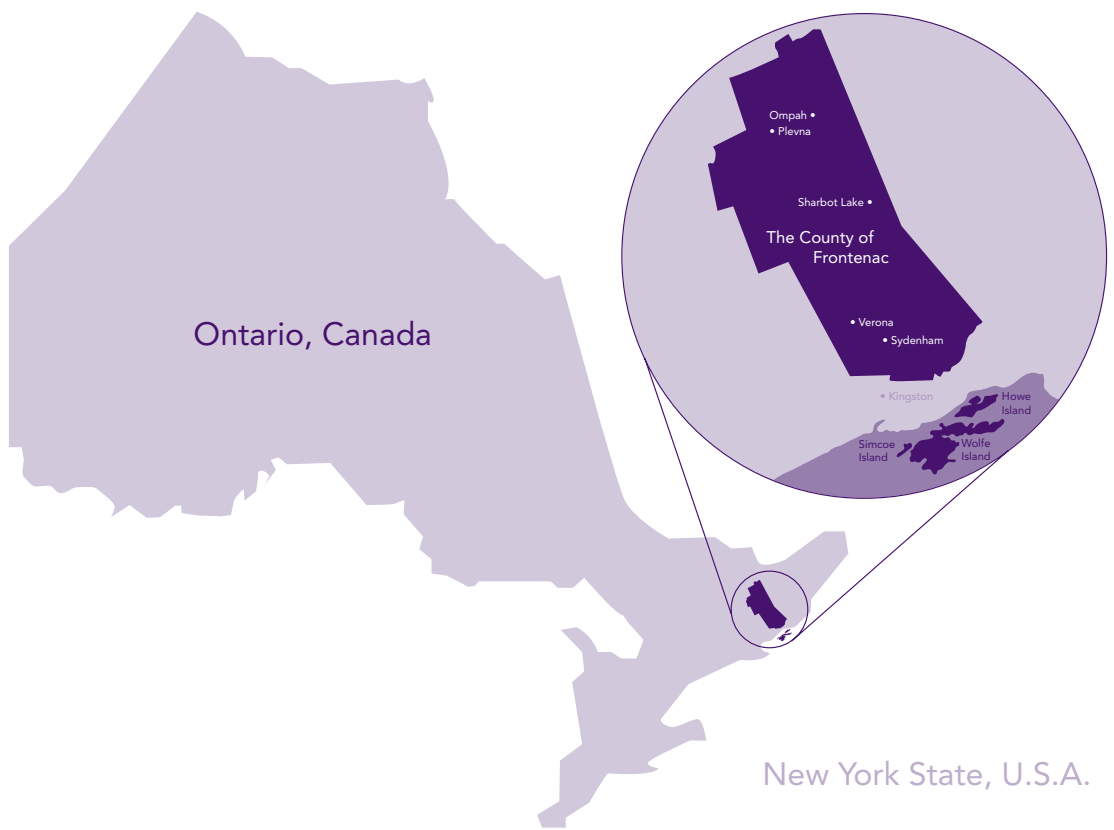




Directions for our Future

County of Frontenac Guide to Sustainability



Frontenac County is one of the most unique regions in Canada.

Directions for Our Future offers a glimpse into the elements of rich natural heritage and modern innovations which drive the Frontenacs towards sustainability.

Join us as we implement a vision of County-wide sustainability now and for future generations.

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Executive Summary

Directions for Our Future is the product of ongoing research and consultation regarding the desires for a sustainable future throughout the County of Frontenac.

The County covers a large geographic area and sustainability-focused planning acts as a unifying mechanism to ensure all its elements are considered in decision making. There are four pillars of sustainability focused upon throughout the planning process: social, cultural, economic and environmental. A County-wide approach towards planning for a sustainable future ensures communities work together with the Townships and the County to achieve efficient and positive results – even fifty years into the future.

This project is facilitated by the County of Frontenac and has been supported by all four Townships as well as local, provincial and federal governments and organizations, community groups, lake associations and engaged residents. The ongoing commitment towards a sustainable future depends on continued support and community buy-in, hence there will be an annual gathering to celebrate and discuss achievements and goals. A tremendous amount of effort continues to focus on introducing, educating and sharing the principles of sustainability with as many seasonal and permanent residents and stakeholders as possible.



Values and principles of sustainability are key drivers behind this project. A strong set of community values and principles from all four pillars has been created with input from hundreds of stakeholders. These values and principles contribute towards the development of the project's vision: *County of Frontenac – Fresh With Opportunity: Growing Vibrant, Innovative, Natural, Sustainable Places*. The vision was established over a period of two years to ensure the preservation, appreciation and continuous improvements of the unique systems throughout the region. The vision positions the Frontenacs as one of the most progressive rural municipalities in terms of community-based sustainability planning.

To implement and realize the vision of a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future, thirteen Focus Areas were recognized as valuable and important in the consideration and development of sustainability policies, programs and projects in the Frontenacs. Each pillar of sustainability closely relates to each Focus Area.

A thoughtful and well-rounded approach to monitoring the effectiveness of suggested projects and their contribution to a sustainable County is also a priority. The use of a set of custom-tailored indicators has been developed to assess the effectiveness and extent of County-wide sustainability for each Focus Area.

Ongoing engagement and communication with seasonal and year-round stakeholders across the Frontenacs is critical to sustainable and long-term planning. Therefore, a commitment to continuously facilitating open paths of communication in order to ensure the long-term success, community support and excitement for the plan is an important part of the program. Contacting the project team with questions, comments and suggestions is encouraged and public involvement will continue to grow throughout the life of this project.



Guide to Readers

Sustainability Explained

The terms sustainability, sustainable, and sustainable development are used to describe innovative and holistic approaches towards planning and decision making. Many organizations and municipalities have embraced this concept, which is described as:

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (from 1987 Brundtland Report).

In the Frontenacs, sustainability is defined as:

Reaching a desired future state that incorporates values – identified by community members and organizations – which integrate social, cultural, economic and environmental issues.

