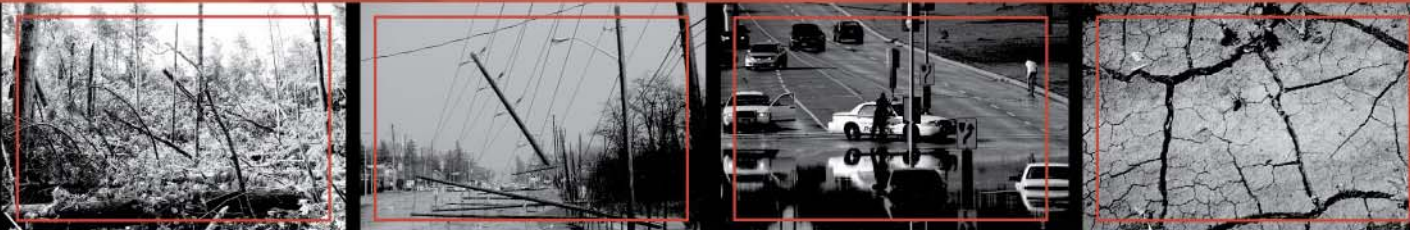


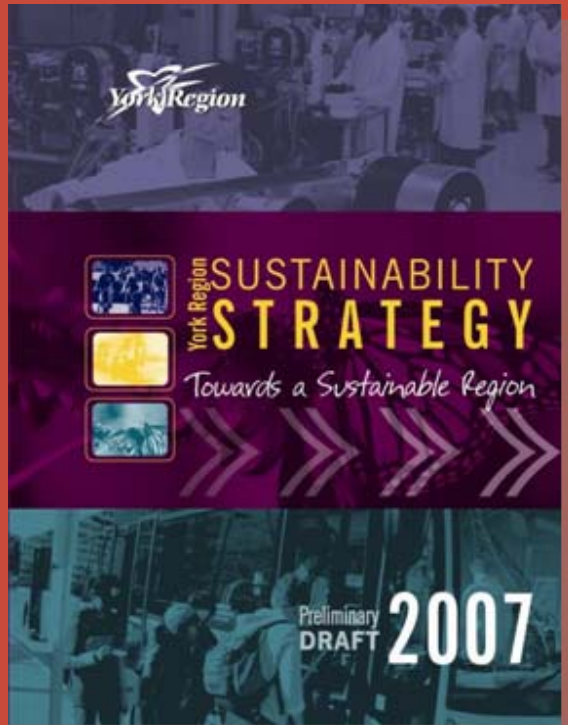
# Climate Change and Sustainability In York Region

Adapting to a Different Reality

York Region Climate Change Workshop  
April 25, 2008



# Why a Sustainability Strategy? *Towards a Sustainable Region*



- Framework for making better decisions
- Integrates Economy, Environment and Communities.
- Contains over 100 action items
- Makes Good Business Sense
- Translates Theory into Practical Action
- Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Cost Savings
- Expectation of the Public and Regional Employees



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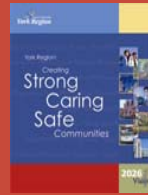
# The Function of the Strategy

WHAT

Vision

+

Plans & Strategies

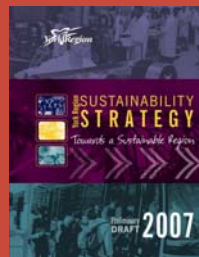


and more...



HOW

Update  
Implement  
Monitor



# Guiding Principles for Implementation

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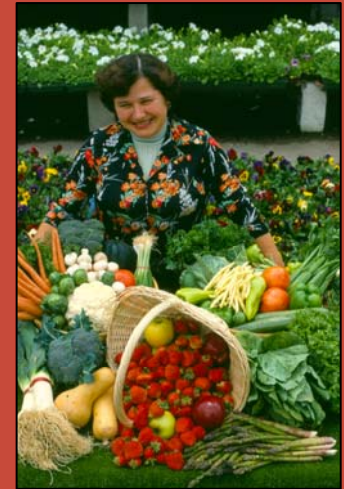
1. Leadership and a Long-Term View
2. Triple-Bottom Line Approach
3. Improvement, Innovation and Resiliency
4. Short-term Achievable Actions Contribute Towards Sustainability Legacy
5. Targets, Monitor and Report Progress
6. Partnerships and Engagement
7. Stewardship, Shared Responsibility and Collaboration
8. Raise Awareness and Education
9. Sustainable Lifestyles, Needs & Expectations

