



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior  
Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Date: Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

**Time: 6:30 PM**

**Location: Council Chambers – 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Land Acknowledgement**
4. **Adoption of Agenda**
5. **Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest**
6. **Adoption of Previous Minutes**
  - a) **Committee Minutes – September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024** (Page 1-5)
7. **Presentations / Delegations**
  - a) **Butterflyway Presentation**, Sheena Baum (Page 18-24)
  - b) **Greening Arnprior – EAC Priorities Survey Results**, Kaitlyn Wendland, Client Services Coordinator (Page 25-57)
8. **Matters Tabled / Deferred / Unfinished Business**
  - a) **Action Item Summary** (Page 58-62)
9. **Staff Reports (by Department)**
10. **New Business**
  - a) **Marina Invasive Species Signage**, Barry Goodman, Committee Member (Page 63)
  - b) **Richmond Hill Blooms**, Barry Goodman, Committee Member (Page 64-70)
  - c) Information item:
    - a. **Community Action Arnprior, Clean Economy Action Plan**, Billy Denault, Committee Member (Page 71-112)
  - d) Roundtable Discussion

## 11. Adjournment

The agenda is made available in the Clerk's Office at the Town Hall, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior and on the Town's [website](#). Persons wishing to receive a print item on the agenda by email, fax, or picked up by hand may request a copy by contacting the Clerk's Office at 613-623-4231 ext. 1817. The Agenda and Agenda items will be prepared in an accessible format upon request.

**Full Distribution:** Council, CAO, Town Staff, Committee Members

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ARNPRIOR

## Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

6:30 PM

Council Chambers – Town Hall

### Committee and Staff Attendance

#### Committee Members Present:

Natalie Deveau, Chair  
Chris Toner, Vice Chair  
Billy Denault, Councillor  
Barry Goodman, Committee Member  
Ted Strike, Committee Member  
Alexis Young, Committee Member

#### Committee Members Absent:

Ben Shearer, Committee Member

#### Town Staff Present:

John Steckly, GM, Operations  
Amy Dean, Environmental  
Engineering Officer  
Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation  
Services  
Oliver Jacob, Deputy Clerk  
Kaitlyn Wendland, Client Services  
Coordinator

### 1. Call to Order

Natalie Deveau, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed those present.

### 2. Roll Call

The roll was called, with all Members of the Committee being present except Ben Shearer.

### 3. Land Acknowledgment

Natalie Deveau, Chair, asked everyone to take a moment to acknowledge and show respect for the Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land we operate on, by stating:

“I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we work and gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinaabe People. This Algonquin Nation have lived on this land for thousands of years, long before the arrival of the European settlers, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.”

**4. Adoption of Agenda**

Resolution Number 017-24  
Moved by Billy Denault  
Seconded by Chris Toner

**Be It Resolved That** the agenda for the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting dated Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be adopted.

Resolution Carried

**5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

None

**6. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

Resolution Number 018-24  
Moved by Alexis Young  
Seconded by Barry Goodman

**Be It Resolved That** the minutes for the June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Environmental Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

Resolution Carried

**7. Presentations/ Delegations**

None

**8. Matters Tabled/ Deferred/ Unfinished Business**

**a) Review Action Items Summary Table**

Natalie Deveau, Chair, asked that the committee proceed through each item as listed on the Action Items Summary Table. Discussion ensued amongst Committee Members with the following being a summary of the updates received:

Item	Comment / Update
1	This item will be presented at the next meeting.
2	This item will be reviewed after the survey results have been received.
3	This item will be reviewed after the survey results have been received.
5	Staff indicated that the garbage bins should be installed on Friday, September 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2024.

Item	Comment / Update
6	This item will be reviewed after the survey results have been received.
7	This item will be reviewed after the survey results have been received.
8	This item will be reviewed after the survey results have been received.
10	Staff indicated that they are currently looking into grants to support tree canopy growth in public spaces.
11	Interest in pursuing a bike safety program given the increase use of active transportation, especially amongst youth.
12	Staff will be reviewing the Clean Yards By-Law and will bring this item for preliminary discussion at the November meeting.
13	Staff indicated that the primary energy efficiency change for this project will be the change of the refrigerant that is used to cool the ice.
14	Staff indicated that they are looking into the long-term options for integrating electric vehicles to the Town's fleet, including an electric Zamboni.

**9. Staff Reports**

None

**10. New Business**

**a) Review of Discussions Regarding Priorities**

Barry Goodman, Committee Member, provided a PowerPoint Presentation, attached as Appendix A and forming a part of these minutes, regarding Healthy Water Systems in the Town of Arnprior.

Discussion ensued amongst Committee Members with the following being a summary of the comments noted:

- Committee Members seemed interested in doing a shoreline clean-up for invasive species near the Marina and/or McLean Avenue Beach in late fall or early spring.
- Staff highlighted the Road Salt Management Plan the Town has and that a mix of sand and salt is used for winter maintenance depending on the conditions.

- The Committee indicated an interest in reaching out to the Ottawa Riverkeepers to learn about their programs and potential areas for collaboration and support.
- Staff indicated that they would present the results of the Water and Wastewater Master Plan to the Committee once it is completed.

#### **b) Garden Awards**

Oliver Jacob (Deputy Clerk), Graeme Ivory (Director of Recreation), and Kaitlyn Wendland (Client Services Coordinator) shared that a member of the public had expressed interest in the implementation of garden awards for private properties and that staff would like to get feedback from the Committee on this proposed initiative.

Discussion ensued amongst Committee Members with the following being a summary of the comments noted:

- Committee Members would like to see these awards used as an opportunity to promote pollinator gardens and growing native species of plants.
- It was noted that this would be a good educational opportunity for the community and that it would raise awareness of the importance of pollinator gardens.
- Staff indicated that they would come back to the Committee with further information before the end of the year and that they would bring a final plan by Spring 2025.

#### **c) Roundtable Discussion**

Natalie Deveau, Chair, shared that this item on the agenda is an opportunity to share any questions, comments, thoughts and perspectives.

Amy Dean, Environmental Engineering Officer, informed the committee that Waste Reduction Week 2024 happens from October 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> and asked the committee if they had ideas of how the Town of Arnprior could mark Waste Reduction Week. The Committee agreed that an Upcycle Challenge would be a good way to engage the community. Staff will report back to the Committee with the finalized plans for Waste Reduction Week in advance of the next meeting.

Chris Toner, Vice Chair, informed the Committee that he has been noticing lots of cigarette butts littered throughout town. He asked the Committee for their input on how to address this problem. Staff indicated that they would look into clean ups in the

downtown core and that they would look into recycling programs, such as TerraCycle, for options.

**11. Adjournment**

Resolution Number 019-24

Moved by Billy Denault

Seconded by Ted Strike

**That** the Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:12 PM.

Resolution Carried

# Healthy Water Systems

Town of Arnprior – Environmental Advisory Committee

B. Goodman, B. Shearer  
2024-09-14



# What is a Healthy Watershed?



## Physical Features

Flooding events  
Anthropogenic influences  
Dissolved Oxygen, turbidity



## Chemical Features

Historical Inputs  
Surrounding land use  
Phosphorous, chloride



## Biological Features

Native species  
Invasive species  
Barriers to movement

# Physical Features

Land use plays a vital role in the health of watersheds

- Landfill – 2023 Monitoring report identifies non-compliance, potential leachate impacting groundwater. Please discuss (link to report at end of slideshow)
- Water treatment – combined sewer outflows are bypassed in heavy rainfall
- Hydro dam and weir – impact fish migration and biodiversity
- Historical uses may be contributing to the current state of the system

# Physical Features continued

- Large infrastructure such as sewage systems, landfill and dam/weir have an impact on the biological and chemical composition of the Town's aquatic systems.
  - Large cost, large impact. IE separate piping for sewer and wastewater, fish ladders to bypass the weir and dam, strategy for landfill
- **Monitoring** of the biological communities and chemical/physical conditions of water (Madawaska mouth, lake, smaller tributaries in town etc) to better inform decisions, prioritize projects

# Chemical Features

- Chloride – product of road salt detrimental to fish and other aquatic organisms
- Phosphorous and phosphates - come from 2 main sources: agricultural runoff and sewer bypass. Result = algal blooms
- E. coli – combined sewer bypass during heavy rainfalls

# Biological – Invasive Species

Economic, ecological, and/or cultural impacts on a system.

- Several invasive species are present in or near waterways of Arnprior such as:
  - European Frogbit: impacts native biodiversity in wetland systems
  - Eurasian Milfoil: impacts recreational opportunities in river systems
  - Glossy Buckthorn: impacts riparian vegetation communities
- Other invasive species may to be aware of and **monitoring** for include:
  - Phragmites
  - Zebra Mussel

# Invasives continued

- Species not yet identified as being present, but likely
  - Phragmites: tall reed, common along 417, negatively impacts biodiversity, recreation opportunities and cultural aesthetic of wetland and lake shore
  - Zebra mussel: aquatic invertebrate capable of forming large colonies, disrupts native biodiversity, can clog/impede infrastructure (water intake)
- Key Message: **Monitoring** is necessary for early detection of invasive species. The most effective management strategy for invasives is to **prevent establishment**.

# Biological – Native flora/fauna

- Benthic Invertebrates
  - An important **monitoring** tool used by environmental organizations (CA's) to evaluate the health of a water system.
- Bioblitzes
  - A volunteer, citizen science initiative that brings community members and experts together to inventory as many species as possible in a 24 hour period. Useful for collecting **baseline data** and educating
- Plant inventory
  - As part of many **monitoring** programs, plants are identified in, and surrounding aquatic systems to provide insight on ecosystem health and function

# Key Takeaways

- Many factors contribute to the overall health of our waterways
- Funding / developing **monitoring** programs is essential in understanding changes and informing decisions
- Invasive species are costly, the best management strategy is to prevent establishment
- Land use practices can adversely affect aquatic ecosystems through chemical inputs such as chlorides and phosphates
- Physical alterations such as damming or channelizing can negatively impact biodiversity and ecosystem functions such as flood prevention
- Arnprior and surrounding area should take all steps possible to preserve the natural hydrological systems remaining, and identify/restore degraded systems



# What we can do

1. Implement a **monitoring** program to close information gaps and inform decision makers
2. **Educate** town staff and members of the public on identifying and preventing the spread of invasive species
3. Develop a **management strategy** for Eurasian Milfoil (already established) in the mouth of the Madawaska
4. Consider **regulating** the use of certain chemicals (implement a Road Salt Management Plan)
5. Continue **investing in upgrades** to infrastructure, consider (long term) investment in hydro dam and weir fish passage

# More of this

- 2024 planned capital works includes the Reconstruction of MacDonald Street which will result in the block of existing combined sewer between William Street and McGonigal Street being separated into dedicated sanitary and storm sewers. The total estimated cost of this project is \$4.2 million
  - Town of Arnprior 2023 – Water Pollution Control Centre Summary Report

# Links

- Annual report for water treatment showing compliance in all effluent monitoring, also showing instances of treatment bypass during heavy rainfall events. [2023-WPCC-Summary-Report.pdf \(arnprior.ca\)](#)
- Monitoring report identifying non-compliance. “However, due to the increasing trends in some leachate indicator parameters observed at OV-10 and the more recent interpretation of groundwater flow direction, it is possible that these exceedences could be indicative of deteriorating groundwater quality” Page 18 of [2023-Arnprior-WDS-AMR-Final-report---Apr2024.pdf](#)
- Example of a Road Salt Management Plan: [1 \(toronto.ca\)](#)

A vibrant garden scene featuring a variety of flowers in shades of yellow, orange, and purple, set against a lush green background. The image is framed by a green geometric design consisting of overlapping triangles and lines. The text is overlaid on a white triangular area on the left side of the image.

# More than just pretty flowers

Pollinators and Biodiversity

# Current City Scape

- ▶ Pesticide use
- ▶ Vermin, parasites, disease
- ▶ Invasive species
- ▶ Habitat Loss
- ▶ Urban Heat Island



# Why we need an Alternative

- ▶ Make up for habitat loss
- ▶ Integrated Pest Management
- ▶ Less strain on water supply
- ▶ Manage storm water runoff
- ▶ Help create geographically unique landscapes
- ▶ Help fight climate change, carbon capture and reduced fuel consumption
- ▶ Plant an edible landscape, address food insecurity
- ▶ Improved air/soil quality
- ▶ Create communities within neighbourhoods
- ▶ Improved human physical and mental health



## City Led Action to Support Biodiversity

- ▶ Create Integrated Vegetation Management Plan to deal with invasives (Lanark County) -Tool: EddMaps
- ▶ Include habitat planting in parks and rights of ways - Tool: CWF Guide [https://cwf-fcf.org/en/resources/downloads/booklets-handouts/ROW\\_restoration\\_guide\\_en.pdf](https://cwf-fcf.org/en/resources/downloads/booklets-handouts/ROW_restoration_guide_en.pdf)

<https://xerces.org/publications/guidelines/pollinator-friendly-parks>

- ▶ Use native plants only in city garden spaces - Tool: Pollinator Partnership/Bee City
- ▶ Encourage residents use of water diversion methods such as rain gardens to reduce stormwater (reducing strain on water treatment)
- ▶ Connect residences to qualified landscapers
- ▶ <https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/environment-conservation-and-climate/protecting-ottawas-waterways/rain-ready-ottawa>



## City Regulatory Action to Support Biodiversity

- ▶ Amend bylaws to allow for native plantings
- ▶ Create new construction bylaws allowing only native plantings
- ▶ Restrict cosmetic uses of pesticides
- ▶ Prioritize creating, incentivizing, education, training residents on habitat creation
- ▶ Restore areas currently being mown
- ▶ Tool: ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY IN PRIVATE PROPERTY: A TOOLKIT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

<https://ecologicaldesignlab.ca/site/uploads/2022/03/Enhancing-Biodiversity-in-Private-Property-A-Toolkit-for-Local-Governments-March-10-Update.pdf-2.pdf>



## City Educational Activity for Supporting Biodiversity

- ▶ Join Bee City Canada - requires acknowledging Pollinator Week with an event, creating habitat and education residents  
<https://beecitycanada.org/bee-cities/>
- ▶ Invasive Plant Education - Ontario Invasive Plant Council & Invasive Species Council
- ▶ Work with local schools to create pollinator habitat
- ▶ Designate a Pollinator Point Person; responsibilities to include public education, activation, support and resource management
- ▶ Become a Bird Friendly City and join Dark Sky International



# Where to Start





**ARNPRIOR**  
• WHERE THE RIVERS MEET •

# **Greening Arnprior – EAC Priorities Survey Results**






Kaitlyn Wendland  
Client Services Coordinator

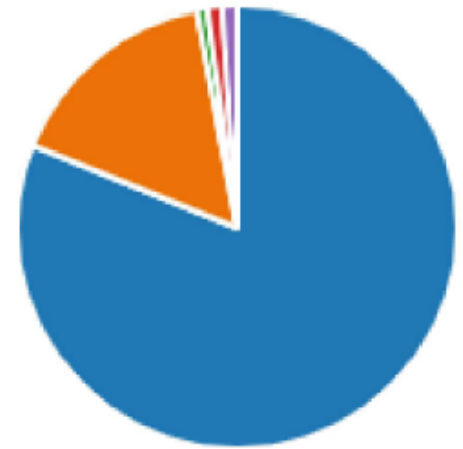


# Background

- During the Summer of 2024, Town staff in collaboration with the EAC launched the Greening Arnprior – Environmental Advisory Committee Priorities Survey.
- 275 individuals responded to the survey.
- Where text responses were collected, a summary is included in this presentation and the complete list is attached as Appendix A

# Question 1: What municipality do you reside in?

	Town of Arnprior	223
	Township of McNab/Braeside	44
	Town of Mississippi Mills	2
	City of Ottawa	3
	Other	3



# Question 2: For Arnprior residents, which day of the week is your recycling collected?

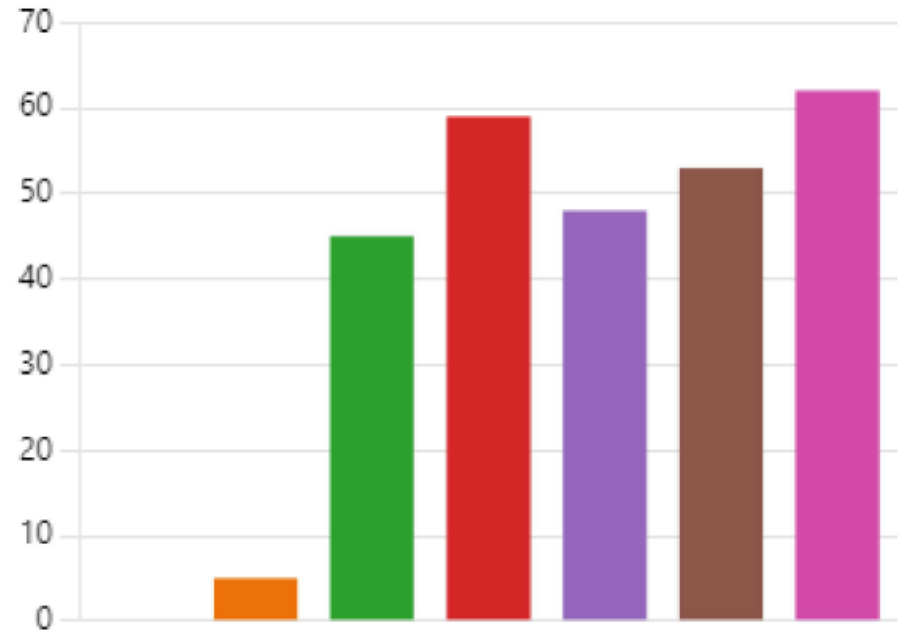
● Section One (Monday)	49
● Section Two (Tuesday)	62
● Section Three (Thursday)	65
● Section Four (Friday)	47



# Question 3: What is your age?

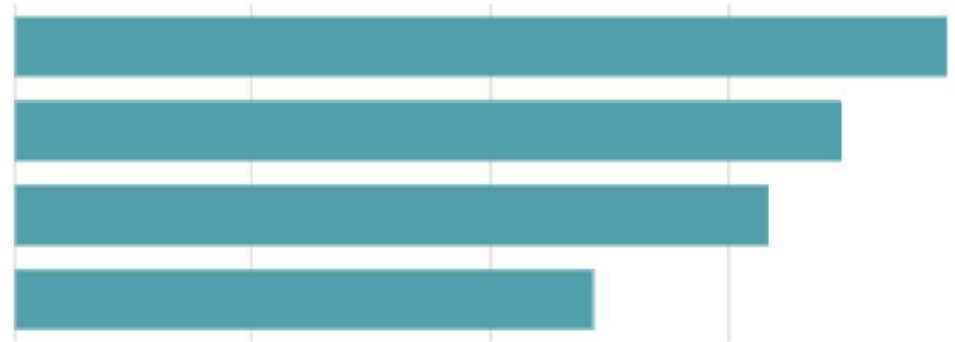
- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

