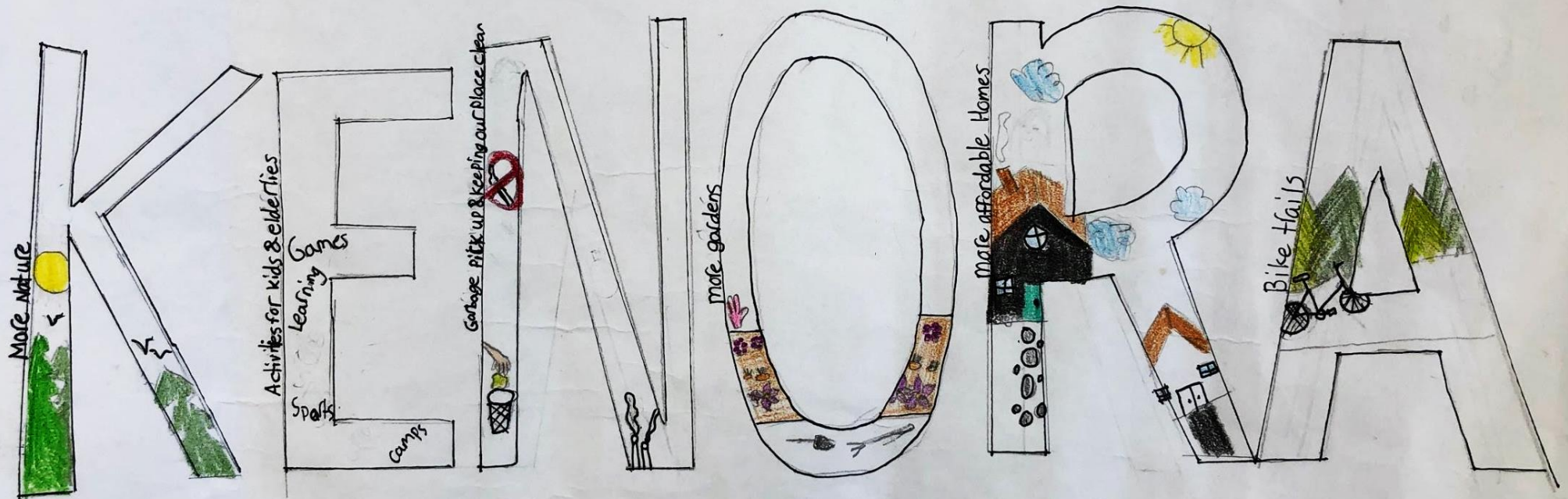


Lake of the Woods



WHAT WE HEARD

Phase 1 Summary Report to Support the Development of a
Sustainability Action Plan for the City of Kenora

