6 (3 points for being critical and 3 points for being an immediate issue).



Short descriptions of the 25 potential initiatives follow. Included are percentages that indicate how, on average, respondents at the public meeting rated each project in terms of importance (rank) and priority (timeframe), based on the following scales.

Ranking is based on: **100%** **67%** **33%** **0%**
 Critical Important Good idea Not important

Timeframe is based on: **100%** **50%** **0%**
 Immediate Mid-term Long term

A. Building Code Bylaw Ranking: 66% Timeframe: 61%

Investigate municipal role in building code/regulations, including by-laws requiring new construction to meet Energy Star rating.

A municipal green building code could be developed as the township has the authority to improve energy-efficiency standards in a cost-effective way.

B. Clean Woodburning Ranking: 66% Timeframe: 58%

Promote clean, efficient woodburning by mandating EPA woodstoves and regulating outdoor wood boilers.

EPA woodstoves (mandated in US since 1985) produce 90% less smoke, and burn about 1/3 less wood to heat the same area. Emissions of outdoor wood boilers can range to over 200 times that of an EPA certified stove.

C. High Speed Internet Ranking: 63% Timeframe: 68%

Make affordable high speed internet available to all residents and businesses.

- Township could coordinate efforts by businesses and residents to attract high speed internet and support "teleworking" as a viable alternative to commuting.
- Could also:
 - Organize to negotiate cheaper rates for satellite internet
 - Set up public hi-speed internet access locations (in municipal and other community buildings)
 - Develop teleworking "hubs"

D. Transportation Links Ranking: 50% Timeframe: 34%

Implement an affordable public transportation system that links hamlets in the township with Lanark Village, Perth, Carleton Place and Ottawa.

Convene a meeting of organizations in Lanark County (both non-profit and private) to identify the following:

- Current public transportation capacity and unused capacity

- Barriers and opportunities for making better use of resources we already have (e.g. school buses, non-profit and volunteer transportation services)
- Carry out a needs assessment and develop a public transit system that has one or more of the following components:
 - Vans from key points around the township to Lanark Village, Perth and Ottawa (via Almonte or Carleton Place)
 - On-call accessible taxis and/or mini-vans
 - Use of school buses for public transit
 - Provide bussing to Ottawa for significant cultural events

E. Sustainable Transportation Ranking: 57% Timeframe: 35%

Allocate gas tax money and a portion of the roads budget to finance public transit, bike lanes and other sustainable transportation projects

Encourage the use of bicycles.

- Produce and distribute route maps (tie in with the Perth and District Chamber of Commerce bicycle route guide)
- Install bicycle racks at key locations
- Promote safe biking and bike-friendly driving practices
- Create bicycle lanes on key roads throughout the township whenever significant repairs or improvements are being carried out
- Promote use of electric assist bicycles

F. Encourage Car-Pooling Ranking: 55% Timeframe: 58%

Encourage car-pooling by creating parking lots at key intersections and promoting car-pooling through bulletin boards, media and websites.

- Conduct a study to determine commuter traffic patterns, and a needs assessment to decide if/where to locate commuter parking lots
- Promote car-pooling through bulletin boards in key locations and a car-pool web-site
- Create car pool parking lots at key intersections (e.g. Hopetown)

G. No-Idling Ranking: 60% Timeframe: 63%

Pass a by-law limiting or banning idling. An initial step would be to develop an idling policy for municipal vehicles.

H. Ban Burn Barrels Ranking: 74% Timeframe: 80%

Ban use of burn barrels, improve diversion options, regulate use of backyard burning of household waste.

Provide education on the health dangers caused by backyard garbage burning, improve infrastructure so people can more easily dispose of items they currently burn, and pass a regulation against the backyard burning of household waste.

I. Reuse Centres Ranking: 72% Timeframe: 75%

Increase the number of Re-use Centres: following the McDonald's Corners example, establish re-use centres at all landfill/transfer station sites

J. School Recycling/EcoSchool Program Ranking: 71% Timeframe: 73%

Encourage and expand school recycling programs. Encourage both schools to achieve "Eco-School" certification and establish a process to ensure it is maintained.

K. Encourage Composting Ranking: 70% Timeframe: 76%

Encourage Composting: set up community composting sites and encourage private composting.

Determine from the Ministry of the Environment what is needed to set up a community composting facility at all of our landfill sites.

L. Working With Other Government on Local Food and Sustainability Issues Ranking: 71% Timeframe: 52%

Work with other local levels of government, advocate for policies and programs to support local food and sustainable initiatives.

M. Farmland Preservation Policies Ranking: 72% Timeframe: 62%

Develop municipal farmland preservation planning policies.

N. Agricultural Areas of Right Ranking: 57% Timeframe: 55%

Incorporate "agricultural areas of right" in official plan.

Farmer can supplement income derived from farm if they are directly related or exclusively devoted to existing farm operation.

O. No Conflicting Non-Farm Uses Ranking: 75% Timeframe: 62%

Prohibit establishment of conflicting non-farm uses of land in agricultural areas.

P. Co-operative Farm Storage/Processing Facilities Ranking: 60% Timeframe: 50%

Allow for storage, processing, preserving facilities to be used established cooperatively among farms, but not to exceed the needs of the surrounding agricultural community.

Q. Lanark Local Flavour Branding Ranking: 65% Timeframe: 64%

Farm/food 'branding' so that consumers are easily made aware that they're buying "Lanark Local Flavour".

R. Sub-Watershed Master Plan Ranking: 64% Timeframe: 45%

Support a sub-watershed master plan for the Highlands that consolidates all of the baseline information from various existing planning processes:

- Identify information gap areas
- Establish a clear, quantifiable vision of exactly where the township wants to be
- Set specific goals defined through key performance indicators

S. Centre for Natural Excellence Ranking: 48% Timeframe: 34%

Set up a "Centre for Natural Excellence as a tangible focus for related projects. This would help greatly in building the local awareness and pride that will be so critical in advancing the environmental/sustainable agenda. An anchor for the project could be MAPLE, which is currently looking for a new home in the area.

T. Youth Experience with Nature Ranking: 71% Timeframe: 64%

Channeling youth experiences into shoreline/tree planting and other areas of stewardship as a way of strengthening their bonds with nature.

U. Information Workshops on Sustainability Ranking: 65% Timeframe: 69%

Promote a series of information workshops/session to stimulate thought and action on sustainable issues and opportunities. There is a lot of expertise within the community that could be tapped.

V. Planning Growth for Sustainability Ranking: 76% Timeframe: 66%

Integrate sustainability in the township planning process such as planning growth of other communities without triggering need for centralized services and to minimize transportation requirements.

Ensure the township's Official Plan and by-laws control severances and supports increased population densities in clusters/hamlets.

W. Buy Local First Ranking: 71% Timeframe: 66%

Buy Local First – Lanark Highlands to adopt this policy, then after a year, encourage other Lanark municipalities and organizations to do the same.

X. Sustainable Road Department Ranking: 68% Timeframe: 62%

Adopt progressive policies to reduce the environmental impacts of municipal vehicle operations, road construction and maintenance.

Y. Retrofit Municipal Facilities Ranking: 65% Timeframe: 60%

Energy retrofit municipal facilities, using perhaps a ten-year payback economic model.

In addition to the team work and survey questions, the public was given opportunities to identify what other issues of sustainability were important to them, and identified the following:

- limit to 10 HP boats & ban jet skis
- water quality & natural environment
- composting toilets & grey-water systems
- energy independence
- water, local industry, local skills development, local produce
- road maintenance & beaver control
- clean water & air quality
- expanding & consistent recycling to take all material
- protecting aquifers, protect lakeshores, allow hunting & trapping
- support renewable energy production, education programs
- meaningful employment for youth
- sustaining natural green quality
- control forestry practices, encourage smaller homes
- moratorium on uranium mining
- to be a breath of fresh air
- waste management, housing
- municipality to work through development issues
- no pesticides, clean water & air
- conservation of landscape and water courses
- maintain environment, limit clear-cutting & gravel pits
- preserve local wetlands and other sensitive areas
- conservation of natural & cultural heritage
- affordable housing, community currency
- clean air & water, free from toxins, etc.
- keeping clean & green, transparent decision-making
- clean air, non-motorized activities
- maintaining natural character, non-mechanized leisure
- land use, green corridors
- retention & transfer of skills & knowledge
- natural resources used effectively/efficiently

Appendix A

Lanark Highlands Sustainability Survey

The following are detailed results of the questions asked of residents through the Sustainability Survey, grouped by subject area.

