

## Appendix 1: Climate Change Program and Sample Accomplishments

Building on community engagement and support, Halton Hills has made important progress in protecting the environment and reducing emissions. Although much more remains to be done, the efficiency and comfort of municipal facilities has been elevated, new residential and non-residential construction is reducing energy use and creating more resilient and less costly to operate homes and businesses, residents are retrofitting their homes through the highly successful pilot Retrofit Halton Hills program, community groups are using the Climate Change Investment Fund to take action, electric vehicles are becoming more common, residents are active participants in annual Earth Day celebrations which the Town has now celebrated for 24 years, and through the Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) program businesses and residents of the Delrex neighbourhood are responding to a changing climate.

Today, many green development and emission reduction approaches are commonplace and part of base business practices, as well as a growing expectation of residential and non-residential owners/tenants.

A more detailed overview will be provided to Council as part of the forthcoming 'State of Environment and Climate Change' report.

### Facility Energy Efficiency

Whenever new Town facilities are designed and built, and existing ones retrofitted, environmental performance and energy efficiency is a key priority. By adopting good business practices, the Town can reduce its utilities' usage, save on operating costs, provide more comfortable and longer lasting and resilient buildings, and reduce environmental impacts through fewer emissions. These improvements are part of regular business practice.



Figure 1. The Acton Library incorporates energy efficiency measures and has a low carbon geothermal heating system.

Retrofits at the Acton Arena, Mold-Masters and Town Hall, for example, are projected to reduce utility costs by over \$70,000 per year and reduce emissions by more than 10%. Future integration with Building Automation and additional HVAC loads are expected to eliminate almost all-natural gas use in these arenas. In support of these projects the Town has applied for and was successful in receiving about \$1.5 million in external grants.

In addition to a monetary Return on Investment (ROI), facility energy improvements also generate important non-financial returns and benefits for the community, including a cleaner environment and more comfortable facilities for the users.

## **Green Development Standards**

Adopted in 2021, [Green Development Standards](#) - Version 3 (GDS) applies to all developments and major additions subject to an Official Plan and/or Zoning By-law Amendment, Draft Plan of Subdivision, or Site Plan Control approval. GDS v3 is designed to elevate the environmental performance of new development.

Since the first Halton Hills Green Development Standard was created in 2010, the standards have increased the sustainability of over 1,400 residential units and 2,152,782 square feet of non-residential gross floor area.

Results of just the first year of the operation of the GDS v3 include:

- Approved 387,000 square feet of commercial floorspace.
- 100% adoption of energy efficiency metrics.
- 27% reduction in GHG emissions compared to typical buildings.
- Installation of 6 EV chargers and a reduction of over 80 single-occupancy fossil fuel vehicle trips daily.
- Approved the Town's first net-zero carbon commercial building.

As the Town's population grows and associated development expands, the Green Development Standards are an effective way of maximizing efficiency of new development, while reducing its environmental impact.

The private sector has responded very positively to the GDS. Green development practices have become largely commonplace. On many occasions, development applicants exceed the Town's minimum requirements.

## **Retrofit Halton Hills Pilot Program**

The RetrofitHH Pilot Program assists residents in improving the efficiency and comfort of their homes by providing interest-free and repayable loans for energy retrofits. The project was funded by the Green Municipal Fund program administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Energy efficiency retrofits save homeowners money on their energy bills, improve comfort and health while reducing emissions. The pilot was very successful, with demand from Halton Hills residents exceeding available funding. Through the pilot:

- 20 applications received within three weeks of program launch.

- Ten funding requests received before the application deadline.
- Nine residential projects approved.
- \$400,000 in interest-free loans provided to homeowners.
- RetrofitHH projects include:
  - Improving insulation in basements, attics, and main walls
  - Installing of heat pumps, replacing furnaces, air conditioners and hot water tanks
  - Installing solar panels

Staff are in the process of developing options for a larger scale Retrofit Halton Hills program, including through potential partnerships with the private sector.

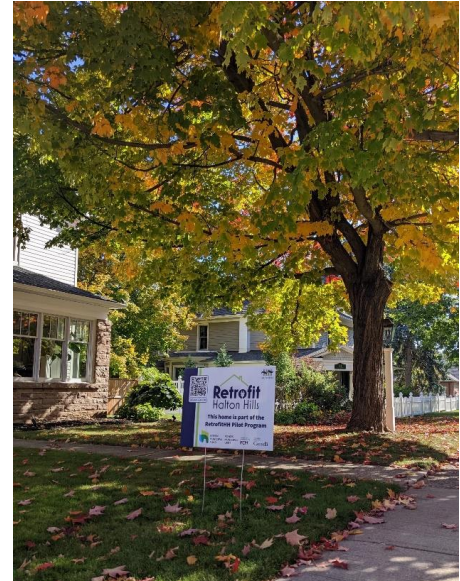


Figure 2. Lawn signs identify homes participating in the RetrofitHH Pilot Program.

### **Climate Change Investment Fund**

Established in 2021, the Climate Change Investment Fund (CCIF) provides ‘seed’ funding to support practical, community-based initiatives relating to mitigation and adaptation. Examples of eligible actions include air quality, energy conservation/efficiency, environmental education, water conservation, waste reduction, green space enhancement, preserving natural assets including biodiversity and the ecosystem including tree plantings, and community gardens.

Over the past two years, the Fund has benefited the community by providing a total amount of \$15,970 to eight groups to leverage projects totaling over \$38,000.