KENNEDY
CONSULTING

in collaboration
with



Stantec

May 2021

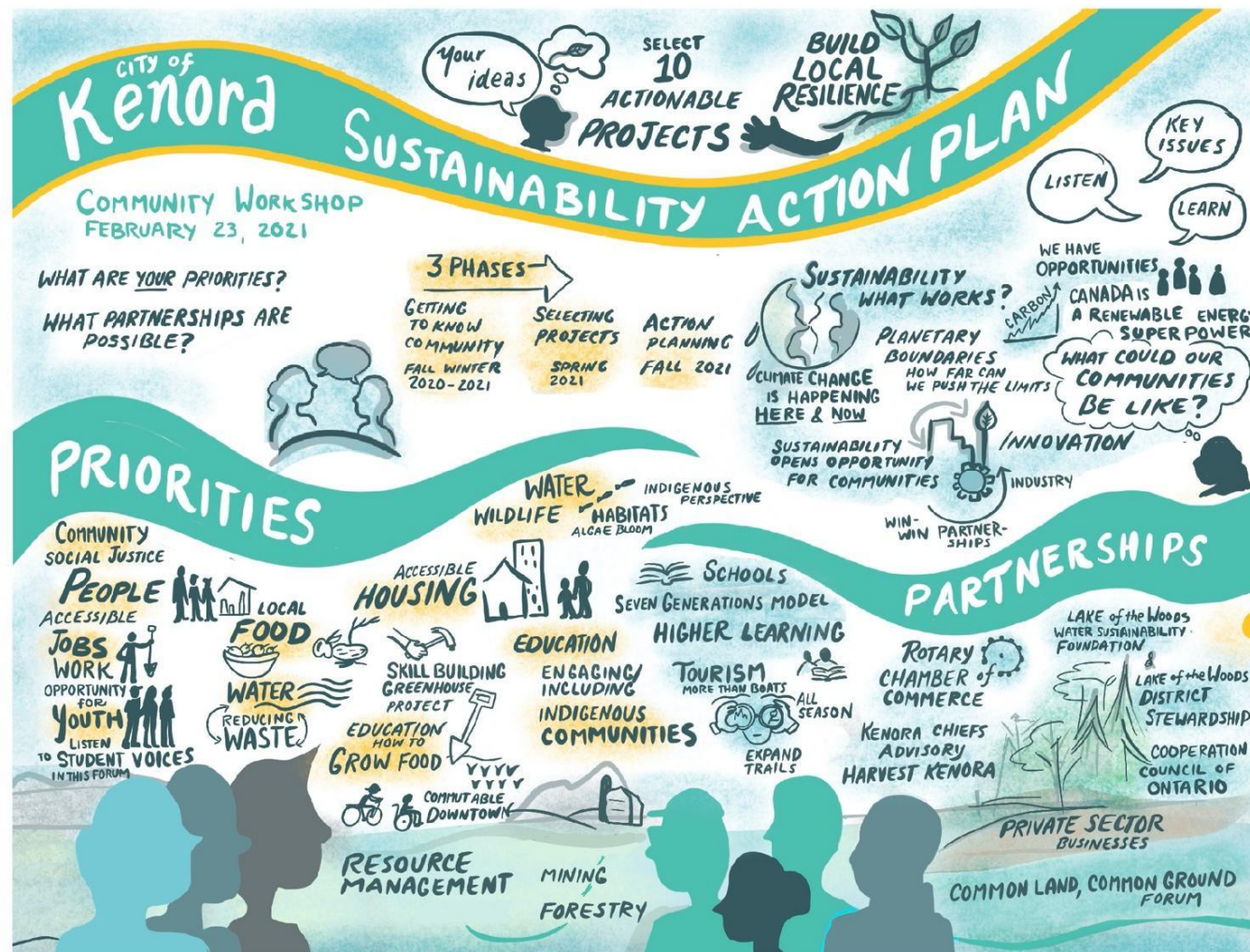


image by Playthink.com

Cover Image Credit: "Kenora Poster" by Payton Kozak, Youth Art Contest Submission, 2021

This Page Image Credit: Patricia Kambitsch, Graphic Recording of the Sustainability Action Plan Community Workshop, February 2021

Art in the report was solicited through an adult and youth art contest. The City of Kenora recognizes and thanks all participants.

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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. Notwithstanding this support, the views expressed are the personal views of the authors, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Government of Canada accept no responsibility for them.

TREATY 3 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.

The City of Kenora was originally on the lands of a single First Nation collective which was separated into three communities now known as the Wauzhushk Onigum, Niisaachewan and Washagamis Bay First Nations.

The City of Kenora, and the lands around it, are steeped in rich Indigenous history and today are home to many First Nations and Métis people, all of whom peacefully share and care for these ancestral lands and waters.

Important note: The land acknowledgement above is an interim acknowledgement developed by the consulting team for this project based on consideration of (a) the draft language provided by the Grand Council Treaty #3 (GCT#3) Nation as part of feedback on the City's Official Plan update and (b) City Council's previously approved land acknowledgement. It is our understanding that the City intends to use the draft acknowledgement provided by GCT#3 as a basis for developing an updated acknowledgement that is to be approved by City Council. Until an updated acknowledgement has been developed, the interim language above will be adopted for this project.

ABOUT THE PROCESS

Developing a Sustainability Action Plan



*"Last One In" by Pippi Johnson
"Families need more places and opportunities for recreation and friendship in the planning of outdoor and indoor recreation. Unstructured play is the best!"*

The City of Kenora ("The City") is a leader among small northern communities in Ontario in its commitment to sustainability and increasing community resilience.

The City has integrated sustainability and climate change considerations in its key plans and policies, including its Official Plan (2015), Asset Management Plan (2017) and Community Energy Plan (2018). In September 2019, the City declared a climate emergency, underscoring its commitment to work with the community and its partners to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

The Sustainability Action Plan project, which has been co-funded by the City of Kenora and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund is intended to build on existing directions and commitments to sustainability by developing a Sustainability Action Plan ("the Plan") that includes projects that will make meaningful contributions to helping the community of Kenora and its partners build local resilience to climate change.

The Plan will be community-based and action-oriented. It will provide the overarching guidance for a suite of actionable projects that will allow the community and its partners to build resiliency in a sustainable way. This Plan will provide a framework for the City, the community and their partners to engage on a range of projects related to different sectors that improve the community in a socially, environmentally and economically responsible way.



Figure 1. Overview of the Sustainability Action Plan project process

The City of Kenora’s Sustainability Action Plan is being developed through discussions and ideas generated through workshops and brainstorming sessions with City staff, the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) and the community at large. These sessions will identify priority areas for action. These priority areas should be transformational, practical, and achievable within the constraints of available resources. Where possible, these projects should deliver a diverse suite of co-benefits, that reach beyond environmental well-being to include, for instance, economic resilience and social inclusion. Project prioritization and selection will also be informed by the background research undertaken and multi-sectoral expertise provided by the consulting team, who can share examples of relevant best practices elsewhere and consider the feasibility of potential projects based on their experience.

The development of the Plan is already underway and is being developed in three phases (see Figure 1). In Phase 1, the project team worked collaboratively with the City, SAC and community to get input on sustainability-related priorities and a long list of ideas that could form potential projects. Participants were provided with guidance to identify priority areas for action for sustainability and climate change in Kenora from their perspective, and to suggest projects that could be undertaken through this City-sponsored Plan that align with these priorities.