0  
5  
45  
59  
48  
53  
62



# Question 4: How would you rank the proposed focus areas?

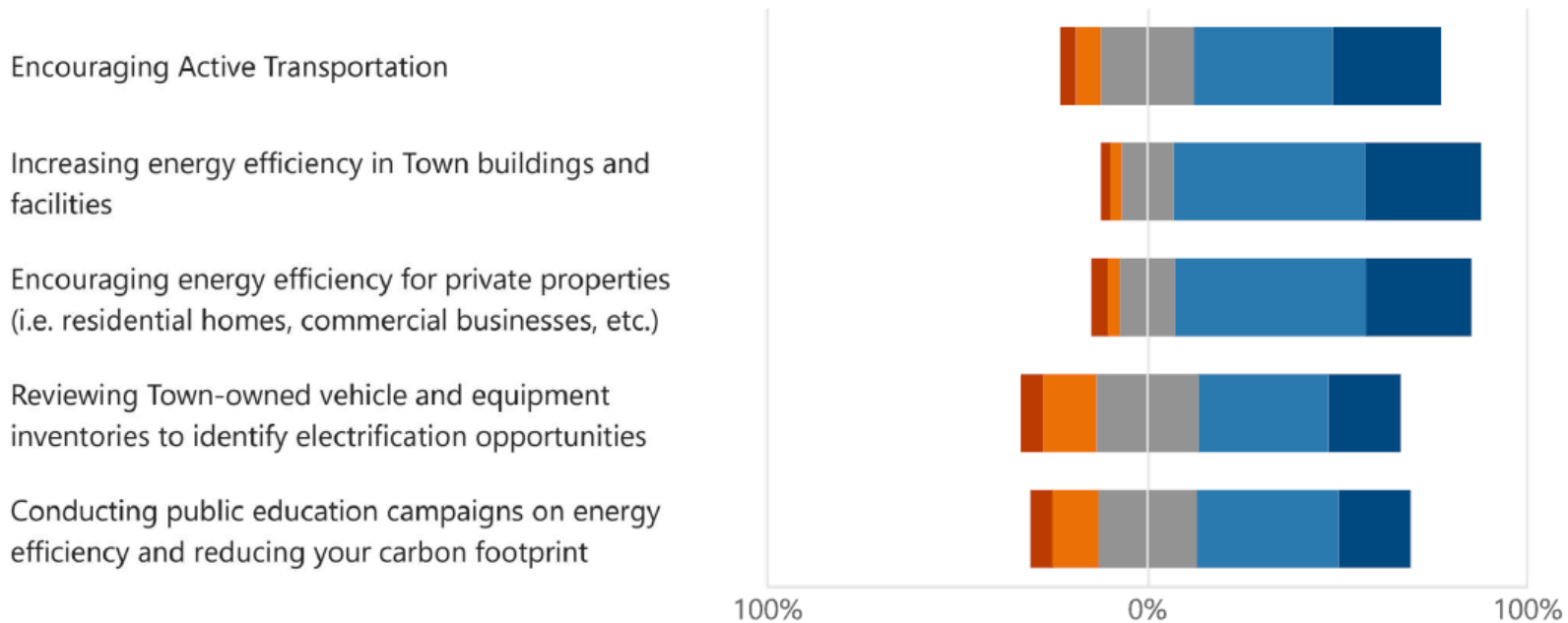
- 1 Supporting Plants and Wildlife
- 2 Managing Healthy Waterways
- 3 Waste Reduction
- 4 Reducing Our Carbon Footprint





# Question 5: Which of the following measure do you think would be most effective in reducing our carbon footprint?

■ Strongly Disagree  
 ■ Disagree  
 ■ Neutral  
 ■ Agree  
 ■ Strongly Agree



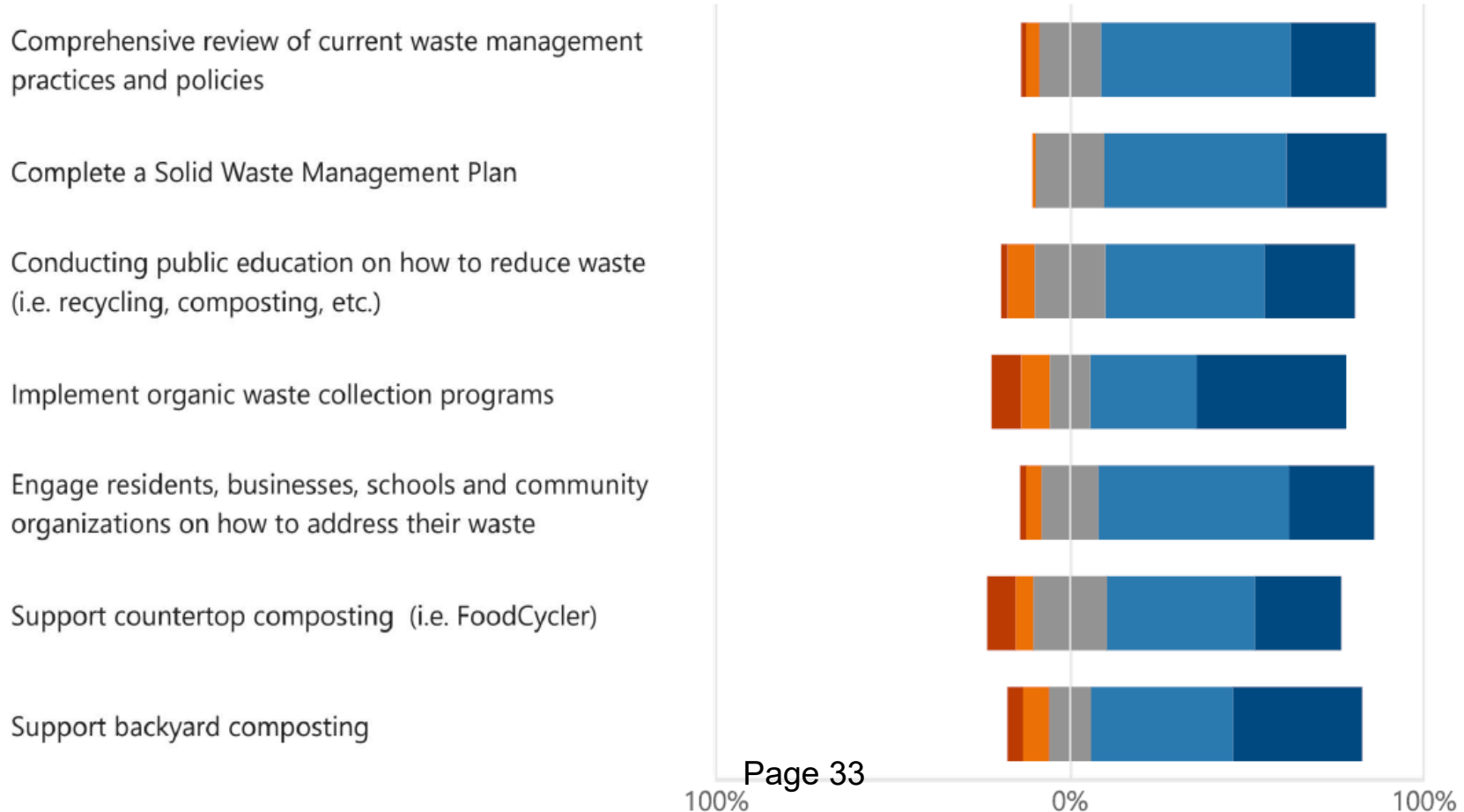
# Question 6: Summary of Text Responses to Question 5

- See Appendix A for other comments made by respondents in regard to Question 5.



# Question 7: Which of the following measures do you think would be most effective in achieving waste reduction?

■ Strongly Disagree  
 ■ Disagree  
 ■ Neutral  
 ■ Agree  
 ■ Strongly agree



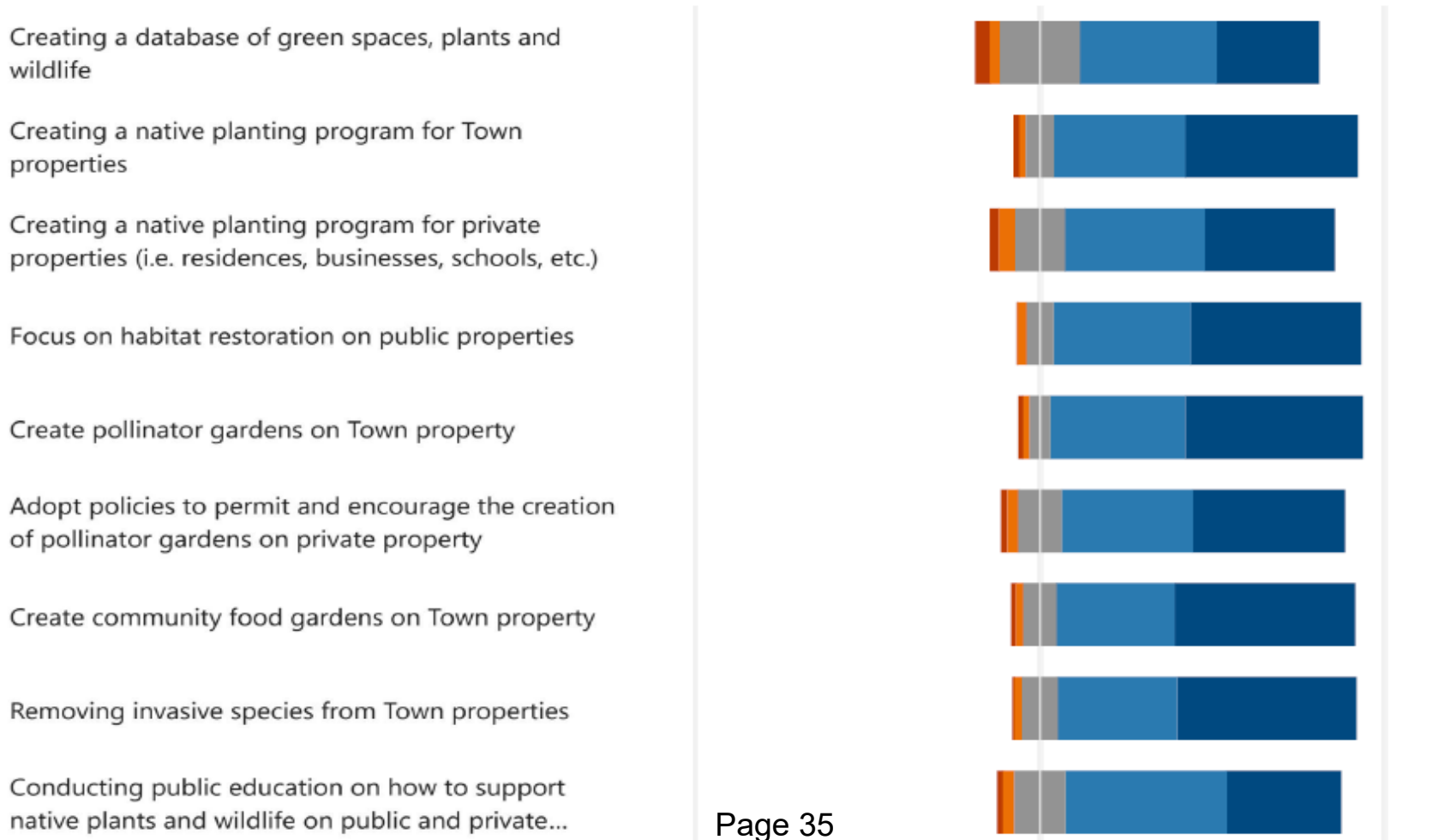
# Question 8: Summary of Text Responses to Question 7

- See Appendix A for other comments made by respondents in regard to Question 7.



# Question 9: Which of the following measures do you think would be most effective in supporting local plants and wildlife?

■ Strongly Disagree   
 ■ Disagree   
 ■ Neutral   
 ■ Agree   
 ■ Strongly agree



# Question 10: Summary of Text Responses to Question 9

- See Appendix A for other comments made by respondents in regard to Question 9.



# Question 11: Which of the following measures do you think would be most effective in managing healthy waterways?

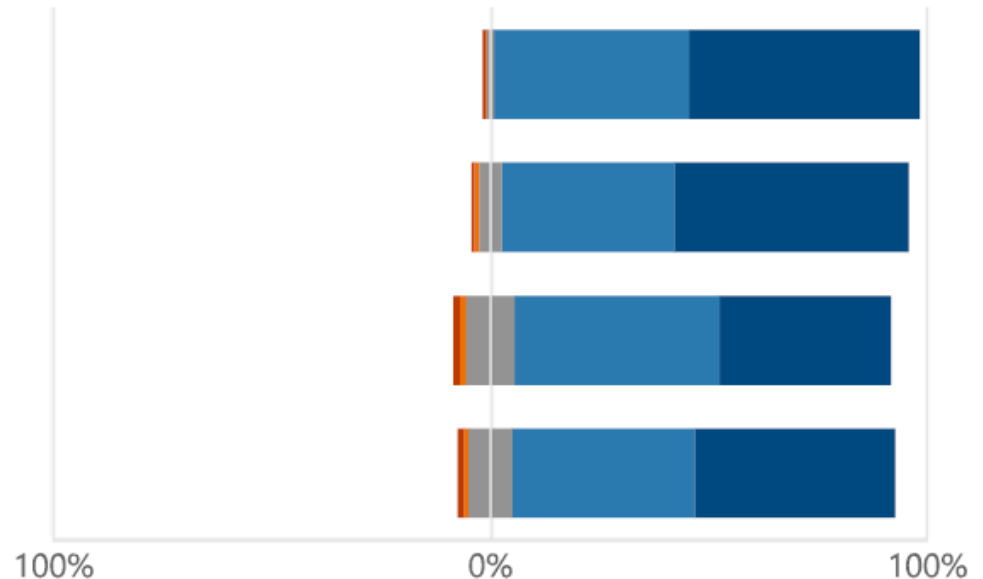
Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

Conduct clean-ups along and in waterways

Restoring bank areas along waterways by planting native vegetation and stabilizing banks.

Collaborating with neighbouring municipalities, government agencies and other stakeholders to...

Implementing policies and regulations to protect waterways (where possible)



# Question 12: Summary of Text Responses to Question 11

- See Appendix A for other comments made by respondents in regard to Question 11.





# Question 13: How would you prefer to receive communication on our initiatives and results?

● Email	159
● Telephone	2
● Social Media	140
● Town Website	130
● Other	6



# Question 14: Do you support the creation of a dedicated webpage for environmental initiatives, activities and education materials on the Town's website?



## Question 15: Please provide any additional comments that you may have that would be helpful as the EAC sets its priorities.

- See Appendix A for other comments made by respondents in regard to Question 11.



# Comments & Questions?



• WHERE THE RIVERS MEET •

## Appendix A – Text Responses from Survey

**Question 6. Which of the following measures do you think would be most effective in reducing our carbon footprint?**

EV infrastructure investment @ Municipally owned properties and lots
Complete energy analysis of all municipal facilities (including water/wastewater) to identify OFIs
Investing in town-owned renewable energy infrastructure to reduce the carbon intensity of the electricity our town uses, offering incentives to residents to employ energy efficient heating and cooling and household renewable energy.
Investing any forms of public transportation (bike shares), commuter buses to Ottawa, etc. Even if just as a long term plan.
Our sidewalk conditions in the winter do not allow for travelling safely by foot on many many streets. This needs to be addressed so that our aging population can travel safely once weather turns cold.
Putting pressure on larger corporations who produce more of a carbon footprint than families who are already struggling to survive.
Supporting more transit options or services to reduce reliance on single passenger vehicle travel
What does “ encouraging active transportation “ refer to ??
Transportation in town and/or into the city would be tremendous
Explore some sort of public transportation
How about conducting a survey that is not organised to achieve the result sought after.
Stop cutting down every tree in town to make way for housing developments. Trees save our planet!!
Nothing would help. This should not be a priority for the town
Introducing incentives for landlords to upgrade insulation, heating, cooling and provide non-vehicle dependant housing for residents
Having dedicated lane cycling on all roads. Using solar panels on town buildings and schools/hospital.
Composting/green bins for weekly collection.
Every household in Arnprior should be issued a LOW FLOW showerhead! Reduce water demand on our infrastructure as well as reducing water heating costs (that uses energy!) Lets make it happen!
Creating safe transportation routes to encourage cycling and walking. Current infrastructure is geared too conveniently for automobile use. Downtown and shopping areas have no where to safely secure bicycles either. Build it and they will use it.
1. Stop taking the snow hills on cul de sacs in the spring. Insane waste and unnecessary use of diesel for large engines. This past spring was an utter disgrace. So little snow and the snow hills were the size of oversized baseball pitching mounds. The snow hills melt slowly and ARE NOT A DANGER TO THE WATER PLANT. Staff who spout the same non-sense every year need to be fired for cause. Can't get any

easier to reduce Arnprior's carbon footprint. A very large and easy way to do this was egregiously lost this spring. My neighbours and I just stare in disbelief at the stupidity and the careless disregard for the environment and the waste of Arnprior resources.
Stop building homes.. destroying our beautiful landscape. We do NOT HAVE the infrastructure for all the homes/people we have already
Adding solar/ wind to all town buildings where possible. Instead of just encouraging active transport having a bike lane will be safer and this will help people try this out. But with the higher summer temperatures its hard for many of us to use our bikes or walk. A small local bus route possibly. Maybe 4 times a day. Composting food waste options. Having neighbors but their recycling / garbage between their house and the neighbors to reduce the number of times truck needs to stop and start. Tree planting initiatives. And have a plan for racking leaves for those who that is why they don't want a tree. I would suggests students to earn their volunteer credits. A specific shade initiative in town to shade asphalt. I would like to see the possibility of using natives vines on a frame work to help had streets. Faster growing than trees so we can feel the results faster. And also regrow faster after extreme weather.
Get back to basics spend money on programs and infrastructure and not carbon footprint items or electric vehicles which aren't great options for cold climates
More evcharging spots.
Ensuring private businesses are being carbon conscious (if there is a way to do so)
Reduction of commercial outputs/gases
More tree planting along rail trail in town
Promote bike culture
If you encourage active transportation PLEASE include education on the importance of children & adults to wear helmets when using bikes, skateboards, scooters etc. Moving from out of town to being a resident in Arnprior considerably less people wear helmets here than in the city.
consume less, quality over quantity
Encouraging people to buy local and empowering them to grow their own food is so important!
Keep green space, trees to allow absorption of carbon
Install traffic light system to turn light green when no other vehicles are at the opposite set of lights. Waiting for a minute or more when there is no other cars is wasting gasoline.
Debatable whether these initiatives should be handled by the municipal government
carbon footprint is ██████.
Encouraging and incentivizing landlords to improve energy efficiency of apartment buildings and inside apartments.
Active transportation is a bit vague. Would be helpful to add a description for that term.
Incentives for Local industries to become more carbon neutral. Incentives for less packaging used in goods.