These issues are known as the four pillars of sustainability. Sustainable community planning will be unique to our region since our priorities, pressures, values and opportunities are defined by our community members themselves. Through this process, community sustainability is achieved most effectively.



What is *Directions for Our Future*?

Directions for Our Future provides you with a look into one of the most unique regions in Canada – the County of Frontenac. You can use this document as well as the associated project website to explore the ongoing commitment towards a sustainable future throughout our County by individuals, municipalities and community organizations. A tremendous amount of time and effort has been dedicated to consulting with seasonal and year-round residents, visitors, businesses, municipal representatives, neighbours and interested stakeholders to determine what values and priorities are essential to long-term sustainability and prosperity.

Driven largely by community participation and contributions, *Directions for Our Future* is an innovative glimpse into opportunities and factors which influence decision making and planning in the Frontenacs over the short and long-term. *Directions for Our Future* is guided by a shared, County-wide vision towards a sustainable future in the Frontenacs. Engaged community members and stakeholders agree the sustainability values, principles and desires presented throughout this document contribute towards a healthier future.

An important consideration in the Frontenacs is balancing the needs of residents and stakeholders while ensuring a high level of conservation, stewardship and protection of natural riches. Sustainability planning ensures that a holistic approach is used to integrate all social, cultural, economic and environmental forces and impacts of decision-making.

While reading through *Directions for Our Future*, we invite you to take the time to envision the Frontenacs in the future and to recognize the valuable contribution the sustainability initiatives currently underway in your own community are already making to that future vision.

Why is *Directions for Our Future* Important?

Frontenac County covers a large geographic area yet has a relatively low population base. We need a broad, unifying approach towards planning which incorporates considerations of our society, cultural elements, economy and natural environment. *Directions for Our Future* acts as a unifying mechanism to ensure the pillars of sustainability are proactively considered, addressed and factored into planning decisions to ensure the Frontenacs remain a healthy and prosperous place to live, work and play.

There are several purposes of this project which ensure the Frontenacs remain a unique and valued region. *Directions for Our Future* is intended to establish principles and decision-making policies that encourage, guide and promote sustainable behaviour throughout the County.

The work presented here represents the beginning of a long and ongoing commitment to a process for planning and managing our development and growth. There has never been such a strong and collaborative project in the County before which addresses all four pillars in planning considerations. *Directions for Our Future* is a unifying thread which connects the County with each Township and our communities and contributes to our common goal: to remain *fresh with opportunity*. When approaching planning through such a focused lens, we can overcome a variety of unwanted complications and factors:

Lack of collaboration limits efficiency

With a long list of sustainable initiatives already underway in the Frontenacs, important connections have been facilitated through *Directions for Our Future*. Groups undertaking similar initiatives are able to pool resources and knowledge to achieve goals most efficiently. Establishing a path towards sustainability is most effective when achieving economies of scale through collaboration.

Important factors are excluded when considering options in a vacuum

By approaching planning from the four pillar approach, non-traditional considerations are included in the definition and development of community-wide sustainability.

Without a plan to manage change, the alternative is to react to it

Through a thoughtful and engaging outreach campaign, stakeholders in the Frontenacs are consulted on an ongoing basis to refine and evolve a sustainability plan that is self-directed and accurately reflects the desires of County residents.

Become a sustainability leader

If you have not yet had the opportunity to share your beliefs about the path towards sustainability in the Frontenacs, we encourage you to become involved. We can ensure a more prosperous and equitable future with strong community participation. Contact information and involvement details are available at the end of *Directions for Our Future*.

If you are interested in becoming involved with sustainability planning in the Frontenacs, visit www.directionsforourfuture.ca to find out about the opportunities.

Comments, suggestions and questions are welcome and encouraged.



Who Develops and Maintains Directions for Our Future?

The County of Frontenac has been leading the development of *Directions for Our Future* since 2007 with the participation of the Townships of North Frontenac, Central Frontenac, South Frontenac and Frontenac Islands. This project relies upon community engagement and constant feedback drives this sustainability initiative forward. While facilitated by the County of Frontenac, there is an ever-growing group of stakeholders who we need to continuously participate in our annual meetings and other activities to ensure our vision is constantly growing and adapting to current conditions.

The group of stakeholders is diverse and represents an important community relationship. To achieve our vision of sustainability, this project must be owned and encouraged by those who live, work and play in the County as well as businesses and organizations with a strong Frontenac connection. There is a committed group of stakeholders who have participated and continue to participate bringing sustainability-focused topics and projects to light throughout the region.

Partners

Sustainability in the Frontenacs is also driven by a variety of businesses, community organizations and municipalities which support an aligned vision towards County-wide sustainability. These groups demonstrate their commitment through partnership agreements which coordinate support for sustainability principles, short, medium and long term priorities, and the vision for long-term sustainability. Many more businesses and organizations throughout the Frontenacs support a sustainable future and make the vision a reality by implementing actions and projects which have positive net cultural, social, economic and/or environmental benefits Visit www.directionsforourfuture.ca and click on *Involvement* to learn more about partnerships and opportunities for involvement.

Values and Principles

Through County-wide consultation and conversations, Frontenac residents and stakeholders continually share their beliefs about a sustainable future. The following statements are identified as the most valued priorities contributing towards our social, cultural, economic and environmental sustainability. These principles align with provincial and federal targets and goals for establishing communities as sustainable places now and for future generations.



Social

1. Social sustainability is based on equity, diversity, connectivity, democracy and a good quality of life.
2. The quality of life of our current generation does not prevent future generations from enjoying a similar quality of life.
3. People contribute fully to their own well being or engage fully in community life because they live in a community where they feel safe and secure.

Cultural

1. Culture and recreation are vital components of our healthy community.
2. Our strong sense of community is reflected in the spirit of numerous and varied small events, fundraisers and gatherings that celebrate local talent and heritage and support local needs and initiatives.
3. The character of our community reflects strong political and community commitment and attention to a variety of aspects (landscapes, built form, heritage, mix of uses, urban design, services, etc.)