The next two phases of the process will focus on selecting the 10 projects for implementation (Phase 2) and developing the implementation and monitoring framework (Phase 3).

What is Sustainability?

The term sustainability means different things to different people. In this Plan, the traditional three-pronged approach to sustainability has been adopted and defined in the context of community actions that are economically viable, socially equitable and environmentally friendly.



Figure 2. Illustration of just sustainability

In addition, the concept of “just sustainability” coined by Dr. Julian Agyeman and defined below, underpins this Plan.

Just sustainability is “the need to ensure a better quality of life for all, now and into the future, in a just and equitable manner, whilst living within the limits of supporting ecosystems.”

The Sustainability Action Plan is a mechanism to build partnerships between the municipality and the community while engaging in actions that will contribute significantly to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and prepare the community to respond to the impacts of climate change.



"The Tree" by Shelley McCool

Who is involved?

The Sustainability Action Plan is to be developed with input from City staff, the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC), the community and local Indigenous partners.

Engaging Indigenous Partners

At the outset of Phase 1, the City reached out to the Grand Council of Treaty Three (GCT#3) and the Kenora Chiefs Advisory (KCA). Letters were also sent to each of the three surrounding First Nations' Chief and Council informing them of initial meeting dates and inviting them to participate in the project. It is understood that responses have been delayed due to the pandemic and other pre-existing priorities.

Additional follow-up outreach is planned for Phase 2 of this project, and it is hoped that representatives from local Indigenous communities will be available and interested in being partners in this project going forward.

Sustainability Advisory Committee

The SAC was established by the City in January 2021 to support the development and implementation of the Plan. In addition, the SAC is tasked with:

- providing local perspectives on matters related to sustainability
- assisting with annual work plans to advance the Plan
- raising community awareness related to the Plan, and

- providing perspectives on other sustainability-related matters as referred to the Committee by Council.

The membership of the SAC includes fourteen (14) members representing a cross-section of local sectors, interest groups and partnerships, as follows:

- Indigenous partners (2)
- health care sector (2)
- educational institutions (2)
- local business community (2)
- energy companies and other service providers (1)
- local youth (1)
- Community at large (2)
- Lake of the Woods District Stewardship Owners Association (1), and
- Council (1).

Community Engagement

Community members are also being actively involved in the project process. As part of Phase 1, the community was engaged through a virtual workshop, an online survey, and an art contest promoted on the City's website and via social media. A total of 42 people participated in the virtual workshop, 186 people participated in the online survey and more than 20 submissions to the art contest were made, with the winning submissions showcased in this report.

City staff, the SAC and the community will also be actively engaged as part of Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the project.

ABOUT KENORA

Where are we now?

The City of Kenora is within Treaty #3 Lands and is surrounded by 28 First Nations communities.

The City itself is an amalgamation of the former Towns of Kenora, Keewatin and Jaffray Melick. The City is located in Northwestern Ontario with a population of approximately 15,000 people, with about a quarter of the population being Indigenous Peoples.

Tourism, public sector employment (e.g., the City, the local hospital and health unit) and manufacturing (including forest products) are three of the City's major economic drivers. In 2011 the City of Kenora was branded as "North America's Premier Boating Destination" in acknowledgement of the community's connection to Lake of the Woods and its 14,522 islands. In 2021, a decade later, a brand refresh has been approved and is underway.

Kenora's distinctive landscape is defined by being on expanses of granite largely covered in forest and surrounded by freshwaters (including the Lake of the Woods, the Winnipeg River and Black Sturgeon Lake) containing over 14,000 islands. These natural areas provide recreational opportunities for residents, tourists and cottagers, many of whom arrive from the western neighbouring province of Manitoba or from Minnesota to the south.

From an economic perspective, the local tourism industry and delivery of public services have become primary local economic drivers. Some current challenges include the volatility in the forestry sector and shortage of affordable housing, which have strained the economic and social networks within the community. However, strong partnerships have also evolved over the past decade, including initiatives that have contributed community amenities and improvements, like the examples noted below.

- The new All Nations Hospital, which is still being planned, is expected to improve health outcomes for people across the region and is a great example of a partnership with local Indigenous communities.
- As a result of a \$258 million investment by Weyerhaeuser, Kenora is home to the world's largest TimberStrand mill where residuals from the plant and from other mills in the area provide a stable source of inputs for many value-added sustainable forest products such as biofuels, pellets, building products, pallets, mulch and other products. This investment contributes to the employment of 200 workers.
- The City of Kenora formed an economic partnership with the Lake of the Woods Brewing Company and in 2012 the City declared the land on which the old fire hall was built as surplus, enabling the property to be redeveloped into the local brewery.

Additional and ongoing local initiatives focussed on sustainability include:

- The Common Ground partnership which is focused on the stewardship and joint management of Tunnel Island
- The Harvest Kenora Collective which was created to promote sustainable small-scale agriculture, community building, and gardening
- The Compost Club Kenora which is focussed on expanding composting within the City and in adjacent communities with the objective of creating a permanent City-wide composting program
- The Lake of the Woods District Stewardship Association which was created to protect the local environment and provide leadership, education and communication on issues affecting the Lake of the Woods region, and
- The Active School Travel in Northwestern Ontario initiative sponsored by the Northwestern Health Unit that encourages students and families to use active transportation to get to school.