Transportation

- Average # vehicles/household: 2.26
- 35% compact cars, 40% medium cars/vans/pickups, 24% large vehicles/SUV
- Total kms travelled/year per household: 30,000
- At least 40% of respondents commute out of the area. 19% to Ottawa, 9% to Kingston, at least one to Toronto
- Do you ever car pool? 65% NO 27% YES
- If there was an organized, convenient system in place, 42% would car pool

House

- Primary heating system: 8% gas, 24% oil, 11% electricity, 3% heat pump, 53% wood (providing 87% of heating)
- Secondary heating system: 5% gas, 13% oil, 30% electricity, 1% heat pump, 19% wood (31% no back-up)
- Wood provides 52% of all heating (87% for 53% of households and 32% for 19% of households)
- Age of heating system averages 11 years, with 20% being older than 20 years
- Average reported cost of purchased energy is \$1,600 per yr
- Average number of cords of wood for those heating with wood 4.3 cords per year
- Level of reported weathersealing (caulking & weatherstripping): 4% no, 51% somewhat, 42% thoroughly
- Ownership of small gasoline engines: 75% lawn mower, 35% riding lawn mower, 3% leaf blower, 20% snow blower, 76% chain saw, 23% boat, 2% personal watercraft, 16% trimmers, 8% ATV, 13% use a push mower
- 10% have a cottage.

Waste Reduction

- 97% report they recycle, 80% go to a depot an average of 20 times a year (15% don't).
- 72% compost yard waste at home, while 67% compost kitchen waste. 42% of those who don't compost would be interested in starting (14% of the total surveyed)

Food

- People reporting frequency of shopping at a Farmers' Market: 22% never, 44% sometimes, 24% when they can, and 8% regularly. 69% of those surveyed reported getting local food in other ways (e.g. direct from farmer).
- Half of the respondents reported growing their own vegetables and providing 39% of their seasonal needs.
- 53% reported being an active gardener, 49% would like to garden more, and 64% will be replanting trees.

General

- The average household size was 3.2 people living at home, of which 1.1 are under 16
- 18% of those reporting live in town, while 82% in the country
- The reported level of environmental understanding is: 0% primitive, 7% basic, 25% average, 49% good, and 18% outstanding

Appendix B Greenhouse Gas Inventory

The following tables give the detailed, calculations, estimates and assumptions used in Section 9: Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

Community vehicle mix	Type of vehicle	GHG factor	Avg. Km./yr/hhld	kg CO ₂ generated per vehicle
%	type	kg CO ₂ /km	km/year	
35%	small car	0.259	11,100	2,875
40%	mid-sized car	0.316	11,000	3,476
25%	large/mini/SUV	0.460	7,500	3,450
100%	2.26/hhld	0.332	29,600	9,801
Number of households		2113	Total kg CO₂	20,709,302

Based on household survey and NRCan CO₂ data

Average Home Heating	Community fuel mix	CO ₂ Generation
type of fuel	%	kg CO ₂ /hhld
Propane	9%	1,028
Oil	22%	3,228
Electricity	16%	1,850
Wood	53%	180
Mix	100%	6,286
Total for all Hhlds	2113	13,281,431

Electrical use (non-heating)	Hhlds	kWh/year	total kWh	kg CO ₂
Permanent	2,113	7,300	15,424,900	3,856,225
Seasonal	923	1,200	1,107,600	276,900
Total	3,036	5,445	16,532,500	4,133,125

Waste Generation	Hhlds	kg waste per hhd	kg CO2 /kg waste	kg CO2
Permanent	2,133	400	2.08	1,774,656
Seasonal	923	133	2.08	255,979
Total	3,056	319	2.08	2,030,635

	kg CO2
electricity (1 kWh)	0.25
gasoline (1 litre)	2.50
diesel (1 litre)	2.90
propoane (1 litre)	1.60
natural gas (1 litre)	2.70
natural gas (1 m3)	2.20
oil (1 litre)	3.00
garbage (1 kg)	2.08

Appendix C Shelter and Energy Theme Team

Team Members

Bob Argue, Team Facilitator

Susan Brandum

Pat Furlong

Roy Mathews

Art Knowles

Ross Elliott

Cal Wallis

Vision

The Energy and Shelter Theme Team focuses on the energy consumption of our homes, business, and institutions, including energy use by our municipal infrastructure. The team deals with both energy supply (both conventional and alternative) as well as energy use (energy efficiency and energy conservation). The vision includes the following:

- Emphasizing energy efficiency and energy conservation
- Decreasing our reliance on outside energy sources
- Improving the existing building stock for energy efficiency and affordability
- Encouraging local use of renewable resources such as wood, solar, wind, and small-scale hydro

Issues

Heating and to a lesser extent, cooling our homes and businesses are one of the greatest uses of energy. The current building code specifies only a minimum level of energy efficiency. Much higher levels are currently an economical option. The existing housing stock in Lanark Highlands is varied. Few homes are built to levels of efficiency that will be required in the future. This will become a greater issue for residents on low or fixed income as energy costs become an increasing burden. On the other hand, there are a number of examples in the community of energy-efficient and off-grid houses.

Wood is an important local energy resource in the community, providing half of the residential space heating needs. There are a number of issues related to wood burning, including the following:

- Obtaining wood from managed wood lots. This ensures sustainability and reduces generation of greenhouse gases.

- Using the best-available wood-burning technology. This includes EPA-rated wood stoves that require less fuel and generate fewer pollutants.
- There is concern over the use of outdoor wood boilers, which generally are very polluting units.

In addition to wood, other renewable energy resources can be utilized in the community. These include solar thermal for domestic hot water, solar electric, wind electric, and small-scale hydro.

There are also issues of house and lot size and small subdivisions that effect both affordability and energy efficiency.

Existing Local Initiatives

A series of workshops were held on electricity conservation and net metering in the home, supported by the Ontario Ministry of Energy under their Community Conservation Initiatives. These took the form of separate workshops on electricity conservation in the home, and other "how to" workshops on solar hot water, photovoltaic, wind, connecting to the grid etc.

A pilot project to retrofit 20 low-income multi-residential units through "basic measures" (lightbulbs, hot water tank blankets, some caulking and weatherstripping, etc.) was initiated by the Lanark and Leeds Green Community (LL Green).

A pilot "income-eligible" (lower-income) electricity retrofit program of 74 private houses in Lanark County has also been initiated by LL Green. Out of this total, 45 houses get basic measures, and 29 get more extensive work (e.g. fridge changeouts, insulation, air sealing, etc). This was conducted in partnership with Ontario Power Authority and the Lanark Housing Coalition.

EcoPerth has had solar hot water programs that led to the installation of 24 systems in Lanark County.

Potential Projects and Policies

a) Public Education

Promotion, education, workshops, and general access to information on:

- retrofitting existing homes for energy-efficiency
- building for energy-efficiency
- renewable energy/off-grid housing
- bio-diesel for transportation
- building inspectors, contractors, material suppliers

b) Promoting energy-efficiency improvements

- Retrofit low-income/fixed income homes
- EPA wood stoves: this would increase efficiency, reduce wood use, and improve outdoor and indoor air quality

- Could explore a revolving fund for lease/retrofit: this could allow for low-cost loans for renewable energy systems or major energy retrofit
- A municipal green building code: the township has the authority to improve energy-efficiency standards in a cost-effective way
- Planning for energy efficiency, efficient transportation, and protection of natural environment
- Support for people building off-grid
- Pilot income-eligible electricity retrofit program (with LL Green)

c) Supporting renewable energy

- Managed sustainable wood lots
- Solar water heating and solar electricity
- Wind power
- Water power (e.g. Lanark and Clayton)
- Bio-diesel

d) EPA wood stoves / Inserts

- Since 1985 the US E.P.A. has restricted installation of new woodburning stoves / inserts (excluding cookstoves / furnaces / boilers) to those that pass specific emissions standards that result in 90% less smoke, and burn about 1/3 less wood to heat the same area
- Canada has an identical CSA 425.1 standard.
- Canadian Government has not moved to permit only clean-burning stoves to be installed, although they have talked about doing so since the late 1980s.
- Surveys of Canadian specialty retailers show most sold only EPA models
- Locally, even big chains offer both EPA and uncertified models.
- EPA fireplaces are mandated in some jurisdictions (but may not work here)

Possible local action:

- Lanark Highlands mandate only EPA woodstoves / fireplace inserts
- Offer another Woodstove Change-Out program with industry. Educate and change.