Save the grove. We have an asset in Arnprior that is unique to the province and must be protected. Think long term and do not allow short term housing needs and fiscal gain to destroy old growth forest.
Incentives for new builds to include solar power generation; require built-in pathways for walking and cycling in all new developments and add them in to existing developments. Add sidewalks and separate cycling paths throughout the municipality including to and from businesses
Stop repairing town roads and inform residents that all holes will be filled with gravel for 10yr while the road budget is diverted to an investment account - after 10yr use the interest to maintain the roads effectively providing free road maintenance - then use the new budget space to actually try to do some real good instead of these half-measures.
Focus on planting trees in every square inch of town. Think about how nice the town could look along the old tracks at Willam Street, or at the corner of the curling club or off the highway at No Frills. The list is long!
More trees
I would like to have a device in my home that shows how much I'm spending on my hydro so I can control the costs at the point in time and actually see the changes have an effect on my bill. In Woodstock ON as a kid we had one of these in town as a project and it was great.
Provide safe paths for bikers, as is done in Europe! Elimination/reduction of gas by encouraging more solar panels to generate electrical heat.
Add more EV stations around town
Educating and encouraging people to grow their own food. Tillage of commercial farming fields is the top contributor of carbon being released into the atmosphere.
Proper bike paths in town should be a priority
Provide public transportation both locally and into Ottawa.
Consider lower-carbon development for future development projects in the town (e.g. mixed-use residential over single-use residential), consider public transport options

**Question 8. Which of the following measures do you think would be most effective in achieving waste reduction?**

Waste diversion: community curbside "treasure hunt" days. Extra yard waste pickup days (so organic waste/leaves/grass are not just put in garbage bags)
A curbside organics program is the direction we need to head. Foodcyclers create a divide of haves/have nots as many cannot afford
I would love to see designated days where items could be left at curb side for others to pick up instead of many of these items going to the dump.
Enforce existing garbage limits. Which are totally unenforced now
Towns and townships need to implement a green bin collection program. It's a bin that excess food goes in and is collected. Burying compost does not allow proper decomposition as methane gases are produced when oxygen is not introduced. Look at Nova Scotia recycling program

Hosting spaces or events to promote trade/sale of used or reused items, repair clinics for commonly wasted items that can be repaired
Have lived in municipality where a charge for all weekly waste was implemented. This did not reduce waste but created a hardship for low income situations and created dumping of garbage on back roads etc.
The real issue is waste landfill. I am told Arnpriors is polluting the Ottawa River. Coolectively municipalities need to move towards modern methods of waste management. Humans create garbage. Its a fact of our existence. We need to get over ourselves an deal with it.
Backyard composting draws RATS! There all ready is on HUGE RAT problem in town that no one is dealing with!
Leaf bag collection WEEKLY along with recycle! Twice a year is difficult right now for homeowners!!!
Backyard composting just creates rat problems. Please don't do that.
People are aware of recycling, some just choose not to do so. Maybe incentives will bring more on board with recycling.
Our currently recycle collector is much more restrictive than before. Less options to recycle
Have a leaf composting( not all yard waste - ie invasive, weed seeds ) program specifically to create compost to be used in the community.
Be honest about recycling. How much of it goes to the landfill? Most of these ideas sound like a lot of tax payer dollars
Almonte has an interesting composting program where you get some of the compost for your own garden if you compost. I like that idea! A community garden would be cool too, and a place to use the compost/have composters & education around composting.
I think, should the Town conduct a master planning exercise, it should focus on what options are available once the Town's landfill has reached capacity.
Set up an organic waste recycling program
Not encouraging backyard composting to avoid rat infestations
Tell the truth. Outright inform people where the garbage is going, what is actually being recycled and expose waste management services not fulfilling their promises.
With the increase in housing and therefore an increase in waste pick up requirements (more houses, more people, more garbage) I suggest a review be conducted in relation to town capacity. For example, at what point will we have surpassed the ability to even manage waste due to sheer over capacity (i.e. the lifespan of the dump).
Backyard composting is very important along with an organic waste program. It's unbelievable that our town does not have this program
Can we ask collection to enforce the bag limit? As a starting step
Bigger recycling bins so residents can recycle more
Find a way to encourage non-disposable take out containers - especially coffee cups at restaurants.



I think an optional subsidized compost program could work. And I think most people recycle as best they can. What would be neat to see is a municipality run business waste initiative to divert large volumes of waste from landfills.
Back yard composting invites pests and invasive species of all kinds which leads to different costly outcomes. New Canadians and School age people need to be taught a better understanding of good waste practices. If you have been of any developing countries, there is often garbage everywhere, when those people come to Canada they need to be taught those practices are not acceptable in Canada. School programs would help educate the next generation. Remember the "Keep Ontario Clean" campaigns.. Backing those in Ottawa who support the construction of a garbage incinerator would also alleviate the strain on the area dumps which are all filling up. There are safe and effective ways to burn our garbage. Incentives for businesses that reduce packages would also help.
I think we should implement Green bins like other places .
With current rat problems waste compost program might worsen the situation.
Ensure EVERY garbage receptacle in the municipality has a recycling and compost receptacle. Including all community spaces and encouraging the same in all private/business places.
Back yard composting is great, except for the wildlife that it can attract
Reduce peoples' allowances for weekly waste to an absolute minimum and levy them really heavily if they go over
Hire students in the summer to clean up public areas. Collect garbage, sweep streets, cut down weeds.
When does the town collect leaves and sticks etc? If you don't have a backyard or garden, you should be pushing the foodcycler but then what to do with what the foodcycler creates? Can the city collect compost at a site, and can citizens then pick up the first in the spring as compost for their gardens? My only suggestion don't accept weeds in the compost it makes the compost not wanted by anyone the next year.?
The Arnprior dump should be closed due its proximity to the Ottawa river! Studies and assistance from European countries is essential! DO NOT REINVENT THE WHEEL!!! Reduction of packaging requirements. Organize large waste item pickup. Prohibit yard waste in normal household garbage. Local in town drop offs for yard waste.
The food Cycler does not create compost. If you review their website carefully they even admit that. The food Cycler dehydrates food. Compost requires micro organisms which need moisture.
Composting is a slow process! Too many wild animals
Increase recycling options.
Investigate reducing reliance on municipal dump, avoid expansions etc. to municipal dump where possible

**Question 10. Which of the following measures do you think would be most effective in supporting local plants and wildlife?**

Support community partners (Gilles Grove, Macnamara Trail) through community education using Town platforms (social media/Arnprior Life), in-kind contributions
Food space to allow people to grow their own food is key
Develop and implement a vegetation management plan that directs PW and parks on vegetation management
Integrate local Indigenous ways of caring for plants and wildlife by working with Indigenous partners
Town needs a weed control program on all properties both private owned and town properties
What better place to plant pollination flowers than the useless triangle of land outside of town hall. This year there is grass growing on it.
Reducing the amount of lawn percentage on a property to encourage native plantings for wildlife and pollinators.
Also reducing pesticide use private/public. Reduce watering of lawns etc.
Be mindful of wildlife and flora when approving building/development permits
STOP selling the beautiful land to developers.. we are losing our beautiful landscape. We can't accommodate the homes and people we have already
All over the country they are ripping out green space. I believe there are existing that can be used for housing. Wildlife and greenspace is being disturbed. I believe there needs to be land that's untouchable and for native plants to be left untouched when possible. .
Invasive species includes lawns. Educate and encourage residents to reduce space dedicated to just lawns.
Save existing old growth and its surrounding growth. Stop unnecessary cutting of trees on private property, have mandatory trees per property
Planting more trees especially in the new developments ex.by pjs restaurant seeing that so many were destroyed due to the housing project this also includes all other housing developments in Arnprior....more trees help sustain the earth.
New developments to use native species only. Reduce turf grass monoculture with multi species turf with natives as well as reducing turf in New developments.
Will the wildlife get an email with locations of the green spaces?
Protect existing green spaces from development
The allowance of property owners to have an uncut wild patch area, say 10ft x 10ft.
Potential initiatives to spread healthier/ more biodiverse lawns in residents (seed bombs for example)
Protecting the flora/fauna that currently exist.
Curb the development of housing around the Gillies Grove and Galilee Centre area.
keep some green space in Arnprior, developers pack too many houses together its a concrete jungle
Partner with a Nature Conservation Authority (Mississippi Valley). The town of Arnprior has a beautiful historic old-growth forest, a treasure that is not found in many places in the world and its surprising that the town has no association with any nature

conservatory authorities to consult with and ensure the proper measures of protection of the old-growth forest are taken into consideration, including but not limited to the significant wetlands and grasslands that border and preserve the biodiversity of the forest.
Stopp any and all proposed develop.ent of the grove. It is offensive to even consider it
We NEED to address every one of these issues before it is too late. There is so much that could be done to make people aware of the importance of our environment in our town
Create an education program educating residents of the negative impacts of herbicides for their lawns.
Protecting our last remaining green spaces such as The Galilee! Rezoning these spaces to protect against future development. Assisting citizens to save green spaces. Give developers incentives to develop vacant buildings.
Finding a way to keep the only existing open and historical green space left in Arnprior (other than Robert Simpson Park)
Slow the process of allowing for more development of green areas. Developers come in a bulldoze everything on a property... killing plants and wildlife which can't simply be restored afterwards...
Do our best to prevent construction around The Grove and other natural habitats.
Require new builds and businesses to include a plan for existing plants and wildlife as well as for encouraging these.
Fence and signpost protected land and partner with educational institutions so they can advise you
More trees
Education on our native species, town events where homeowners can purchase those plants at cheap prices, events to help the town plant in public spaces to get citizens involved, education on why native species are important, town must do it's part of advised invasive species are spotted
NEIGHBOURHOOD GREEN SPACES!!!! A living town does not exist without neighbourhood green spaces. Green spaces are essential for healthy living. These spaces are needed throughout the town, not just at the main park. Arnprior does not seem to see this. I see other towns which are beautiful places to live indoors and outdoors. The Grove is a magnificent place that has to be protected. Recent events are pretty discouraging and show a clear lack of respect to the environment near the Grove.
Stop the attempts to develop the area of land that borders the Gillies Grove Old-Growth Forest. Develop a Bylaw designating this land as public amenity park land in perpetuity.
Ban the use of pesticides. This is detrimental to the health of pollinators and plants. Stop removing native plants along the waterfront (mainly along Madawaska River). Work in collaboration with Butterflyway Project.
Don't tear down the grove
Stop destroying current green spaces to build urban sprawl.

Wildlife friendliness campaign (e.g. lower light pollution during migratory bird travel periods), consider wildlife friendly options when expanding/replacing infrastructure such as street lights

**Question 12. Which of the following measures do you think would be most effective in managing healthy waterways?**

Review stormwater infrastructure to ensure proper operation
Conduct clean-ups along waterways? Litter is just that litter. To litter was I thought illegal. Enforce the law. Bank stabilization? Why not prosecute the fool in the wake boat. Dont try and guilt me into and spend my tax dollars to restore the shoreline of a waterway destroyed by an entitled fool in a wakeboat! We don't need more reg's we just need to enforce the ones we have.
The Arnprior dump needs a liner
Integrate local Indigenous ways of caring for waterways by working with Indigenous partners (see for instance protect the Kitchi Sibi)
Stop chemical toxin use that leeches into waterways. Ex: pesticides and herbicides usage on properties that run off right into the waterways.
Studies about road salt and effect on Madawaska and Ottawa River, studies about wildlife and how to protect them along the waterways
Arnprior: Where the rivers meet. Water is our key resource -- everything should be done to manage healthy waterways.
SHUT DOWN DRAINAGE DITCH THAT FUNNELS INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF BY HOMES, A PUBLIC PLAY STRUCTURE AND DUMPS DIRECTLY INTO MADAWASKA RIVER. Industrial and agricultural runoff are a supercharger of toxic Blue Green Algae. All the runoff from the industrial area and the farming area runoff flow directly to Decosta St, run into a forest, under the track, and then flow at great speed directly into the Madawaska River. Less than 2 kms from the Ottawa River. Arnprior is courting a disaster if there ever is a fire in the industrial area. Imagine the damage the town is doing to 2 rivers. Build a proper holding pond to cleanse the water.
See previous "other"
I see water way vegetation be cut down just so people can have views of the water. These needs to stop.
Homes situated alongside the Madawaska River below the dam have developed roadways and have destroyed the riverbanks there...
Management/ eradication of invasive plants. Have a pressure washer areas for boats to be cleaned before/ after access to the water to help prevent invasive introductions
Protect waterway adjacent areas from development
Surrounded by Nature's Wealth is our town identity, protect and grow it.
Public education
Openly and honestly inform the public what the current capacity of the sewage filtration plant can manage. Highlight how much new infrastructure will stress the system and what happens if the plant is overburdened.

The "waterway" definition should be extended to include wetlands, natural drainage areas and aquifers so that they are identified, maintained and citizens are educated on their significance.

All of these are so important. We live along two rivers, let's take care of them!

Policies and regulations, for the most part already exist. This somewhat goes back to earlier comments about education of appropriate waste disposal- then there would be no need for a clean up program. And also clear cut development which increases "unnatural" run off into waterways.. Appropriate planting and restoration will also help with the problem that exists now but working on preventing future damage to waterways also important.

Educate on the impact of boating, cottage septic; divert industrial waste and require treatment; require new builds to protect waterways

Fine people much more heavily for letting agricultural runoff end up in the river

Education on why the waterway is important - how does it impact on a personal individually if they do things like pour liquids in a storm drain? Seems innocent enough it goes to wastewater cleaning right? Education is key.

Ensure sewage can never be discharged into the river. NEVER!!!! TOTALLY NOT ACCEPTABLE!!!

Make protecting our waterways and green space a top priority when considering future development

How our water is treated and what chemicals are put into it should be of utmost consideration.

Reduce waste from agriculture.

Stricter monitoring/enforcement of beach/municipal waterfront for pollution. Expanded water conservation/pollution awareness campaigns/enforcement

**Question 15. Please provide any additional comments that you may have that would be helpful as the Environmental Advisory Committee sets its priorities.**

Look at the option of organic waste collection as a partnership with other local municipalities

I love having the Food Cycler to cut down on waste and we use ours often It would be good however to have options to reduce waste for people who are unable to afford even the reduced price of the units.

I have been seeing unneeded pesticide use on peoples lawns. Coming up with some sort of banning of unnecessary pesticides so people can have green lawns would be a great jumping off point. Furthermore overuse of water has been something I have noticed. Watering your lawn should be phased out.

We have to support people who travel by foot and promote travel by foot in our community by making sure walkways are clear and safe for travel. Walking is not only environmentally conscious but also necessary to maintain one's mental health, especially during the colder, darker months. Our seniors and those with physical disabilities need to be able to walk or scooter around town on sidewalks safely. The condition of our sidewalks in the winter is brutal.

Encourage neighbouring municipalities to create an Environmental Advisory Committee, and/or create an Environmental Advisory Committee that spans Arnprior and surrounding municipalities.
I understand that there are harmful plants, but I don't believe harmful chemicals are the answer. Developing a volunteer committee to help rid the trails and parks of harmful plants might be a better option- if there are willing participants? We have more than 3 beautiful rivers and amazing natural habitat for wildlife; they need help as more people are moving to the valley and we are losing forested areas, and the waterways are popular destinations for people without knowledge or proper etiquette (leaving garbage and damaging parks just to name a couple)
Millikens do a wonderful job on downtown streetscapes and municipal flower beds, but ensure the flora are appropriate, i.e. - castor bean plants contain toxic chemicals. Lots of things are poisonous, but that's certainly one to avoid: Toxicity to pets Ricin is a glycoprotein that prevents protein synthesis; when ingested, clinical signs of appetite suppression, drooling, abdominal pain, vomiting, severe bloody diarrhea, abdominal straining, weakness, trembling, hypotension (drop in blood pressure), and sudden collapse may be seen
Education approaches help, but rely too heavily on people to pay attention and make specific decisions. The town needs to lead by example, and reflect that environmental protection is not a "choice" but an imperative
This is certainly a serious topic and deserves our attention as soon as possible. I would caution against a radical response to dealing with these concerns as it may cause a backlash within the community.
If you want to protect the environment, you need to be doing a comprehensive review of green space to ensure it's not zoned for housing. Allowing the Galilee centre to sell its space to Cavanagh is a huge error on the town's part.
The town has beautiful gardens that receive a lot of care and resources and visibility. I would love to see native plants used, both for rewilding public areas and for creating awareness. Setting an example and getting people talking.
This survey is set up to achieve pre-determined results. Are we looking at dealing with our landfills and our garbage or are we furthering a climate change agenda? Arnprior needs a dump, or a means of handling waste that doesn't pollute the Ottawa River. Please correct me and tell us all that this isn't happening. All municipalities need to handle waste. Time to do just that stop with the distracting fluff. And to all of those againsters next time someone comes forth with a method of dealing with waste please be accurate and truthful in your message. The last one that was canned was labelled an incinerator when it clearly was not. I will point out that most of us already own an incinerator. It is otherwise known as a self cleaning oven! Lets keep it simple.
We need bike lanes down Madawaska Blvd. It is quite dangerous right now.
We need to protect the land between the Grove nature trail and the hospital. No new development there.
SAVE OUR TREES!
This should not be a town priority. Fix the pot holes in the streets.

Residents who live along the Algonquin trail and the Ottawa River need to be educated on the fact that cutting down trees to improve their view will ultimately create erosion of the slope that leads down to the trail & river.
Glad to see the town taking this up. Thank you
The filling in of downtown areas with high density housing and walkable sidewalks/paths is very important. Arnprior is very car dependant and putting more residential subdivisions in will only make things worse. Please fill the spaces that are downtown. Build vertically. Promote walking and cycling. Educate the public - not just children on bike safety and signalling as well as driving a bike on the streets. Don't allow any more sprawl and the next time the Madawaska bridge needs work, please build on a Seperate bike/pedestrian lane - it is one scary bridge to cross on foot or on a bike
Great to see the town taking action on environmental issues!
So glad to see this survey. I would be interested in learning more but these initiatives.
Would love having affordable access to rain water collection barrels, and an incentive for composting either on my own property or to a location local to be to drop off compostable waste and have access to clean compost for my garden.
I think that waterways and native plants are highly connected - if you have clean watershed and habitat areas affect the wildlife and ability to grow native plants.
Arnprior should force developers to install low flow shower heads in their new housing developments. Existing homes should all qualify for a voucher for 1x per household a free low flow shower head to get people saving water, energy and preserving our towns #1 resource -- water!
Protect the little green space we have left Too much is going into development Running out of Greenspace
Until the town stop willfully and purposely polluting and damaging the Madawaska and Ottawa Rivers with industrial and agricultural runoff, then anything else you do, like trying to save rivers banks with plants, will just be for nothing. If anyone reads this and cares but has no idea what I am talking about, go to Decosta Street, and see the ditches from the 1960s that overflow and spill into the forest on the other side, then find the culverts and the giant culvert in the middle of the field beside Pillar 5 and then follow to the track and then walk down the ditch or track to the Madawaska River. Pass the homes and play structure that are being polluted. That is what the Town of Arnprior is responsible for and does everything in their power to deny, obstruct and outright lie about. Bring this to the attention of the mayor.
Stop selling land to developers
Help us protect the land between the Grove and the hospital. This area cannot support another housing development
I feel very strongly about wildlife and land constantly being developed. Animals are being pushed out, therefore they clash with some people who see them as a nuisance. Taking farm land to rip up for housing is very sad, and disturbing the wildlife habitat. There has to be other solutions for a smaller footprint for housing etc.
The Rat problem
Don't let Cavanaugh build in the grove

Arnprior was beautiful town way back because had beautiful trees lining the streets and peoples yards. Now you can look down a street and see nothing but houses. The clearcutting happening for these new developments is disgraceful. There should be some greenery left behind. It takes years and years for trees to mature fully.

Keep green spaces green. We're far behind other countries.

We have potential to show other small towns how to do it.

Another committee to decide what needs to be done.

Maybe it's time to have longtime citizens be part of the decisions that are being made concerning the ongoing development of this time....