"Time was. It gave rest and respite to all that travelled the Trans-Canada highway...." by Chris Ralko

About the Community

Based on the most recent comprehensive census data collected in 2017:

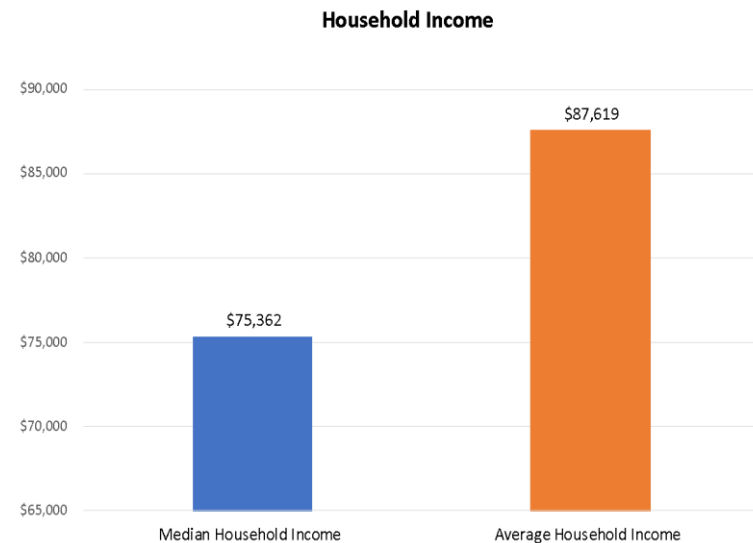
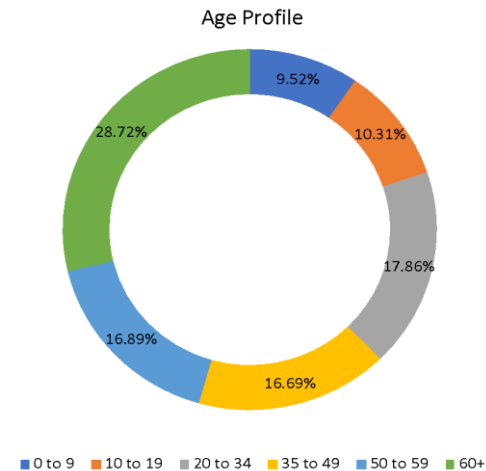
- Kenora's population is older than the Canadian average with about 45% of its residents aged 50 or older
- The median household income at just over \$75,000 is below the Canadian median for 2017 of about \$85,000
- The unemployment rate of 5% is comparable to the provincial and national rates which were about 6% in 2017, and
- The proportion of college graduates is comparable to the national average while the proportion of university graduates is significantly less (i.e., less than 4% in Kenora as compared to 30% nationally).

Like many municipalities in northern Ontario, Kenora has experienced little to no population growth, which limits the local tax base at the same time as the local infrastructure deficit is growing.

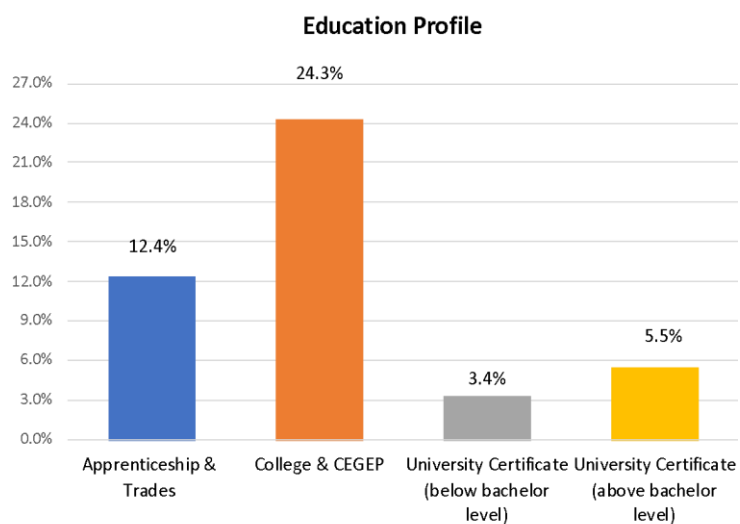
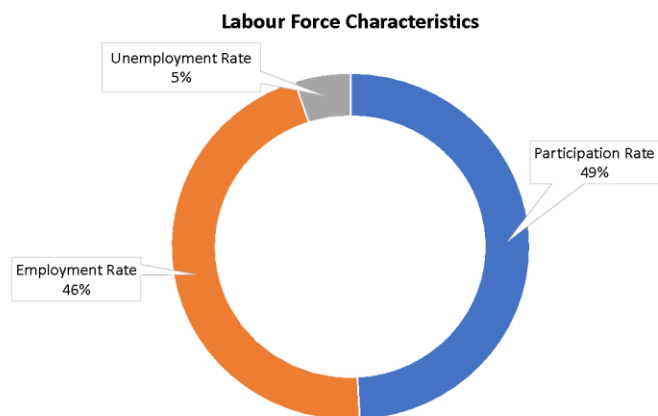
Creative solutions are needed to build community resilience with the available resources and partners. Some of these solutions can also make the City more attractive to and suitable for others as a destination for visiting or staying.

