



## **Sustainability Action Plan PHASE 2 BACKGROUNDER**

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**June 2021**

### **Land Acknowledgement**

In the spirit of reconciliation, we would like to acknowledge that the City of Kenora is seated on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe also known as the Treaty Three Lands.

### **Funding Acknowledgement**

This project was carried out with assistance from the Green Municipal Fund, a Fund financed by the Government of Canada and administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

### **Introduction**

Kenora's first Sustainability Action Plan (the Plan) is intended to be community-based, action-oriented and provide the overarching guidance for a suite of projects that build local sustainability and resilience to climate change.

Phase 1 included background research and engagement to better understand the community, its priorities and potential opportunities related to climate actions and building local sustainability.

The purpose of Phase 2 of the project is to select the projects to be implemented through the Plan. This backgrounder includes (a) the project goal, objectives and principles, and (b) a short list of (14) potential projects for consideration.

Phase 3 will involve developing a framework for implementation of the projects selected for the Plan.

The project process and timeline are outlined in Figure 1.

## Kenora Sustainability Action Plan Process



Figure 1. Overview of the Sustainability Action Plan project process

## **Project Goal**

Identify and implement a suite of projects that, over the next decade, will contribute to a better quality of life for the community in Kenora without detracting from the sustainability of the diverse ecosystems that sustain the community.

## **Project Objectives**

1. Develop the Plan with input from the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) and support from champions, stakeholders and partners identified through the project development process.
2. Include projects that will make meaningful contributions to building local resilience to climate change while also enhancing local sustainability.
3. Prioritize projects that are transformational and able to deliver co-benefits while also being achievable within the constraints of existing or readily available resources.

Note: Housing issues are recognized as a concern for the community and are being addressing through other ongoing City projects and initiatives.

## **Project Principles**

The following principles have been identified to guide the selection of projects and execution of the Plan.

1. Protect and enhance local water, land and air
2. Support and enable social equity
3. Be accountable
4. Focus on local actions and local benefits
5. Seek solutions that provide multiple benefits
6. Work collaboratively and in partnership
7. Align economic and environmental benefits

## **Sustainability Criteria**

To provide an objective and transparent approach for selecting the projects that will ultimately provide the basis for the Sustainability Action Plan, a series of criteria (see page 4) were developed for screening the projects identified through the project process.

## **Short List of Potential Sustainability Projects**

Fourteen (14) potentially actionable sustainability projects (see page 5) for Kenora have been identified based on consideration for the research and engagement to date, the local context, the project-specific criteria and knowledge of precedents and best practices potentially relevant to Kenora.

