

Appendix B - Qualitative Assessment of Municipalities in Midwestern Ontario Completing Strategic Planning Exercises

The assessment was intended to examine those elements at the municipality level that could be of assistance in building resiliency to and mitigation of the impacts of climate change and peak oil. The experiences of municipalities at the upper tier (i.e . 8 Counties) and separated municipalities (5 Cities and Towns) were examined. Indicators of responses were the presence of strategic plans, sustainability plans, community energy plans, conservation mechanisms (energy, water, solid waste), as well as tree conservation/planting initiatives. The following chart highlights the results of this research.

Municipal Program	Waterloo Region	County of Wellington	City of Guelph	Grey County	Bruce County	Huron County	Perth County	City of Stratford	City of St. Marys	Middlesex County	City of London	Elgin County	City of St. Thomas
Strategic Plan	Yes: 2007-2010 New Plan for 2011-2014 underway	No	Yes; New Strategic Plan for 2011-2014 underway	No	No	Yes: 2005 Strategic Plan	No	Yes: 2010 Community Vision	Yes: 2010 Community Strategic Plan	No; Planning process underway	Yes: 2007-2010 Council Strategic Plan	No; but 2008 Economic Strategic Plan	No
Sustainability Plan	Yes: 2009 Environmental Sustainability Strategy	No	No	No	No	Yes; 2010 Sustainable Take Action Report	No	Yes: 2005 Stratford Roundtable on the Environment for the 21st Century – Greenhouse Gas Inventory & Community Energy Plan	No	No	Yes: 2003 Sustainability Plan including climate change strategy; Friends of the Coves Subwatershed - A Neighbourhood Collaboration	No	No
Waste Management Plan	Yes: 2006 Update Plan	Yes: Solid Waste Services 2011 Green Strategy	Yes – advanced 3R system	No	No	Yes; currently underway	No	3 Rs promoted via Stratford Naturally	3 Rs in use	No	Yes: 2007 Road Map to Maximize Waste Diversion	Environment and Energy Sector Report	3 Rs in use; new Integrated Waste Management Study underway

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Community Energy Plan	No; but LEED design and green energy initiatives. Also Climate Change Protection	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes: Also Energy reduction via Stratford Naturally	No	No	Mayors Sustainable Energy Council; EnerGuide Partnership; Energy Efficiency Partnership	Wind Energy Project www.erieshores.ca/	No
Forestry Plans (Tree Protection Bylaw)	Yes: 2006 Forest Management Plan; 2008 Conservation of Trees in Woodlands By-law	Green Legacy Initiative; Conservation & Sustainable Use of Woodlands 2009 By-law	No but in progress	No	No: but 2004 Forest Conservation By-law	No: but 2006 Tree Conservation By-law	No	2007 Urban Forestry Plan (update from 2001); 2006 Woodlands By-law	No	No: 2004 Woodlands Conservation By-law	Yes; significant resources for the 'Forest City'	No; 2005 Woodlands Conservation By-law	No
Water Conservation and Efficiency Plan	Yes: 2008 Water Efficiency Master Plan	No	Yes; 2009 Water Conservation & Efficiency Strategy Update	No	No	No	No	Yes: Stratford Naturally Program	Yes: 2009 Pilot Water Conservation Plan	No	No	No	No
Natural Heritage Strategy	NHS reviewed as part of Regional OP Update 2005-2011cou	Greenlands Policy being updated as part of 2011 Official Plan Amendment	2010 Official Plan Update to incorporate NHS Strategy	Updated Official Plan with OPA 80 incorporating new NHS info	Updated Official Plan to 2010	Underway with North Thames River CA	No	No; dated 1993 Official Plan	No	2003 Natural Heritage Strategy	2007 Natural Heritage policy update to the Official Plan	No; new Official Plan underway	No; Official Plan update underway now, i.e. Sustainable and Healthy Community

In completing this analysis, while no one municipality had all areas covered, some municipalities were much more advanced in their strategic planning focus to cover aspects of building resiliency to the future twin challenges of climate change/peak oil. One common theme across all municipalities was a local interest in preparing plans regarding 'economic development' or employment opportunities.