Demographic information will be used to inform the development of priority projects in Phase 2 (for example, local education levels could factor into recommended economic development opportunities).

Demographic Profile (2017)



Source: 2018 Community Profile



Source: 2018 Community Profile



Examples of products of joint initiatives through the Common Land, Common Ground (CLCG) initiative in Kenora. (Credits: CLCG website)

What Other Work Has Been Completed?

A changing climate poses significant risks to Kenora's society, economy, environment, and infrastructure. Certain economic sectors are more at risk due to climate change such as industry (e.g., forestry), tourism, recreation and energy. Climate-related extremes can also pose serious risks to physical and natural assets such as the City's roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure.

The City of Kenora, like many other municipalities in Canada, is stepping up to minimize the risks and impacts related to the effects of a changing climate. This Plan will build on existing knowledge, guidance and best practices to provide an implementation framework for at least 10 projects identified by the City, the community and its partners that will make meaningful progress to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase local community resilience to climate change.

The following text provides an overview of the findings of the background review completed to date. Once the final projects for the Sustainability Action Plan have been selected (as part of Phase 2), supplemental and targeted research into relevant precedents and best practices will be undertaken.

Environmental Scan

The review work undertaken for this project included a scan of strategy, policy and guiding documents (such as plans and relevant environmental studies) undertaken by or for the City considered relevant to sustainability and climate change.

The background review found that the City is already undertaking actions that consider the principles of sustainability. Some recent and ongoing initiatives include the following:

- In April 2017, the City hosted a Climate Change Workshop to discuss potential climate impacts facing the community and assess vulnerabilities and risks.
- In 2017, a new Strategic Asset Management Policy and Asset Management Plan was approved by Council. The plan identifies threats to the City's infrastructure from the impacts of climate change.
- In 2018, the City completed a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Study and developed a Climate Change Risk Assessment Framework.
- The City developed and implemented a Community Energy Plan in 2018. This is a long-term strategy to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in the City and community.
- The Enabling Affordable Housing Action Plan was developed in 2018 to inform, influence and assist in meeting community's housing needs.
- In September 2019, City Council passed a motion to declare a climate emergency.
- The City commissioned the development of a Sustainable Action Plan and the creation of a Sustainability Advisory Committee to support the development and implementation of this Plan in 2020.
- Also in 2020, the City prepared an Economic Recovery Plan which outlines activities the City can undertake to effectively respond to the devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on local businesses.

The City is also in the process of updating key City documents which include its':

- Official Plan and Zoning by-law with priority policy directions identified include active transportation and non-motorized trails, climate change adaptation, community improvement, housing and natural heritage
- Strategic Plan
- Economic Development and Tourism Strategy to identify priority economic development and tourism projects over the next five years
- Beaches, Parks and Trails Plan which is being updated as a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and
- Tourism Destination Marketing Strategy including redevelopment of the tourism destination brand (in partnership with the Kenora Hospitality Alliance).



"The Whole World Needs Farmers" by Ebony C., Age 12

¹ <https://cwn-rce.ca/wp-content/uploads/Case-Studies-Using-Better-Data-to-Identify-Climate-Change-Related-Infrastructure-Vulnerabilities-in-Canadian-Communities.pdf>

Municipal Vulnerabilities

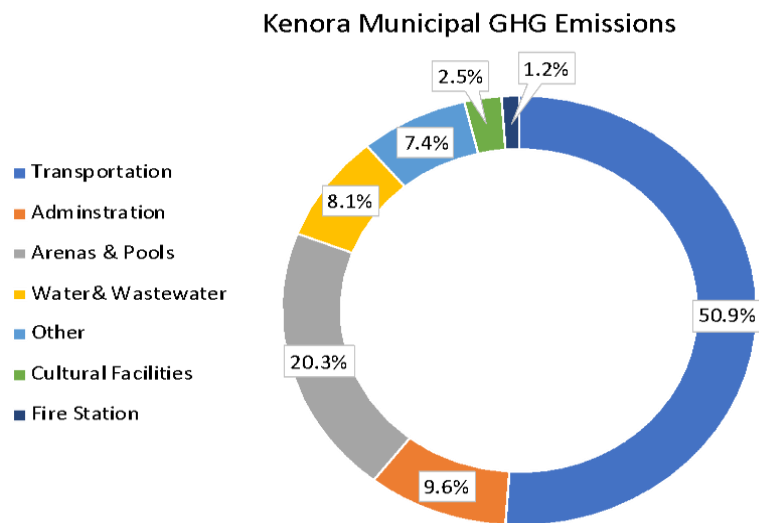
Cities are especially vulnerable to climate change because they concentrate people, buildings and infrastructure in a relatively small area. The vulnerability lies in that cities are dependent upon infrastructure that has not been designed for a changing climate. The risk is that these vulnerabilities are exposed when climate events, like freezing rain or extreme winds, occur and result in loss of services, damage to property, and in worst cases, loss of life. Some risks are more severe than others and will require the City and its community partners to proactively adapt to limit the risk level and the impacts should a climate related event occur.