Along with basic education on biodiversity, promoting natives etc. I find the info missing many times is why this is important. To help prevent ecosystem collapse, food production collapse and how we depend on other species for our survival. I would also like to see wildlife corridors planned and developed with surrounding areas in conjunction with development. This is important for all species to be able to move in larger areas and still have habitat. Because of climate change more mobility will be necessary.

Preserving our healthy green spaces should be a huge priority. It's one of the biggest things people love about Arnprior - the mix of beautiful nature and beautiful people in the community.

In 50 years, we want to look back knowing we prioritized the right things - quality of the life of the many, not few.

Protect our precious green spaces and forests from development - stay away from Gillies Grove!

Have a meet the Committee day, take a walk around town etc.

I think that carbon emission reduction in private property can be a hard task considering that many people feel trapped due to our necessary use of cars (due to the distance between all of our houses and communities). It's crucial to reduce carbon impact, but it's also good to remember many of us have no choice but to use old cars to get to work daily/school etc etc. Perhaps very innovative initiatives are needed to find a way to help our communities. Keep up your work!

Have more dog poop waste garbage on trails through town boundaries

Regional collaboration/alignment and focusing on the long term.

Implement car inspections for all the JUNK diesel trucks and crap cars that have no mufflers and exhaust leaks.

Thank you for considering all of these ideas! Especially the community gardens, native pollinator gardens & composting.

Nothing to do with Environmental, but we need a dog park

We love this beautiful town. Keep up and build on the good work.

Strongly disagree with new housing development surrounding our Grove. Construction would lead to loss of wildlife within, loss of trees will affect the ecosystem. We have so very little green space as it is.

- have one environmental master plan that discusses all environmental priorities and breaks them down into subsections (i.e., waterways plan; wildlife plan)



- all of the options/opportunities mentioned are important so would be good to be able to integrate them together into a wider plan
-Consider partnerships and collaborations with the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authorities to ensure conservation of the old-growth forest, waterfront and significantly important areas of biodiversity. -Ensure studies are conducted around capacity of waste management systems. -Creative use of greenspaces, like a community garden to promote the education and interest in nature and composting.
The proposed development of the grove needs to be stopped. This is a sacrilege if the allows this
We NEED to protect and preserve our green spaces that we have. Especially from future development!!
I think that the Towns finances are not very sustainable and that EAC should prove a business case for any environmental initiative. This was not done at all for Foodcyclers.
The town needs to educate the public and involve businesses in making the town greener. If there's a way to prioritize zero waste or cyclical waste stream businesses, we need to do it. Please send any further information of your meetings and publications [REDACTED]
1. Waste reduction and biodiversity enhancements can reduce carbon footprints and help fight climate change. 2. Buildings and transportation are two of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Ontario. a) Additional vehicle charging infrastructure would help support more EV drivers. b) Initiatives to promote individuals and businesses to switch to heat pumps have been successful in other municipalities and could benefit in town and rural property owners to use less natural gas, propane and oil for heating.
This all sounds great but to be concerned about some of them when literally every green space in our town has been built on and continues to be, demonstrates that this survey is a check mark to say you've done something . We need more commercial stores for groceries and household items, clothing etc., more child care, it takes me over 7 months to see my dentist now for a cleaning. Intersections are dangerous, there's a lot of traffic and perhaps consider installing red light and speed cameras for revenue. I'm also tired of my property taxes increasing every year to amounts higher than the city of Ottawa. I have no sidewalks in my new subdivision which according to town documents says there should be. Active transportation is great but we need to have safe streets that allow for it.
Would be nice to have a water front that isn't near the water treatment facility. We should increase foot traffic around town but the roads are dangerous. Excited about a second splash pad. People enjoy clean, safe, outdoor space.
Our towns priority should be keeping the last remaining wooded areas and meadows. Protecting our natural areas from developers. Fostering future green spaces and educating citizens of the importance of natural spaces. Cleaning up our waterways and shorelines.

Limit spending on overprices and expensive "studies" and spend more on taking action. I understand the need for documentation but sometimes it goes too far in duplicating information that already exists.
I would encourage the town to purchase part of the land adjacent to the Grove to ensure it's preservation.
Please try to stop development of the area by The Oblates & Grove. Although I do realize it's private property, surely pressure from the town or approval ( not) from The Town could help this cause.
I support a dedicated webpage but find the Town of Arnprior webpage clunky.
Again limitations for those who have no internet access prohibits many people from being aware of what's going on in Arnprior! We need everyone to have access to information whether it is changes to bylaws, environmental issues, rezoning. I speak to many people through my work who are feeling very left out of the things that are going on in our community. I really feel like they are being neglected by the lose of access to what should be public information.
Send letters to and partner with scientists at educational institutions nearby because you're reinventing the wheel instead of approaching the people with actual knowledge about the best ways to do things - just go and get free help from people that actually want to help you instead of searching for ideas with surveys.
Talk less and put great ideas in action!
The town has really gone down hill in the past 20 years and that needs to change. Robert Simpson park is a shadow of what it used to be. It used to have massive gardens and the grass was beautiful. The beach is in totally the wrong place and should be returned to it's original location. Cars should be parked at the top of the hill and that road and parking lot turned into grass and a foot path. The park on Mclean drive needs a complete rework. Create a proper beach there and cut down the trees that are on the shore line. Again, gardens could be planted down there and more tables for visitors. Bell park could also be completely revamped and turned back into a clean, public area.
Upgrade town plan to incoporate more open green spaces.
That webpage should make regular articles in the town newsletter and town events because no one really proactively seeks out info anymore when they are spoofed junk on socials
I feel this town is letting down it's citizens to make a buck! Green spaces are an integral part of a healthy community, and in the recent past the town has developed most available neighbourhood spaces and I don't see new spaces being created in the new developments. I have a greater respect for apartment buildings than high density row house developments. What is the status of sewage release into the Ottawa? (Splitting of sewage and storm sewers). Bike paths? Support of compostable waste! Local in town yard waste drop! Support for solar panels! Support for old vehicle inspections! Enforcement of exhaust modification laws! Regular Neighbourhood clean up days along with education programs in our schools! People now drop fast food containers everywhere.
Volunteer activities to support some of these measures marketed as an opportunity to make a difference and meet new friends in the progress could be attractive

<p>Preserve the green space next to Gillies Grove.  Arnprior is a fast growing town and Simpson Park will not be large enough for entire town. This land needs to be saved.</p>
<p>Please get involved with the controversy around the Galilee Center land transfer. The town need to step up and stop the attempts to develop the area of land that borders the Gillies Grove Old-Growth Forest. The town should develop a Bylaw designating this land as public amenity park land in perpetuity.</p>
<p>As our town grows and develops, identify the areas of water and green space that we deem important. Protect these important areas so that the new residents of our town get a chance to experience the beauty of Arnprior today and in the future. Where possible, preserve historic and cultural areas so that they may be shared with the new cultures that are jointing our communities. Showing respect to our history will show new residents how we respect people so that they will know their culture in our community will someday become part of our town's history</p>
<p>Protecting the natural ecosystems that are still intact (Gillies Grove, Waterfront, Macnamara Trail) should be a main priority. Adding to these habits with native plantings throughout town is key. It would be great to see Arnprior become a Bee City <a href="https://beecitycanada.org/">https://beecitycanada.org/</a>  Education is huge. Getting the community involved and bringing in experts in different areas to offer or lead initiatives. The more involvement people have the more they will care. We want to have pride in our town and know that we are acting with the future of our home (Mother Earth) front and Center.</p>
<p>Arnprior has very little land left preservation of natural should be top of list.</p>
<p>Return Galetta bowling greens to the club.</p>
<p>Prioritize not tearing down the grove.</p>
<p>More action and less talk. Much less emphasis on individuals fixing all the problems. More pressure on corporations.</p>
<p>Thank you for the increasing focus on environmental stewardship in the community. I feel that good progress has been made in many regards. It may be advisable to increase consultation with local First Nations people and leadership on such programs as well.</p>
<p>Seek grant funding (e.g., ORCCA, CCCS, FCM &amp; GMF, FCC, TreeCanada, 2BT, etc.), use Climate Caucus Handbooks for additional ideas</p>
<p>Continue the process of development at the "Cavanagh" property adjacent to the Grove. Can't judge the plan till there is one?</p>
<p>Address the restrictions around lawn cutting especially in the front lawns of privately owned properties to open up the possibility of vegetable gardens and pollinator gardens, or just longer grass to save water, and allow insects and other creatures to live.</p>
<p>Partner with a tree planting organization that wants to increase the number of trees in urban areas.</p>

## Appendix A

### Action Item Summary (Updated)

Ref. No.	Item	Date Assigned	Responsible Party
1	Obtain a copy of the Community Action Arnprior presentation on Greening Business	2024-03-18	Billy Denault
2	Implement webpage content for Environmental Initiatives through identification of resources, events, etc.	2024-03-18	All
3	Identify priorities for potential data collection activities (i.e. survey).	2024-03-18	Alexis Young
4	Identify priorities for potential public engagement activities (i.e. Arnprior Sunday Market, public events, etc.).	2024-03-18	All
5	Create education materials and information regarding how to reduce yard waste.	2024-03-18	
6	Create education materials and information regarding how to create native pollinator gardens and support seasonal plantings that are supportive of native species.	2024-03-18	
7	Create education materials and information regarding how to recycle appropriately (what can be recycled, how should it be separated, impacts of recycling, etc.).	2024-03-18	
8	Create education materials and information regarding how to deal with invasive species and how to report invasive species on Town property.	2024-03-18	Barry Goodman
9	Review available tree planting grants and other opportunities to support the growth of the tree canopy across the community (on public and private properties).	2024-03-18	

Legend: **Yellow = New Addition to Action Item List**  
**Green = Completed Items on Action List**

10	Work with the Ottawa Valley Cycling and Active Transportation Alliance (OVCATA) on active transportation and bike safety education opportunities.	2024-05-21	
11	Bring forward more information on pollinator-friendly policies and how they could be implemented through Town by-laws and policies.	2024-05-21	Oliver Jacob
12	Create a plan for an Invasive Species Shoreline Clean Up in the late fall or early spring.	2024-09-16	Barry Goodman
13	Develop bike safety materials and/or program for youth to encourage safe active transportation.	2024-09-16	Alexis Young Chris Toner Kaitlyn Wendland
14	Bring forward the results of the Water and Wastewater Master Plan upon completion.	2024-09-16	John Steckly
15	Bring forward a plan for the Town of Arnprior to do pollinator garden awards.	2024-09-16	Kaitlyn Wendland
16	Bring forward a plan for Waste Reduction Week 2024.	2024-09-16	Amy Dean
17	Identify potential solutions for the increased number of cigarette butts littered through the Town.	2024-09-16	Chris Toner Amy Dean
18	Explore options for including signage at the Marina to ask boaters to rinse their boats off after use.	2024-09-16	Graeme Ivory

Legend: Yellow = New Addition to Action Item List  
Green = Completed Items on Action List

19	Seek further information from Ontario Power Generation about fish migration around the dam.	2024-09-16	
20	Work with Ottawa Riverkeepers on protecting our waterways.	2024-09-16	Barry Goodman

Legend: Yellow = New Addition to Action Item List  
Green = Completed Items on Action List

**Completed Items:**

Item	Status	Responsible Party
Invite the <a href="#">Carleton Place Environmental Advisory Committee</a> to be a delegation at a future meeting.	Completed	Amy Dean
Provide more information about the MacNamara Field Naturalists Club and its 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary plans.	Completed	Barry Goodman
Organize Earth Day activities and participation in National Earth Day workshop.	Completed	Amy Dean
Organize Pitch-In Week (April 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 to May 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2024) activities.	Completed	Lucas Power Amy Dean
Provide more information about the Great Arnprior Trash Hunt and how the EAC can get involved.	Completed	Alexis Young
Provide electronic copies of Town by-laws and policies with regard to environmental issues (as listed in the March 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 Environmental Advisory Committees PowerPoint Presentation).	Completed	Oliver Jacob
Provide an update regarding The Great Arnprior Trash Hunt and its impact at the next EAC meeting.	Completed	Alexis Young
Create a sorting guide tool for use at public events.	Completed	Barry Goodman
Coordinate with the organizers of The Great Arnprior Trash Hunt to determine locations that are completed and in need of additional clean-up.	Completed	Amy Dean

Legend: **Yellow = New Addition to Action Item List**  
**Green = Completed Items on Action List**

Add garbage bins into the passive park in the Marshall's Bay Meadows Subdivision until the park construction is completed with permanent benches and waste receptacles.	Completed	Graeme Ivory
Bring forward more information on the Nick Smith Centre Arena Slab Replacement project and its impact on the building's energy efficiency.	Completed	John Steckly Graeme Ivory
Bring forward more information to be presented to a future committee meeting on the Town's vehicle and equipment fleet and potential electrification opportunities.	Completed	John Steckly Graeme Ivory

Legend: Yellow = New Addition to Action Item List  
Green = Completed Items on Action List







# Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society

*Beautifying Richmond Hill since 1914*

## Richmond Hill Blooms

also known as Front Garden Recognition

### What is Richmond Hill Blooms?

Richmond Hill Blooms, also known as Front Garden Recognition, is a program designed to beautify Richmond Hill by encouraging residents to create attractive, colourful and well-maintained front gardens. Gardens are nominated by neighbours, friends, relations or even by yourself. Front gardens within the community are eligible for nomination. Every nominated garden will receive a participation sign provided by the City.

In 2023 the judging portion of the program was dropped. Instead, the program focused on encouraging a higher level of participation across the City. This will continue in 2024.

### How can my garden be nominated?

The 2024 nomination period runs from May 31 to July 5, 2024 and the online nomination form is accessible on the City's website ([click here](#)).



## When will signs be delivered?

Signs are anticipated to be delivered starting in late July.

## What else is included in the 2024 program?

The City and our society are collaborating on a number of free gardening presentations in 2024. The first, "Seed Starting 101," is on March 21 and an in-person kick-off workshop and plant sale is on May 15. As well, a Summer's End Garden Social is planned for September 7. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

 **Don't wait, nominate!**

JOIN US

Member of the Ontario Horticultural Association  
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[Access RH](#)

## Access Richmond Hill

The Access Richmond Hill Contact Centre provides assistance for general inquiries, responds to questions or concerns regarding programs and services as well as accepts in person payments.

## Contact Us

905-771-8800

[access@richmondhill.ca](mailto:access@richmondhill.ca)

Hours of Service:

Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Report Feedback

Report a problem with a service, e.g. missed garbage collection, overnight parking, potholes, street lights, etc.

[Report a Problem](#)

## Richmond Hill Blooms

**Did your garden get nominated for recognition? New for 2024: introducing pollinator garden badges!**

Proudly display these custom-designed stickers on your Front Garden Recognition lawn sign if your garden supports pollinators. [Learn more.](#)

Richmond Hill Blooms is a program designed to encourage residents to play a role in beautifying our community by creating attractive, colourful and well-maintained front gardens.

## Garden Social & Sustainability Event - September 7

Drop in to this booth-style interactive event for the opportunity to speak with local garden experts and learn more about the City's parks-related, environmental and sustainable initiatives.

New this year, the event will host a variety of Sustainability-focused exhibitors. Richmond Hill has a long tradition of working with the community to protect our natural environment. Achieving a more sustainable, resilient Richmond Hill is a community effort and together we can build healthy yards and healthy homes.

**Date and time:** Saturday, September 7, 2024 | 1 – 4 p.m.

**Location:** Richmond Green Sports Centre and Park – Picnic Shelter A (1300 Elgin Mills Road East)

### Event features:

- Speak with a variety of exhibitors
- Meet with fellow gardeners
- Play environmental games (and win prizes!)
- Enjoy a free popcorn snack
- Purchase a Backyard Composter through the [Healthy Yards Program](#) (while supplies last)!
- Pick up a free wildflower seedling and birdseed giveaway (while supplies last)!

Walk-ins are welcome to this free event.

Learn more about Richmond Hill's sustainability initiatives at [Richmondhill.ca/Environment](https://richmondhill.ca/Environment)

## Front garden recognition program

Residents are invited to nominate their favourite Richmond Hill front gardens for recognition. You can nominate your friends, family, neighbours or even your own front garden.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. Garden designs can be anything from a lush, green oasis to a vivid array of colours and scents to a pollinator's paradise. All nominated properties will receive a recognition sign to proudly display in the front garden.

## How to nominate a garden for recognition

Nominations are now closed. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Please note that the judging portion of the front garden recognition program has been discontinued. Instead, the program is going back to its roots and will focus on encouraging a higher level of participation across the community.

## New! Pollinator Garden Badges

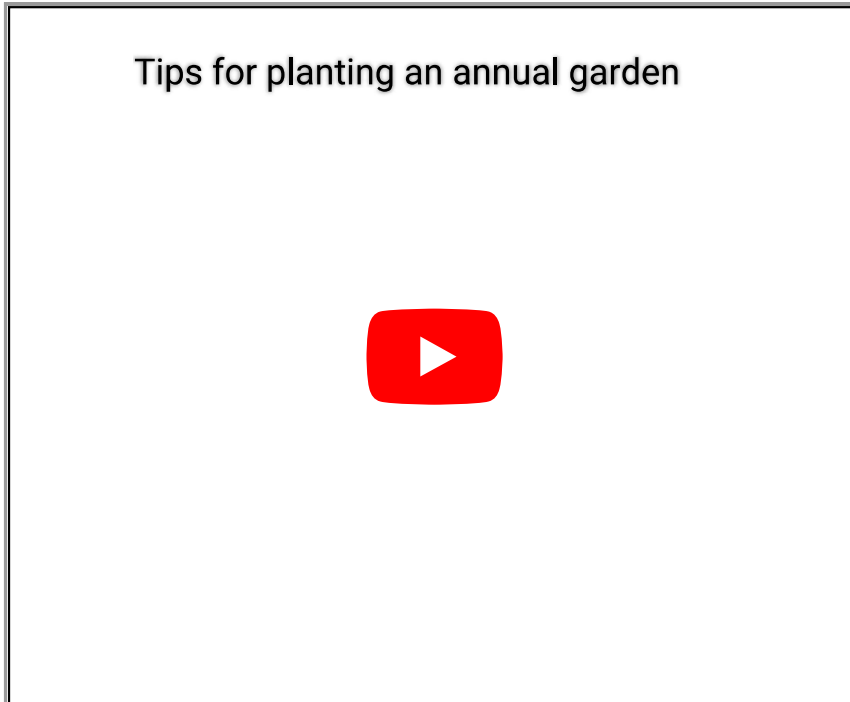
Proudly display these custom-designed stickers on your Front Garden Recognition lawn sign if your garden supports pollinators. Pollinator supporting gardens should feature elements such as:

- Native trees, shrubs and/or wildflowers
- Nectar feeders
- Nesting spaces such as bee hotels or fallen logs
- Places to rest such as flat stones in sunny places
- Avoids the use of insecticides or fertilizers

**Sticker pickup location:** Front reception of the [Richmond Hill Operations Centre](#) (1200 Elgin Mills Road East). Office hours are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Appointments are not required.

Learn more about what the City is doing to support pollinators and how you can help by visiting [RichmondHill.ca/Pollinators](http://RichmondHill.ca/Pollinators).

## How-to gardening videos



- [Tips for Planting an Annual Basket](#)
- [Tips for Planting an Annual Barrel](#)

Thank you to long-time sponsor [Miller Compost](#) for their support.