# Action Areas

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1. Corporate Culture of Sustainability
2. Healthy Communities
3. Economic Vitality
4. Sustainable Natural Environment
5. Education, Engagement and Partnerships
6. Sustainability Implementation and Monitoring





**Of the 100 action items in the Strategy, over half are underway.**

## Initiatives Underway:

- Integrated Sustainable Infrastructure Master Plans
- LEED development in Regional Centres and Corridors
- Sustainability Training Program for Employees
- Pedestrian and Bicycling Master Plan
- Public Transit and VIVA Rapid Transit
- Climate Change Adaptation



# York Region Accomplishments

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- Greening and Land Securement Initiatives
- Human Services Inclusivity Action Plan
- Tom Taylor Place: Energy Efficient Affordable Housing
- Corporate Clean Air Task Force
- Wind Energy Feasibility Studies
- Smart Commute Initiative
- Employee Trip Reduction Program
- Employee ECO Transit Program
- Minimum LEED Silver Standard for Regional Facilities
- Corporate Clean Air Task Force
- A variety of purchasing and operation decisions (i.e. LED traffic lights, new carpet procurement etc.)
- York Natural Planting Partnership



# Water Efficiency Program

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- Target Savings: 19 million litres per day
- Current Savings: 22.4 million litres per day
- Enough water to service a town of 77,000 people
- Greenhouse gas reductions translate into 21,367 tonnes, 3,809 tonnes per year of carbon particulates reduced, 14,375 tonnes per year of carbon dioxide reduced, per capita
- First in the world to emphasize the importance of maintenance and sustaining water savings



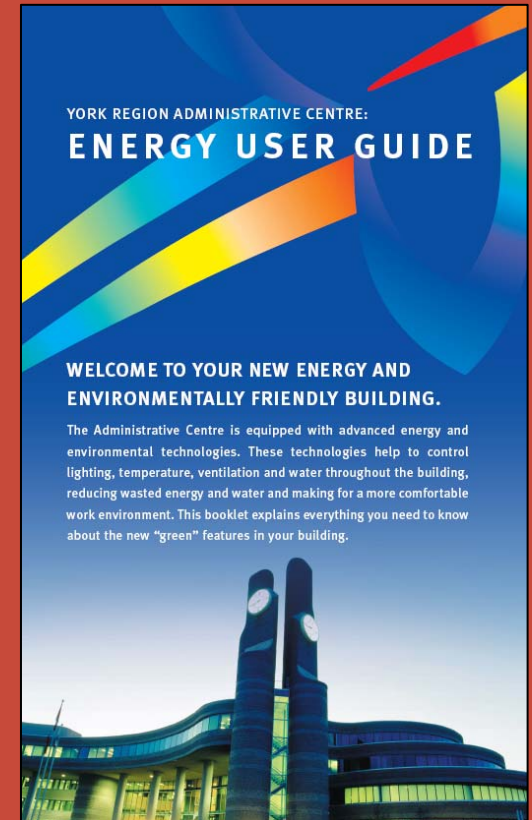
# Corporate Energy Program

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## Sustainable Buildings Program

- Council Approved a Minimum LEED Silver Standard for Regional Buildings over 500 square metres.
- Administrative Building Retrofits
- Solar Domestic Hot Water Proposed for Newmarket Health Centre
- Wind Energy Feasibility Study
- Pesticides Reduction Strategy
- Green Cleaning Products
- Sustainable Facilities Management Program



# York Region Transit's Initiatives

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- Public Transit and VIVA Rapid Transit
- Ridership up 10%/year
- Solar Power Bus Shelter Lighting
- Bicycle Racks at Stops and on Busses

