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## Moving Forward

### A Commitment to Moving Forward

Imagine Halton Hills has captured the hopes and dreams of our community for our long-term future. This Strategy has provided our community with solid guidance on the elements of our community that we value, what we want to improve upon and provided strategies on how we can collectively achieve our hopes and dreams. Our work does not stop here. Now that the Strategy has been completed, we will develop an implementation plan to ensure that we continue to move forward towards a more sustainable future. The implementation plan will outline specific steps and mechanisms for implementing Imagine Halton Hills.

As we transition our efforts from planning to implementation, there are three areas that we will be focusing on:

- Strengthening our Community Capacity;
- Measuring and Reporting on our Progress; and
- Engaging the Community.

### Strengthening Our Community Capacity

The development of this Strategy has been led by a Steering Committee, consisting of members from TSAC with the support of the Office of Sustainability at the Town of Halton Hills. As a truly community-led Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills will require many people to move it from a strategy to reality. It cannot be implemented by the Town or a single organization alone. To succeed, the Strategy must be implemented by our community as a whole.

There is tremendous strength in our community through community groups, businesses, institutions, municipal governments, branches of the federal or provincial government, and

non-governmental organizations. Many of these groups and organizations are already doing things right now that are contributing to making Halton Hills more sustainable. As the Strategy transitions to implementation, TSAC will continue to work with the Town of Halton Hills to develop an annual workplan that outlines how we can build on the strengths of our community to achieve sustainability actions.

At the Town of Halton Hills, Imagine Halton Hills will help set priorities and guide decision-making, as well as other Town plans, policies, studies, and other initiatives. Specifically, there are numerous significant initiatives, either in progress or planned, that will advance the Vision, Focus Areas, and Goals of Imagine Halton Hills and help “operationalize” it through more detailed policies.

## **Implementing Sustainability Town Initiatives Underway**

An example of initiatives underway:

- Economic Development Strategy
- Community Branding Exercise
- Green Building Study
- Cultural Master Plan
- Mayor’s Community Energy Plan
- Corporate Sustainable Building Policy

# Measuring and Reporting

Measuring and reporting our progress will tell us how well we are doing on our journey towards community sustainability and demonstrates activities that contribute to the community’s Vision of a sustainable future.

## **Sustainability Indicators**

A set of 27 “big picture” indicators will be used to monitor and track progress over time. The indicators will provide Halton Hills with a snapshot of progress spanning our multiple sustainability Pillars and Focus Areas. These “big picture” indicators will be supported by indicators and targets to measure the success of specific actions taken in each Focus Area. The indicators below have been selected based on best practices and suited to the needs of Halton Hills. They use readily available data sources and allow for the comparison over time of where our community stands with respect to progress towards sustainability.

The “big picture” indicators will be measured on a regular basis and reported in our Sustainability Report Cards. Indicators will be reviewed as part of the overall review of the Strategy and more may be added over time as more data becomes available.

Indicator	Measurement
Trails	Total kilometres of trails (km)
Library Participation	Library uses per person (#)
Cultural Activity Participation	Annual survey of the variety of participation in cultural activities and organizations
Recreational Program Participation	Total participant hours for recreation programs per 1,000 persons (# hours)
Open Space	Hectares of municipally owned open space (ha)
Community Facilities	Number of accessible facilities for use by many community groups (# facilities)
Heritage Protection	Number of designated heritage properties and districts (#)
Employment Participation Rate	Employment participation rate in all sectors for those 15 years and over (%)
Green and Clean-tech Business Opportunities	Number of jobs classified as being “green” in Halton Hills (# jobs)
Business Diversity	Number of business sectors accounting for 50% of all economic activity (#)
Family Income	Average Halton Hill’s family income (\$)
Agricultural Land	Number of hectares of land re-designated from agricultural purposes to other uses (ha)
Annual Gross Farm Receipt	Total gross farm receipts (\$)
Tax Ratio	Ratio of residential to non-residential property assessment
Live-Work Ratio	Percentage of people that work from home (%)
Commercial Space	Commercial floorspace per capita (square feet)
Employment Density	Employment density per hectare (# jobs/hectare)
Water Consumption	Average total daily flow of water per person (litres)
Tree Canopy Cover	Tree canopy cover as a percentage of Town area – total coverage and urban area coverage (%)
Population Density	Number of people/km <sup>2</sup> in the urban areas and rural areas (# people/km <sup>2</sup> )
Green Building	Number of buildings certified by recognized green building programs, including construction meeting the Town’s Green Building Standard, LEED™, etc (# of buildings)
Renewable Energy	Number of renewable energy projects and total capacity of renewable energy output (kilowatts)
Transportation Modal Split	<p>Percentage mode of transportation to work for total employed labour force 15 years and over with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address (%):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Car, truck, van, as driver</li> </ul>

