

5.1. Creation of Environmental & Climate Change Committee

- Council approved the **Environmental & Climate Change Committee (ECCC)** and terms of reference October 15, 2019.
- The **inaugural meeting** of the Environmental and Climate Change Committee took place on January 20, 2020.
- The Environmental and Climate Change Committee's mandate is to provide a **local perspective on climate change initiatives** with respect to greenhouse gas emissions targets as well as provide a framework to work towards climate change goals, strategic direction, and priority actions.
- The committee is working to:
 - **Reduce contributions to climate change** while increasing our ability to adapt to climate change conditions.
 - **Reduce and offset greenhouse gas emissions** produced within our community.
 - **Establish a baseline of greenhouse gas emissions** with a corresponding plan for achieving a set target in emission reductions.
- To date, the committee has worked on the **Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Protection Policy**. This policy was approved by Council on November 9, 2020.
- The Committee's current focus is a **Cost Analysis of a Community Wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory**.

PROGRESS INDICATOR



Not Started



Underway



Completed



Ongoing

5.2. Composting

- The Province of Ontario's **Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement** has outlined a target of "70% waste reduction and resource recovery of food and organic waste generated by single-family dwellings in urban settlement areas by 2023". Additional targets to multi-unit residential building, industrial and commercial facilities are to be met by 2025.
- As leaders in environmental sustainability and action, the City of Cornwall has taken several steps to encourage household composting and implement a **residential curbside system** prior by 2023.
- Staff have engaged Tetrattech on a **Municipal Organics Collection and Processing Feasibility Study**.
- On January 7, 2021, City Staff and Tetrattech offered an **online information session** to the public on municipal organics and processing. It was offered via Facebook Live and Zoom. The estimated reach from these sessions was over 2600, with over 35 comments and discussions.
- The Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) OCWA, project manager, will present an **executive overview** of the Municipal Organics Collection and Processing Feasibility with the Co-Digestion and Organics Studies. This overview is forthcoming and will provide recommendations for next steps.
- The Public Information Coordinator works closely with the Environmental Services division to **promote composting**. Information has been shared via social media platforms as well as Street Level videos.

Composting Education

Draft graphic for an upcoming City of Cornwall composting campaign



PROGRESS INDICATOR



Not Started



Underway



Completed



Ongoing

5.3. Water Meters

- On November 12, 2019, Staff brought to Council a report entitled **Water Meters, Conservation and Sustainability Options for City Wide Implementation of Water Meters**. Council directed administration to develop a Water Conservation and Servicing Master Plan.
- In 2020 as part of the City's Municipal Drinking Water License renewal application, Watson and Associates were retained to complete a Financial Plan. This included a **water and wastewater rate study report**.
- The **report and preliminary findings** from Watson and Associates were presented to Council on October 13, 2020.
- Under Council's guidance, the development of a Water Conservation and Servicing Master Plan is progressing. **Public consultation and public outreach** programs are currently being created.
- The completed Water Conservation and Servicing Master Plan, including **final recommendations**, will be presented to Council in Spring 2021.
- The City has also partnered with the **River Institute** for water conservation and education.
- The Environmental Services Department is working closely with the Public Information Coordinator on **interactive tools** to educate residents on Water Meters.

PROGRESS INDICATOR



Not Started



Underway



Completed



Ongoing

5.4. Education

- The Environmental Services Department works closely with the **Public Information Coordinator** on bilingual recycling and waste reduction education.
- The Garbage, Recycling and Waste related pages on **Cornwall.ca** are consistently among the most-visited pages. Significant updates have been made to ensure information is accessible.
- Due to the popularity of social media, many efforts are concentrated on **Facebook, Twitter** and **Instagram**. For example, over 261,900 unique reaches on garbage, recycling and waste related content occurred in 3 months on Facebook.
- The City of Cornwall uses the **Recycle Coach App** for waste and recycling calendars and information. The app has 1,635 regular users.
- The City of Cornwall also uses other traditional methods of communication to educate residents. These include **radio** advertising on Fresh 104.5, **local newspaper advertisements** (often in partnership with the Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority) and **mail-out** pieces.
- The City of Cornwall's dynamic **Street Level** videos have prominently featured recycling and waste diversion topics.
 - Episode 3: Waste Reduction Week and Cornwall Gives A Shirt
 - Episode 5: the fREe Store and waste reduction at the compost pile
 - Episode 6: Cornwall Curbs Hunger
- Prior to COVID-19, Environmental Services was offering **tours** of the landfill and recycling facility, as well as **presentations to schools**. Tours are on hold at this time; however, school engagement has shifted to Zoom.
- Several public events including **Cornwall Gives A Shirt** and **Trash to Treasure** have taken place to engage the public directly on waste diversion initiatives.

PROGRESS INDICATOR



Not Started



Underway



Completed



Ongoing

5.5. Plastic Bag Ban

- COVID has presented challenges in this area, as there has been **increased use** of disposable products.
- City and contracted staff have developed a method to **separate and divert 382 tons of bags** from our landfill in 2020. Sorting this material is labour intensive and takes up a significant amount of time. The ideal goal is to remove plastic bags from the waste stream.
- **Promoting** plastic bag recycling began in 2020, but significant hurdles exist as the types of plastic that can be recycled is confusing and based on a limited recycling market. There are so many types of plastic film that it is impossible to list them all. Staff are defining a list and keep it current as they identify new materials.
- In October 2020, the Canadian Government announced a plan to **ban single-use plastics**, including plastic bags, by 2030. It is unclear if this date remains in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic and increased usage of single-use plastics during the pandemic.
- Staff are currently **exploring** ways to reduce and eliminate plastic bag usage.

Social Media Campaign

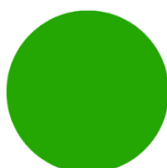
A social media campaign created in 2020 by the Public Information Coordinator to encourage residents of Cornwall to recycle soft, clear plastics.



PROGRESS INDICATOR



Not Started



Underway



Completed



Ongoing

5.6. Taking the Lead

- In 2019, the City updated the **Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (ECDM)**. The plan went to Council on September 9, 2019. The annual update went to Council November 23, 2020.
- The new plan included an overview of the **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions** for the City of Cornwall. Staff added the GHG emissions of the wastewater treatment plant and landfill flare, and the fleet vehicle fuel use with the associated GHG emissions for each fuel type.
- The plan identifies projects that can be completed that would **both reduce energy usage and GHG emissions**. These include:
 - **Water Meters**
 - **Co-digestion**
 - Pilot Plan for **single electric or hybrid vehicle**. The fleet department expanded that plan to purchase both an electric vehicle and a plug-in hybrid. Both vehicles are being monitored for reliability and overall operational costs.
- As part of the ECDM, Environment & Climate Change Committee (ECCC) and the Co-digestion project, a broader GHG inventory is being developed. This inventory will measure climate change risks and will be used to assist with showing how the Co-Digestion and Water Conservation and Servicing Master Plan will significantly reduce GHG emissions and create greater sustainability for the City of Cornwall. In addition, it will present how these projects place Cornwall on the path to **net zero carbon**.

Hybrid & Electric Vehicles

Approximately 34% of the City's greenhouse gas emissions are due to vehicle use. The purchase of these energy efficient vehicles will help reduce our environmental impact.



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Not Started



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Completed



Ongoing