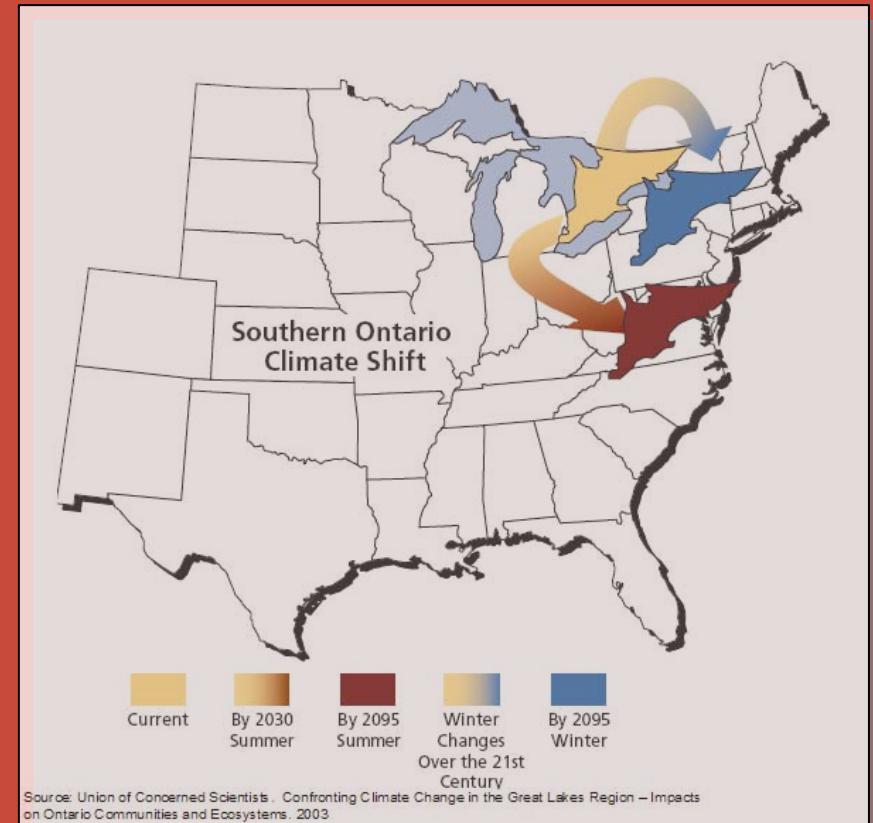


# York Region's Climate is Already Changing

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- Winters are getting shorter
- Annual average temperatures are growing warmer
- The duration of lake ice cover is decreasing as air and water temperatures rise
- Heavy rainstorms are becoming more common



# Why Municipalities Need to Consider Climate Change

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Impacts on:

- Built Systems
- Natural System
- Human Systems



# Climate Change Raises Concerns for Municipal Services

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As our climate continues to change, and our urban populations and areas grow, more people, property and infrastructure systems will be at risk, including:

- ✓ Infrastructure planning, engineering and management
- ✓ Water and energy supply and distribution
- ✓ Wastewater management
- ✓ Transportation systems design and management
- ✓ Land use planning
- ✓ Natural heritage
- ✓ Economic development
- ✓ Public and emergency health services

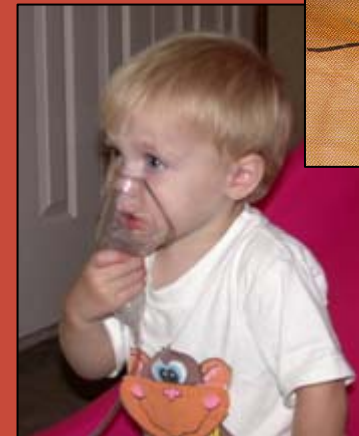


# York Region Adaptation Initiatives

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- Emergency Measures Simulations, e.g. “Operation Rising Waters”
- Smog alert response activities and Air Quality Health Index
- West Nile Virus control program
- Storm frequency impact on wastewater
- Street trees that will better adapt



# Workshop Purpose

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- Adaptation Awareness
- Vulnerability Assessment
- Working With Our Partners
- Ideas for Action