For example, a national study of municipal asset management undertaken by 2017 by Public Sector Digest, Canadian Water Network and the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association¹, revealed the following about the City:

- A major flood in the spring of 2014 resulted in water levels reaching the highest peak in 85 years
- Frequent flooding over 2016 cost over \$290,000 in repairs to damaged culverts and roads
- Almost 50% of all stormwater assets in the City are in poor to very poor condition, and
- Algal blooms, such as those already documented in portions of Lake of the Woods, proliferate as a result of increased light and warmer temperatures such as those associated with climate change.

For its own operations, the City has already taken significant steps towards reducing energy consumption and greenhouse

gas emissions by implementing measures such as building envelope upgrades, LED light replacement and improvements, and the installation of automated building control systems. While these actions are impactful, there do remain opportunities, like fuel switching to low or no-carbon fuels, implementing deep energy building retrofits to reduce energy and greenhouse gas emissions further.



Source: Community Energy Plan 2018

The community's 2017 greenhouse gas emissions amounted to 94,000 tCO₂e, or 6.27 tCO₂e/capita. This is well below some of the larger cities, like Edmonton and Calgary, but close to other similarly sized cities within Ontario. Of these greenhouse gas emissions, more than 43% were the result of transportation activities.



"Community Garden" by Nicole Melilo

"Nature is precious, including the beautiful region we call home. In my piece the flowers represent a garden bringing life to the tree as it holds our natural environment. If not tended to, the garden wilts, the tree becomes weak, and nature is no longer supported. In order to ensure sustainability of the natural environment, we must tend to the garden."

WHAT WE HEARD

Phase 1 Results

This section of the report summarizes the results of:

- The Phase 1 Community Survey, “Kenora Sustainability Action Plan: Your Thoughts Matter!” (186 respondents)
- Information shared through discussions during the Phase 1 SAC meeting (12 participants)
- Information shared at the Phase 1 community workshop (42 community members), and
- Follow-up emails submitted by several members of the community, including school-aged youth.

Ideas for Project Principles

The following ideas for project principles emerged from the engagement:

- The importance of partnerships with local Indigenous communities
- The need for climate equity, recognizing the impacts of climate change are felt most acutely by the vulnerable
- Understanding sustainability as a shift in thinking and doing
- The power of small actions to effect change, and
- The need for accountability (e.g., in terms of tracking greenhouse gas emissions, setting reduction targets, and working to meet or exceed those targets).

Community-Identified Priorities

The top sustainability priorities identified for Kenora over the next 10 years (in order of reported preference) are:

1. Protecting water resources
2. Contributing to improved lake water quality
3. Supporting local businesses
4. Creating walkable, compact, vibrant community
5. Reducing local waste production
6. Supporting local food production and harvesting



"Living Nature Friendly" by Azalea Kirkpatrick, Youth Submission

Other sustainability priorities for the City identified by the community include:

- Enhancing local health care (for example, partnerships to reduce loneliness or isolation)
- Supporting renewable energy generation
- Increasing access to and / or number of local green spaces
- Improving public transit and / or transit alternatives (including trails)
- Conserving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (for example, reducing energy use in existing buildings)
- Enhancing community relationships and communications
- Fostering the growth of the Indigenous economy
- Supporting affordable housing
- Supporting energy efficient building construction (for example, green buildings standards)
- Preparing for climate change impacts (e.g., preventing flooding, dealing with extreme heat, etc.)
- Increasing tree cover in Kenora's built-up areas

Ideas for Community Partnerships

The City of Kenora operates within a broader context, with other levels of government, Indigenous communities, and public and private interest organizations as neighbours and partners. Over 54% of survey respondents were in complete agreement with the City fostering partnerships to help the community enhance sustainability.

Partnerships that the City could develop or build on were suggested during the engagement process. They are listed below, in alphabetical order:

- All Nations Hospital
Anishinaabeg of Kabapikotawangag Resource Council
- Canadian Urban Forest Network
- Compost Club of Kenora
- Cooperation Council of Ontario
- First Nations (e.g., through the Grand Council Treaty #3 – GCT#3 - Nation)
- Harvest Kenora
- International Joint Commission
Kenora Chamber of Commerce
- Kenora Chiefs Advisory (KCA)
- Kenora District Services Board (KDSB)
- Kenora Métis Council
- Knox Church Eco Group
- Lake of the Woods District Stewardship Association
- Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation
- Local construction companies and contractors
- North Western Health Unit
- Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation
- Northwest Business Centre
- Rotary Club of Kenora
- Seven Generations Education Institute
- Womens Saakaate House

These ideas will be reviewed and considered further through the Phase 2 project refinement process.