### **Low Carbon Mobility**

To support the transition to EVs, a number of EV chargers are available throughout the Town, including at:

- Town Hall Parking Lot
- Edith St. Parking Lot
- Georgetown Fairgrounds
- Dominion Gardens
- Halton Hills Fire Department Headquarters
- Robert C. Austin Operations Centre
- Willow St Parking Lot

Between 2021 and 2022, the Town’s EV chargers have saved nearly 1300 litres of gasoline and associated emissions.

Additional chargers are available at private locations, such as Toronto Premium Outlets, the Real Canadian Superstore, and Canadian Tire.

## **‘Go Green’ Events**

Town staff have implemented activities to encourage the uptake of EVs, including the creation of a new [EV webpage](#), and hosting two ‘Go Green’ events. In 2020, the Town hosted its first EV event showcase, the EV Extravaganza, at Mold-Masters SportsPlex. That event included:

EV test drives and information sessions about EV ownership conducted by Plug ‘n’ Drive – a not-for-profit organization that advances EV adoption.

An Owner’s Section where EV owners could showcase their vehicle and share their experience.

Following that successful event, the Town hosted a second EV event in 2022. The 2022 ‘Go Green - Halton Hills’ event was held in October at the Halton Hills Public Library and Cultural Centre in Georgetown. About 200 residents attended this event that included:

- Plug ‘n’ Drive offered test drives of electric vehicles.
- EVs on display by owners where residents could ask questions about EVs
- booths where local green businesses and organizations displayed their services.
- guided tours of the sustainable features of the Halton Hills Public Library and Cultural Centre

Building on earlier successes, for 2023, the Town has partnered with Your Green Homes Real Estate to host the Race to Net Zero event at Acton Arena and Community Centre in April 2023. This event featured EV test drives, an EV ‘showroom’ with presentations about electric vehicle ownership, as well as workshops and presentations about renewable energy, home energy retrofits, cycling, and other local climate solutions.

## **Race to Net Zero 2023**

Building on the Town of Halton Hills Go Green events held in 2021 and 2022, and Your Green Homes EV Show in 2022, the Town collaborated with Your Green Homes to host the Race to Net Zero event on Saturday, April 22, 2023. This one-day event started at 10 a.m. and finished by 4 p.m. at the Acton Arena and Community Centre (ACC).



Figure 3. Attendees at the 2022 'Go Green' event check out EVs owned by Halton Hills residents.

The Race to Net Zero event showcased actions residents can take to reduce carbon emissions. This event raised awareness of real climate solutions, provided opportunities for residents to get involved, and showcased local retrofit businesses.

The event was held inside the ACC with Plug'n Drive and Tesla providing test drives of their vehicles from the arena parking lot.



Figure 4. Race to Net Zero Event

The Race to Net Zero event included the following:

- Free Electric vehicle (EV) test drives by Plug'n Drive and Tesla.
- Electric vehicles on display by owners and dealerships.
- Presentations and booths by businesses on home solar, ground source heat pumps and other home energy efficiency products.
- Presentation on sustainable landscaping, and environmental groups had booths at the event.
- Alternative active transportation options were promoted such as e-bikes, bicycles, and transit.
- Halton Hills Used Bike Swap was held on the Leisure Pad.
- Halton Hills Public Library held children's activities such as storytelling, planting seed craft to take home, and promoted the Seed Library.
- Green Tours of the Halton Hills Public Library's Acton Branch.
- Recreation and Parks attended the event with the Hey Neighbour program and offered family activities and games.

Approximately 750 people attended the event, 26 test drives were conducted and seven orders for EVs were placed by event visitors.

### **Annual Earth Day Celebrations**

For almost 25 years, the Town of Halton Hills has celebrated [Earth Week](#) by offering and encouraging residents to participate in environmental activities that support a healthy environment. Throughout the years, the activities have included an annual Community Clean-up, and Public Works Earth Day, which included a woodchips and compost giveaway, household hazardous waste collection, and the annual Tree Sale that typically sold 1,000 small tree saplings per year. Recent editions have included the 22-Minute Makeover where schools and businesses are encouraged to head outside and clean up the area where they spend their day.

Also, as part of Earth Week, the Earth Day and Sustainability Fair was held annually from 2009 to 2018 at the Georgetown Market Place. This event provided residents an opportunity to engage with over 55 local sustainability groups who focused on their good work through



Figure 5. Earth Day community clean-up.

supporting environmental health, economic prosperity, cultural vibrancy and social well-being.

Over the years, residents, businesses and the Town have collaborated on Earth Week activities that have resulted in long-lasting partnerships with businesses such as Tim Hortons, McDonalds Restaurants, and Georgetown Market Place, and Superior Glove. In addition, the Tree Voucher Pilot program, which will debut in 2023, is a collaboration between the Town, Reds Garden Centre and Sheridan Nurseries. Partnerships between the Town, Credit Valley Conservation and Halton Conservation to raise awareness of environmental health continues to strengthen every year through partnered workshops, and public presentations.

### **Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan**

The [Sustainable Neighborhood Action Plan \(SNAP\) - Hungry Hollow](#) identifies community environmental actions that residents and businesses can take to help reduce the impacts of a changing climate. Hungry Hollow is known for its valued biodiversity, cold water creeks, and the habitat that lives there. The program is now entering its third year of implementation.

Since SNAP implementation began in the spring of 2021:

- 2,494 people have been engaged in 110 SNAP-related events and activities.
- 4,078 native trees and shrubs have been planted on private and public lands.
- 490 native wildflowers have been planted in pollinator gardens.



Figure 6. Residents participating in a SNAP event.

- 112 sustainable actions have been initiated on private property.
- 19 community projects have been created on public lands.

The development of SNAP began in 2019 where the Town dedicated \$15,000 over two years to complete the Plan. Town staff continue to collaborate with CVC staff on the project, with Town staff co-leading the project, and attending meetings and events.