The Frontenacs are rooted in the pristine natural environment that so clearly identifies the region itself.



Economic

1. Economic resources (such as land, labour, capital and technology) are used in ways that maximize productivity, minimize pollution and waste, and meet the social needs of all, now and for future generations.
2. Economic sustainability depends on social, cultural and environmental sustainability.
3. Community economic development efforts help to create and preserve each community's sense of uniqueness, attractiveness, history, and cultural and social diversity, and include public gathering places and a strong local sense of place.

Environmental

1. All individuals are responsible stewards of the natural environment, undertaking to make sustainable choices with regard to personal movement and consumption.
2. Resources are used efficiently by using renewable resources sustainably; by considering the impacts of exploiting non-renewable resources; by avoiding overtaxing natural systems; and by ensuring the polluter/user pays.
3. Green spaces like farmland and environmentally sensitive areas are preserved and enhanced.

County of Frontenac: Fresh With Opportunity
Growing Vibrant, Innovative, Natural, Sustainable Places

The Frontenacs Then and Now

The matter of the sustainability of our region has a long history. Certainly, the first people who lived in Frontenac County had no problem. For the Anishanabe people – the Ojibway, Algonquin, Nippissing – this place was their homeland.

The French called the Ojibway who lived around Lake Ontario, the Mississauga: “the people who live in the country where there are many mouths of rivers.” And, like the Algonquin and Nipissing who also frequented the lands between the Ottawa River and Lake Ontario, the Mississauga fished the lakes and rivers, and hunted the forests. It was their “homeland” and they respected with two principal values: Bimaadiziwin, or living in a good way in peace and harmony with self and world; and, Menoyawin, health and wellness. Both of these terms related to their community relationships as well as that of the people with Nature. Indeed, both were inseparable.

But the story changed with the advent of European settlers. Perhaps understandably, when you consider the long-settled lands they had come from, they considered the forests to be a wilderness to be conquered, to be transformed into a productive place. And “productive” meant regulating Nature. Along the lake littoral, the lake resources were organized into licensed fisheries. On land, the forests were chopped to produce lumber, potash, and most importantly, productive land. The product was wheat, even though many of the local soils were wet and cold and low-yielding. Later, experience was to prove that the best use for much of the land was pasture, cattle, and dairying. In any event, the agricultural frontier saw trees becoming fences, forests becoming fields, and a countryside of farms, barns, churches, and villages constructed.

At least where that was possible. Farther to the north where the limestone gave way to the granites and schists, and lakes and bogs of the Canadian Shield, for long, the pine-lands were the domain of the lumberers. The rivers and their tributaries of the north part of Frontenac drained north to the Ottawa, then on to the St. Lawrence, and finally on to the Atlantic and British shipyards. The local scene was one of a landscape pocked with transient lumber shanties and of a riverscape of sluices and dams to facilitate the river runs to market.

The other late nineteenth century resource was equally unforgiving: mining. If the Shield was not conducive to producing good soils, it was rich in minerals: iron, mica, phosphate, talc, lead, and even gold. But, with some exceptions, always in small quantities. For some fortunate marginal farmers, the location of minerals in their property offered a supplement to their precarious economy. But a Royal Commission accused mineral prospectors of a practice that affected all: burning the forests to have better access to minerals.



However wide spread this practice was, there was another threat. Late nineteenth century Frontenac experienced tremendous forest-fires thought to have been caused by sparks from the funnels of the engines of the Kingston-Pembroke Railway. Scores of families were displaced, thousands of acres of forest were burned, and, for days, the harbour at Kingston was as dark as night at noon.

Perhaps this marked the lowest point of our region's exploitative and insensitive attitude towards sustaining our natural environment. By the late 1880s, a new ethic was emerging. Nature was being romanticized by poets, painters, and politicians. Parks were established at Algonquin Park, and the Thousand Islands, and, to the west, Bon Echo became a mecca for nature-loving poets, writers, and artists. Nature was becoming iconic. Frontenac Park was later established as an area for recreation and conservation. Throughout the Frontenacs, the beauties of forests and lakes became a new resource to be consumed by a new set of exploiters – the cottagers or seasonal residents.

The point is, there is a new ethic directing the future of Frontenac County: sustainability. We have been persuaded that our old game plan was wrong and we understand resources must be sustained. Effective management must address the needs of the future. It is a matter of ethics and rationality. Indeed, there are four pillars of sustainability: society, culture, economy, and environment or ecology.

What a template and mission for Frontenac County: Protecting our wonderfully diverse environment, for an appropriate economic development, that enriches the quality of life of our inhabitants, and celebrates the rich heritage of our predecessors. Indeed, Frontenac County can lead the way!

— Courtesy of Dr. Brian Osborne, Frontenac Historian



Commitment Towards a Sustainable Future

Framed by priorities suggested by hundreds of Frontenac stakeholders, our mission towards sustainability promotes continued community engagement, buy-in and excitement. To ensure community interest and engagement that remain fresh, updated and inspiring, the County will host an annual sustainability gathering to discuss recent achievements and future considerations. The celebration of achievements is a pivotal function which allows for ongoing recognition and collaboration between those who make the path towards sustainability a reality.

Establishing the Sustainable Frontenacs

The path towards a sustainable future will require effort and determination. As we are ready to undertake an innovative path towards a healthy and prosperous future, we value the opportunity to realize the sustainable Frontenacs defined by the community.

This is a living project which continues to grow and develop. The County of Frontenac and all Townships are committed to working with community stakeholders and organizations to ensure social, cultural, economic and environmental sustainability in the Frontenacs. The continued success of sustainable planning in the Frontenacs relies upon dedicated community members who share the same passion and vision for a sustainable future with the municipalities involved.



Our Vision

County of Frontenac: Fresh With Opportunity
Growing Vibrant, Innovative, Natural, Sustainable Places

With an influx of residents and visitors to the Frontenacs, the need for a clear and attainable vision is apparent.