Indicator	Measurement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Car, truck, van, as passenger</li> <li>○ Public transit</li> <li>○ Walked or bicycled</li> <li>○ All other modes</li> </ul>
Household Spending on Shelter	Number of households spending more than 30% of gross income on shelter per 1,000 households (# households)
Low Income Percentage	Number of households in the low income bracket before taxes per 1,000 households (# households)
Dependency on Social Services	Number of citizens dependent on social services per 1,000 residents (# citizens)
Access to Senior Services	Range of services available for Halton Hills seniors who require significant assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Average monthly hours of home care available (hours)</li> <li>○ Number of affordable assisted living options with 24/7 in-house care available (#)</li> <li>○ Percentage of Halton Hills Seniors needing long-term care beds who are able to remain in Halton Hills (%)</li> </ul>

## Sustainability Report Card

As we implement our Strategy, we will monitor and report on progress on a regular basis through the use of a Sustainability Report Card. The Sustainability Report Card will provide a community update on sustainability, including advancement of actions and activities that support our Vision, Focus Areas, and Goals, and the actions of community partners. The Sustainability Report Card will also report on the indicator framework.

## Review of Imagine Halton Hills

Our values and hopes and dreams presented in this Strategy are representative of Halton Hills as of 2012. Our Strategy needs to be flexible in order to adapt to our community as it changes. Accordingly, Imagine Halton Hills should be refreshed on a regular basis. The Strategy will be reviewed every four years, at the end of the first year of each new municipal Council term. The purpose of this review is to engage our Town Council and our community members in sustainability and review or revise our Strategy according to newly identified priorities and successes achieved.

# Communicating and Engaging the Community

An ongoing conversation about sustainability in our community is important. Outreach and communications (including social media) will be ongoing through implementation. We will continue to raise awareness of sustainability, encourage personal actions, continue development of community partnerships, and celebrate progress of partners and individual projects that move us closer towards sustainability.

An event, similar to the Sustainability Forum, will be hosted every two years to communicate and celebrate the success of Imagine Halton Hills and assist in identifying the new priorities for action. The event will also provide an opportunity to learn about community partner experiences and successes and encourage others to become involved.



Artistic representation of the sustainability discussion captured at the Community Sustainability Forum 2012.

# Getting Involved

Every single person in Halton Hills has a role to play in our community's future. There are numerous opportunities to stay involved and participate.

For more information on becoming a community partner, please contact:

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[www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability](http://www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability)



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[www.facebook.com/ImagineHaltonHills](http://www.facebook.com/ImagineHaltonHills)

# Glossary

## Accessibility

A general term used to describe the degree of ease that something (e.g., device, service, environment) can be used and enjoyed by persons with a disability. The term implies conscious planning, design and/or effort to ensure it is barrier-free to persons with a disability and, by extension, highly usable and practical for the general population as well.

## Active Transportation

Any form of human-powered transportation such as: walking, jogging, running, cycling, in-line skating, skateboarding, snowshoeing, and skiing.

## Affordable Housing

Defined by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation as housing that does not necessitate a household spending more than 30% of gross income on shelter costs.

## Aggregates

Aggregates are a granular material used in construction. Aggregates are produced from natural sources extracted from quarries and gravel pits and in some countries from sea-dredged materials (marine aggregates).

## Biodiversity

The variation of life forms within a given ecosystem, biome or the entire earth. Biodiversity is often used as a measure of the health of biological systems.