e) *Regulate outdoor wood boilers*

- Outdoor wood boilers produce dense smoke at least on startup and refueling
- Smoke can cover an entire area - like Lanark Village North on many winter evenings
- Emissions range to over 200 times that of an EPA certified stove.
- They burn a lot of wood due to very low operating efficiencies (typically less than 11%)
- Heating domestic hot water in warm weather at low output increases smoke density
- American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) is in process of setting standards for smoke emissions from outdoor wood boilers, but likely none of the existing products would pass (the same thing happened when wood stoves were regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency)
- Manufacturers promote long burn times and ability to burn wet fuel wood.
- If not regulated, some resident could sue the municipality over rights to breathable air

Possible local action:

- Council could regulate or ban outdoor wood boiler installation as many other municipalities (e.g. Perth, Kemptville, State of Vermont).
- Over 40 municipalities in Ontario regulate installation

f) *Inside chimneys*

- Interior chimneys perform much better
- Reduce indoor air pollution from smoke on startup and tail-off
- Cheaper to purchase
- Less creosote accumulation reduces incidences of chimney fires
- Recommended by Wood Energy Technical Transfer (WETT), Federal government
- Interior chimneys (especially on EPA units) are inherently clean

Possible local action:

- Building Officials could recommend interior chimneys for wood burners

g) *Burn Barrels*

- Burn barrels can release many toxic pollutants, especially when burning plastics

- Many items being burnt can be recycled
- There is the issue of low-income households and the cost of garbage

Possible local action:

- Could ban burn barrels
- Ensure that there are opportunities for recycling
- Could work out a method of supplying no-charge garbage tags to deserving poor

h) Affordable and appropriate housing

It is essential to have a range of appropriate and affordable housing. In many cases this could mean setting the standards and instruments to allow and encourage developers to build smaller homes and smaller lots and small subdivisions with lots for moderately priced homes. This would allow full control over the types of homes being constructed and energy efficient features.

Local Resources

Numerous local suppliers of wood

Suppliers of solar, wind and earth energy technologies include

- Bill Fisher Electric
- Windsong Renewable Energy
- North South Management
- Embers
- Rideau Home Hardware
- Sun Volts Unlimited
- Denoco Energy Systems

REAL (Rideau Environmental Action League) and Lanark & Leeds Green Community (LL Green) have held workshops and initiated pilot projects on energy-efficiency and low-income retrofit

REAL can help you take advantage of the ecoEnergy Retrofit program, where you can access up to \$10,000 in grants for home retrofits

<http://www.reaction.ca/ecoENERGY.htm>

Home Sol (Ross Elliott) offers house audit and assessment services

EcoPerth has had programs for energy efficiency and solar domestic hot water systems

Cal Wallis is a local expert of all aspects of wood heat

External Resources

OSEA (Ontario Sustainable Energy Association) www.ontario-sea.org

Cansia (Canadian Solar Industries Association) www.cansia.ca
provides information and contact for dozens of solar manufacturers and suppliers

Natural Resources Canada www.nrcan.gc.ca
has many "eco" programs for retrofit, energy efficiency, and renewable energy

Green Communities Canada www.greencommunitiesonline.org
initiates and delivers community-based programs for sustainability

Federation of Canadian Municipalities www.fcm.ca

Appendix D Food Theme Team

Team Members

Cheryl Nash, Team Facilitator

Mandy Ashton

John Baranyi

Maureen Bostock

Annie Dalton

Donna Davidson

Chas Dietrich

Janet Duncan

Kat Elliott

Pat Furlong

Gord Harrison

Christine Kilgour

Peter McLaren

Susie Osler

Kristine Swaren

Vision

The food team has focused on the re-creation and long-term maintenance of a vibrant locally based food system - one that is fair and respectful of the relationships between consumers and farmers. Food is grown in a manner that benefits the long-term health of not just consumers and the local economy, but also the soil, air and water.

There are a number of components to the Food Team's vision:

- to increase the amount of food grown and consumed locally and to decrease the amount of food purchased that has been grown far away thereby keeping local money working in our local economy, reducing the environmental impacts of packaging, transporting and storage of food grown far away, and to improve the nutrition of local residents
- to improve the net incomes of local family farming operations in order to ensure their continuation, reduce their reliance on off-farm jobs, and to encourage the transfer of farms and farming knowledge to the next generation
- to encourage the conversion of industrialized monoculture farming operations to more diversified sustainable farming practices

- to encourage the rebuilding of a local distribution infrastructure, specifically local food processing facilities and direct to farmer networks

Issues

Keeping Our Money Working In our Community

- Using data from the 2001 census, if each household in Lanark County chose to spend 10% of its annual food budget on locally produced foods, this would add \$12.7 million to our farmers' bottom line.

Fuel versus Food calories

Currently it takes between 7 and 10 calories of fossil fuel energy to get 1 calorie of food energy on your plate.

- Limited supply of fossil fuels will affect our existing agriculture and food distribution system in such a way that there is sure to be a much greater reliance on local farms
- Conventional, industrial style farming relies on lots of energy for inputs, transportation, storage, refrigeration
- Encouraging the development and supporting small diversified farms that sell directly to consumers or to local businesses is a way to ensure they will be around in the future as food from far away becomes expensive and unreliable
- Avian Flu, Mad Cow disease etc. are indicators of how quickly and drastically Ontario's and Lanark County's food system can be affected by events taking place at a great distance
- At the present time, in the event of something like a border closure, or disruption of food distribution, it's likely that Lanark County does not produce enough food to feed the people that live here

Climate Change

- Future climate instability will also affect our local farms ability to successfully grow food, likely increasing the length of the growing season, increasing the frequency of extreme weather events and also affecting water supplies

Nutritional Value

- According to a report prepared by Health Canada, produce that is grown commercially today contains 75% less nutrition than it did in the 1950's
- Modern farming methods, long -haul transportation and crop-breeding practices are all believed to be contributing to the drop in vitamins and minerals.

Rebuilding Growing Skills and Local Networks

- Amount of agricultural land in Lanark County has declined by 13.1% between 1991 and 2006
- Number of farmers has declined by 17% between 1991 and 2006
- In 2006, 37% of all farms in Eastern Ontario has gross incomes of less than \$25,000, 57% of all farms in Eastern Ontario has gross incomes of less than \$50,000
- The average age of Ontario farmers has increased from 48.3 in 1991 to 52.6 years in 2006

Regulations Favouring Industrialized Farms

- most citizens and politicians are not aware of the difficulties many current regulations cause for the small farm
- there are many corporate influences and obstacles at the global level that are working against the survival of the small farm.

Existing Local Initiatives

The Lanark County Slow Food Convivium regularly holds community events that encourage awareness around the need to improve local food production and consumption.

For the past 9 years, ecoPerth carries out a number of initiatives to encourage local food sustainability. These include acting as a coordinating body for area CSA (community shared agriculture) farmers, producing a weekly seasonal recipe column featuring locally available ingredients and producing annual farmgate sales brochures.

Collaborations among members of the Lanark Highlands Food Theme Team, Lanark County Slow Food, the Perth Farmers' Market and ecoPerth and have led to the following recent local food initiatives:

- Construction and implementation of the Lanark Highlands Youth Centre community garden, located behind the Township office. The garden harvest has been used for youth centre cooking demonstrations and group meals
- A local food tasting and educational event at Maple Grove School this past spring
- Development of the Lanark Local Flavour branding logo by Lanark Highlands resident Annie Dalton. The Lanark Local Flavour 'get fresh' logo was kicked off in the September Humm magazine, and is now being used by various eating establishments and food retailers throughout the County. It is hoped that the take up of the 'eat fresh' and Lanark Local Flavour logo will continue and expand.
- Delivery of two 'meet and greet' events where area local food buyers have a chance to meet and network with area growers and food producers. Local Lanark meet and greet – networking of area food producers, manufacturers, restaurants, B and B's etc. February 12th, with follow-up

event March 5th. Two additional events are planned – November 12th and another in the early spring of '08

- Inclusion of the 2007 farm gate sales brochure and a number of local food related articles in the September '07 Humm magazine. Distribution of this special insert to all attendees of COG Ottawa's Feast of Fields 2007 event.

Potential Projects and Policies

Local Food Celebrations

- A Slow Food potluck event around the release of the final Lanark Highlands Sustainable Community report. Invitations would be issued to representatives from Lanark County and lower tier municipalities to discuss the outcomes of the report and to possibly discuss expanding the plan beyond the borders of the Highlands

Advertising and Education

- Monthly articles could be run in the Lanark Era profiling small farms in the Highlands. A suggested name is 'Down to Earth'. This could involve the MERA writers club.
- The Lanark Era could publish a regular recipe column that features seasonally available local ingredients and promotes Highland farmers
- Develop a display/activity promoting the purchasing of local food for area fall fairs
- Erect a billboard along the highway – facts about nutrition, merits of buying local, changed every couple of months or so

Increasing Access

- Establish a Highlands local farmer's market at a location that is convenient to get to, at the same spot or on the way to something else residents regularly travel to. The market needs to be very accessible, a people draw, part of a bigger outing
- Create a roster of people who have unused garden or larger scale farming acreage, which could be made available for market gardeners or young farmers without capital to purchase land. Post this information on the Township website or advertise it through the local paper.