Ideas for Funding Sources

Potential sources of funds and / or resources to assist with planning and implementation of medium and long-term sustainability actions identified through the Phase 1 engagement process are listed below.

- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)
 - Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF)
 - Disaster Mitigation Action Funding (DMAF)
- Federal Gas Tax Fund
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- FedNor - Northern Ontario Development Program
- Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC)
- Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)

Ideas for Possible Projects

Table 1 includes a long list of ideas that could be the basis of potentially actionable sustainability projects.

This preliminary “long list” of projects and ideas was drawn from the Phase 1 engagement and is intended to capture the full range of feedback provided by City staff, the Sustainability Advisory Committee and the community as documented at the community workshop and through the on-line survey.

“We need a program or business model in place that incentivizes making the right choice for our wallet and the environment.”

The full range of potential project ideas have been organized in to the following categories, with the understanding that some of the ideas / projects relate to multiple categories and could have multi-sectoral co-benefits.

- Water and Wastewater Management
- Local Employment
- Local Resource Extraction
- Waste Management
- Food Security
- Health
- Infrastructure and Climate Change Preparedness
- Energy Management
- Affordable Housing and Shelter
- Transit Alternatives
- Community Cohesion
- Tourism
- Land Use and Building Alternatives

This long list of project ideas is intended to reflect the wide range of input received through the engagement process. The next step, in Phase 2, will be to refine this list and screen potentially suitable projects against a series of transparent and locally appropriate criteria to help select the projects to be implemented through the Sustainability Action Plan.

Table 1. Long list of ideas for potential projects and project ideas gathered from the Phase 1 engagement process (1 of 4)

WASTEWATER & WATER MANAGEMENT	LOCAL EMPLOYMENT	RESOURCE EXTRACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A program or campaign to increase public awareness of the importance of water quality protection ● A program or campaign by the City to educate people on protecting drinking water sources ● Expansion of municipal wastewater and water services (e.g., homes adjacent to water bodies should be connected to City services or have the septic systems inspected regularly) ● An education and incentive program to promote lot level stormwater controls (e.g., rain barrels, rain gardens, downspout disconnections) ● Protecting local water quality through outreach to and education of residents and tourists about their responsibility to use resources sustainably (potentially in partnership with Lake of the Woods Sustainable Development Association) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use financial incentives to get buy-in and support for sustainability practices (including reductions in energy use) among local business processes ● Partner with others (e.g., Health and Social Services, Chamber of Commerce) to create Social Enterprise that provides sustainable jobs ● Develop a shared community vision of what a thriving wellbeing economy means for Kenora and develop targets (https://wellbeing economy.org) to help achieve that vision ● Long term investment in local post-secondary institutions and partnerships with skilled trades to provide Red Seal designation². ● Provide trade training in green infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify opportunities for enhanced granite development (e.g., development of additional value-added granite processing operations to produce products close to where the resource is extracted) ● Support small scale local gold mining opportunities

² The Red Seal, when affixed to a provincial or territorial trade certificate, indicates that a tradesperson has demonstrated the knowledge required for the national standard in that trade (see <http://www.red-seal.ca/about/pr.4gr.1m-eng.html>)

Table 1. Long list of ideas for potential projects and project ideas gathered from the Phase 1 engagement process (2 of 4)

WASTE MANAGEMENT	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote curbside re-use and other diversionary measures to divert residential and construction waste from the landfill Ban plastic bags in all stores across Kenora and a program to ban or reduce single use plastics Compost (organic waste) pick up and processing A backyard composting program and compost (organic waste) pick up and processing (potentially in partnership with Kenora Compost Club) Identify and implement programs to better sort waste and support re-use and recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand market days beyond Wednesdays for growers/creators/vendors Promote public/cooperative/community gardens Support institutional procurement from local/regional food producers Create food forests (e.g., trees with edible fruits and nuts) in parks and other public green spaces Improve access to affordable, healthy and locally grown food (potentially partner with Harvest Kenora) Recovery of food waste for composting (opportunity to bolster local food production and employ locals) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand local social services Partner with the Northwestern Health Unit to provide accessible shelter during extreme weather events – cold and heat
		INFRASTRUCTURE & CLIMATE CHANGE PREPAREDNESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize and implement municipal road and bridge infrastructure renewal with consideration for climate change Undertake an inventory of municipal natural assets and incorporate them into long-term asset management planning Prioritize and implement municipal water and wastewater infrastructure renewal with consideration for climate change Invest in tree canopy cover in urban public spaces (mitigation of heat and wind)

Table 1. Long list of ideas for potential projects and project ideas gathered from the Phase 1 engagement process (3 of 4)