## Brownfield

Undeveloped or previously developed properties that may be contaminated. Brownfields are usually, but not exclusively, former industrial or commercial properties that may be underutilized, derelict or vacant.

## By-Law

The written rules for conduct of a corporation, association, partnership or any organization. They should not be confused with the Articles of Corporation which only state the basic outline of the company, including stock structure. By-laws generally provide for meetings, elections of a board of directors and officers, filling vacancies, notices, types and duties of

officers, committees, assessments and other routine conduct. By-laws are, in effect, a contract among members, and must be formally adopted and/or amended.

## **Climate Change**

Changes in global climate patterns (such as temperature, precipitation, or wind) that last for extended periods of time as a result of either natural processes or human influences. In some cases 'climate change' has been used synonymously with the term 'global warming'.

## **Community Economic Development**

Community Economic Development (CED) is action taken locally by a community to provide economic opportunities and improve social conditions in a sustainable way. CED initiatives often aim to improve the lot of those who are disadvantaged. CED is a community-centred process that blends social and economic development to foster the economic, social, ecological and cultural wellbeing of communities.

## **Community Engagement**

How stakeholders and the public in communities are engaged in determining their needs and/or ways of addressing these. Engagement goes beyond simple consultation and feedback, and involves people working collaboratively, through inspired action and learning, to create and realize bold visions for their common future.

## **Complete Community**

Complete communities meet people's needs for daily living throughout an entire lifetime by providing convenient access to an appropriate mix of jobs, local services, a full range of housing, and community infrastructure including affordable housing, schools, recreation and open space for their residents. Convenient access to public transportation and options for safe, non-motorized travel is also a component of a complete community.

## **Culture**

A community's values and aspirations, traditions and shared memories, the ways they develop, receive and transmit these, and the ways of life these processes produce. Cultures are maintained through communities. Artistic expression and creativity are ways that cultural identities are developed.

## **Cultural Heritage**

The legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. Cultural heritage includes tangible culture (such as buildings,

monuments, landscapes, books, works of art and artifacts), intangible culture (such as folklore, traditions, language and knowledge), and natural heritage (including culturally-significant landscapes and biodiversity).

## Ecosystem

The system of interactions between living organisms and their environment.

## Feed-In-Tariff

An economic policy created to promote active investment in and production of renewable energy sources. Feed-in tariffs typically make use of long-term agreements and pricing tied to costs of production for renewable energy producers. By offering long-term contracts and guaranteed pricing, producers are sheltered from some of the inherent risks in renewable energy production, thus allowing for more diversity in energy technologies.

## Goal

Statement of general direction leading towards a desired end state or Vision.

## Green Economy

An economic system that results in improved human wellbeing and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.

## Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

Greenhouse gases include naturally occurring gases as well as new emissions created by industrial and individual activities. Naturally occurring GHG include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone. Others result exclusively from human industrial processes. Human activities also add significantly to the level of naturally occurring greenhouse gas emissions:

- *Carbon dioxide* is released into the atmosphere by the burning of solid waste, wood and wood products, and fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal).
- *Nitrous oxide* emissions occur during various agricultural and industrial processes, and when solid waste or fossil fuels are burned.
- *Methane* is emitted when organic waste decomposes, whether in landfills or in connection with livestock farming. Methane emissions also occur during the production and transport of fossil fuels.

## Indicator

A component of the community, such as a flow, an action, an activity or built space, that is measured over time and can help show changes in a specific condition. Indicators provide a measurement tool to gauge performance and can be used to educate and affect change.

## Integrated

In this context, “integrated” refers to the practice of bringing diverse, normally separate, concerns and planning processes together (e.g., transportation, land use, environment, housing, waste, water, energy, community health, recreation, culture, municipal finance, and others). Although community planning is, in principle, supposed to link these planning processes, in practice, this is not often done - the “silo” approach is the de facto practice. A Sustainability Strategy aims to establish a framework through which these various planning efforts can be dovetailed and integrated and therefore involves a multi-disciplinary approach that brings together a wide range of expertise. Moreover, a Sustainability Strategy recognizes that the municipality does not have sole control over urban processes and attempts to integrate other actors (such as industry, non-government organizations, other levels of government) into the planning process.

