



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Environmental Sustainability Action Plan

From: Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

Date: February 20, 2025

Report Number: TES-2025-005

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

The Bruce County 2023-2026 Strategic Plan identified Environment and Climate Change as a key pillar with a focus of increasing Bruce County's organizational capacity to lead in sustainable environmental practices. The Strategic Plan specifically identifies an objective is to build organizational capacity to create an Action Plan for environmental sustainability.

In advancing the Strategic Plan, the Transportation & Environmental Services 2025 Departmental Business Plan includes the development of an Environmental Sustainability Action Plan with the objective of building organizational capacity toward environmental sustainability in the County. This work will consider and integrate multiple environmental initiatives, including climate resilience & adaptation, energy conservation & demand management, forest conservation and transportation & transit, and waste management. The development of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

Background/Analysis:

Developing an Environmental Sustainability Action Plan is a 2025 Departmental Business Plan Initiative for the Transportation and Environmental Services Department, Environmental Services Division. The Environmental Services Manager, alongside the Environmental Initiatives Coordinator will establish a cross functional team of staff, who will support the preparatory phase of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan. This team will work to identify gaps and opportunities to improve the County's internal organizational capacity to advance Council's environmental priorities.

The Environmental Sustainability Action Plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2025 and will identify actions to be implemented in future years. This initiative directly supports

the overarching goals of the County's Strategic Plan, Saugeen Anishnaabek Reconciliation Action Plan and the 2025 Transportation and Environmental Services Business Plan. The scope of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan will consider and integrate multiple environmental initiatives including:

- **Climate Resilience & Adaptation:** Build capacity to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change by identifying opportunities to prepare for the development of a Climate Action Plan including training and programming for staff, as well as defining timelines and milestones.
- **Energy Conservation & Demand Management (ECDM):** Review the County's 2024-2028 ECDM plan and identify long-term actions that could be taken to improve the County's future energy consumption.
- **Forest Conservation:** Review current policies, by-law and procedures related to forest conservation across the County.
- **Transportation & Transit:** Consider opportunities, infrastructure and programming to promote more environmentally sustainable transportation choices. It will also identify opportunities to grow existing transit initiatives, such as Smart Commute, as well as advance recommendations from the 2023 Transit Demand and Feasibility Study.
- **Waste Management:** Provide leadership, through collaboration and coordination, by identifying opportunities to reduce waste, evaluate new opportunities in tandem with the County's Long-Term Waste Management Plan, currently under development.

Other initiatives may also be identified through engagement with rightsholders and stakeholders. By establishing the County's environmental priorities through the creation of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, the County is taking critical steps towards increasing our internal capacity to lead in sustainable environmental practices.

Expected timelines for completion of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP):

Key Project Phases	2025 Q1	2025 Q2	2025 Q3	2025 Q4
Project Initiation - Review County and Departmental priorities to establish framework and project charter				
Project and Cross Functional Team Launch				
Engagement with First Nations Rightsholders, Municipal Partners and other stakeholders				
Undertake a needs assessment, environmental scan & SWOT analysis				
Identify short-term and long-term goals and recommendations				
Present Draft ESAP to County Council for Input				
Council Review and Endorsement				

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

The Environmental Sustainability Action Plan will be developed utilizing internal staff resources.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

The Office of the CAO was consulted on this report.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Environment and Climate Change - Build capacity to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

Transportation and Environmental Services 2025 Departmental Business Plan

Report Author:

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Departmental Approval:

Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

Approved for Submission:

Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development

Attachments:

None.