Municipal Policies

- Walking the talk - The Township of Lanark Highlands should commit to a 'local food first' purchasing policy for any municipal events where food will be served. Encourage other Lanark municipalities and organizations to do the same.
- Incorporate 'agricultural areas of right' in the official plan. Examples of such 'rights' would be:
- Allowing farmers to supplement the income derived from their farm if the activity is directly related or exclusively devoted to the existing farming

operation. For example, establishing a roadside sales stand, or haunted Halloween cornfield tours

- Prohibit the establishment of conflicting non-farm uses of land in agricultural areas
- Allow for the storage, processing and preserving facilities to be used cooperatively among farms, as long as they don't exceed the needs of the surrounding agricultural community.
- Work with Lanark County's Agricultural Subcommittee to lobby provincial and federal government to alter regulations to be more sensitive to the needs of small sustainable farms.

Transfer of Sustainable Skills/Knowledge

- Hold afternoon event/evening dinner featuring ol' timers – 'telling tales' dinner, local music interspersed with tales about 'the old days', slides/pictures. These could be collaborations with the Lanark County Slow Food Convivium. The aim is to connect the old farming community with newer folks to mix and build/strengthen ties. Sharing food helps build community – something that many at the initial three community meetings felt Lanark Highlands lacked.
- Hold workshops to teach canning/storing/preserving food, horse-logging, masonry work, fencing building, syrup producing workshops
- Connect Lanark Highlands farmers with new farmer internship/apprenticeship programs such as Collaborative Regional Apprentice Farmer Training (CRAFT) or Farmstart.

Improved Food Distribution Infrastructure

- Establish a community cold storage facility. This would allow for increased availability of locally produced produce over the winter months. In time this could be developed into a local food storefront and a central location to get small amounts of locally grown food from individual farms to end markets efficiently.

Local Resources

- Lanark County Slow Food: Janet Duncan Convivium Leader 613-256-2933 dunbrae@sympatico.ca
- Perth Farmers' Market, Denis Gagnon 613-253-4134 eliden@elidenfarm.com
- Lanark County Agricultural Subcommittee, Amanda Mabo 613-267-4200
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), Bruce Moore Rural Business Consultant 613-283-7002 bruce.moore@omafra.gov.on.ca
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Lanark County, Roy Lightbody 613-283-8389

- NFU (National Farmers Union) Bruce Duncan 613-256-2933
dunbrae@sympatico.ca www.nfu.ca
- EFAO (Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario) Maureen Bostock
maureenbostock@hotmail.com www.efao.ca
- Canadian Organic Growers Ottawa Chapter, Lloyd Strachan,
lstrachan@cyberus.ca
- EcoPerth Local Flavour: Cheryl Nash 613-268-2907
cheryl@ecoperth.on.ca www.ecoperth.on.ca

External Resources

- Just Food Ottawa, www.spottawa.on.ca/ofsc Moe Garahan, 613-236-9300 ext 301 info@justfood.ca
- Kingston Food Down the Road, NFU Local 316 project, Andrew McCann 613-767-4127 mccann17@yahoo.com
- Farmstart, www.farmstart.ca Mike Shook, 519-836-7046
mike@farmstart.ca
- Ontario Farmland Trust www.farmland.uoguelph.ca (519) 824-4120 ext 52686
- Slow Food Canada www.slowfood.ca
- Slow Food International www.slowfood.com
- Local Food Plus www.localflavourplus.ca/
- Ottawa Valley Food Coop www.ottawavalleyfoods.org
- FrontenacArch Biosphere's Local Flavour www.localflavour.org
- Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC): www.toronto.ca/health/tfpc_index
tfpc@toronto.ca
- Farm Folk/City Folk, Vancouver BC 1-888-730-0452
www.ffcf.bc.ca
- Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture www.leopold.instate.edu
- Lifecycles Project Society
www.lifecyclesproject.ca/initiatives/food_miles/sources.php

Appendix E

Transportation and Communication Theme Team

Team Members

Jeff Kohl, Team Facilitator

Bobby Clarke

Michael Cassidy

Maureen Bostock

John Baranyi

Susan Brown

Others who provided input: Erik Kafrissen

Vision

A sustainable transportation system provides residents with access to services, employment and cultural activities, is efficient and affordable, offers a range of transportation options, limits harmful emissions, and minimizes the use of land for roads and infrastructure.

This vision includes the following components:

- Residents are well aware of transportation alternatives, and increasingly choose options that reduce the amount of driving they do (e.g. car pooling, active transportation and public transit)
- All residents have access to efficient and affordable public or volunteer transit that links hamlets in the township with Lanark Village, Perth and Ottawa
- A growing number of residents use active modes of transportation such as bicycles
- Teleworking - working at or close to home - is a viable option for a growing number of residents due to improved telecommunications
- The municipality adopts progressive policies that make it a leader in GHG reduction

Issues

The township has a low population density with approximately 5,000 year-round and 6,000 seasonal residents spread over an area of roughly 1,000 square kilometers. People are required to travel long distances to access services and employment.

Township residents are very car-dependant: they drive more kilometers, in older and less efficient vehicles and, therefore, generate more GHG's than the provincial average. Cars and trucks account for roughly 18% of Canada's total GHG's and, therefore, contribute significantly to climate change.

Casual observation suggests that a considerable amount of travel is being done in single occupant vehicles. According to a study by Lanark Community Transit, at least 90% of the 530 people who commute from Lanark Highlands to Ottawa travel alone.

Multiple points of origin and multiple travel destinations make it challenging to implement ride-sharing, public transit and other alternatives to private automobiles. Few public transportation alternatives are available to township residents.

As fuel prices increase, a higher proportion of household income will be spent on transportation, leaving fewer resources for essentials such as food, clothing and shelter. People who live in isolation or poverty, or who have special needs, may become increasingly marginalized.

Many township residents already lack mobility and are unable to access some of the services they need or want. Over the next 15 years, the seniors' population is expected to increase - a demographic shift that will make it necessary to address mobility issues for a growing proportion of the population.

The high cost and patchy coverage of hi-speed internet, coupled with patchy cell phone coverage, makes it difficult for people to work from home and discourages businesses from locating in the Highlands.

Many transportation and communication issues (such as public transit) transcend township boundaries and must, therefore, be addressed in collaboration with other municipalities, community organizations and businesses, both within and outside the township.

Existing Local Initiatives

Public Transportation

Community Transit Solutions (CTS) is a group of Lanark County residents working to develop a public transit system that links the communities of Lanark County with each other and with Ottawa. CTS has given presentations to several municipal councils in the area, and organized a meeting in Carleton Place at which the mayor of Clarence-Rockland spoke about their innovative and successful public transit system. Lanark Community Transit - a company that grew out of CTS (above) - has completed a feasibility study and business plan to develop a public transit system that links Lanark County and Smiths Falls with Ottawa.

The Lanark Transportation Association provides accessible public transportation to medical appointments for people in need of rides.

Community Home Support for Lanark County provides volunteer drivers for medical appointments and other services.

Thom Transportation operates week-day commuter buses that connect Carleton Place, Perth and Almonte to Ottawa.

Public Education

The Art of Being Green festival, held annually in Lanark Highlands, includes presentations and displays on sustainable living and transportation. Past festivals have featured workshops and demonstrations on electric and hybrid vehicles, biodiesel, active transportation and fuel-efficient driving habits.

The North Lanark County Community Health Centre, ecoPerth, the Rideau Environmental Action League and the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition have all delivered workshops and/or given public presentations in the Highlands over the past few years on how to drive and maintain vehicles for fuel efficiency.

Active Transportation

Cycling Routes in Lanark County, including some in the Highlands, have been developed and are promoted through area Chambers of Commerce. Eight routes linking Lanark Highlands with Tay Valley Township, Perth and Drummond North Elmsley Township are profiled on the Township's website, www.lanarkhighlands.ca.

The Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists have published a canoe route guidebook, and promote canoeing throughout the Mississippi River Valley (www.mvfn.on.ca)

Communications

Several internet service providers, including Ripnet and Xplornet, are making plans to expand their high-speed internet coverage in the area.