## Draft Project Selection Process

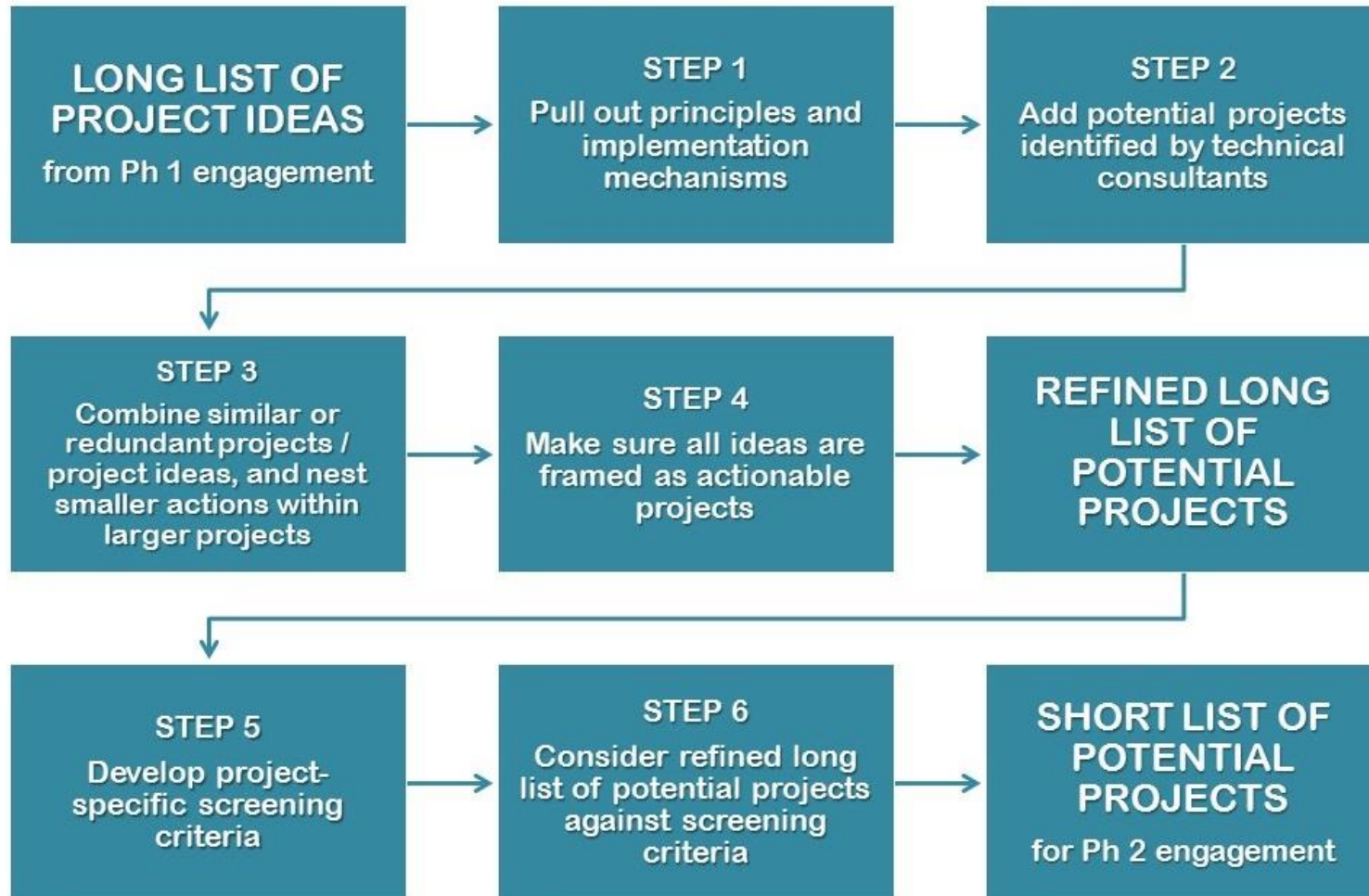


Figure 2. Overview of the potential project refinement process

## Sustainability Criteria

These criteria are intended to help prioritize projects that are well-aligned with the project goal and objectives outlined above as well as the priorities of project stakeholders and partners.

1. **MITIGATION:** Will the project contribute to local climate change mitigation (i.e., greenhouse gas reductions)?
2. **ADAPTATION:** Will the project contribute to local climate change adaptation (e.g., management of flooding, urban greening, etc.)?
3. **COMMUNITY PRIORITIES:** Does the project align with and help implement one or more of the top community-identified priorities (as identified in Phase 1 and cited below)?
  - Protecting water resources
  - Contributing to improved lake water quality
  - Supporting local businesses
  - Creating walkable, compact, vibrant community
  - Reducing local waste production
  - Supporting local food production and harvesting
4. **RECONCILIATION:** Does the project help move the community of Kenora towards reconciliation with the local and surrounding Indigenous communities?
5. **LOCAL EMPLOYMENT:** Is the project expected to foster local job opportunities?
6. **PARTNERSHIPS:** Are there community partners committed and able to share responsibility for implementation of the project?
7. **TIMING AND SCOPE:** Can the project scope and scale be tailored to be achievable within the established 10-year timeframe?
8. **FUNDING:** Is the project expected to be achievable with currently available or readily available funding and/or resources?
9. **CO-BENEFITS:** Is the project expected to provide multiple co-benefits?

The following list of 14 potentially actionable sustainability projects for Kenora has been developed with consideration for these criteria as well as the research and engagement to date.

**For more information and to complete the Phase 2 survey visit the City's Sustainability Action Plan web page at:**

<https://www.kenora.ca/en/your-government/sustainabilityactionplan.aspx>

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**Short List of Potential Sustainability Projects**

<b>THEME</b>	<b>POTENTIAL PROJECT</b>
WATER STEWARDSHIP	1. Undertake a watershed management planning project for the City of Kenora that includes floodplain mapping and community-based monitoring.
WATER STEWARDSHIP	2. Develop and implement a creative outreach program targeting residents and tourists to educate them about actions they can take to sustain local water quality.
LOCAL FOOD SECURITY	3. Develop and implement a program that supports local food production including community gardens and local "food forests" (e.g., trees with edible fruits and nuts).
WASTE REDUCTION	4. Develop and implement a backyard composting program and a local compost (organic waste) pick up and processing program.
WASTE REDUCTION	5. Develop a program to coordinate construction "waste" re-use, exchange and / or resale locally.
WASTE REDUCTION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING	6. Confirm locations for and implement installation and maintenance of water bottle filling stations for the community in Kenora. (Note: May be accompanied by a program providing refillable bottles).
COMMUNITY BUILDING	7. Develop a program to connect Indigenous and non-Indigenous people with each other and with nature (e.g., collaborative school events, outdoor learning, community events).
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS	8. Identify and implement tools to support municipal water and wastewater infrastructure renewal with consideration for climate change (e.g., storm water levy).
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS	9. Incorporate green infrastructure into the City's asset management process, including an inventory and valuation of municipal natural assets (e.g., trees, natural features).
ENERGY CONSERVATION	10. Develop emissions targets and an accountability framework for Kenora.
ENERGY CONSERVATION*	11. Develop a program to support deep retrofits to existing housing to improve energy efficiency (after an analysis of the housing stock), including community housing and municipal buildings.
ENERGY CONSERVATION*	12. Support net-zero emission renewable energy systems in areas / communities in Kenora (Note: May require trained City staff to work with partners to develop policies that support near-net zero buildings and neighbourhoods).
ENERGY CONSERVATION*	13. Design and implement a demonstration project to showcase delivery of renewables (e.g., district heating grid / district energy, geothermal, solar).
SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT	14. Develop and implement a program to support and expand small-scale mobility options including electric options (e.g., bike share, car share, rideshare programs such as Uber, Lyft, etc.).

\* These projects will require development of emissions targets and an energy accountability framework for Kenora, as per potential project #8.