Fifty years into the future, the County of Frontenac is one of the most progressive municipalities in terms of community-based sustainability planning because priorities and beliefs are determined through community consultation and County-wide considerations are well thought through and incorporate the four pillars of sustainability. The vision, developed to ensure the ongoing appreciation and continued improvements to our social, cultural, economic and environmental systems, strongly defines the region.

Vision Statement

The County of Frontenac is a collection of healthy, vibrant, prosperous and environmentally sustainable communities in a rural pocket of Eastern Ontario. The extensive network of hamlets and villages are as diverse as their geography and are integrated, creating our community fabric of neighbours working together to support strong community groups of seasonal and permanent residents.

The Frontenacs are rooted in the pristine natural environment that so clearly identifies the region itself. To the north, the County stretches into the Canadian Shield where lakes and rivers meander through thousands of acres of coniferous trees and igneous rock formations, as though inviting recreation and nature lovers to explore the pristine watershed. Traveling south, an extensive network of trails weaves between lively communities, productive farmland, unspoiled forests and beautiful lakes. Island life in the St. Lawrence Seaway offers a peaceful lifestyle for residents, businesses and tourists alike. Renewable energy production and smaller-scale island farms offer a balance between a rich agricultural heritage and a new and innovative vision of progress.

Tourism is a prominent industry in the County and over half a million visitors each year take in the Frontenacs' rich history, vibrant community life, gracious hospitality and unparalleled natural beauty. Residents and local farms support sustainable methods of production which supply fresh products to local and regional markets. In the County of Frontenac, residents work together with local government and community organizations to maintain healthy social, cultural, economic and environmental systems, now and for future generations.





Introduction to Focus Areas

Directions for Our Future showcases the elements of sustainability which are valued and important factors when establishing policies and projects in the Frontenacs. To implement and realize visions of a healthy, prosperous and successful future, thirteen Focus Areas are identified as key areas of consideration which contribute to effective County-wide sustainable planning.

1. Protection of Natural Areas
2. Land Use Planning and Management
3. Economic Development and Communications
4. Energy
5. Water
6. Waste
7. Transportation
8. Infrastructure
9. Health and Social Services
10. Housing
11. Recreation and Leisure
12. Culture and Heritage
13. Capacity Building and Governance

Monitoring Our Success

How do we track how sustainable and positive our actions are in the Frontenacs? If we undertake a project or initiative which contributes to a healthier community, how do we measure its success? In other words, we need some indication of what we are striving for within each of the four pillars.

Strong public policy and a commitment to accountability are necessary to keep sustainable planning current and fresh in the Frontenacs. Sustainability indicators are a useful tool to monitor and track progress. They go beyond traditional measures and indices to incorporate factors which contribute to community capacity and development. Appropriate sustainability indicators should be based on the four pillars to capture the close relationship between the core sustainability principles selected by residents of the Frontenacs and the Focus Areas listed in the preceding section. They are useful in gauging and monitoring the effectiveness of various initiatives as they relate to national and provincial benchmarks and/or local baseline information. Benchmarks and baselines allow for comparison and help determine our extent of progress.

Each Focus Area has a list of sustainability indicators which have been developed in accordance with provincial and federal targets for community sustainability. Because the established Values and Principles are the basis for each indicator, they ensure progress towards municipal, provincial and federal targets.

Senior levels of government have communicated a number of national and provincial priorities, with corresponding indicators, that *Directions for Our Future* will contribute to:

Social

- Reduce poverty
- Sufficient gainful employment
- Higher education levels
- Increase/enhance access to social services
- Increase/enhance access to medical services

Cultural

- Recognize and support existing rural culture
- Protect natural and historic heritage
- Support and encourage the development and growth of local arts and artists
- Support cultural diversity
- Advance the library system



Economic

- Increased standard of living
- Diversity and stability of local job base
- Varied skill levels required for jobs
- Increased level of entrepreneurship
- Investment in skills and knowledge
- Investment in public and private infrastructure
- Promote innovation
- New collaborative opportunities

Environmental

- Cleaner air
- Cleaner water
- Reduced GHG emissions
- Safe, reliable transportation options
- Efficient and sustainable energy systems

Visit www.directionsforourfuture.ca and click on *Reports* to see how stakeholders across the region are working to establish healthy communities.



Focus Areas

Protection of Natural Areas

Land Use Planning and Management

Economic Development and Communications

Energy

Water

Solid Waste Management

Transportation

Infrastructure

Health and Social Services

Housing

Recreation and Leisure

Culture and Heritage

Capacity Building and Governance

Protection of Natural Areas

The Frontenacs have a rich natural environment which makes the region a unique place to live, work and play. There is a strong desire for a unified ecological identity in the Frontenacs based around the dozens of conservation, protection and preservation efforts undertaken by stakeholder groups.

Vision Statement

The County of Frontenac's rich natural environment is thriving because of its commitment to integrated sustainability planning and stewardship. A set of principles and planning policies have been developed through consultation with residents, tourists and organizations that strive to balance the protection of natural areas with opportunities for discovering the outdoors. This results in a healthy mosaic of ecologically managed forests, trails, farmland, wetlands and watersheds.

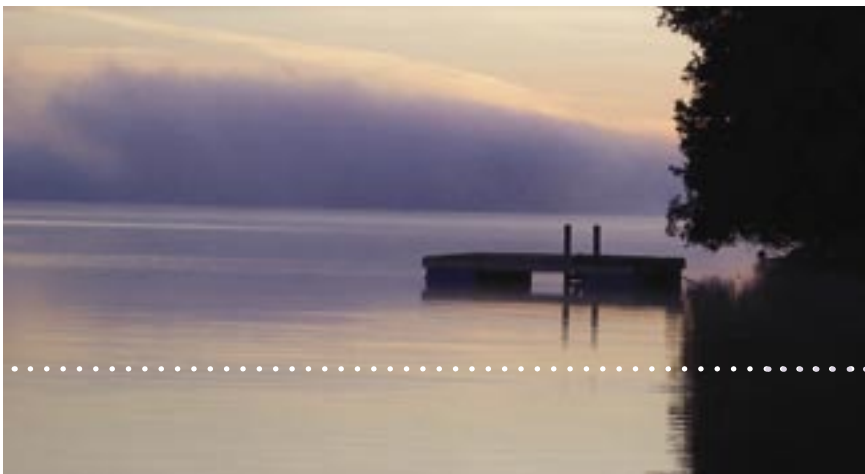
Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability indicators are used to measure the well-being of the region and track our progress towards established goals. Success will be measured against baselines. Indicators for Protection of Natural Areas include:

- Hectares of natural areas protected
- Number of stewardship initiatives underway
- Number of species at risk
- Number of lake management plans
- Hectares of wetlands
- Hectares of parks/green space
- Opportunities to discover the outdoors

Action Planning

Projects suggested by community stakeholders and Task Forces are collected and organized on the website at www.directionsforourfuture.ca. Project suggestions from all stakeholders in the Frontenacs are equally encouraged and valued and the online list represents sustainability-focused project suggestions received to date. Please check the site often for details regarding upcoming and ongoing projects and commitments.



Land Use Planning and Management

Land use planning and management in the Frontenacs involves responsible and proactive decision-making. This approach ensures a clean and healthy environment, a strong economy, and long-term prosperity and social well-being for communities and residents now, and for future generations.

Vision Statement

Through regular consultations with stakeholders and agencies, the County of Frontenac has developed a community sustainability plan that emphasizes coordinated land use planning among the County and the Townships. Land use planning throughout the Frontenacs proactively realizes continuous community improvement and stewardship of the natural environment. Responsible planning facilitates linkages between users and services while integrating social connections, cultural experiences, economic development and ecological integrity.

Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability indicators are used to measure the well-being of the region and track our progress towards established goals. Success will be measured against baselines. Indicators for Land Use Planning and Management include:

- Hectares of Frontenacs mapped through GIS
- Number of layers of GIS mapping
- Densification of new developments
- Increased land stewardship initiatives
- Land claims and settlements
- Hectares of protected agricultural land
- Number of brownfield site redevelopments
- Community character is reflected in the development of local hamlets
- Policies arising from the development of the sustainability plan and ongoing community consultations are developed and incorporated into Official Plans and Zoning By-laws

Action Planning

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Focus Areas

Protection of Natural Areas

Land Use Planning and Management

Economic Development and Communications

Energy

Water

Solid Waste Management

Transportation

Infrastructure

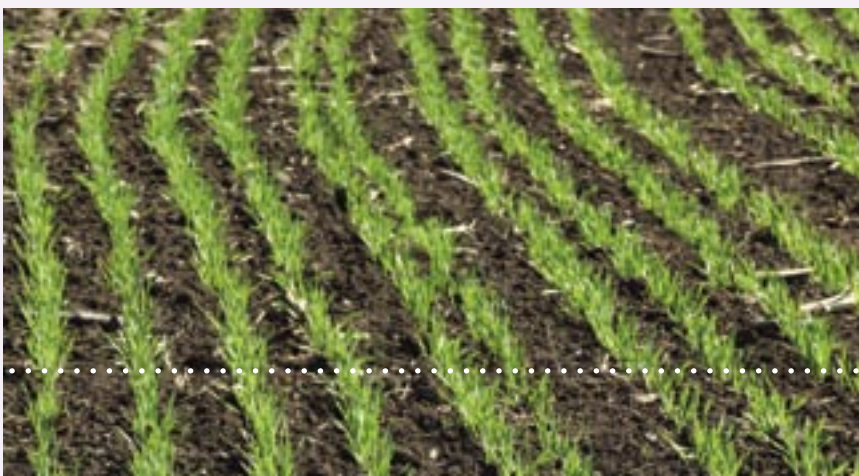
Health and Social Services

Housing

Recreation and Leisure

Culture and Heritage

Capacity Building and Governance





Focus Areas

Protection of Natural Areas

Land Use Planning and Management

Economic Development and Communications

Energy

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Transportation

Infrastructure

Health and Social Services

Housing

Recreation and Leisure

Culture and Heritage

Capacity Building and Governance

Economic Development and Communications

The Frontenacs are a hub of activity. With a number of initiatives promoting sustainable development throughout the region, the County is becoming a leader in the attraction and development of businesses and activities which promote the triple bottom line. Connecting the Frontenacs within the County and with the world is an ongoing task throughout the region. However, improved access to new and innovative communication technologies facilitates previously unavailable services for residents, industry and businesses.

Vision Statement

The County of Frontenac has a diverse and dynamic economic base comprised of thriving local businesses that promote our cultural and natural history. Economic development takes health, community, education, and environmental and social objectives into account. Through collaborative partnerships across the County and beyond, residents have year round employment opportunities that support well-being, community vitality, and local sustainability.

State-of-the-art communication services support residents who choose to work from home or to expand their business through virtual networks, as well as seasonal residents who want access to these networks. New technologies and connections facilitate remote access to educational, financial, medical and social services previously unavailable.

Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability indicators are used to measure the well-being of the region and track our progress towards established goals. Success will be measured against baselines. Indicators for Economic Development and Communications include:

- Number of new knowledge-based businesses
- Number of new home-based businesses
- Number of new agriculture-related businesses
- Number of new tourism-related businesses
- Number of new green-energy businesses
- New investments in broadband and cellular infrastructure
- Number of internet service providers
- Investment in new skills and higher learning

Action Planning

Projects suggested by community stakeholders and Task Forces are collected and organized on the website at www.directionsforourfuture.ca. Project suggestions from all stakeholders in the Frontenacs are equally encouraged and valued and the online list represents sustainability-focused project suggestions received to date. Please check the site often for details regarding upcoming and ongoing projects and commitments.

Energy

A focus on reducing the amount of energy consumed, combined with renewable energy production and encouragement, positions the Frontenacs at the forefront of the green energy revolution. Conservation measures combined with clean, low-impact electrical generation contribute to a gradual shift away from a reliance on fossil fuels.