Car-Pooling

There is a new car pool website for commuters in this area, at www.lanarkcommuters.ca. EcoPerth had car pool site running as well, but rather than compete, they suggest that all commuters use the Lanark Commuter site to build the necessary critical mass to generate matches.

Potential Projects and Policies

Telecommunications

An estimated 40% of township residents commute to work outside the township: however, that number will likely decrease over the next 15 years as the workforce ages and employers become more flexible. To facilitate teleworking the township can:

- Lead a coordinated effort by businesses and residents to attract affordable high speed internet to the area, which could involve:
 - Producing and maintain a list of high-speed internet options and share this information with residents via the township website (availability of service, cost, future plans)
 - Carrying out an inventory of telecommunication infrastructure in the township, and ensure that high speed internet providers are aware of its existence

- Negotiating with service providers to offer discounted “bulk” rates
- Set up public hi-speed internet access locations in municipal and other community buildings throughout the township

Public Transit

Implement an affordable and accessible public transit system that facilitates the safe and efficient movement of people around the township, and between the township and other hubs such as Perth, Carleton Place, Almonte and Ottawa. To facilitate this process the township can:

- Convene a meeting of organizations in Lanark County - both non-profit and private sector - with an interest in public transit, to identify the following:
 - Current public transportation capacity, and unused capacity
 - Barriers and opportunities for making better use of transit services that are already in place (eg school buses, non-profit services, and volunteer drivers)
- Carry out a needs assessment and develop a public transit system that has one or more of the following components:
 - Vans from key points around the township to Lanark Village, Perth and Ottawa (via Almonte or Carleton Place)
 - On-call accessible taxis and/or mini-vans
 - Use of school buses for public transit
 - Provision of busing to Ottawa for significant cultural events

Public Education & Awareness

Encourage residents to adopt fuel-saving driving habits, keep their vehicles well-maintained, and purchase energy-efficient vehicles.

- Offer low-cost tune-ups in partnership with local garages (by running clinics, providing discount coupons or linking with the Drive Clean program)
- Offer vehicle maintenance workshops for do-it-yourselfers
- Offer tire clinics to encourage proper tire inflation
- Promote efficient driving habits using social marketing techniques (proper tire inflation, driving the speed limit etc)
- Implement a no-idle program that includes a by-law and signage at key locations
- Promote and demonstrate energy-efficient vehicles and fuels at events such as the Art of Being Green

Ride-Sharing / Car-Pooling

Promote car-pooling.

- Conduct a study to determine commuter traffic patterns, and a needs assessment to determine if/where to locate commuter parking lots
- Create car pool parking lots at key intersections (e.g. Hopetown)
- Promote car-pooling through bulletin boards, local media and car-pool web-sites

Mobile / In-Home Services

Support and promote the development of mobile and in-home services.

- Promote existing mobile services and/or support the development of new mobile services (e.g. books on wheels)
- Assess opportunities for in-home health care providers to coordinate efforts, piggyback on each others' efforts and increase efficiency.
- Promote existing delivery services and/or develop a local delivery service

Economic Development

- Implement a program to retain and expand existing businesses, and attract new water- and sewer-friendly green businesses to the area, so that people can work closer to home
- Develop a fully-equipped tele-working hub (office) in Lanark Village to allow people to work in the village a few days a week rather than commuting

Active Transportation

Encourage the use of bicycles.

- Produce and distribute route maps (tie in with the Perth and District Chamber of Commerce bicycle route guide)
- Install bicycle racks at key locations, in collaboration with adjacent municipalities
- Promote safe biking and bike-friendly driving practices
- Create bicycle lanes on main roads throughout the township whenever significant repairs or improvements are carried out
- Promote the use of electric assist bicycles

Alternative Fuels & Vehicles

- Research the environmental impacts and benefits of alternative fuels such as ethanol and bio-diesel and share this information with the public
- Carry out a cost-benefit analysis of developing bio-diesel infrastructure in the township
- Research the environmental impacts and fuel efficiency of ATV's and share this with the public

Local Resources

- Community Transit Solutions www.communitytransitsolutions.ca

- The Lanark Transportation Association: 613-253-8252 or 8256
- Community Home Support Services: 267-6400.
- Thom Transportation: 1-800-465-7254
- Art of Being Green Festival, Beth Peterkin at bpeterkin@lanarkhighlands.ca or 613-259-2398, www.artofbeinggreen.ca
- North Lanark County Community Health Centre, www.northlanarkchc.on.ca
- EcoPerth, www.ecoperth.on.ca
- Rideau Environmental Action League, www.realaction.ca
- Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition, www.healthycommunities.on.ca
- Lanark Commuter rideshare site, www.lanarkcommuters.ca

External Resources

Transportation

- Victoria Transport Policy Institute - www.vtpi.org/tdm
Excellent website that describes how to plan, implement and evaluate a wide range of transportation demand management (sustainable transportation) projects and policies. Describes best practices and includes sample policies for rural and urban areas.
- Centre for Sustainable Transportation - <http://cst.uwinnipeg.ca>
Good definition, vision and principles of sustainable transportation.
- Transport Canada - www.tc.gc.ca
Provides information on the MOST Program (Moving on Sustainable Transportation) which provides funding for demonstration, research and education programs. Good overview of federal programs to reduce greenhouse gases related to transportation. Alternative fuels etc.
- Transport Canada - Urban Transportation Showcase Program
www.tc.gc.ca/programs/environment/utsp/menu.htm
Good overview of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) principles. Large database of TDM projects and case studies.

Fuel-Efficient Driving Habits & Vehicles

- Clean Nova Scotia - www.drivewiser.ca
Excellent government of Nova Scotia website with tips on how to drive responsibly to conserve energy, vehicle maintenance, climate change and health.
- Environment Canada - Clean Air Online - www.ec.gc.ca/cleanair-airpur
Excellent facts and tips for saving money "on the road". Good explanation of health and environmental impacts of various types of engine (e.g. lawn mowers).

- Natural Resources Canada, Office of Energy Efficiency - <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/english/index.cfm>
Excellent website with information on choosing a vehicle, fuel-efficient driving, vehicle maintenance, idling, alternative fuels.
- Be Tire Smart - www.betiresmart.ca
Tips on improving fuel efficiency and prolonging tire life.

Active Transportation

- Go For Green - www.goforgreen.ca
Tips on active transportation, walk to school programs, commuter challenge.

Car-Pooling

- CarPool - www.carpool.ca
Tips on car-pooling and on-line ride-matching.

Teaching Resources

- Green Teacher - www.greenteacher.com
Excellent resources for teachers.

Appendix F Waste and Water Theme Team

Team Members

Christine Peringer, Team Facilitator

Chris Anstead

John Baranyi

John Clarke

Jan Fletcher

Art Knowles

Tom Lalonde

Lynne Parks

Vision

Our vision in the areas of waste and water is of a Lanark Highlands that:

- considers the resource potential of all waste before seeking to dispose of it (since it is not really “waste” – that’s just a name we inaccurately give it.)
- recycles and reuses local waste where ever possible
- maximizes the revenue generating potential of recycling, restoring and reusing
- has a system for dealing with waste that makes sense to the average person (Effectiveness of the system depends on people’s respect for it – ridicule of the system undermines sustainability.)
- has policies that harmonize with, and promote the growth of, sustainable policy at the provincial, federal and international levels
- has a municipally operated potable water service and wastewater disposal system in the Village of Lanark
- has safe drinking water from wells and surface water in the rest of the township

Issues

Waste

We are putting more in our landfill than we need to. This is an expense to the township in the short term and reduces the lifespan of the sites. Specifically this includes:

- Potential recyclables: While we don't have any data on capture rates at our facilities, anecdotally from site attendants we know that some recyclables are still being buried rather than recycled.
- E-waste: The Household Hazardous Waste Depot diverts some toxic materials, but items like electronic waste (e.g. computers) are still being buried with their toxic components.
- Re-usable items: Except at the Macdonald's Corners landfill site, where a re-use facility has been created, the Township buries household items and clothing that could be used again.
- Compostable material: None of our sites has a compost site. Those who don't compost at home, take organic matter to the landfill for burial.
- Packaging: Packaging on consumer goods and food is a significant part of the waste buried.

Decision-making on waste issues has particular challenges. These include the steady development of new technologies and fluctuations in the market for recyclables.

Water

Most water used in Lanark Highlands comes either from private wells or from rivers and lakes. Some households purchase water for use in their homes and businesses due to impure water sources on their properties.

The major water issue is the potential health risk of ongoing contamination of groundwater in Lanark Village by effluent leaking from private systems. Thirty percent of wells in the Village are considered unsafe. This is also a deterrent to tourism and other economic development of the township as a whole.

