

Implementation Plan

Taking Action to Reach Our Vision

The Implementation framework is designed to detail how the actions will be implemented, who will be responsible, the mechanisms to succeed, and the partnerships required.

Leadership and Champions

Sustainable Huron Steering Committee

The Sustainable Huron Steering Committee will meet quarterly to discuss progress and implementation of the priority projects. The Committee will act as a sounding board to the sustainability coordinator, connectors, project leads and partners to ensure that they are moving towards implementing the projects. A Terms of Reference, including Governance and Communication, will be developed once the plan is approved.

Sustainability Coordinator

A full time staff member/coordinator position is recommended with the overall responsibility to oversee and act as the one-window for sustainability plan implementation. The sustainability coordinator is the integral person that will ensure that Take Action Huron is implemented. The following tasks/roles will be part of the coordinators position:

- Coordinate and organize meetings and provide administrative/project support to the sustainability leads and project partners
- Will research and source funding
- Assemble an annual “state of sustainability in Huron” report
- Organize an annual sustainability forum which will bring together all interested stakeholders to discuss the different projects, have updates, and ensure open communication
- Track and record actions
- Connect people to projects and initiatives that promote sustainability in Huron County
- Contact partners, connectors and committee members
- Communicate the success and progress of this plan

While the presence of a sustainability coordinator will ensure that the list above will be able to be achieved, there are no limitations on what a group(s) or organization can achieve on advancing priorities (or actions) listed within the Sustainability plan.

Sustainability Connectors

People with Huron County will continue to be identified to represent each of the pillars of sustainability (economy, environment, and socio-cultural). Connectors will be identified based on

their ability to build partnerships and to help support development of priority projects. In addition applications will be sought to fill the other seats on the committee.

Project Based Members

Project based members will be invited to attend meetings in order to ensure that the progress of each project is being discussed, documented and reported on. Each project lead will work closely with the sustainability coordinator. Project based members will participate on the committee for the duration of the project.

Partners

As Sustainable Huron moves into implementation, organizations, groups, members and municipalities will be asked to commit to be an action partner towards implementation. Each partner will be asked to sign a commitment towards sustainability, and will be asked to approve, in principle the vision and goals for Sustainable Huron.

Each partner will be invited to participate in the annual sustainability forum and also celebrate any actions that they have participated in or implemented that move Huron towards sustainability.

Partners will be asked to review the tool-box and select or add any additional actions that they are implementing.

Communication and Awareness

Annual Sustainability Forum

An annual event will be organized to communicate and celebrate the success of sustainability in Huron County. During the forum participants will be invited to learn about the priority project implementation, and will select new projects to move forward, participants will also be invited to become partners towards the vision of sustainability in Huron.

Sustainability Conversations

Periodically, conversations focusing on sustainability, the themes or any ideas about the future of Huron County will be held. This will ensure that creativity, collaboration and interesting conversations are continued through implementation.

Engagement and Communications

A “state of sustainability” newsletter will be developed to update community members, partners and anyone who is interested in implementation. The newsletter will showcase success stories, partner profiles, and will provide an update on each of the priority projects as they roll out and are implemented.

Social media will be used to continually get the word out about Sustainable Huron’s progress.

A communications strategy (including Social Media) will be developed as part of the first task of setting up the implementation.

Accountability

Progress Reporting

Progress on the plan's implementation will be reported annually. The coordinator will be responsible for putting together the "state of sustainability" report each year. This report will showcase success on each of the priority projects; and provide an update on how Huron is moving towards the selected indicators.

Priority Project Selection

It is recommended that new actions/priority projects are selected every year (or two years) to ensure Huron is moving towards sustainability.

Third Party Auditors

It is recommended that a third party auditor/facilitator is brought in on a bi-annual basis to review the success of implementation.

Full Sustainability Plan Review

It is recommended that every five years the Sustainability Plan is reviewed and revised according to the newly identified priorities – and successes achieved.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators

The Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators (ESDI) Initiative has produced a set of six indicators to track whether Canada's current economic activities threaten the way of life for future generations. Huron County will utilize this set of indicators as an overall measurement towards sustainability.

1. **Air** quality in terms of ground-level ozone.
2. **Freshwater** quality in terms of meeting government criteria.
3. **Greenhouse gas** emissions.
4. **Forest cover** to track the extent of our forests.
5. Extent of **wetlands** in Huron County.
6. **Human capital** measured by **education**.

Priority Project Indicators

In order to track overall sustainability and success in Huron – the following indicators will be used.

- Percentage of native forest cover
- Number of blue flag beaches
- Number of farms participating in environmental farm plans
- Municipal energy consumption
- Average commuter distance / year
- Net in-migration of youth 25 - 30
- Population
- Median age of population
- Number of farmers under 40
- Number of private and public art spaces, culture & heritage programs
- Kilometres of recreation trails, bike lanes per capita
- Number of hospital beds, long-term care beds
- Special transit ridership
- Businesses open/closed or #of businesses belonging to a BIA or Chamber
- Number of good food boxes purchased/Number of farmer's markets operating
- Number of residents below LICO/Number of residents on affordable housing list

Appendices

Appendix A: Huron County Sustainability Tool-Box

Appendix B: Community Partners Commitment to the Plan

Appendix C: Current Conditions Report 2011