Vision Statement

The County of Frontenac is a leader among rural communities in the development, conservation, generation and efficient use of clean, renewable energy that fulfills the community's energy needs.

The County of Frontenac's diverse energy systems reduce emissions and externalities on air, land, water, and the climate.

Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability indicators are used to measure the well-being of the region and track our progress towards established goals. Success will be measured against baselines. Indicators for Energy include:

- Reduced energy consumption per capita residential
- Reduced energy consumption per capita industrial
- Reduced energy consumption per capita commercial
- Reduced energy consumption per capita institutional
- Increased energy generation from renewable sources in the Frontenacs
- Number of energy efficiency/conservation programs used
- Number of energy education/awareness programs offered
- Number of LEED-certified projects

Action Planning

Projects suggested by community stakeholders and Task Forces are collected and organized on the sustainability website at www.directionsforourfuture.ca. Project suggestions from all stakeholders in the Frontenacs are equally encouraged and valued and the online list represents sustainability-focused project suggestions received to date. Please check the site often for details regarding upcoming and ongoing projects and commitments.



Focus Areas

Protection of Natural Areas

Land Use Planning and Management

Economic Development and Communications

Energy

Water

Solid Waste Management

Transportation

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Health and Social Services

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Water

Healthy and protected water is a main element that attracts new residents to the area and it is a source of pride to those who live in the Frontenacs. Watershed management, stewardship and appreciation are also commonly identified as elements which should be a core component of the Frontenac sustainability plan.

Vision Statement

Residents of the County of Frontenac have access to clean water. Water use is conserved and high demand applications are carefully monitored. Waste water and storm water are managed using local, low energy systems that have a net positive impact on the natural environment. Potable water provision, storm water management and flood control measures are designed to maintain the integrity of watersheds, including streams, rivers, lakes, riparian areas and wetlands.

Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability indicators are used to measure the well-being of the region and track our progress towards established goals. Success will be measured against baselines. Indicators for Water include:

- Number of source water protection initiatives
- Increased septic system inspections
- Number of water education programs
- Reduced domestic water consumption per capita
- Number of source water protection plans developed and implemented
- Number of lake management plans developed and implemented

Action Planning

Projects suggested by community stakeholders and Task Forces are collected and organized on the website at www.directionsforourfuture.ca. Project suggestions from all stakeholders in the Frontenacs are equally encouraged and valued and the online list represents sustainability-focused project suggestions received to date. Please check the site often for details regarding upcoming and ongoing projects and commitments.



Solid Waste Management

With landfills reaching a carrying capacity throughout the County, there is an urgent need to reduce the production of wasteful materials. This, combined with new and innovative waste management technologies, will establish the Frontenacs as leaders in responsible and timely action to mitigate County-wide issues relating to solid waste management.

Vision Statement

The County of Frontenac embraces the goal of zero waste to landfill and the diversion of all recyclable and compostable waste. There is a strong awareness of how to reduce waste through heightened consumer education, minimized consumption, and reduced packaging from industry. There are many viable options for waste diversion including reuse, recycling, composting and other forms of resource recovery. The County is part of an integrated waste management system that ensures environmentally responsible methods of waste management and reaches beyond its borders for solutions scaled to achieve regional efficiencies.

Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability indicators are used to measure the well-being of the region and track our progress towards established goals. Success will be measured against baselines. Indicators for Solid Waste Management include:

- Reduced production of solid waste
- Reduced production of hazardous waste
- Increased resident and business participation in recycling and composting
- Number of waste minimization/education initiatives
- Expanded waste and recycling collection route
- Number of school initiatives
- Bags of highway litter gathered annually
- Change in expected life of landfill site
- Development of a County-wide integrated waste management plan

Action Planning

Projects suggested by community stakeholders and Task Forces are collected and organized on the website at www.directionsforourfuture.ca. Project suggestions from all stakeholders in the Frontenacs are equally encouraged and valued and the online list represents sustainability-focused project suggestions received to date. Please check the site often for details regarding upcoming and ongoing projects and commitments.



Focus Areas

- Protection of Natural Areas
- Land Use Planning and Management
- Economic Development and Communications
- Energy
- Water

Solid Waste Management

- Transportation
- Infrastructure
- Health and Social Services
- Housing
- Recreation and Leisure
- Culture and Heritage
- Capacity Building and Governance



Focus Areas

Protection of Natural Areas

Land Use Planning and Management

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Energy

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Transportation

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Housing

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Culture and Heritage

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Transportation

The Frontenacs are located along several important transportation corridors. There is a strong need and importance for infrastructure and equipment that is well maintained and managed in the delivery of its services. A complete transportation system includes a network for non-mechanized methods of travel.

Vision Statement

The County of Frontenac is connected to and conveys regional transportation networks that provide residents with access to health care, employment and other services. The ferry service, road network, bridges and capital equipment are well managed, efficient and affordable, and the ecological impact is minimized.

Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability indicators are used to measure the well-being of the region and track our progress towards established goals. Success will be measured against baselines. Indicators for Transportation include:

- Investment in well-maintained roads and bridges
- Investment in ferry services
- Increased public transportation services
- Kilometres of bicycle lanes established
- Kilometres of multi-use trails developed
- Pedestrian friendly streets
- Reduced tonnage of road salt per kilometre
- Reduction in number of commuters driving alone

Action Planning

Projects suggested by community stakeholders and Task Forces are collected and organized on the website at www.directionsforourfuture.ca. Project suggestions from all stakeholders in the Frontenacs are equally encouraged and valued and the online list represents sustainability-focused project suggestions received to date. Please check the site often for details regarding upcoming and ongoing projects and commitments.



Infrastructure

Long-lasting, efficiently designed and properly maintained infrastructure contributes towards the Frontenacs' vision of sustainability. Strong coordination between the County and Townships ensures that infrastructure provides maximum utility at reasonable cost while ensuring minimized environmental impacts.