Existing Local Initiatives

Waste

Lanark Highlands runs six landfill/transfer station sites. Since May 2006, the Household Hazardous Waste Depot has been operating, in the summer, at the Middleville site.

Some waste is diverted through recycling. The township has blue box pickup in the village and recycling bins at the landfill sites for paper, boxboard, some plastics, clear glass and tin.

Some waste is diverted by re-use. While at one time there were re-use trailers at all the sites, currently there is only one in operation. The volunteer run re-use centre in McDonald's Corners accepts and offers clothing, books, household items, working computers and other items. None of our sites has a household compost site.

Waste water is processed through private sewage disposal systems and the septage is removed by contractors.

In 2005-6 Maple Grove School became an eco-certified school. This project funded by the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists, involved students, teachers, parents and community members. They investigated and improved the school's waste reduction and recycling, water and energy conservation and biodiversity.

Mouse Point is a locally owned business in Lanark Village. In addition to running a computer service centre and internet café, they are planning to offer e-waste recycling.

In the meantime, the Township is partnering with the Town of Perth and other Lanark municipalities on an E-Waste Depot Day in October of 2007, which will accept all kinds of electronic waste, including computers, televisions and other electronics and small household appliances. The intention, provided the initial pilot project is successful, is to hold similar depots once or twice a year, hosted by and in different area municipalities.

Potential Projects and Policies

The following are recommended activities for the Township of Lanark Highlands. Most involve partnership with citizens, businesses, schools or other actors.

Waste

- *Increase public education and encouragement to live "sustainably"*
Directed to all citizens, schools, businesses, groups etc.
- *Provide voluntary garbage audits at the dump*
As a way of helping people to understand what can be diverted
- *Provide an annual report to citizens of the amount diverted from landfill*
Include the amount of money saved in landfill space as a result
- *Ban use of burn barrels*
Provide education on the health dangers caused by backyard garbage burning, improve infrastructure so people can more easily dispose of items they currently burn and pass a regulation against the backyard burning of household waste
- *Re-use Sawdust*
Find local use for sawdust produced by local sawmills e.g. fuel, animal bedding, mortar
- *Encourage school recycling programs*
Encourage both schools to achieve "Eco-School" certification and establish a process to ensure it is maintained
- *Increase the number of Re-use Centres*
Following the McDonald's Corners example, establish re-use centres at all landfill/transfer station sites
- *Increase capacity of landfill*
Recover from landfill things that don't need to be there to create space

- *Encourage Composting*
Set up community composting sites and encourage private composting
Determine from the Ministry of the Environment what is needed to set up a community composting facility at all of our landfill sites
- *Prevent e-waste from entering landfill sites*
Collect all computer and related waste and deliver it to private contractors e.g. MousePoint for re-using and recycling
- *Expand and harmonize recycling*
Including such actions as:
 - clarifying what is and is not recyclable in Lanark Highlands
 - providing waste credits for re-cycling (concern: don't want to encourage people to find ways to increase their waste)
 - encouraging recycled glass to be included in aggregate used in our paving projects
 - having a reduce/recycle competition between the halls, clubs or other buildings where people gather, to reduce the amount of garbage from public functions
- *Advocate for sustainable policies provincially and nationally*
Work within the County, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and other relevant bodies to promote sustainable policies, including:
 - extended producer responsibility following European examples
 - reduced packaging
 - a provincial e-waste program

Water

- Construct a sewer and water system for Lanark Village
- Investigate alkaline stabilization septage treatment options

Local Resources

Sawdust

- www.fergusonsenergysystems.com, local supplier of wood pellets

E-Waste

- MousePoint, computer business in Lanark Village, 613-259-5797

Waste Reduction

- Gary White – Lanark Farm Supply

Water

- Well Aware Program, Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL) www.realaction.ca
- Dave Linteman, septic alternative systems dave@watersheds.ca
- Jamie Saunders, Tay Valley septic office 613-259-2421

Schools

- Patricia Larkin (lrkmarsh@magma.ca) and Heather Douglas, NatureWorks Learning, worked with Maple Grove School on their Eco-Schools project.

External Resources

Recycling

- Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators (www.amrc.org)
- The Recycling Council of Ontario
- Waste Diversion Ontario www.wdo.ca may have stats on capture rates by municipality

Burn barrels

- www.Burnbarrel.org
- www.thunderbay.ca
- www.moea.state.mn.us/reduce/burnbarrel.cfm
- www.c2p2online.com/documents/burnbarrel/strategy-finalfeb04f.pdf

Sawdust

- www.pelletheat.org Pellet Fuel Institute
- www.woodheat.org a good resource for wood heating
- www.premiumpellet.com The perspective of a wood pellet mill

Waste Reduction

- Hydro 1 www.PowerSaver.ca
- Stewardship Ontario www.stewardshipontario.ca, especially re LCBO bottle take back
- Ontario Waste Management Branch
- *Canadian Producer Responsibility Organizations* by Maureen Swanson Dec 2003
- *Extended Producer Responsibility* paper 2004 www.cleanproduction.org

Composting

- <http://www.environmental-expert.com/resultteacharticle4.asp?cid=6042&codi=414>
www.composts.com

Water

- Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association www.oowa.org
- “Well Aware” booklet, Green Communities Canada
www.greencommunitiescanada.org

E-waste

- www.computertakeback.com
- www.ban.org
- www.caw.ca/whatwedo/healthandsafety/index.asp

Appendix G Natural Environment Theme Team

Team Members

Alfred Von Mirbach, Team Facilitator

Mike McPhail

Ted Mosquin

Howard Robinson

Kathleen Sullivan

Jeff Ward

Mike Yee

Cliff Bennett

Vision

The overall vision for the Team is to protect nature, its diversity, and the processes that sustain it. That vision includes components such as:

- lakes and rivers that are, and continue to be, swimmable and drinkable
- networks of substantial (200+ hectare) natural areas connected wherever possible by wildlife corridors
- comprehensive protection for all sensitive and unique areas
- encouragement and promotion of local resource management businesses that truly embrace sustainable principles (e.g. ecotourism, sustainable woodlots etc.)
- increased opportunities for residents, especially youth, to foster bonds with nature (e.g. trails)

Issues

There is still a lack of awareness among a significant portion of the general population with respect to the importance of the natural environment, and the threats it is facing. More creative and effective education and awareness programs are needed to ensure the community as a whole truly prioritizes the protection and enhancement of natural environment.

Personal priorities often are, or appear to be, at odds with priorities related to shared societal and environmental issues. This is due to both the differences in both geographic and time scale between the two types of priorities.

It is also important to note that “protecting natural areas and resources” is a very broad concept that can mean many things to many people. Which resources? How protected?

Turning the notions of protection, conservation, utilization and stewardship into concrete policy and action is greatly complicated by the various jurisdictional levels involved.

There will likely need to be different approaches for private and public lands. Recognition must be given to the fact that in the Highlands, a relatively high percentage of land is public, often under provincial or county jurisdiction.

How best to effectively resolve the conflicting pressures of utilization and conservation with a sustainable management plan is another critical component of any successful natural environment management plan.

A further challenge that has to be addressed is the concern that has been expressed repeatedly that the Highlands will be increasingly exposed to increasing rural residential pressures and all its associated impacts (noise, water, traffic, loss of land, demand for better roads etc).

Existing Local Initiatives

Natural environment projects that have been or are being implemented include:

- Preparation of a report on the natural resources of Lanark County, by the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County expected to be published by the end of 2007
- The formation of a Lanark County Municipal Trails Corporation

The Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists have an ongoing project of identification of new areas in Community Forests and Crown Lands which are highly suitable for protection as Nature Sanctuaries and the development of nature trails for public use. They also recently held a successful workshop series in Almonte on Adapting to Climate Change, and are working on a report from those sessions.

The Ted Mosquin Highland Trail was developed by the Mississippi Valley Conservation and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation, and formally opened on April 29, 2007. The trailhead is from the boardwalk at the Purdon Conservation Area, near Lanark, adding to the existing Showy Lady-slipper Boardwalk Trail.

Potential Projects and Policies

a) Baseline, Key Performance Indicators and Vision

It would be of great use to have a sub-watershed master plan for the Highlands that consolidated all of the baseline information from various existing planning processes (e.g. MNR forest management plans, lake management plans, etc) in order to have a clear picture of the current "state of the environment" in the Highlands. As part of this, it would be important to identify the most sensitive and unique areas/ecosystems in the Highlands so we know what areas are most in need of preservation or rehabilitation.