## Contact(s)

**City of Richmond Hill**  
225 East Beaver Creek Road  
Richmond Hill, Ontario  
L4B 3P4

Tel: 905-771-8800  
Fax: 905-771-5515  
[Email Access Richmond Hill](#)  
[Map this location](#)

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2024

# Clean Economy **Action Plan**

**Prepared For:**  
The Amprior Community

**Prepared By:**  
 **Regenerative  
Waste Labs**



Funded by the  
Government  
of Canada

**Canada** 



**WildRoga**

WildRoga is a community wellness company specializing in cultivating connections and empowering individuals. WildRoga's offerings are thoughtfully designed to enhance and nurture belonging, sustainability and growth within communities.

**Community Data Program**

Community Data Program is a membership-based community development initiative open to any Canadian public, non-profit or community sector organization with a local service delivery or public policy mandate. The program facilitates access to the evidence needed to tell our stories and inform effective and responsive policy and program design and implementation.

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## Executive Summary

Climate change is already impacting Canadian communities, damaging the economic pillars of primary industry, transportation, and retail vital to rural economies. The average costs of weather-related disasters are rising each year, reaching an estimated aggregate loss of nearly \$3.5 billion in 2023.<sup>1</sup> On top of that, Ontario has just experienced the warmest winter on record.

The Canadian Climate Institute has modelled that economic repercussions will be widely felt through direct financial losses driven by weather-related disasters, infrastructure damage, and losses in exports and business investment.<sup>2</sup> As we confront these challenges, the imperative for action becomes clear: Arnprior's future resilience hinges on its ability to adapt, mitigate, and forge a path toward sustainability in the face of mounting climate risks. Strategic economic diversification is key to building a strong, inclusive, climate-resilient community. To this end, the Community Action for Workforce Development project commissioned the development of a Clean Economy Action Plan for the Town of Arnprior.

In collaboration with WildRoga, Regenerative Waste Labs conducted a study to identify priority areas and recommendations for tangible actions toward clean growth in Arnprior. The key themes and insights arose after a review of climate action policies and case studies, stakeholder consultation through online surveys and a focus group of employers enrolled in the Arnprior CAWD program.

The Town of Arnprior Clean Economy Action Plan presents key priority areas for possible clean economy initiatives that align with Arnprior's regional and provincial policy context. The report provides practical actions for local stakeholders and decision-makers in Arnprior to address pressing climate issues and capitalize on community development opportunities.

This report is not intended to establish Arnprior's policy for future clean growth; rather, it presents key strategy areas for clean economy initiatives that can guide future planning activities.

### Key strategies for community action

This project has identified four key strategy areas to foster the growth of the clean economy in Arnprior.

#### **Waste reduction**

As landfill space becomes increasingly limited, municipalities like Arnprior are facing growing challenges in waste disposal management. For Arnprior's community members, increasing waste diversion from landfills has emerged as a top priority.

The expansion of Arnprior's industrial sectors, particularly in advanced manufacturing, retail trade, and construction, has led to a rise in waste generation. This highlights the importance of recycling materials within these industries to minimize resource depletion and extend the lifespan of landfills. Furthermore, support mechanisms need to be extended to Arnprior's numerous micro- and small businesses.

Targeted waste diversion and circular economy initiatives can assist local businesses in adapting to evolving regulations while promoting sustainable waste management practices. There is strong

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<sup>1</sup> Government of Canada. Canada's top 10 weather stories of 2023. (January 2024). Available online: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/top-ten-weather-stories/2023.html> (Accessed March 26, 2024)

<sup>2</sup> Canadian Climate Institute (September, 2022). Damage control: Reducing the costs of climate impacts in Canada. Available online: <https://climateinstitute.ca/reports/damage-control> (Accessed January 17, 2024)

community support for expanding circular economy programming, such as repair cafes, sharing platforms, or upcycling workshops.

Priority Actions:

- Setting goals to reduce the amount of recoverable material sent to landfills.
- Conducting a landfill waste audit to identify high-volume resource streams that could be recovered and recycled.
- Providing education and support for businesses and community groups.
- Supporting food recovery and organics diversion programs.
- Advancing action to promote building deconstruction and salvaging.
- Conducting a community needs assessment and evaluating existing programs.
- Raising awareness and garnering public support for circular economy initiatives.

### **Climate Adaptation**

With Arnprior's ongoing growth, addressing the local impacts of climate change becomes increasingly urgent. Every element of the municipality's infrastructure, from pipeline transportation to stormwater management, utilities, and waste management, is vulnerable under current climate conditions, with risks expected to increase over time. Integrating adaptation and resilience considerations into strategic planning and asset management is vital to ensure the successful implementation of climate action initiatives.

There was a strong consensus among Arnprior stakeholders on the importance of a formal climate adaptation plan. Community stakeholders stressed the need to prioritize infrastructure and ecosystem resilience against climate change impacts.

Priority Actions:

- Conduct an assessment of asset vulnerability to prioritize infrastructure resilience against climate change impacts.
- Develop a natural asset inventory to bolster support for ecosystem health.
- Engage collaboratively to advance regional climate adaptation planning.

### **Clean Growth**

To maintain regional competitiveness, Arnprior can implement supportive policies and initiatives to attract new businesses. Attracting green businesses to Arnprior can contribute to job creation and innovation. Arnprior can consider incentives to level the playing field and promote green business practices.

Intentional land-use planning models can be employed to design cooperative industrial frameworks, where businesses co-locate in designated areas to share facilities, resources, energy, services, and infrastructure. This clustered development approach enhances resource efficiency and reduces the overall environmental footprint of developed areas.

Priority Actions:

- Identify and implement supportive policies and initiatives.
- Foster collaborative business practices for sustainable growth.

### **Emissions reduction**

A significant portion of Ontario's emissions stems from buildings and homes. Community stakeholders have voiced strong support for initiatives aimed at reducing energy consumption to address the impacts of climate change. In Arnprior, an older town with many homes over 100 years old, both older buildings and new constructions must adhere to green building standards.

However, community members also expressed a need for increased access to information about existing subsidies and incentive programs.

Inter-community travel emerged as a priority for community members. Transitioning towards public transportation and active modes of travel can help mitigate vehicle emissions. However, Arnprior currently lacks accessible local transit services. Therefore, community members have advocated for initiatives to improve inter-community travel while reducing reliance on single-occupancy vehicles.

Priority Actions:

- Provide support for accessing residential green retrofits.
- Advocate for green building training programs.
- Establish an intercommunity shuttle service in collaboration with regional stakeholders.
- Facilitate the expansion of ride-share and car-share services.

### **Barriers and enablers for businesses**

Insights gathered from discussions with local businesses have shed light on the challenges and opportunities they encounter when implementing clean economy practices.

While the concept of the clean economy resonates with many businesses, it's evident that for most, this transition is perceived as a longer-term aspiration rather than an immediate priority. Several surveyed businesses had already taken proactive steps to integrate clean economy initiatives into their daily operations and had further plans for the future. This highlights a growing recognition of the benefits of adopting environmentally sustainable practices, including cost savings, resource optimization, and other advantages.

There's a recognized need for a more robust commitment to action and implementation. Gaps exist, particularly in terms of community collaboration and co-creation. While some businesses have set sustainability goals, the majority have not yet taken concrete steps in this direction. There's a significant opportunity for businesses to leverage partnerships with local organizations to foster a more cohesive approach to clean growth.

Educational support emerges as a key enabler for businesses seeking to advance their internal clean economy initiatives. Many express a desire for additional training and resources to deepen their understanding of clean economy principles and implementation strategies. However, there may be gaps in awareness regarding the specific skills needed, whether technical, operational, or related to a clean economy workforce.

Priority actions to support businesses:

- Foster community collaboration and co-creation efforts.
- Provide educational support and training resources for businesses to advance internal initiatives in the clean economy.

Feedback collected from the focus group has highlighted four key areas of action businesses can take to transition to the clean economy:

- *Sustainable Procurement* - sourcing products and services in a manner that not only minimizes environmental impact but also supports local economic growth.
- *Emission Reduction* - adopting practices and technologies to decrease carbon emissions and mitigate environmental impacts.
- *Waste Reduction* - minimizing waste at its source and promoting recycling and composting efforts to divert waste from landfills.

- *Circular Economy* - promoting recycling, upcycling, and using renewable materials to maximize resource efficiency and minimize waste generation.

## Introduction

### Community and industry profile

The Town of Arnprior, in the eastern part of Southern Ontario, lies within the traditional territory of the Algonquin of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation. Arnprior sits on 13 sq. km at the confluence of the Madawaska River and the Ottawa River within the Ottawa Valley. Arnprior is a member of the upper-tier municipality County of Renfrew, comprising 17 neighbouring communities.

The Town of Arnprior is growing.<sup>3</sup> The population grew 9.5% between 2016 and 2021. The majority of newcomers arrived from within the province or from across Canada. Around 34% migrated from overseas. A growing town needs a thriving economy to provide secure jobs, accessible services, and amenities to retain and attract residents.

Most Arnprior residents actively participate in the labour force, with 58% of employed residents engaged in full-time work.<sup>3</sup>

Arnprior's employment landscape reflects diverse sectors, each contributing significantly to the local economy. Many of the Town's residents are employed in Healthcare and social assistance, Construction, Retail trade, and Manufacturing. Emerging "knowledge-based" sectors, such as Professional, scientific, and technical services, Educational services, and Public administration, have been experiencing moderate to strong employment growth in recent years.

Sectors with smaller employment concentrations have also shown growth, including Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, and Utilities.

Arnprior is home to a variety of businesses, ranging from owner-operator establishments with no employees to larger enterprises with more than 500 employees. Entrepreneurship and small business make up a significant portion of the local economy.<sup>4</sup> Some of Arnprior's largest employers are in the manufacturing, and healthcare sectors. These trends in employment growth across diverse sectors shows the potential for Arnprior to continue to diversify its economy and create new job opportunities.

The biggest threat to this optimistic economic outlook is climate change.

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<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released November 15, 2023.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

Statistics Canada. 2017. Arnprior, T [Census subdivision], Ontario and Petawawa, T [Census subdivision], Ontario (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

<sup>4</sup> Local Labour Market Plan COVID-19 Pandemic Edition, Labour Market Group of Renfrew and Lanark

<https://www.algonquincollege.com/renfrewlanark/files/2021/10/2021-2022-LLMP-COVID-19-Pandemic-Edition-English-Final.pdf>



## Vulnerability to Climate Impacts

Arnprior is expected to experience significant shifts in climate patterns.<sup>5</sup> The town already experiences ~9 days per year where temperatures exceed 30 °C. On Arnprior's hottest day in 2023, temperatures reached 36 °C. Climate projections suggest under a high emissions scenario, this number may increase to over 60 extremely hot days annually by the century's end. Conversely, extremely cold days, where temperatures drop below -25°C, will become increasingly rare. Periods of extreme temperatures can cause moisture deficits spurring dry conditions and drought. Projections indicate that total fires in Ontario could increase by 15% by 2040, and by 50% by 2100.

Rainfall patterns are expected to change. There will be an increase in spring and autumn precipitation, potentially increasing the risk of floods and freezing rain. During the winter, Arnprior can expect to experience more rain and less snow.

Climate-related impacts on infrastructure are a pressing concern. In Ontario, municipalities own 52% of public infrastructure. No single asset, whether it's pipeline transportation, stormwater management, transportation, utilities, or waste management, will not be at risk to climate impacts, and the level of risk is anticipated to increase in the future.

The electricity grid is at risk from extreme temperatures, as running equipment under high heat conditions accelerates deterioration. Freezing rain or ice accumulation on distribution lines causes physical damage to infrastructure. The windstorm that ripped across southern Ontario in 2022 damaged the power grid in Ottawa so badly, parts of the city were without electricity for more than two weeks. That one storm caused \$875 million of insured damage.

Buildings are vulnerable to floods and wildfires, which can damage foundations and frames, shortening the service life of structures. Flood mitigation infrastructure faces a high risk, which would then impact rail, roads, and bridges. After recent major flooding in Arnprior, groundwater pressure damaged property and infrastructure.

Arnprior's residents are vulnerable to health impacts from smoke from wildfires that will continue to reduce air quality. Air quality in the Ottawa Valley area reached the highest severity (10+) from 2023 wildfires. Acute climate events lead to increased demands for services, placing strain on social support systems and potentially increasing the proportion of the population unable to access assistance. This may contribute to a rise in unhoused populations. Administrative and care workers delivering social assistance are more likely to experience high stress and increased demand. This could mean that in times of emergency when people need support, they will not be able to receive it as quickly or effectively.

With the interrelated impacts to infrastructure systems, social systems and economic outcomes, managing climate risks is of vital importance.

## Benefits of Transitioning to a Clean Economy

To thrive in a changing world, communities like Arnprior can capitalize on their strengths and mitigate risk by integrating holistic strategies that promote sustainable growth, and enhance quality of life. This means positioning itself as an attractive destination for residents, businesses, and investors by transitioning to a clean economy that prioritizes reliable job creation, green innovation and a healthy and accessible environment.

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<sup>5</sup> Climate Risk Institute. (2023). Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment Technical Report. Report prepared by the Climate Risk Institute, Dillon Consulting, ESSA Technologies Ltd., Kennedy Consulting and Seton Stiebert for the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. Available at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-provincial-climate-change-impact-assessment>

Many municipalities in Canada are exploring how to implement clean economy and nature-based solutions into their community development plans.

The transition to a clean economy is a shift toward sustainable practices and technologies to promote environmental well-being and local resilience. Businesses increasingly adopt clean technologies—goods or services designed to address or prevent ecological harm. These technologies are crucial in improving energy efficiency, promoting sustainable resource use, and pollution control. Examples range from implementing car-share programs to developing innovative recycling processes or producing compostable alternatives to single-use plastics.

Clean technologies are part of industries' efforts to combat climate change.

Nature-based solutions represent the public sector's approach to climate action. These initiatives focus on actions that enhance ecosystems for the benefit of all. Examples include protecting, restoring, and expanding natural assets and implementing green infrastructure projects. This encompasses activities such as safeguarding grasslands and wetlands, installing green roofs, and expanding urban forests within cities.

## Climate Action Policy Context

Municipalities play a central role in ensuring the sustainable growth and long-term prosperity of their communities. However, municipal governments and local stakeholders can't facilitate this transition alone. Cohesive climate action at all levels is critical—from provinces and territories, municipalities, Indigenous peoples, businesses, and individuals.

**Federal, provincial, and regional policy-makers have put in place bold domestic decarbonization and renewable energy policies.**

Canada has taken pivotal steps to move toward a low-carbon economy while at the same time balancing energy security, reliability, and affordability for Canadians. Canada's National Adaptation Strategy presents a roadmap for building strong resilient communities with a focus on mitigating climate-related disasters, protecting nature, improving health and well-being while reinforcing the economy and infrastructure.<sup>6</sup> Central to Canada's sustainability strategy was the ambitious 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, a blueprint outlining sector-specific targets to steer the economy towards a 40-45% reduction in emissions by 2030.<sup>7</sup>

To showcase their commitment to supporting their communities, in 2018 the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks released *Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan*.<sup>8</sup>

Ontario set an ambitious target to reduce emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. Significant progress has been made, particularly in the electricity sector. In 2017, approximately 96% of the

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<sup>6</sup> Canada's National Adaptation Strategy: Building Resilient Communities and a Strong Economy, Environment and Climate Change Canada

[https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2023/eccc/en4/En4-544-2023-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2023/eccc/en4/En4-544-2023-eng.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> 2023 Progress Report on the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan: Executive summary

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/climate-plan-overview/emissions-reduction-2030/2023-progress-report/executive-summary.html>

<sup>8</sup> A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/made-in-ontario-environment-plan>

electricity generated in Ontario was emissions-free. Nuclear and hydroelectric power generates the majority of Ontario's clean electricity.

Moving forward, Ontario is focusing on further reducing emissions from transportation, industry, and buildings through initiatives such as the Emissions Performance Standards program,<sup>9</sup> Cleaner Transportation Fuels regulation,<sup>10</sup> and modernization of the Building Code.<sup>11</sup>

Another aspect of the Made in Ontario plan is the promotion of waste reduction and the adoption of circular economy principles. With about six percent of the province's total emissions originating from the waste sector, predominantly from landfills, Ontario has implemented key actions to reduce and divert waste.<sup>12</sup> These actions include expanding provincial extended producer responsibility programs, modernizing and enhancing the residential Blue Box program, and setting a target to phase out food and organic waste from landfills by 2030.

Arnprior is a member of the upper-tier municipality, the County of Renfrew. Through this organization Arnprior coordinates with neighbouring communities under shared governance.

Decision making in Renfrew is directed by the County's Official Plan<sup>13</sup> and the 2023-2026 strategic plan.<sup>14</sup> Both these documents prioritize climate action through environmental protection, waste reduction, and active transportation. A core goal of the strategic plan is to develop and implement a Climate Action Plan. This initiative seeks to establish a county baseline and model template for local municipalities, facilitating coordinated efforts to address climate change and enhance regional environmental sustainability.

The Arnprior Official Plan also articulates a clear vision for the community, one that is committed to sustainability and responsible environmental stewardship.<sup>15</sup> The plan outlines core sustainable development goals, aiming to minimize the town's ecological footprint. It promotes green building principles in new developments, encourages energy conservation policies, and advocates for the efficient use of resources. The plan prioritizes practices that conserve water and protect water quality and active transportation measures such as cycling and walking to reduce reliance on private automobiles and minimize air pollution.

Protection and enhancement of the natural environment and significant natural heritage features and areas is a core goal within the plan. These actions include safeguarding significant woodlands, promoting forest cover increase initiatives, and ensuring that land use decisions are guided by a thorough understanding of the natural environment and its values.

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<sup>9</sup> Emissions Performance Standards Regulation (O. Reg. 241/19)

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/190241>

<sup>10</sup> Cleaner Transportation Fuels (O. Reg. 663/20)

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20663>

<sup>11</sup> Building Code updates, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/building-code-updates#ont87>

<sup>12</sup> Strategy For A Waste-Free Ontario Building The Circular Economy, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

[https://files.ontario.ca/finalstrategywastefreeont\\_eng\\_aoda1\\_final-s.pdf](https://files.ontario.ca/finalstrategywastefreeont_eng_aoda1_final-s.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> County of Renfrew Official Plan (2020), Prepared by: County of Renfrew Planning Division

<https://www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca/en/business-and-development/resources/Documents/OFFICIAL-PLAN-T-EXT-Consolidated-Jan-2023.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Strategic Plan 2023-2026 (2023), County of Renfrew

<https://www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca/en/living-here/resources/Documents/Strategic-Plan-2023-2026.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Official Community Plan (2017), Town Of Arnprior

<https://www.arnprior.ca/en/building-and-planning/resources/Planning-PDFs/Town-of-Arnprior-Official-Plan.pdf>

Arnprior's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan lists the development of climate action and waste management strategies as core priorities.<sup>16</sup> These strategies are integral to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting waste reduction and recycling, and demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainability, environmental protection, and the promotion of a high quality of life for its residents now and in the future.

The town has an Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) which serves as a vital advocate for climate action in Arnprior.<sup>17</sup> Through its advisory role to the Council, the EAC can champion sustainability and conservation efforts, promoting clean economy initiatives within the community.

