



Sustainability Action Plan PHASE 3 BACKGROUNDER

September 2021

Land Acknowledgement

In the spirit of reconciliation, the City of Kenora acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Métis of Treaty #3.

The City of Kenora was originally the land base of one collective First Nation community, which was separated into three communities now known as Wauzhushk Onigum, Niisaachewan, and Washagamis Bay First Nations. Kenora now sustains many others, all of whom have been welcomed to peacefully share and care for these ancestral Lands and Waters.

To support stewardship of the land, the City recognizes the importance of a strong relationship with our Treaty #3 partners. The City of Kenora also acknowledges that our economy greatly benefits from the Anishinaabe and Métis that live in and around the City.

Intent to Pursue Pathways to Reconciliation

This Sustainability Action Plan was initiated during the Covid-19 pandemic, which has been an exceptionally challenging time for many, including Kenora's local Indigenous communities. As a result, meaningful and sustained engagement was not possible within the identified project timelines. Nonetheless, the City remains committed to continuing to engage with the local Indigenous communities, in accordance with their protocols once released, and welcomes their input to and involvement in this Plan going forward.

As preliminary suggestions, three of the 14 identified projects (#12, 13 and 14) specifically support reconciliation-based initiatives, and opportunities for partnerships have been identified in other projects. As per Project #12, the intent is to align this Plan within a comprehensive municipal pathway to reconciliation.

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Project Overview

Kenora's first Sustainability Action 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.

The project has been divided into three phases, as outlined in Figure 1. Phase 1 and Phase 2 involved broad engagement with the Sustainability Advisory Committee and the community to inform identification of projects for the Plan.

Phase 3 engagement is focused on (a) getting input to the key implementation components of each project, and (b) ensuring that there is local leadership and support in place to move each project forward.

Overview of the Phase 3 Engagement

The 14 sustainability projects (see Table 1 below) proposed for inclusion in the Sustainability Action Plan have been divided into four Sustainability Themes.

In addition to sharing information with the community on the project website and social media, the Phase 3 engagement includes four focus group workshops to be held in October 2021, with one group dedicated to each of the themes and focusing on three or four projects, as follows:

- FOCUS GROUP 1: Energy Conservation (Projects 1, 2 and 3)
- FOCUS GROUP 2: Green Infrastructure & Sustainable Transit (Projects 4, 5 and 6)
- FOCUS GROUP 3: Local Food Production & Waste Reduction (Projects 7, 8, 9 and 10), and
- FOCUS GROUP 4: Water & Reconciliation (Projects 11, 12, 13 and 14).

Potential partners interested in either leading a project or helping to implement a project have been identified based on the engagement completed to date. These partners, as well as members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee and relevant City staff, have been invited to one or more of the focus groups depending on their area(s) of interest and expertise.

Please see a table of the 14 projects tentatively identified for Kenora's first Sustainability Action Plan (Table 1) below.

The Phase 2 project report has also been finalized and is available on the project website for additional background:

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

For further updates, you may register with the City's Strategic Initiatives Officer.

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Figure 1. Overview of the Sustainability Action Plan project process

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Table 1. List of sustainability projects proposed for Kenora’s first Sustainability Action Plan

THEME	PROJECT NAME
SUSTAINABILITY THEME 1: ENERGY CONSERVATION	1. Develop a climate change action plan for Kenora, including emissions reduction targets and accountability mechanisms.
	2. Develop and implement a program to facilitate energy conservation retrofits for existing and new buildings.
	3. Design and implement public demonstration projects to showcase delivery of renewable energy in Kenora.
SUSTAINABILITY THEME 2: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE & SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT	4. Identify tools and funding for storm water infrastructure renewal in a changing climate.
	5. Incorporate green infrastructure into the City’s asset management process.
	6. Develop and implement a program to support and expand small-scale mobility options, including electric options.
SUSTAINABILITY THEME 3: LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION & WASTE REDUCTION	7. Expand local micro-farming, food collection and community gardening to build local food security.
	8. Expand local household composting initiatives to reduce waste.
	9. Implement a community composting program to reduce waste and build local soil production capacity.
	10. Develop and implement mechanisms for the local salvage, re-use and exchange of housing and building materials.
SUSTAINABILITY THEME 4: WATER STEWARDSHIP & RECONCILIATION	11. Provide water bottle filling stations for the community in Kenora’s downtown.
	12. Identify and implement local pathways to reconciliation.
	13. Develop and implement a Healthy Shorelines Program.
	14. Identify, monitor and manage flood risk areas in the City of Kenora.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The rationale, goals and relevant precedents identified for each project are provided in the Phase 2 report *Moving Into Action*. Draft lead(s), partner(s), key actions, funding opportunities and targets for the projects in this Focus Group’s theme are identified below for discussion.