Once that picture has emerged, it would be possible to:

- identify information gap areas
- establish a clear, quantifiable vision of exactly where the township wants to be
- set specific goals defined through key performance indicators

Acting in the absence of that comprehensive data, a vision will lead to a potentially ineffective “ready...shoot...aim” approach. This level of analysis is beyond the scope of the current ISCP process, and therefore this is a specific project for which funding should be sought.

b) Centre of Excellence for Nature

Setting up a “Centre for Excellence” could provide a tangible focus for a number of related projects, and help greatly in building the local awareness and pride that will be so critical in advancing the environmental/sustainable agenda. An anchor for the project could be MAPLE, which is currently looking for a new home in the area. Other components of the centre could include:

- information/assistance with grant programs such as the Wetland Habitat Fund or Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program
- shoreline naturalization demonstration project
- an Office for Land Trust activities
- a central hub for encouraging citizen science activities
- a location for special presentations, workshops, activities and guided “walk and talk” tours
- information on local guided and self-guided ecotour options
- information on local sustainable wood suppliers

c) Linked Nature Reserves

Although there are many and varied forests in the Township, most of them are not directly under municipal control. The Township and its community groups must therefore work with other jurisdictions to ensure appropriate areas are set aside. As a starting point, it was suggested that the Township consider adopting the forest habitat guidelines (see *The Great Lakes Fact Sheet – How Much Habitat is Enough?*) of a minimum 30% forest cover, with multiple 200 hectare forest patches, and connecting protected 50 to 100m connecting corridors wherever possible. These guidelines could then be revisited based on work coming out of the Baseline and Key Performance Indicators project.

Along with this protection, there has to be emphasis on the utilization. In this regard, there should be thought given to a network of trails within and between these protected areas. This will include making decisions on which trails should support what type of use (ATV, snowmobile, horseback riding, biking and hiking). The most sensitive areas should be either kept free of trails or restricted to non-motorized trails. Where forested areas border on rivers and lakes, the trail system should take into account canoe and kayak users.

d) Channeling Youth Experiences

There is a huge resource of youth with energy and ability that are available, and in some cases required, to engage in community service activities (school co-op requirements, youth centres, Katimavik, youth exchanges etc.). Efforts should be made to provide a range of good, coordinated and supervised projects for youth, as a way of strengthening their bonds with nature and understanding, and at the same time demonstrating potential career opportunities in the environmental field. Projects could include:

- Targeted tree planting, nurturing and maintenance
- Shoreline naturalization projects
- Shoreline clean up activities
- Trail clearing and maintenance, including creating benches and signage
- Developing natural environment themed skits to take out to schools and the community at large

e) Training for Operations Staff

Municipal (and potentially County) operations staff are often doing things the way they have always been done, without adequate awareness, training or allocation of resources required to carry out the activity in a potentially more environmentally-sensitive way (e.g. blowing apart beaver dams). The environmental and conservation community should work with the Township to carry out brainstorming and training sessions on better ways to carry out existing obligations.

Local Resources

Existing groups and organizations that are based or operate in the Lanark Highlands that deal actively with natural environment issues include:

- Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists
<http://mvfn.ca>
- Mississippi Valley Conservation
<http://www.mvc.ca>
- Lanark County Municipal Trails Corporation
- Mutual Association for the Protection of Lake Environment in Ontario (MAPLE)
- Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County
<http://www.easternontariostewardship.org/lanark/>
- Lake Partner Program, operated by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment
http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/lake_partner/index.htm
- *What is Lanark County? – An Environmental Snapshot*, currently being prepared by the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County and due for publication by January of 2008

- *Plants of Lanark County, Ontario*, written by David White, is a very useful annotated compilation of all vascular plants known to exist in this region. www.lanarkflora.com.

The Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust Conservancy (MMLTC) is a membership-based community organization whose principal objectives are to assist private landowners secure long term legal protection for nature on their properties. The trust has completed a three year Strategic Plan, and is currently negotiating a major conservation agreement in the Lanark Highlands. For more information, please contact Ted Mosquin at mosquin@xplornet.com or 267-4899.

External Resources

The following are some useful external resources and websites that might be of use:

- The *Rideau Valley Conservation* operates the *Landowner Resource Centre*, which has a wide range of services and documents to help landowners manage their properties better
<http://www.lrconline.com>
- Ontario Trails Strategy, 2005, Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion
<http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/english/sportandrec/trailstrategy/default.asp>
- *How Much Habitat is Enough*, published by the Canadian Wildlife Service, provides a framework for guiding habitat restoration
http://on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/factsheets/fs_habitat-e.html#introduction
- Eastern Ontario Model Forest, which publishes several documents to assist landowners with good forest management
<http://www.eomf.on.ca>
- Ontario Woodlot Association is a useful organization, and among other things, has a Code of Forestry Practice
<http://www.ont-woodlot-assoc.org/>
- The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resource provides a series of Extension Notes related to forestry
<http://ontarioforests.mnr.gov.on.ca/extensionnotes.cfm>

The following are some useful government incentive programs related to conservation that area residents can apply for:

- The Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program
<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/cltip/>
- The Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program
<http://ontarioforests.mnr.gov.on.ca/mftip.cfm>
- The Environmental Farm Plan
<http://omaf.gov.on.ca/english/environment/efp/efp.htm>

Appendix X Algonquin Land Claim

Overview

The Algonquins of Ontario assert that they have Aboriginal rights and title that have never been extinguished, and that they have continuing ownership to the Ottawa River watershed in Ontario and its natural resources. Representatives of the Algonquins have been in preliminary negotiations with the government to try to reach an Agreement-In-Principle setting out the proposed elements of a settlement of this claim.

The settlement of this claim is expected to include parcels of land, a financial package and social and economic development opportunities for the Algonquins, as well as appropriate arrangements respecting harvesting rights including hunting and fishing. Although land claims issues are primarily an issue between Aboriginal Peoples and the Government of Canada, other levels of government will also have to be involved at some point, as it has a direct impact on them. The County of Lanark has established an *Algonquin Land Claim Negotiating Committee*, with Wendy Laut as the County Representative, however there have been no meetings of this committee as yet.

During the summer of 2007, the issue of the Algonquin land claim has become a front and centre issue in this region, as a result of protests associated with the staking and explorations activities of Frontenac Ventures for uranium in a large parcel of land that includes portions of Lanark Highlands. The protest has included a blockade of the road to the exploration site by the Ardoch Algonquin First Nations, supported by various non-native settlers and community groups. The request to settle land claims before proceeding with any exploration on their lands has been one of the primary demands.

Potential Impact

The parties to the land claim process have agreed to some basic principles, including:

- *The protection of private property.* The rights of private land owners to make use of and access their land will be protected. Privately-owned land will not be expropriated for the settlement of this land claim.
- *The preservation of Algonquin Park.* It has been agreed that Algonquin Park will remain a park for the appropriate use and enjoyment of all peoples.
- *The management of natural resources on a sustainable basis.*

As the negotiations began, ostensibly, with the signing of a Statement of Intent in 1991, and have yet to produce even an Agreement-in-Principle, it is likely to be many years before any impact on Lanark Highlands is felt. Ultimately, a negotiated claim will involve economic development

investments by the provincial and federal governments that may result in any number of Algonquin-based enterprises starting up – most likely in tourism and resource-based pursuits.

The Ardoch Algonquin First Nation already adheres to a Resource Management Policy with regards to the harvesting of game, fish and plants.

Appendix I Sustainability and Vision 2020

The following are the 16 goals identified in *The Highlands We Want By The Year 2020* Report, that together encompass a community vision. Note that many of them overlap with the Theme Teams of this plan. These were all looked at by the various theme teams to ensure they were building on what had already been done.

Goal #1: Community Linkages

To develop and sustain, as a priority, linkages across all communities within The Highlands, and to support their efforts in working together towards the full realization of The Highlands' potential.

Goal #2: Communications

To ensure that the residents and businesses of The Highlands are kept up-to-date, involved and actively participating in major policy decisions made by the Township and County that affect the future of The Highlands community.

Goal #3: Networking Through Telecommunications

To improve the telecommunication network within The Highlands to one that allows high speed data transmission, and to extend that network into all Highlands communities.

Goal # 4: Business Recruitment

To actively set about to recruit selected retail trade and service businesses to locate in Lanark Village, specifically a pharmacy, a dentist and other smaller community based businesses that can complement, and benefit from, the unique attributes of The Highlands community.

Goal # 5: Village Servicing

To, as a priority, service Lanark Village with a water distribution and sanitary sewage collection system.

Goal #6: Lanark Village "Game Plan"

To set out a "game plan" for the longer term development of the Village that looks to the future of the Village after it has been serviced with sewer and water.