The cohesive climate policies outlined above form a foundation for continued climate action in Arnprior.

**This Clean Economy Action Plan is designed to provide businesses, community members and other local stakeholders with a framework for targeted clean economy actions and to point to resources to assist in implementing them.**

The purpose of this report is not to establish Arnprior's climate action policies, but rather to highlight strategic areas to guide Arnprior transition into a clean economy.

## Methodology

In this study, we engaged a business focus group consisting of employers enrolled in the CAWD program, and a community focus group representing members of the wider Arnprior community and business community. Focus groups were solicited for feedback to guide the development of key areas of focus and tangible actions that could be taken by businesses and community members toward transitioning to a clean economy.

Prior to engaging the focus group, the research team reviewed past sustainability plans, feasibility studies, industry statistics, existing sustainability programs, provincial and regional policies, and other background information. Additionally, the team compiled clean economy case studies and best practices, specifically focusing on rural communities. From this comprehensive review, a community profile was generated, including insights into clean growth and sustainable development strategies tailored to Arnprior's unique context.

In the subsequent community engagement phase, the research team sought out feedback and local perspectives on the preliminary areas of action. Engagement activities also assessed the barriers businesses and other stakeholders face in their clean growth journey.

Three engagement methods were used: a community consultation survey, a business survey, and focus group discussions with employers in the Arnprior CAWD program.

On March 4, 2024, a focus group session took place at the Arnprior Museum, with 12 individuals representing eight local businesses in attendance. During this session, participants received training on five key clean economy strategies: sustainable procurement, emissions reduction, waste reduction, circular economy, and remediation and conservation. They actively engaged in

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<sup>16</sup> 2024-2027 Municipal Strategic Plan, Town of Arnprior  
<https://www.arnprior.ca/en/town-hall/resources/Documents/Studies-and-plans/Document-1---Town-of-Arnprior-Strategic-Plan-2024---2027.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> Environmental Advisory Committee, Town of Arnprior  
<https://www.arnprior.ca/en/town-hall/environmental-advisory-committee.aspx>

discussions, sharing their insights on the challenges they face in implementing these initiatives and expressing their preferences for support mechanisms within their community.

The same employers took part in the business survey, encompassing various categories of the clean economy. These categories included:

- Awareness of the clean economy
- Climate impacts on the company
- Attitudes toward the importance of a clean economy & community collaboration
- Environmentally friendly initiatives, practices and policies in place (e.g. Waste management, energy efficiency, sustainable procurement, community engagement, employee training)
- Barriers to clean transition and supports needed
- Future sustainability plans

An online community survey was circulated between March 5 and 11, 2024. Responses from 34 residents were obtained, on preliminary areas of clean economy action:

- Climate Action Strategy: Initiatives focused on strategic planning to effectively implement climate actions.
- Green Growth Strategy: Initiatives aimed at fostering green growth to enable the town to leverage regional economic opportunities.
- Enabling Public Transportation: Initiatives aligned with broader regional strategies to enhance transportation infrastructure.
- Food Waste Reduction within Businesses: Initiatives aligned with broader regional strategies to promote food waste reduction efforts within local businesses.
- Circular Economy Programming to Drive Landfill Diversion: Initiatives aligned with broader regional strategies to enhance waste diversion efforts through circular economy practices.

Feedback collected from community consultations guided the development of this Community Clean Economy Action Plan, specifically designed to address the unique context of the Arnprior community. This action plan integrates key findings from the consultations, local priorities identified by residents and stakeholders, and the available support mechanisms for effective implementation.<sup>18</sup>

## Community Actions Toward a Clean Economy in Arnprior

This project has identified four key strategy areas to foster the growth of the clean economy in Arnprior. The following sections describe actionable steps that municipal, business, and community stakeholders can undertake towards:

- Waste reduction
- Climate adaptation
- Clean growth

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<sup>18</sup> For the full summary of the focus group engagement, see: Regenerative Waste Labs. (March 2024) What We Heard Summary of Arnprior business and community focus group engagement.

- Emissions reduction

## Waste Reduction

Ontario's waste sector contributes approximately 6% of the total greenhouse gas emissions in the province, with landfills serving as a significant source of these emissions. As landfill space diminishes, municipalities like Arnprior are increasingly challenged in waste disposal management. This action is especially important in Arnprior as the local landfill capacity is expected to last only another 16-17 years.<sup>19</sup> Enhancing waste diversion efforts is critical.

### Objective: Increasing Waste Diversion from Landfills

To reduce emissions and improve resource efficiency, Ontario's Waste Audits and Waste Reduction Work Plans regulation (Ontario Regulation 102/94) mandates businesses and institutions to conduct waste audits and prepare reduction work plans.<sup>20</sup> Similarly, the Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Source Separation Programs regulation (Ontario Regulation 103/94) requires source separation programs for specified wastes, emphasizing the reuse or recycling of separated waste.<sup>21</sup> These regulations typically apply to large establishments, prompting the Province to consider amending and broadening their application to drive further diversion.

The growth in Arnprior's industrial sectors, particularly in advanced manufacturing, retail trade, and construction, correlates to an increase in waste. There becomes an associated need to recycle materials within these industries to minimize resource depletion and prolong the landfills' life. Additionally, support mechanisms can be extended to Arnprior's numerous micro- and small businesses. Targeted waste diversion and circular economy initiatives can help local businesses align with changing regulations while promoting sustainable waste management practices.

### Priority Action: Conducting a comprehensive landfill waste audit

Conducting periodic landfill waste audits is crucial for tracking progress and informing targeted waste reduction strategies. These audits can help identify high-volume resource streams that could be recovered and recycled.

The Town's commitment to developing a waste management strategy as outlined in the 2024-2027 strategic plan aligns with this priority action.<sup>16</sup> This action could serve as a framework for addressing waste management challenges and optimizing resource recovery. The broader provincial efforts to identify key resource streams for diversion and regional commitment to investigate and implement reduction, reuse, and recycling programs present collaboration and shared learning opportunities.<sup>8</sup>

### Recommended next steps:

- Establish a collaborative partnership with neighbouring communities to commission a comprehensive landfill waste audit encompassing Arnprior and surrounding areas.
- Utilize the findings of the landfill waste audit to identify specific resource streams with high potential for recovery and recycling. Prioritize those materials that contribute significantly to landfill volumes and have viable recycling or reuse options.

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<sup>19</sup> 2022 Site Development, Operations and Environmental Monitoring - Arnprior Waste Disposal Site, WSP Canada Inc.

<https://www.arnprior.ca/en/living-here/resources/Reports/landfillmonitoringreport.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> Waste Audits And Waste Reduction Work Plans (O. Reg. 102/94)

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/940102>

<sup>21</sup> Industrial, Commercial And Institutional Source Separation Programs (O. Reg. 103/94)

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/940103/v2>

- Engage with local businesses, waste management facilities, and recycling centers to explore opportunities for diverting these resource streams from landfills.
- Establish mechanisms for ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and resource recovery efforts.

**Priority Action: Collaborating with stakeholders to increase landfill diversion**

Stakeholders in Arnprior have highlighted significant barriers for businesses, including logistical challenges, financial constraints, and limited awareness of available diversion programs. Addressing these obstacles through engagement can lead to development of practical and scalable waste diversion solutions tailored to the community's needs.

Educational initiatives can improve waste management practices. Engaging businesses with information about the diverse programs offered by regional waste recovery facilities can encourage participation. Educating businesses on the benefits of resource recovery and available secondary markets for materials like wood pallets and waste wood can significantly impact their waste diversion efforts. Using digital platforms to share materials and best practices among businesses and the community can provide valuable insights and foster collaborative solutions. Additionally, supporting businesses to implement practical methods to reduce contamination, such as using clear garbage bags, can further strengthen these efforts.

**Recommended next steps:**

- Engage in round-table discussions with business stakeholders to identify waste management and collection barriers.
- Assess the feasibility of implementing curbside collection for businesses or explore alternative modes through collaboration with the business community.
- Work with stakeholders to develop community goals and targets for waste reduction.
- Collaboratively evaluate incentives for community members to reduce waste, focusing on options beyond penalty-based measures.
- Utilize public communication channels to promote existing waste diversion or redistribution activities.
- Initiate a public waste reduction campaign aimed at sharing up-to-date, and accessible information on materials accepted for recycling.
- Provide regular updates to stakeholders on recycling rates, contamination levels, and progress toward achieving waste reduction goals.

**Priority Action: Support food recovery programs**

When food and organic materials are sent to landfills, they break down and emit methane. This potent greenhouse gas contributes significantly to climate change. Recognizing this environmental impact, Arnprior is addressing organic waste diversion. The town currently collects fall and spring yard waste and is piloting an electric composter program for residents. However, there are no programs for businesses in this area to reduce or divert food waste.

Recent food and organic waste policies in Ontario emphasize the importance of rescuing surplus food as an effective means of diverting edible food from going to waste.<sup>22</sup> Ontario's \$55 million investment through the Surplus Food Redistribution Infrastructure program aims to assist food rescue organizations in diverting high-quality food from landfills. Despite these policies, businesses have expressed a need for supportive programs to facilitate food recovery efforts.

Engaging with businesses to understand the barriers and enablers to participating in food recovery programs is essential. Facilitating collaborations between local food businesses and Renfrew and

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<sup>22</sup> Ontario's Food And Organic Waste Policy Statement  
[https://files.ontario.ca/food\\_and\\_organic\\_waste\\_policy\\_statement.pdf](https://files.ontario.ca/food_and_organic_waste_policy_statement.pdf)

Arnprior food banks could improve food security in the region. Promoting food pick-up apps or facilitating food drop-off sites can further enhance food recovery efforts.

#### **Recommended next steps:**

- Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to identify food recovery priorities and incorporate food security needs in Arnprior.
- Engage with local businesses to evaluate potential models for new food waste recovery programs in Arnprior.
- Engage municipal, Indigenous, business, and other community stakeholders toward collaborative development of food waste reduction goals, as well as social goals toward zero hunger.
- Develop a modernized municipal food waste reduction plan incorporating feedback from stakeholder engagement and the community needs assessment. This plan will serve as a roadmap for implementing effective food recovery initiatives and achieving food waste reduction goals.
- Extend the Food Cycler pilot project to include more residents and share lessons and successes from the program. By scaling up successful initiatives, Arnprior can further reduce food waste and promote sustainable food management practices.

#### **Priority Action: Advancing action to promote building deconstruction and salvaging**

Both the Arnprior and Renfrew County Plans highlight the importance of reducing waste from construction debris by promoting the adaptive reuse of older and existing building stock.<sup>14, 15</sup> Deconstruction involves carefully dismantling structures to recover valuable building materials for reuse or recycling rather than demolishing them and sending the debris to landfills. Arnprior could take proactive steps to advance this goal by exploring strategies to encourage building deconstruction and salvage.

#### **Recommended next steps:**

- Utilize landfill waste audit findings to set specific goals and targets for diverting construction waste from landfills.
- Foster dialogue with stakeholders in the local construction sector to understand the challenges and opportunities associated with deconstruction and the recovery of building materials.
- Commission a study of deconstruction by-laws and initiatives that could be implemented in Arnprior. This study could examine existing regulations, policies, and programs related to building deconstruction and salvaging in other jurisdictions. The findings would inform the development of tailored initiatives to promote deconstruction practices within the community.

#### **Objective: Expanding circular economy programming**

Ontario is committed to reducing emissions from waste by transitioning the Province towards a circular economy.<sup>12</sup> Sending valuable materials to the landfill contributes to unpredictable pricing increases, supply chain risks and places growing pressure on virgin materials. A circular economy aims to eliminate waste by redesigning materials, products, and business models, going beyond mere recycling efforts.

Community members can actively participate in the circular economy by engaging in practices such as sharing, reusing, and repairing the products and materials they use in their daily lives. Arnprior has outlined a strategy to develop a waste management plan, providing an opportunity to



integrate principles of the circular economy and the waste hierarchy (reuse, repair, refurbish) into the strategy.

ReUse Centers can play a crucial role in the circular economy by facilitating the collection, processing, and sale of reusable materials such as furniture, appliances, building materials, electronics, clothing, and household items. These centers operate on the principle of diverting usable goods from landfills, promoting resource conservation, and offering affordable options for consumers.

Arnprior could create community programs focused on reuse and the circular economy. These programs could encompass a wide range of initiatives and activities tailored to the needs and interests of residents. For example:

- Community swap or exchange programs
- Repair cafes and skill-sharing workshops
- Upcycling and creative reuse initiatives
- Community gardens and composting programs

**Priority Action: Community needs assessment and evaluation of existing programs**

Community feedback has highlighted that there are existing circular economy programs. But a comprehensive assessment is needed to gauge their accessibility, alignment with community needs, and usage rates. Conducting a broader survey will provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of these programs and identify areas for improvement or expansion. The survey could explore the potential demand for new services or products, such as repair cafes, sharing platforms, or upcycling workshops.

To ensure inclusivity and accessibility, special attention should be given to marginalized or underserved populations who may face barriers to participation. Assessing resources or assistance needed to overcome language barriers, transportation limitations, or financial constraints will ensure that circular economy programs are accessible to all members of the community.

By engaging with organizations running existing circular economy programs, municipal stakeholders can better understand their operations, challenges, and requirements to ensure long-term viability. Collaborating with these organizations can provide insights into the potential for scaling up existing initiatives.

**Recommended next steps:**

- Undertake a needs assessment of community circular economy programs to evaluate their effectiveness and identify areas for improvement or expansion.
- Collaborate with key community stakeholders and organizations running circular economy programs to understand the barriers and enablers for running sustainable initiatives.
- Organize networking events to facilitate material sharing and exchange among businesses. These events can create opportunities for businesses to share resources, reduce waste, and explore collaborative initiatives that promote circularity in the local economy.

**Priority Action: Raising awareness and garnering public support for circular economy initiatives.**

Community outreach efforts, like educational campaigns and public events, can catalyze greater engagement with circular economy initiatives. These initiatives can highlight the benefits of circularity and foster participation in sustainable practices.

Recommended next steps:

- Promote businesses that offer repair services or product rentals. Communicating how companies are can help extend the lifespan of goods, reduce waste, and promote a culture of reuse and repair.
- Facilitate collaboration among community stakeholders to collectively develop and implement circular economy initiatives. Providing support, resources, and networking opportunities to local organizations, businesses, and community groups can strengthen their capacity to undertake circular economy projects.
- Utilize social media platforms, local newsletters, websites, and other communication channels to promote and spotlight existing community circular economy programs and initiatives. Highlighting success stories, showcasing innovative projects, and sharing educational content can raise awareness and inspire greater participation among residents.

## Climate Adaptation

As Arnprior continues to grow, addressing the local impacts of climate change becomes increasingly critical. Every aspect of the municipality's infrastructure, including pipeline transportation, stormwater management, utilities, and waste management, is vulnerable under current climate conditions, with the risk expected to increase over time.<sup>5</sup> The Arnprior 2024-2027 strategic plan recognizes this urgency. It outlines the goal of developing a comprehensive climate action strategy tailored to the municipality's specific vulnerabilities.<sup>16</sup>

### Objective: Development of Climate Adaptation Strategies

Incorporating adaptation and resilience considerations into strategic planning and asset management can ensure the successful implementation of climate action initiatives. Arnprior stakeholders provided examples of projects supporting climate adaptation, such as implementing permeable pavement solutions and establishing neighbourhood hubs to connect community members during disasters.

### Priority Action: Asset vulnerability assessment

Arnprior has recently commissioned an Asset Management Plan, which provided insights into the replacement cost of critical infrastructure assets.<sup>23</sup> Community stakeholders expressed that a climate adaptation plan should prioritize infrastructure resilience against climate change impacts, specifically for transportation, electricity grids, and key buildings.

Conducting an Asset Vulnerability Assessment can help identify which aspects of town operations are most vulnerable to extreme weather events and temperature fluctuations. By pinpointing these vulnerabilities, Arnprior can develop adaptation strategies and resilience measures to safeguard critical infrastructure, enhance community safety, and ensure the continuity of essential services during climate-related emergencies.

### Recommended next steps:

- Initiate a study to explore the specific climate vulnerabilities of transportation networks, electricity grids, and key buildings within Arnprior.
- Review existing case studies and best practices in infrastructure asset adaptation planning as a model for Arnprior's approach. Drawing from successful examples will help identify effective strategies and techniques for enhancing infrastructure resilience in the face of climate change.

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<sup>23</sup> Asset Management Plan (2021), Town of Arnprior  
<https://www.arnprior.ca/en/resources/Final-AMP---Arnprior---10.12.2021.pdf>

- Collaborate with stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and public service agencies, to develop adaptation strategies to protect critical infrastructure.
- Integrate climate resilience strategies into decision-making processes during the update to the Asset Management Plan.

**Priority Action: Build a natural asset inventory**

The Town's Official Community Plan articulates the goal of preserving significant woodlands and habitats.<sup>15</sup> Creating a natural asset inventory involves identifying and assessing ecological features such as soils, beaches, and wetlands. These natural elements offer invaluable services, including water and carbon storage, water quality improvement, and microclimate regulation. Community members have expressed support for further assessment of natural assets, including Gillies Grove and local biodiversity, to understand their ecological value, vulnerability to climate change, and potential threats. Additionally, the community has highlighted the importance of nature-based solutions such as pollinator gardens and wildlife corridors to bolster ecosystem health.

**Recommended next steps:**

- Collaborate with local stakeholders and Indigenous groups to establish an up-to-date inventory of natural assets, including critical habitats and vulnerable areas.
- Review existing case studies and best practices as a model for natural asset adaptation planning. Learning from successful initiatives implemented elsewhere can inform the development of effective strategies tailored to Arnprior's unique natural environment and climate challenges.
- Explore additional nature-based solutions to support ecosystem health and resilience. These may include green infrastructure projects, and habitat restoration efforts aimed at enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem health.
- Integrate natural assets into the Asset Management Plan to ensure their protection and sustainable management. By recognizing their value and incorporating them into decision-making processes, Arnprior can enhance the resilience of its ecosystems and the overall well-being of the community.

**Priority Action: Collaboratively engage to advance regional climate adaptation planning.**

Renfrew County has recently initiated a study to establish a greenhouse gas (GHG) baseline for the County and its constituent communities.<sup>24</sup> This study aims to comprehensively assess emissions from County operations and municipal activities to formulate specific emissions reduction targets and recommendations for climate action projects. The anticipated delivery of these findings is scheduled for July 2024. The results of this study can be leveraged to identify additional actions tailored to Arnprior's context and to inform decisions regarding infrastructure development.

Recommended next steps:

- Examine Renfrew County's GHG inventory and climate action recommendations to identify synergies and opportunities for collaboration in addressing climate change.
- Integrate the recommendations derived from the Renfrew County study into Arnprior's decision-making processes.
- Initiate a dialogue with Renfrew County to collaboratively develop a climate adaptation policy framework for member municipalities.

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<sup>24</sup> Renfrew County Council Summary, January 31, 2024  
<https://www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca/en/resources/Council-Summary/2024/CountyCouncilSummaryJanuary2024.pdf>

## Clean Growth

Clean growth initiatives aim to foster economic development while minimizing adverse environmental impacts, particularly by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.