## Knowledge-Based Economy

An expression that describes trends in advanced economies towards greater dependence on knowledge, information and high skill levels, and the increasing need for ready access to all of these by the business and public sectors.

## Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™)

The LEED Green Building Rating System™ encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria. LEED is a third-party certification program and an internationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. It promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: (1) sustainable site development, (2) water efficiency, (3) energy efficiency, (4) materials selection, and (5) indoor environmental quality.

## Live-Work

Property which combines residential living space with commercial or manufacturing space; or working in the same community you live in.

## **Municipal Cultural Plan**

A process for utilizing a community's cultural assets to support economic development and to integrate culture into local planning and decision-making processes.

## **Natural Heritage**

Natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from an aesthetic or scientific point of view. Geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation. Natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.

## **Natural Resources**

A material source of wealth, such as timber, fresh water, or a mineral deposit, that occurs in a natural state and has economic value.

## **Policy**

Principles or rules used by organizations, governments and/or businesses to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes.

## **Renewable Energy**

Natural resources that provide energy such as sunlight, wind, tides and geothermal heat, which are naturally replenished.

## **Resilient**

The capability to anticipate risk, limit impact, and bounce back rapidly through survival, adaptability, evolution, and growth in the face of turbulent change.

## **Stakeholder**

An individual or group potentially affected by the activities of an organization/ government body.

## **Stormwater**

The discharge of water by runoff from land and impervious areas, such as paved streets, parking lots and buildings, during rainfall and snow events.

## **Stormwater Management**

Stormwater management is anything associated with the planning, maintenance, and regulation of facilities which collect, store, or convey stormwater.

## **Tourism**

Tourism is a social, cultural and economic phenomenon which entails the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual environment for personal or business/professional purposes. These people are called visitors (which may be either tourists or excursionists; residents or non-residents) and tourism has to do with their activities, some of which imply tourism expenditure.

## **Tax Base**

The assessed value of a set of assets, investments or income streams that is subject to taxation, or the assessed value of a single asset that is subject to taxation. Anything that can be taxed has a tax base.

## **Urban Growth Boundary**

An urban growth boundary is a line drawn between urban and rural lands defining the limits to which the urban area will grow.

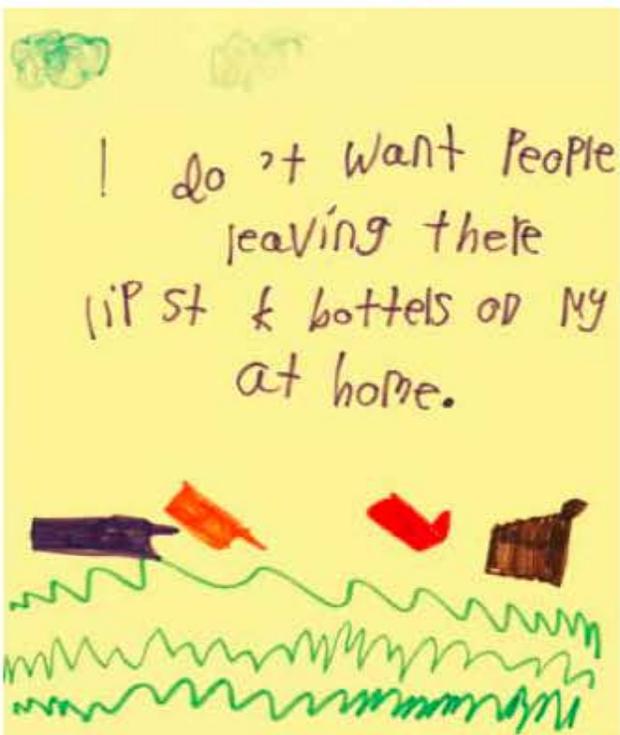
## **Vision**

A shared description or desired direction for the future.

## **Waste Diversion Rate**

The percentage of total waste that a jurisdiction diverts from disposal at landfills and transformation facilities through reduction, reuse, recycling programs and composting programs.

# SUSTAINABILITY



Artwork from local Halton Hills children showing what sustainability means to them.