Vision Statement

Services and economic activity in the County of Frontenac are supported by good quality, well maintained and well managed public, commercial, industrial, and residential infrastructure, with life-cycle cost and environmental considerations. County and Townships' prudent fiscal management ensures an appropriate balance between servicing ongoing municipal demands and investing in future operations and improvements.

Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability indicators are used to measure the well-being of the region and track our progress towards established goals. Success will be measured against baselines. Indicators for Infrastructure include:

- Increased collaboration between municipalities
- Number of project announcements and approvals
- Number of signed agreements with partners
- Value (\$) of infrastructure funding commitments secured
- Reduction in costs to municipalities due to integrated planning

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Health and Social Services

The County of Frontenac is dedicated to helping provide health and social services to the residents of the County. Through the establishment of policies and programs which address current and future needs, sufficient and effective medical and social services make the Frontenacs a great place to live, work and play.

Vision Statement

Residents (both permanent and seasonal) are able to access high quality health care and professional social services through a network of care facilities and programs in the Frontenacs. The County fosters the network of health care and social service providers through development, maintenance, attraction and retention programs. It also advocates for a strong health and social services system, supported through effective service delivery agreements.

Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability indicators are used to measure the well-being of the region and track our progress towards established goals. Success will be measured against baselines. Indicators for Health and Social Services include:

- Number of social assistance recipients
- Number of ambulance calls
- Ratio of residents to family physicians
- Improved access to healthcare services
- Population growth (in percent)
- Educational attainment
- Number of gainful employment opportunities
- Number of children in subsidized day care

Action Planning

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Housing

The Frontenacs must have a diversity of housing types to meet the needs of residents of all income levels. Housing affordability is enhanced by designing homes and developments which address needs and requirements of the entire County.

Vision Statement

The County of Frontenac has a diversity of housing types, tenures, and price ranges to meet the needs of permanent residents at different income levels. Seniors, youth, rural poor and others have options to stay in their communities if they choose, perhaps living in their homes with support services, or in long-term care or transition/assisted living facilities. Housing affordability is enhanced by designing energy efficient buildings that can be adapted over time to accommodate different uses, changes in technology, and demographics. Policies and programs address persistent problems and issues such as “hidden homelessness”; the migration of new/urban residents into the County in search of lower cost housing, but who don’t understand the full costs of living in a rural area; and the need for minimum property standards (physical, not housekeeping) that are enforced to support the quality of available housing.

Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability indicators are used to measure the well-being of the region and track our progress towards established goals. Success will be measured against baselines. Indicators for Housing include:

- Average annual vacancy rate
- Waiting time for affordable housing units
- Number of applicants for subsidized housing
- Housing prices as price to income ratio
- Number of dwellings in need of major repair
- Annual applicants for subsidized housing
- Number of people using homeless shelters
- Waiting time for long-term care beds
- Number of low income renters paying more than 30% of income on rent

Action Planning

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Recreation and Leisure

Recreational activities must continue to focus on our younger residents of the County while ensuring consideration is given to the recreational needs of all ages. While the Frontenacs have a number of initiatives underway, there is opportunity to develop or expand attractions and activities for all.

Vision Statement

The County of Frontenac, together with the four townships, various community groups, private sector partners and other levels of government, offers a diversity of recreation and leisure activities ranging from quiet or relaxing leisure pursuits to sports and more extreme adventures. These activities are environmentally responsible, support active lifestyles for youth and others, and are sensitive to local traditions, identities and values. Safeguards are in place to ensure natural, recreational and leisure assets are in place for generations to come.

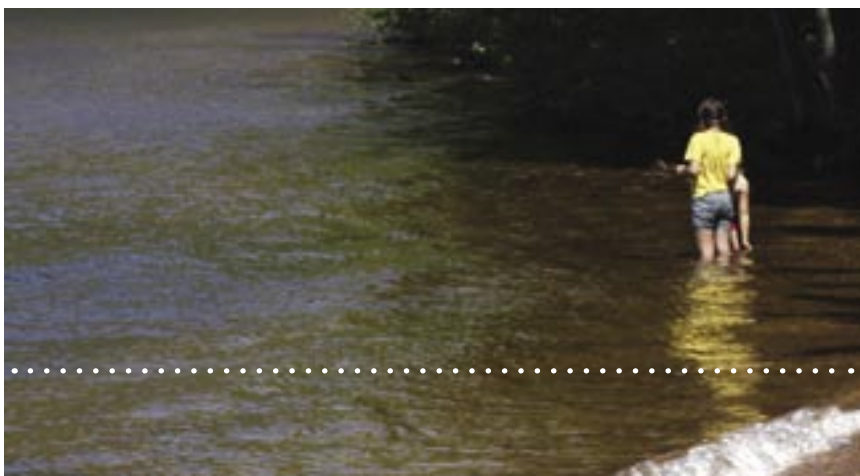
Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability indicators are used to measure the well-being of the region and track our progress towards established goals. Success will be measured against baselines. Indicators for Recreation and Leisure include:

- Number of organized extra-curricular opportunities for residents
- Participation levels in recreation programs
- Number of community facilities for recreation use
- Number of users of recreational facilities
- Membership levels in community clubs and service groups
- Number of kilometres of recreational trails
- Number of trail users

Action Planning

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Culture and Heritage

The County of Frontenac is an area rich with history, heritage and culture. There is a desire to build upon the historical elements of the Frontenacs while always striving to find balance between the preservation of old and display of new values.

Vision Statement

The County celebrates the arts and local history, and demonstrates the value it places on its artifacts and built heritage. Residents are part of a vibrant community that enjoys a wide range of formal and informal festivals, programs, and opportunities to create and enjoy the arts. It fosters opportunities to showcase local cultures and the values of sustainability (reflecting an integration of social, cultural, economic and environmental values) throughout the Frontenacs.

Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability indicators are used to measure the well-being of the region and track our progress towards established goals. Success will be measured against baselines. Indicators for Culture and Heritage include:

- Number of local festivals
- Number of local fundraising events
- Attendance at community events
- Number of public libraries
- Number of public library materials in circulation
- Number of heritage sites
- Spending on cultural activities per capita
- Number of farmers/garden markets

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Capacity Building and Governance

Capacity Building and Governance

Providing an equal and equitable level of service across the County is a priority and, as a result, the County is committed to undertaking projects that will build capacity and support activity within the community as a whole.

Vision Statement

Government decision-making processes are clear, transparent, forward thinking and focused on the longer term. There is clear direction for land use planning, economic development, physical, social and cultural infrastructure, and investment in community capacity. The public (including youth) is interested, informed, and meaningfully involved in local governance. Strong links ensure seamless relationships between community and municipalities, and support partnerships with communities of interest outside the County.

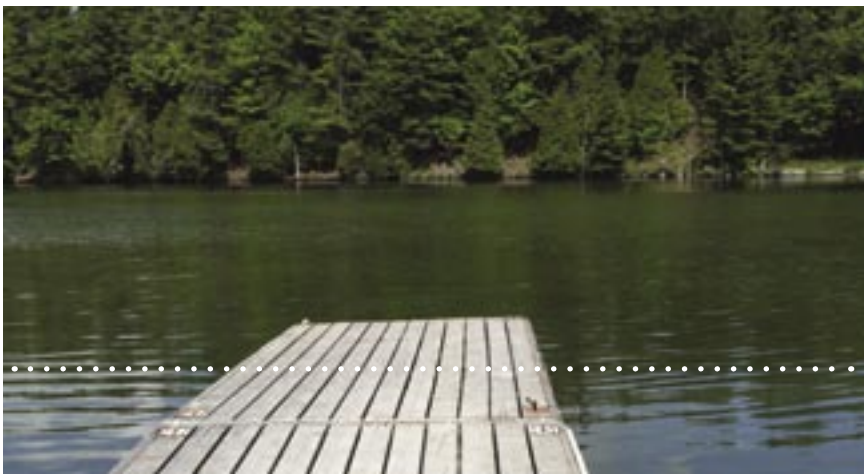
Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability indicators are used to measure the well-being of the region and track our progress towards established goals. Success will be measured against baselines. Indicators for Capacity Building and Governance include:

- Completion of community sustainability plan
- Number of community sustainability education programs
- Participation levels in Frontenac sustainability planning
- Percentage of organizations that adopt sustainability goals
- Number of collaborative projects developed and implemented with two or more municipalities

Action Planning

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Valued Community Input

In an effort to encourage community participation in sustainability planning, the County of Frontenac, in cooperation with its partners, has developed an outreach strategy to highlight the four pillars of sustainability. Starting with the premise that all residents and stakeholders share a desire to create a healthy, prosperous and sustainable community, we want to know your values and desires for a sustainable future. Valuable thought and input to guide future planning and decision-making in the County is continuously sought.

Successful County-wide sustainability planning throughout the County depends on effective and consistent communication with community members and regional stakeholders. The project website is a mechanism to provide updates, news, links, contact information and project information. It is an important point of connection for anyone interested in creating a bright future for the Frontenacs, regardless of geographic location.

Publicity through Local Organizations

We would like to pass on a big thank you to the organizations that promote initiatives regarding sustainability in the Frontenacs. With your help, this project continues to grow while attracting community interest and buy-in.

The County of Frontenac is committed to a sustainable future. Keep up to date with the project and proposed initiatives through an annual community stakeholder gathering. Continue to monitor the project website for dates and information about the annual meeting.

An ongoing record of stakeholder responses maintains feedback, project suggestions and contact information for all stakeholders who have elected to participate in one way or another. An accessible and effective communication plan is critical to the ongoing success and popularity of sustainability planning in the Frontenacs.

Resources

The following organizations have undertaken extensive research in the area of community sustainability. We wish to acknowledge the research which has helped guide the planning process and the development of Directions for Our Future.

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| The Natural Step Canada | http://www.thenaturalstep.org/en/canada |
| Visible Strategies | http://www.visiblestrategies.com |
| Pembina Institute | http://www.pembina.org |
| Genuine Progress Indicator | http://www.greeneconomics.ca |
| Smart Growth Network | http://www.smartgrowth.org |

Glossary

| | |
|--|--|
| AMO | Association of Municipalities of Ontario |
| BR+E | Business Retention and Expansion |
| Brownfield sites | Undeveloped or previously developed properties that may be contaminated. They are usually, but not exclusively, former industrial or commercial properties that may be underutilized, derelict or vacant. |
| FCM | Federation of Canadian Municipalities |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| GTA | Gas Tax Agreement which transfers funds to support sustainability projects to all municipalities. |
| ICSP | Integrated Community Sustainability Plan |
| LEED® | Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design |
| Natural heritage features and areas | Features and areas, including significant wetlands, significant coastal wetlands, fish habitat, significant woodlands south and east of the Canadian Shield, significant valley lands south and east of the Canadian Shield, significant habitat of endangered species and threatened species, significant wildlife habitat, and significant areas of natural and scientific interest, which are important for their environmental and social values as a legacy of the natural landscapes of an area. |
| OP | Official Plan |
| PPS | Provincial Policy Statement issued by the Government of Ontario in 2005 |
| PSAB Reports | Effective with fiscal years starting January 1, 2009, the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) will require local government to present information about the complete stock of their tangible capital assets and amortization in the summary financial statements. |

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The preparation of this sustainable community plan was carried out with assistance from the Green Municipal Fund, a Fund financed by the Government of Canada and administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Notwithstanding this support, the views expressed are the views of the County of Frontenac, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Government of Canada accept no responsibility for them.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is responsible for the transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues under The New Deal for Cities and Communities. We thank AMO for their continued support and guidance in our journey towards a more sustainable future.





Partners

Federal Gas Tax Agreement
Green Municipal Fund
Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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You are encouraged to provide your insight and suggestions. We are interested in knowing what sustainability means to you and how the Frontenacs can become the most sustainable County in all four pillars. Please take a few minutes and get in touch.

Eco-Audit

This book is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.



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