In 2022, Arnprior commissioned a Growth Management Strategy, which projected that growth in the industrial and commercial sectors would drive economic development over the next two decades.<sup>25</sup> The study highlighted a shifting macro-economy in the region, facilitating the growth of advanced manufacturing and clean technology businesses. To maintain regional competitiveness, Arnprior can implement supportive policies and initiatives to attract new businesses and create job opportunities for residents.

### **Objective: Supporting Green Businesses**

Attracting green businesses to Arnprior can contribute to job creation, innovation, and enhanced competitiveness, particularly in sectors such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean transportation, advanced manufacturing, and sustainable agriculture. It's important to note that supporting green businesses does not mean disallowing or disfavoring traditional businesses. Instead, the focus is on enticing and supporting environmentally sustainable ventures to establish themselves in the community.

### **Priority Action: Identify and implement supportive policies and initiatives**

Adopting a green business model often comes with higher costs from sustainable business practices like green procurement, data tracking, and investment in energy-efficient equipment. Initiatives can be implemented to support these businesses, effectively leveling the playing field and encouraging more green development. The Arnprior Official Community Plan outlines an economic development goal to support entrepreneurs and small business operations. The initial step toward achieving this goal involves developing supportive incentives.

The Town could introduce supportive measures such as reducing permitting fees, streamlining permitting processes, or providing guidance on navigating regulatory requirements for green building projects. Additionally, expediting approvals and providing networking or promotion opportunities to businesses demonstrating sustainability characteristics can further incentivize green business development in Arnprior.

### **Recommended next steps:**

- Organize a roundtable discussion involving local businesses to identify their needs and gather input on potential supportive policies that would help them implement sustainable business practices.
- Research case studies and examples of bylaws, incentives, and policies from other jurisdictions that have successfully supported green business development. Drawing from best practices and lessons learned elsewhere can inform Arnprior's design and implementation of effective policies.

### **Priority Action: Fostering business collaboration for sustainable growth**

Through intentional land-use planning models, Arnprior can design cooperative industrial models where businesses are co-located in one area to share facilities, resources, energy, services and other infrastructure. Clustered development can improve resource efficiency while also reducing

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<sup>25</sup> Official Plan Review - Growth Management Strategy (2022), Town of Arnprior  
[https://www.arnprior.ca/en/town-hall/resources/Documents/Studies-and-plans/Arnprior-Growth-Management-Study\\_June-8-2022.pdf](https://www.arnprior.ca/en/town-hall/resources/Documents/Studies-and-plans/Arnprior-Growth-Management-Study_June-8-2022.pdf)

the overall footprint of developed areas. This type of model is becoming increasingly popular in heavy industries like oil and gas, where waste heat, gas, and water can be recovered and used by other businesses located on the same site. This cascading use of waste resources is a good example of a circular economy in action. In areas of Quebec, similar examples of symbiotic industrial communities have been established, called “synergies”, that allow companies to exchange resources within a local area, saving tons of material from landfill disposal.<sup>26</sup>

This strategy can involve exploring opportunities for infill and redevelopment in mature industrial areas or implementing strategies to encourage collaboration among green businesses. Conducting an inventory of infrastructure and space assets can help identify opportunities for colocation and space-sharing among businesses with complementary interests or needs. Colocation models may include shared workspace arrangements or cooperative ventures (e.g. commissary kitchens or maker spaces).

### **Recommended next steps:**

- Undertake an inventory of existing infrastructure and space assets to assess available resources for potential colocation and space-sharing initiatives among green businesses. This assessment can include location, zoning regulations, existing infrastructure, and environmental considerations.
- Promote the benefits of colocation, space-sharing, and collaborative business development models to encourage intensification efforts in existing employment areas.
- Engage with industrial site landowners to initiate proactive dialogue and gauge interest in repurposing or developing these lands for green business initiatives.

### **Emissions reduction**

About 20% of Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions come from energy usage in homes and buildings and about 40% from vehicles.<sup>9</sup> The provincial government has committed to reducing emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. The majority of electricity generated in Ontario—approximately 96%—is emissions-free, largely attributed to nuclear and hydroelectric power. However, Ontario's primary energy source for space and water heating is natural gas.

In Arnprior, residents benefit from being part of the clean energy grid, with Hydro One Networks<sup>27</sup> providing electricity and Enbridge Gas supplying natural gas services.<sup>28</sup> Community stakeholders have voiced their support for actions aimed at reducing energy consumption to combat the effects of climate change.

### **Objective: Reducing emissions from buildings**

Recent census data shed light on Arnprior's housing landscape, revealing that the majority of residents own homes, though a significant portion are renters. Single-detached houses are prevalent, but many residents live in apartment buildings. Notably, many homes in Arnprior are older, with over half constructed before 1981 and a significant portion predating 1960.<sup>3</sup>

Given Arnprior's status as an older town with many century-old homes, existing structures and new constructions must adhere to green building standards. One key objective is to enhance the availability and accessibility of information regarding energy consumption. Empowering households to understand their energy usage and make informed decisions, such as opting for heat pumps for space and water heating where feasible, can significantly contribute to emissions reduction efforts.

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<sup>26</sup> Collection of synergies, <https://www.cttei.com/en/recueil-de-synergies-2022/>

<sup>27</sup> Hydro One Networks, <https://www.hydroone.com/>

<sup>28</sup> Enbridge Gas, <https://www.enbridgegas.com/>

### **Priority Action: Providing support for accessing residential green retrofits**

Community feedback pointed to the need for better access to information regarding subsidies and incentive programs for residential green retrofits. One key action to address this concern is to establish a central directory of certified local retrofit contractors, streamlining the process for homeowners seeking professional assistance.

The Town can leverage its platform to share information on existing retrofit incentives at both provincial and federal levels, along with details on low-interest loans available for retrofits. Landlords, in particular, stand to benefit from guidance on building envelope improvements and alternative energy options for residential HVAC systems. Tools such as calculators to assess the return on investment, particularly regarding energy savings, can help landlords make a compelling business case for undertaking retrofits.

Equity is a core consideration in this initiative, with community members advocating for inclusivity in the retrofit plan. Particular attention should be given to supporting upgrades in social housing and extending assistance to low-income households and seniors. Community education initiatives can teach tenants about household upgrades like air sealing and energy-efficient lighting.

Engagement with the community can ensure that retrofit programs align with local needs. Town halls can serve as a platform for soliciting feedback, enabling municipal staff to gather insights, prioritize investments, and tailor programs accordingly. This collaborative approach fosters community buy-in and ensures climate adaptation efforts resonate closely with the community's priorities.

#### **Recommended next steps:**

- Establish a central directory of certified local retrofit contractors.
- Develop a platform to provide comprehensive information on loans and incentive programs for residents and businesses.
- Conduct educational sessions for homeowners on appropriate retrofits and upgrades tailored to Arnprior's changing environment.
- Provide educational resources for landlords to understand the business case for building retrofits.
- Implement education initiatives for tenants on household upgrades such as air sealing and energy-efficient lighting.
- Organize a town hall meeting to solicit feedback and understand the community's needs.

### **Priority Action: Advocating for green building training programs**

As Ontario moves forward with modernizing the Building Code to ensure the resilience of homes and buildings against extreme weather events, community members shared the benefits of supporting faster adoption of these standards.

The Town could highlight the need for more training and certification programs to local education institutions. These programs could equip local contractors, electricians and HVAC professionals with the necessary expertise to install energy-efficient equipment, and use new building materials (e.g. straw insulation). This action would increase the access to green building professional services within the community.

#### **Recommended next steps:**

- Collaborate with local educational institutions to advocate and promote training and certification programs focused on green building standards, green building materials and energy efficiency equipment.

- Organize workshops, seminars, and information sessions to raise awareness about the importance and advantages of green building practices among stakeholders in the construction industry and the broader community.

### **Objective: Enhancing Community Transportation to Reduce Vehicle Emissions**

Transportation constitutes a significant portion of emissions in Ontario, primarily fueled by gasoline and diesel. Despite improvements in vehicle efficiency, the growing number of vehicles on the road continue to contribute to emissions. In Arnprior, commuting patterns reveal that many residents travel at least 15 minutes for work, with most relying on single-occupancy vehicles for their daily commute.<sup>3</sup>

A transition towards public transportation and active modes of travel can mitigate vehicle emissions. However, Arnprior lacks accessible local transit services, leaving residents with limited transportation alternatives. Those without private vehicles often rely on taxis or specialized services, which may not be universally available or affordable.<sup>29</sup>

Establishing a transit system to service Arnprior can cater to the community's diverse transportation needs. By providing accessible and reliable public transportation options, including buses or shuttles, Arnprior can encourage residents to opt for sustainable modes of travel, reducing reliance on individual vehicle usage and ultimately decreasing emissions.

### **Priority Action: Establishing an intercommunity shuttle service in collaboration with regional stakeholders**

As Renfrew County progresses with the development of its Transportation Master Plan, there's an opportunity to leverage this initiative to enhance transportation options for Arnprior residents. Building upon Arnprior's recent Transportation Needs Analysis, implementing an electric shuttle service between Arnprior and Ottawa could significantly benefit the community.

This proposed initiative aims to improve inter-community travel while reducing reliance on single-occupancy vehicles.

### **Recommended next steps:**

- Share findings and recommendations from the Arnprior Transit Feasibility Study to inform the development of the Transportation Master Plan.
- Support Renfrew County in determining ridership rates and accessibility requirements for the intercommunity shuttle service.

### **Priority Action: Facilitating expansion of ride-share and car-share services**

Ride-share and car-share programs present viable alternatives to conventional transportation methods, offering residents convenient and sustainable mobility options. While platforms like the Arnprior Carpool/Rideshare Facebook page exist,<sup>30</sup> establishing a more formalized system could enhance accessibility and usability for community members. UberX and Lyft are also available, but its affordability may be limited due to potential shortages of drivers servicing the town.

Community members expressed the importance of prioritizing accessibility and inclusivity in transportation initiatives, ensuring they cater to individuals with disabilities, seniors, and those with limited financial means. To incentivize ride-sharing participation, offering discounts,

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<sup>29</sup> Transit Feasibility Study (2022), Town of Arnprior

<https://www.arnprior.ca/en/town-hall/resources/Documents/Studies-and-plans/TransitFeasibilityStudy.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> Arnprior Carpool / Rideshare

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ArnpriorCarpoolRideshare/>

subsidies, or other incentives for rides taken through designated platforms can encourage sustainable travel behaviour.

**Recommended next steps:**

- Collaborate with commuter bus companies and transportation stakeholders to identify and address challenges in servicing the community with rideshare options.
- Implement recommendations from transportation study by partnering with educational institutions, seniors' residences, and other trip attractors to explore key service options.
- Promote the rideshare platform Renfrew County (SharetheRide.ca) developed to facilitate carpooling and ride-sharing among community members.
- Advocate for rideshare programs' benefits, emphasizing their energy efficiency, affordability, and accessibility compared to traditional transportation methods.
- Encourage the adoption of active transportation options as an energy-efficient, affordable, and accessible mode of travel within the community.



### Summary: Priority Community Actions and Recommendations

Objective	Priority Action	Recommended next steps	Implementation Timeframe Short (6-12 month) Medium (12-24 month) Long (24+ months)
Increasing Waste Diversion from Landfills	Collaborating with stakeholders to increase landfill diversion	Promote existing waste diversion activities	Short
		Launch a public education campaign	Short
		Conduct round-table discussions	Medium
		Evaluate the feasibility of curbside collection for businesses	Medium
		Evaluate reduction incentives for community members	Medium
		Provide regular updates on waste diversion initiatives	Medium
		Collaboratively set community goals	Long
	Conducting a comprehensive landfill waste audit	Commission a landfill waste audit with neighbouring communities	Medium
		Identifying high-volume resource streams to divert for recovery and recycling	Medium
		Engage with local stakeholders on opportunities for diverting these resource streams	Long
		Implement reduction goals, and continuous improvement mechanisms	Long
Support food recovery	Conduct a community needs assessment	Short	

	programs	Evaluate potential models for food waste recovery programs in Arnprior.	Short
		Expand Food Cyler pilot project and share lessons	Medium
		Collaborate in the development of food waste reduction goals	Medium
		Develop a modernized municipal food waste reduction plan	Long
	Advancing action to promote building deconstruction and salvaging	Commission a study of deconstruction by-laws and initiatives	Medium
		Engage with local construction stakeholders to understand their challenges and opportunities	Medium
		Specify goals and targets for the diversion of construction waste from landfills	Long
Expanding circular economy programming	Community needs assessment and evaluation of existing programs	Conduct a community needs assessment	Short
		Engage with key community stakeholders and existing programs	Short
		Curate business-to-business sharing networking events	Short
	Raising awareness and garnering public support for circular economy initiatives.	Promote repair and rental businesses	Short
		Support community stakeholders in collaborative circular economy efforts	Short
		Promote and spotlight local programs through social media and communication channels	Short
Development of	Asset vulnerability	Commission a study to explore specific climate	Medium

climate adaptation strategies	assessment	vulnerabilities of infrastructure assets	
		Review existing case studies and best practices in infrastructure asset adaptation planning	Medium
		Engage with stakeholders to develop adaptation strategies	Long
		Incorporate climate resilience strategies into decision making	Long
	Build a natural asset inventory	Engage with local stakeholders and indigenous groups to establish an up-to-date inventory of natural assets	Medium
		Review existing case studies and best practices as a model for natural asset adaptation planning	Medium
		Explore additional nature-based solutions to implement in Arnprior	Medium
		Incorporate natural assets into the Asset Management Plan	Long
	Collaborative engagement in regional climate adaptation planning.	Establish dialogue with Renfrew County to collaboratively develop a climate adaptation policy framework for member municipalities	Short
		Review Renfrew County GHG inventory and climate action recommendations	Medium
		Incorporate recommendations into decision-making processes	Medium
Supporting Green Businesses	Identify and implement supportive policies and initiatives	Roundtable discussion to explore business needs and potential policies to support implementation of sustainable business practices	Short

		Explore case studies and examples of bylaws, incentives, and policies that have successfully supported green business development	Medium
	Fostering business collaboration for sustainable growth	Conduct an inventory of infrastructure and space assets	Short
		Promote and facilitate intensification opportunities in existing employment areas	Medium
		Engage with landowners of industrial sites to gauge interest in repurposing or developing these lands	Long
Reducing emissions from buildings	Providing support for residential green retrofits	Establish a central directory of certified local retrofit contractors	Short
		Develop a platform to provide comprehensive information on loans and incentive programs for residents and businesses	Short
		Conduct educational sessions for homeowners on appropriate retrofits and upgrades tailored to Arnprior's changing environment	Short
		Provide educational resources for landlords to understand the business case for building retrofits	Short
		Implement education initiatives for tenants on household upgrades such as air sealing and energy-efficient lighting.	Short
		Organize a town hall meeting to solicit feedback and understand the community's needs.	Medium
	Advocating for green building training programs	Advocate for green building and HVAC training programs	Short
		Provide education for residents on green building practices and materials	Short

Enhancing Community Transportation to Reduce Vehicle Emissions	Establishing an intercommunity shuttle service in collaboration with regional stakeholders	Share findings and recommendations from the Arnprior Transit Feasibility	Short
		Support Renfrew County in determining ridership rates and accessibility requirements for an intercommunity shuttle service	Medium
	Facilitating expansion of ride-share and car-share services	Advocate for the benefits of rideshare programs	Short
		Promote the rideshare platform Renfrew County (SharetheRide.ca)	Short
		Collaborate with transportation stakeholders to identify and address challenges in servicing the community	Medium
		Implement recommendations from transportation study	Medium
		Encourage the adoption of active transportation plan recommendations	Medium

### Supports for implementation

Green Municipal Fund (GMF) General Program <a href="https://greenmunicipalfund.ca/">https://greenmunicipalfund.ca/</a>	Providing funding, resources, and training to municipalities for sustainable practices (e.g. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air, water, and soil quality.) Municipalities and their partners can apply for funding to implement innovative and proven sustainability practices
Climate and sustainability funding for municipalities <a href="https://greenmunicipalfund.ca/ne">https://greenmunicipalfund.ca/ne</a>	GMF funds local sustainability projects that help municipalities adopt climate solutions faster in five key focus areas. Funding can cover between 50 and 80 percent of your eligible project costs, and certain communities may be eligible for up to 100

<p><a href="#">w-funding</a></p>	<p>percent of project costs.</p> <p>Eligible projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Municipal Fleet Electrification - Reduce fuel costs and achieve GHG reductions</li> <li>● Community Energy Systems - Meet community energy needs, increase energy efficiency, and build grid resilience</li> <li>● Organic Waste-to-Energy - Recover value and energy from organic materials and landfill gas</li> <li>● Net-Zero Transformation - Develop and demonstrate innovative solutions to support the municipal transition to net-zero</li> </ul>
<p>Ontario Sustainable Bonds  <a href="https://www.ofina.on.ca/sustainablebonds/index.htm">https://www.ofina.on.ca/sustainablebonds/index.htm</a></p>	<p>Ontario green bonds are used to finance projects that promote environmentally friendly projects (mainly infrastructure) across the Province and mitigate or adapt to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Eligible Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clean Transportation</li> <li>● Energy Efficiency and Conservation</li> <li>● Clean Energy and Technology</li> <li>● Forestry, Agriculture and Land Management</li> <li>● Climate Adaptation and Resilience</li> </ul>
<p>Regional Development Program:  Eastern Ontario Development Fund  <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/available-funding-opportunities-ontario-government#section-15">https://www.ontario.ca/page/available-funding-opportunities-ontario-government#section-15</a></p>	<p>The Regional Development Program provides support for projects and investments to businesses, municipalities and not-for-profit organizations for economic development in Ontario, by region.</p> <p>The program supports projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Create jobs and build talent</li> <li>● Attract and encourage private sector investment</li> <li>● Lead to business growth and broad positive economic impacts</li> <li>● Encourage innovation, collaboration and cluster development</li> </ul>

## Clean Economy Actions for Businesses

Clean growth presents several opportunities for businesses beyond immediate cost savings. Energy efficiency and waste reduction initiatives reduce operational expenses and create pathways for new revenue streams within the circular economy. Renewable energy investments can cut costs and enhance energy resilience, potentially generating revenue through surplus energy sales. Integrating sustainability into business practices can strengthen brand reputation, ensure compliance with regulations, and foster customer loyalty. Embracing innovation is vital for businesses to thrive in a dynamic market, with clean innovation playing a key role in preparing for future climate-related disruptions.

## Barriers and Enablers for Local Businesses

Businesses provided valuable insights through surveys and focus group discussions, shedding light on their needs and challenges as they transition within the clean economy.

### **Businesses in the focus group were open to the clean economy, but it wasn't an emergency.**

Arnprior's economy has shown resilience in the face of recent climate impacts. Most of the focus group businesses had been disrupted by weather-related issues within the last 5 years; however, the severity of those impacts had been low in most cases. Other rural communities in the CAWD program have experienced extreme disruptions from climate impacts, with local support for going green arisen from necessity and urgency. But for Arnprior, it may come down to awareness and opinion about clean economy benefits. Employers were somewhat divided on the importance of clean economy initiatives for their business's long-term growth – some strongly disagreed.

### **Clean growth is a longer-term priority.**

Most businesses surveyed had already made their own strides toward implementing clean economy initiatives within their workplace, and planned to factor such initiatives into their long-term business plans. This suggests that the employers do see some value in going green, whether it's through energy savings, resource sharing, or other benefits. However, only a few businesses mentioned any kind of sustainability goals for the upcoming year. This may indicate that barriers are too high for immediate action, or that companies see clean growth as separate to their business rather than an inherent aspect of value or performance.