ENERGY MANAGEMENT	AFFORDABLE HOUSING / SHELTER	TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop emissions targets and accountability framework for Kenora (potentially in collaboration with Climate Caucus) ● Incentivize new building construction to be LEED certified and embrace higher energy efficiency standards while aiming for net zero ● Offer incentives for installation of solar panels ● Create a position for an energy advisor for home renovations and new construction ● Expand the municipality's energy retrofit practices ● Undertake and/or support deep retrofits to existing housing to improve energy efficiency (after an analysis of the housing stock) ● Using solar energy to support local (year-round?) food production ● Plug into the electrification process ● A project to enhance delivery of renewables (e.g., setting up a district heating grid / district energy, demonstrating how geothermal works well in Kenora) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide / increase housing options for low-income single adults and small families (potentially in partnership with Kenora District Services Board (KDSB)) ● Low-income housing weatherization Support housing development on vacant land and redevelopment of abandoned buildings in the downtown area for affordable housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creation of more parks and walkable paths ● Improving connectedness of bike paths and other cycling infrastructure (e.g., bike shelters, stands) ● More frequent, accessible and convenient public transit (e.g., rideshare programs such as Uber, Lyft, etc.) ● Invest in smaller, electric and smarter public transit ● Provide free parking for electric vehicles ● Promote Kenora as a regional transit hub

Table 1. Long list of ideas for potential projects and project ideas gathered from the Phase 1 engagement process (4 of 4)

TOURISM	COMMUNITY COHESION	LAND USE AND BUILDING ALTERNATIVES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop an active program to address the climate-related risks to tourism and recreation ● Embark on a “green city” campaign to attract visitors ● Brand Kenora as a center for outdoor enthusiasts (e.g., training center for survival skills, bushcraft, wilderness first aid, plant/medicinal studies) ● Support and promote ‘Work at Home’ opportunities (would require more reliable internet service) ● Create a forest school / outdoor learning program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider mental health and substance abuse during the development of the Plan ● Attract and retain newcomers ● “Rock the Block” initiatives, where different schools and neighbourhoods are offered different challenges to beautify or celebrate their area ● Zoom meets or question and answer sessions (for example, “Get to know your City”) ● “Eat & greets” (post-COVID) ● A “Kid Council,” where there could be meets, brainstorming, and different challenges put forward to our youth on a semi-regular basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Convert harbourfront parking into green space for residents and visitors ● Consider downtown redevelopments that integrate green spaces and/or community gardens ● Promote a program to support more trees in residential yards and on other institutional and private lands ● Install green roofs or low albedo roofs on City and other buildings ● Offer tax incentives for using green materials for home renovations

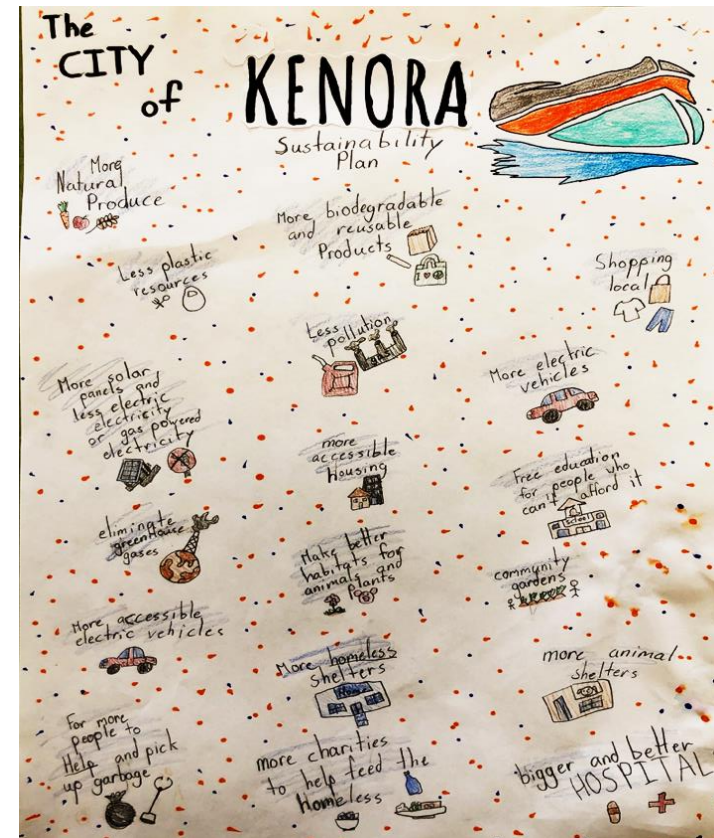
NEXT STEPS

The next steps for the project, in Phase 2, will be to:

- share the Phase 1 “What We Heard” Report with the City, SAC and the broader community
- refine the long list of potential projects in consultation with the City and the various experts on the consulting team
- develop evaluation criteria to inform project selection
- identify a recommended short list of potential projects for Phase 2 engagement, and
- engage City staff, the SAC and the community on the short list of potential projects to help confirm the final projects to form the basis of the Sustainability Action Plan.

Completion of Phase 2 will include targeted research and engagement so that at the end of the process there will be at least 10 actionable projects selected, each with a clear rationale, objectives and discussion of relevant precedents and best practices to guide implementation.

Phase 3 will involve fleshing out the implementation framework for each of these projects including identification of the project champion(s), partners, available resources and key steps for implementation.



"City Environment" by Logan Elke, Youth Submission

Questions, comments and ideas are welcome:
sustainability@kenora.ca