Goal #7: Economic Development Strategy

To clearly set out an economic development strategy that is aimed at diversifying the Township's economic base, including strategies aimed at:

- developing new "home grown" businesses that take advantage of the area's rich history, scenic beauty and rural setting;
- supporting and expanding existing businesses with the Highlands;
- fostering the creating of new small home-based businesses that build on the assets and strengths of The Highlands community;
- developing Lanark Village as the town centre for the Highlands community;
- attracting new businesses to The Highlands that are sensitive to the community's desire to maintain its rural lifestyle and conserve its natural environment;
- developing linkages among the different economic sectors within The Highlands;
- establish meaningful, permanent employment opportunities for youth; and
- communicating The Highlands to potential investors.

Goal #8: Community Spirit

To develop a "community spirit" program to encourage residents and businesses to think of themselves as part of a larger community – as Highlanders – that will be first directed to individuals and organizations within The Highlands community, and then, to areas outside The Highlands.

Goal #9: Community Skills Bank

To design, compile and manage an information bank of personal skills, Highlands businesses and their services, and professional and business networks, than can be used by anyone in the community in support of their day-to-day living and working within The Highlands community.

Goal #10: Literacy

To develop a literacy support program to raise the awareness of the need for continuing skills development and increasing the level of education of Highlands residents, as one means of working towards a stronger community economy.

Goal #11: Skills Development Workshops

To develop a program of workshops and training courses, using the expertise of community volunteers identified through the Community Skills Bank, that will help to increase literacy levels and the employment potential of Highlands residents.

Goal #12: Conservation of the Natural Environment

To develop a natural environment systems conservation strategy for The Highlands that will include the identification of a network of natural areas, and a set of policies and programs to protect that network.

Goal #13: Seniors Housing

To actively encourage and support the development of small scale, seniors housing projects in the different communities of The Highlands, including an extended care facility in Lanark Village, sufficient to meet the existing and forthcoming needs of this sector of the community's population.

Goal #14: Youth Centre

To investigate the feasibility of developing a place for The Highlands youth that can be managed and programmed by the intended users of the facility.

Goal #15: Transportation

To develop a long term, transportation strategy for The Highlands that supports the realization of the community's economic development strategy, and addresses the needs of its changing population, including strategies aimed specifically at improving the ability of seniors, youth and others who are "house bound" to get around The Highlands.

Goal #16: Volunteer Recruitment and Management

To design, implement and manage a program of local volunteer recruitment, training, and succession planning including the cultivation and support of the leadership potential of individuals and organizations in The Highlands that can assist in securing The Highlands' potential.

Appendix J Sustainability and the Official Plan

The Official Plan for Lanark Highlands is another crucial document for the township, and it includes many statements that directly support the Township following a sustainable path. For reference purposes, some sections of the Official Plan specifically pertaining to sustainability have been included below.

Section 2.3: Guiding Principles

This section lists 14 guiding principles for the plan. Seven of those principles directly relate to sustainable development, and are listed below.

- To preserve and enhance the unique rural and small town character of the community
- To preserve and enhance unique natural features and environmentally significant resources and to promote environmentally sensitive and responsible practices and development. This includes the conservation and management of water resources.
- To promote the development of an affordable transportation system that supports the safe and efficient movement of community residents and business traffic, that minimizes disruption to communities and the environment , and that is integrated with the plans of other transportation authorities.
- To ensure that the density of development in all settlement areas does not lead to the need for communal water and sewer services. However, in Lanark Village, the intent of the Plan is to provide for communal water and sewer services as an incentive to growth and economic development and the protection of public health.
- To prohibit or restrict development on land with environmental hazards and /or physical limitations such as poor drainage, organic soils, flood susceptibility, erosion or steep slopes.
- To ensure that appropriate mitigation measures for air and noise pollution are implemented for all new development given the nature of the local economy and the predominantly rural form of the municipality.
- To provide for the stewardship and development of the areas renewable and non-renewable resources (agriculture, mining, mineral aggregates, forestry.)

Section 2.4: The Vision:

This section of the report outlines key components of a vision for the community from a planning standpoint. It includes such relevant paragraphs as:

- It is recognized that the many water bodies located in the Township are not only a valuable natural resource but are also a source of revenue and a focal point of residential and recreational activity. This is expected to continue. The policies contained in this Plan, while providing for development, mandate the preservation of the water quality of water bodies and the retention of the natural features of adjacent shorelines through development controls. For certain water bodies the location and number of additional dwellings permitted is limited. The municipality also recognizes that watersheds are a shared resource amongst municipalities and that there is a need for coordination and cooperation in managing water quality on an upstream and downstream basis.
- Much of the Township is forested and rural in nature. There are some 332 farm properties although the capability of the agricultural land base varies substantially across the municipality. This Plan recognizes the importance of maintaining the existing agricultural base and contains policies which encourage the maintenance of farmland especially the stands of maple trees which provide seasonal revenue from the maple syrup industry as well as tourism.
- The intent of this Plan is to manage renewable and non-renewable natural resources, conserve energy and water as well as promote the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste in the Township. In order to assist economic growth the Plan contains policies which are flexible in terms of land use in the Rural area. However, the proposed location of all new forms of development shall be considered in order to minimize costs associated with the provision of municipal services and school bussing.
- The Township contains many pockets of land which are poorly drained and which are wet either seasonally or permanently. Some of these wetlands have been classified as provincially significant by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Other wetland areas have been identified in this Plan which have not yet been evaluated or are considered to be locally significant. The Township recognizes the ecological importance of wetlands and the policies contained in this Plan prescribe that important locations of this resource be protected from the effects of development wherever possible.
- Due to its low population density and forested landscape, the Township provides excellent habitat for various forms of wildlife and fish. The Township wishes to protect these ecological resources and will cooperate with public bodies having jurisdiction in reviewing development applications. Impact assessments are required where development may have an impact on wildlife and fish habitat.

Section 2.7: Statement of Environmental Principles

This section outlines six key environmental Principles, which have been summarized below (see the Official Plan for the full wording). These Principles are to be a key component to the Basis of the Plan in making decisions on land use and development:

- Water is a precious resource and is vital to all life. Consequently, Council will undertake to protect, maintain or enhance the quality and quantity of ground water and surface water.
- Council will utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) as a means to ensure that there is 'no net decrease' in water quality or quantity (e.g. land use activities should not lead to a deterioration in water quality from increased nutrient or chemical loading of surface or groundwater nor should it result in a reduction in the supply of water for domestic and other uses).
- In the design, construction, maintenance and rehabilitation or repair of infrastructure, Council will undertake to protect or maintain the natural environment by evaluating and proposing solutions which minimize or mitigate adverse effects, if any, on the natural environment.
- Council recognizes that natural heritage features (i.e. wetlands, wildlife and fish habitat, areas of natural and scientific interest, endangered or threatened species, significant woodlands and significant valleylands) are important for their environmental, economic and social values to local residents and on a regional or provincial scale and are an integral component of the physical landscape of the Planning Area (municipality). Council will undertake to protect these features.
- Renewable and non-renewable resources (i.e. minerals, mineral aggregates, agricultural lands, forests) contribute to or have the potential to strengthen the economic base of the municipality. It is a principle of Council to ensure that the Plan provides an opportunity for the development and use of renewable and nonrenewable resources while providing for the compatibility of adjacent land uses and assuring that environmental values are sustained.
- Council will endeavour to raise the awareness of the public as to the benefits and importance of environmental management through the day-to-day administration of this Plan, the review of planning applications and education as part of public meetings..

APPENDIX K

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE LANARK COUNTY VISION

Lanark County undertook a Community Vision and County Strategic Plan in 2005, and came up with the following 6 Core Strategies:

- ONE Protect and Enhance the Natural Environment
- TWO Strengthen and Diversify the Economy
- THREE Manage Growth through Good Planning and Effective Government
- FOUR Invest in Infrastructure to Meet Needs and Keep Pace with Canada
- FIVE Protect, Maintain and Enhance the Rural and Small-Town Character
- SIX Maintain a High Quality of Life

Below are the 10 objectives of the first core strategy, *Protect and Enhance the Natural Environment*:

- To reduce all types of pollution
- To support environmentally-friendly initiatives, in part, through public education
- To ensure safe drinking water
- To reduce waste and improve sewage, septage and solid waste management
- To protect the large areas of relatively unspoiled wilderness and environmentally sensitive features throughout the County
- To foster good watershed management
- To practice sustainable management of natural resources
- To strive towards local self-sufficiency in food and energy production
- To improve public access to the county's natural heritage assets while protecting sensitive resources
- To engage in "environmentally-friendly" land-use planning and development