### **Gaps exist in community collaboration and co-creation.**

The majority of businesses recognized the importance of collaboration with other local organizations in building a clean economy. However, less than half of focus group businesses were actively involved in collaborations. Collaborative partnerships and projects may yield surprising benefits for businesses in terms of shared or pooled resources, knowledge sharing, or even new business markets. Arnprior businesses may benefit from having a space to network and build relationships with other organizations, leading to idea generation and resource sharing. There was a general consensus that this was an area where businesses could improve.

### **Stronger commitment to action and implementation is needed.**

Focus group businesses were actively encouraging employees to reduce and recycle materials, and to reduce energy use in the workplace. But without formal policies, encouragement alone may be of little effect. Effective policies include clear guidelines for managers and employees that are clearly communicated through training. They are evaluated by monitoring and tracking indicators, and are enforced consistently and reviewed regularly to evaluate if policies are working.

Companies can strive for stronger tracking and goal-setting in emissions, water, and waste reduction categories to know if they are meeting their internal goals.

### **Educational supports are critical for businesses to advance internal initiatives.**

Lack of knowledge or expertise was identified as one of the major barriers to a clean economy transition. Level of awareness on clean economy principles was mixed among the focus group. This finding may explain why businesses tended to lack formal policies and internal programs in key sustainability areas despite making efforts to implement clean economy initiatives. Managers can only implement what they know, or what they are training to do. Businesses will need more advanced training on tools and implementation frameworks to successfully initiate clean economy projects in the key areas of waste reduction, emissions reduction, sustainable procurement and circular economy.

### **Businesses want more training and educational resources.**

All businesses were willing to take further training, and were most interested in learning about waste management, energy efficiency and conservation measures, and paperless/digital systems. However, few businesses had applied indicators to measure the success of their other training programs. Clean economy training will be more effective if businesses clearly define their key areas of need, goals, and desired outcomes for the training, and put indicators in place to monitor the effectiveness of the training.

### **Employees may be key agents of clean growth.**

Arnprior businesses may have sustainability champions in their employees, but getting real and on-going feedback is important. Around half of employers in the focus group agreed that their employees were engaged and enthusiastic about sustainability initiatives. Internal buy in will be important for implementing sustainability initiatives, especially if it requires ongoing commitment to action by employees. Training employees, engaging them in initiatives and assigning responsibilities may lead to more effective implementation of programs as employees increase their understanding and become empowered to drive change within their organization.

## **Practical Actions for Businesses**

Feedback received through the focus group highlighted four priority areas for clean economy action.

- Sustainable Procurement
- Emissions Reduction
- Waste Reduction
- Circular Economy

### **Sustainable Procurement**

Every purchase that a company makes will have both intended and unintended impact on society and the environment. Sustainable procurement, or “green” procurement, is a means of consciously factoring those broader impacts and costs into decisions on procuring goods, services, contracts and projects, in addition to the immediate financial cost to the business.

While companies have limited control over impacts from goods produced outside of their operations, they can still influence their environmental footprint by making informed procurement choices that considers product lifecycle emissions, labour and safety standards, and environmental impact of the use and disposal of all materials that flow through the organization.



The Government of Canada has adopted green procurement practices in their operations and awarding of contracts, for example, by requiring suppliers to disclose their GHG emissions and mandating the use of low-carbon materials in major capital projects. Similarly, municipalities like Ottawa have followed suit, integrating ethical purchasing policies.<sup>31</sup>

Businesses in Arnprior can integrate sustainable procurement practices into their own departmental processes by first understanding the environmental and social impacts of their purchasing decisions. They can then develop internal guidelines and processes for minimizing the biggest impacts. For example, a business may assess the social and environmental implications of importing raw materials from countries with poor labor standards, considering factors such as transportation emissions and social equity alongside financial costs.

Standard certifications have been developed to benchmark the environmental and social impact of products for comparison, for example, ENERGY STAR labels for electronic appliances, or Fairtrade certification for goods purchased from a fair trade market. Businesses can select the standards appropriate for their sector or material needs, and mandate policies to guide purchasing decisions toward more sustainable choices.

### **Recommended first steps for businesses:**

- Quick wins:
  - Source goods from local suppliers
  - Source sustainable packaging
  - Developing strong internal policies for procurement
- Adopt a clear set of guidelines to assist employees in purchasing decisions, such as prioritizing local suppliers within a geographic area.
- Develop a defined internal policy and enforce procurement requirements, for example, by mandating the purchase of SFI-certified paper reams for printing.
- Engage with suppliers to evaluate their sustainability profile as they consider their broader supply chain's environmental and social impacts.
- Prioritize further training and information gathering to support the implementation of internal policies and strategies for sustainable procurement.

#### **What we heard**

- All businesses in the focus group were at least considering the environment when making purchasing decisions, though only one had a formal sustainable procurement policy in place.
- Most businesses in the focus group had already implemented environmentally-friendly practices in the workplace or were in process of doing so, with a big focus on buying local ingredients and supplies
- Limited resources (limited personnel, time and energy) were consistently identified as barriers to quick wins in sustainable procurement initiatives. Limited time and energy will affect the consistency of any initiative implemented, and employers don't know where to start.
- All businesses wanted to learn more about how to transition to a clean economy, and welcomed more training. The most commonly identified barrier for clean economy

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<sup>31</sup> Ethical Purchasing, City of Ottawa  
<https://ottawa.ca/en/business/procurement/ethical-purchasing#>

transition was lack of knowledge or expertise. Information on action planning and transition planning was desired.

## Emissions Reduction

Businesses can take steps to reduce their emissions by first identifying the major emissions sources with their operations. Depending on the sector and type of business, the greatest source of emissions may be produced directly from its operations. These Scope 1 GHG emissions are produced by sources under the company's control. For example, emissions from production operations and vehicle use. Indirect sources can also be a major contributor to a company's overall emissions profile. Scope 2 emissions arise from the energy consumed for heating, cooling or lighting. Scope 3 emissions originate from the supply chain of the goods that the business purchases. Businesses can manage Scope 3 emissions by adopting sustainable procurement practices. By controlling consumption of energy and fuel, businesses can mitigate Scope 1 and 2 emissions.

Many businesses in Arnprior have implemented efficiency upgrades, such as energy-efficient lighting, or have limited energy consumption using timers, smart devices or motion sensors. Even more businesses are actively encouraging employees to reduce energy consumption (e.g using passive systems to control heat flow through the building).

### Recommended first steps for businesses:

- Quick wins:
  - Optimize transportation routes
  - Use shared transportation models and coordinate deliveries
  - Use renewable energy where possible.
- Implement processes for monitoring and tracking energy use metrics and other emissions indicators

### What we heard

- Half the focus group businesses had implemented technologies to reduce energy use in the workplace, and most businesses actively encouraged employees to reduce energy use.
- One third of businesses had considered using renewable energy sources like wind or solar to power operations.
- Some businesses were actively tracking metrics like energy and water usage.
- Lack of infrastructure was identified as a major barrier to emissions reduction (e.g. batteries for energy storage).
- Lack of generators for backup during blackouts of the grid was disruptive to some businesses.
- All businesses wanted training on energy efficiency and conservation measures.

## Waste Reduction

Waste reduction initiatives within organizations begin with a clear understanding of material flows, including the volume of waste sent for disposal versus recycling and the sources of that waste. Businesses can effectively manage their waste streams by establishing clear goals and targets for

waste reduction initiatives. Some organizations may start by setting goals and then collecting data to establish benchmarks for current waste levels, while others may find it beneficial to conduct audits to identify major sources of waste.

Many businesses in Arnprior proactively address waste reduction by implementing processes to divert waste from landfills. Common practices include recycling plastic, paper, and cardboard and initiatives to minimize waste consumption, such as reducing printing and promoting reusable alternatives to single-use items. Systematic measuring and tracking of waste data is important for businesses to evaluate the effectiveness of their waste reduction efforts.

### **Recommended first steps for businesses:**

- Quick wins:
  - Recycle batteries and electronics
  - Donate used items and hosting donation drives
  - Repurpose materials in alternate uses
  - Reduce single-use packaging.
- Conduct a waste audit
- Implement processes for monitoring and tracking waste metrics

#### **What we heard**

- Waste reduction was a high priority for businesses in the focus group. Most had already implemented waste reduction initiatives in the workplace focused on recycling or upcycling, or were in the process of doing so.
- All businesses were actively encouraging employees to reduce waste and recycle materials, but only half indicated more formalized policies or programs.
- A few businesses had composting programs in place, for home composting or through a private partner that picked up the organic waste.
- All businesses were interested in further training to learn about waste management and paperless/digitization systems.

### **Circular Economy**

A circular economy can be fostered by building a strong network of partnerships and supporting share, reuse, repair, recovery models for resources. Businesses can encourage the growth of a local circular economy by supporting and participating in business-to-business (B2B) networks, secondary market places for goods and equipment, and community circular economy programs.

Many businesses in Arnprior believe collaboration is key to a clean economy transition and some have partnered with other local businesses and organizations toward collaborative initiatives. Collaborations may yield surprising benefits for businesses in terms of shared or pooled resources, knowledge sharing, or even new business markets. The business community may benefit from a curated space for local organizations to network and build relationships.

### **Recommended first steps for businesses:**

- Quick wins:
  - Participate in tool-sharing programs
  - Use second-hand items for swag,
  - Seek platforms for waste and resource sharing

- Work with food recovery programs organizations
- Conduct an inventory of assets including waste streams and other resources having potential for shared use and identify platforms for business-to-business sharing

#### **What we heard**

- Many businesses had implemented waste reduction initiatives focused on using reusable items and reusing scraps.
- Most businesses recognized collaboration with other local organizations as essential for a clean economy, but less than half of businesses were actively involved in any collaborations. Businesses wanted to be a part of collaborative initiatives and saw this as an area where they could improve, but were unsure of how it would work out when direct business competitors are working together.

### Additional Business Supports

Across all four priority areas, focus group businesses identified the internal policies to guide employees and employee training as key enablers to action.

The table below provides steps on how businesses and other community organizations can develop clean economy policies and track the impact of employee training.

Objective	Action	Steps
Develop clear internal policies	1. Set company goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define internal goals and desired outcomes for clean economy action (sustainable procurement, workplace waste reduction or emissions reduction)</li> </ul>
	2. Gather data	<p><i>Sustainable procurement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct an audit of past purchases to understand purchasing practices and volumes, suppliers, and factors that place limiting requirements on purchases (e.g. compliance, safety)</li> <li>Identify areas for improvement, considering environmental and social impacts in the context of defined company goals and values</li> </ul>
		<p><i>Emissions reduction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct an audit of past energy use to gather usage trends and establish a baseline for energy use</li> <li>Conduct an audit of transportation, considering historical trips (e.g. distance, frequency) and current transportation routes</li> <li>Identify areas for improvement based on defined company goals</li> </ul>
		<p><i>Waste reduction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a facility waste audit to understand waste flows and composition, and identify high-volume or costly waste streams to focus reduction activities</li> </ul>
		<p><i>Circular economy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct an audit of material flows through the business and identify high-volume or costly waste streams to focus recovery activities</li> <li>Conduct an inventory of assets of waste streams to determine potential for recovery or sale</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify local organizations for collaborative partnerships</li> </ul>
	3. Engage stakeholders	<i>Sustainable procurement</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Talk to internal stakeholders involved in the buying processes to get their insights and buy-in</li> <li>● Engage with external suppliers to outline sustainability expectations and identify ways to meet business and sustainability goals (supplier codes of conduct, certifications etc.)</li> </ul>
		<i>Other actions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Talk to internal stakeholders involved in management, operations and day-to-day activities</li> <li>● Engage with external suppliers to outline sustainability expectations and identify ways to meet business and sustainability goals</li> </ul>
	4. Develop policy framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify key performance indicators</li> <li>● Draft policy or specific strategies with clear guidelines to achieve defined goals and targets</li> <li>● Share draft policy with stakeholders to incorporate feedback before finalizing the policy or strategy</li> </ul>
	5. Policy implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Communicate the policy or strategy and guidelines to internal stakeholders and request acknowledgement of review</li> <li>● Train staff on execution of the policy</li> <li>● Monitor and track indicators to measure progress toward procurement, waste reduction or emissions reduction goals</li> </ul>
Education and training	Allocate resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Allocate resources for training or information gathering</li> </ul>
	Set goals and outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Set desired outcomes for any training programs and identify indicators of success</li> </ul>
	Gather information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify opportunities for educational or training programs and activities, or other knowledge sharing opportunities</li> <li>● Join local, regional or national business networks to build connections and</li> </ul>

		share knowledge
	Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Participate in educational or training programs and activities</li><li>● Curate a shared knowledge archive of learning materials and legacy knowledge that employees have access to</li><li>● Review policies and strategies through the lens of new knowledge</li></ul>

## Appendix A1. Glossary

**Clean economy** is an economic system that promotes the adoption of sustainable practices within its framework with the aim of reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. This involves advocating for renewable energy, enhancing energy efficiency, fostering ecological innovation, greening operations, and minimizing emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants to protect the natural environment and mitigate the effects of climate change.

**Clean growth** signifies a transition to low-carbon, resource-efficient, and environmentally sustainable economic activities and industries, such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, green technology, and clean transportation. Its primary objective is to drive economic growth and competitiveness in a way that is compatible with environmental sustainability.

**Clean technologies** are goods or services designed to address or prevent ecological damage. These technologies can improve energy efficiency, ensure sustainable resource use, and control pollution.

**Climate adaptation** involves preparing for and reducing the impacts of climate change by identifying vulnerabilities, assessing risks, and implementing strategies to enhance resilience in human and natural systems.

**Climate resilience** refers to the ability of a system to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from adverse climate-related events. It's about making communities, ecosystems, and economies capable of coping with changes and potential damages associated with climate change, reducing vulnerability, and enhancing adaptability.

The **circular economy** approach focuses on minimizing waste, recycling, and reusing materials, and creating products with a longer lifespan. This can lead to reduced waste, creation of local jobs, and the development of new revenue streams through recycling, upcycling, and the use of renewable materials.

**Decarbonization** refers to the process of reducing or eliminating carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. It involves transitioning to low-carbon or carbon-neutral alternatives, such as renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind, hydroelectric), energy efficiency measures, electrification of transportation, and carbon capture and storage technologies.

**Deconstruction** involves carefully dismantling structures to recover valuable building materials for reuse or recycling rather than demolishing them and sending the debris to landfills.

**Emission reduction** initiatives aim to lower the carbon footprint of rural businesses by transitioning to clean energy sources, implementing efficient transportation, and improving facility energy efficiency. Businesses that implement emission reduction initiatives can lower their energy costs, comply with environmental regulations, and improve air quality in their communities.

**Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** is a policy approach that assigns producers responsibility for the entire lifecycle of their products, including disposal and recycling. It aims to incentivize producers to design products that are easier to recycle and dispose of responsibly, ultimately reducing the environmental impact of products throughout their lifecycle.

**Green economy** is broader in scope and includes not only clean energy, but also sustainable development. It considers the social, economic, and environmental aspects of economic activities. A green economy aims for growth that benefits both the environment and society, considering factors like resource efficiency, social equity, and environmental protection.



**Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to Earth's warming. The main greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and ozone.

**Nature-based solutions** represent the public sector's approach to climate action. These initiatives focus on actions that restore and enhance ecosystems. Examples include protecting, restoring, and expanding natural assets and implementing green infrastructure projects. This encompasses activities such as safeguarding grasslands and wetlands, installing green roofs, and expanding urban forests within cities.

**Remediation and conservation** efforts aim to protect and restore the natural environment in rural communities. By engaging in these activities, businesses contribute to the overall well-being of the community, promote eco-tourism, and establish a strong, environmentally responsible image. This can lead to long-term sustainability by preserving the resources that underpin their operations. By engaging in local conservation initiatives, rural businesses can also create a more attractive and resilient community, which in turn benefits their bottom line by attracting customers and investors.

**Scope 1 GHG emissions** are produced by sources that are owned or controlled by an organization.

**Scope 2 GHG emissions** are produced indirectly from the consumption of purchased energy (electricity, heating, and cooling).

**Scope 3 GHG emissions** are produced indirectly, e.g. through the supply chain of the goods and services

**Sustainable development** recognizes the interdependence of economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity, aiming to balance these dimensions to achieve holistic and equitable outcomes. In addition to promoting clean or green economic activities, sustainable development emphasizes social inclusion, equity, cultural preservation, and resilience to environmental and social challenges.

**Sustainable procurement**, or "green" procurement, is a process for procuring goods, services, contracts and projects that considers not only the immediate financial cost, but also the associated costs throughout the entire life cycle, considering the environment, labour and safety standards.

**Sustainability** involves meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Waste reduction** initiatives in rural areas target minimizing waste at its source, encouraging recycling and composting, and optimizing resource use. Reducing waste conserves resources and lowers disposal costs. Businesses may encourage employees and communities to participate in clean-up activities, reduce paper consumption, and evaluate and optimize waste across the production chain.

## Appendix A2. Funding Programs and Incentives for Businesses

### Sustainable Procurement

- Sustainable procurement guide <[link](#)>
- EU based guidance on sustainable procurement <[link](#)>
- Global ecolabelling framework <[link](#)>
- Self assessment tool <[link](#)>

### Emissions Reductions

- Route optimization – Routific <[link](#)>
- Funding options
  - Retrofit Program <[link](#)>
  - Lighting for small businesses <[link](#)>
  - Ontario electricity rebate <[link](#)>
  - Save On Energy Incentives <[link](#)>
  - GIFMP’s Energy Efficiency Solutions (EES) Stream <[link](#)>
  - GIFMP’s Industrial Facility track (IFT) <[link](#)>
  - Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program <[link](#)>
  - Low Carbon Economy Fund <[link](#)>
  - Green Freight Program (GFP): Stream 1 – Assess and Retrofit <[link](#)>
  - Green Freight Program (GFP) - Stream 2 <[link](#)>

### Waste Reduction

- Second Harvest <[link](#)>
- NU Zero Waste <[link](#)>
- Waste audit guide and template <[link](#)>
- Zero waste consultants <[link 1](#)> <[link 2](#)>
- Zero Waste Canada <[link](#)>
- Learn how to measure food loss waste in your organization <[link](#)>
- Launch food waste reduction campaign in your organization <[link](#)>

### Other funding options

- Clean Growth Program ([CGP](#))
- Green Climate Fund ([GCF](#))
- Green Communities Canada ([GCC](#))
- Industrial Research Assistance Program ([IRAP](#))
- Innovative Solutions Canada ([ISC](#))
- Next Generation Manufacturing Program ([NGen](#))
- Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) [Tech Fund](#)
- Canada Growth Fund <[link](#)>
- ECO Canada Green Jobs subsidies <[link](#)>
- Clean Foundation Green Job Subsidies <[link](#)>
- Canada-Ontario Job Grant <[link](#)>
- Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) <[link](#)>
- Next Generation Manufacturing Program (NGen) <[link](#)>
- Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) Tech Fund <[link](#)>
- Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) – Net Zero Accelerator <[link](#)>
- Canada Growth Fund <[link](#)>
- Regional Development Program: Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Competitiveness (AMIC) Stream <[link](#)>