



Climate Change and Environment Committee Agenda

November 21, 2024, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Conestoga Room

City of Kitchener

200 King Street W, Kitchener, ON N2G 407

People interested in participating in this meeting can email Manager, Policy and Research, Natalie Goss at Natalie.Goss@kitchener.ca. Please refer to the delegation section on the agenda below for the registration deadline. Written comments received will be circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting and will form part of the public record.

Accessible formats and communication supports are available upon request. If you require assistance to take part in a city meeting or event, please call 519-741-2345 or TTY 1-866-969-9994.

Chair: Brooklin Wallis

Vice-Chair: Morgan Garner

Pages

1. Commencement

The meeting will begin with a Land Acknowledgement given by the Chair.

The City of Kitchener is situated on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee Peoples.

We recognize our responsibility to serve as stewards for the land and honour the original caretakers who came before us. Our community is enriched by the enduring knowledge and deep-rooted traditions of the diverse First Nations, Metis and Inuit in Kitchener today.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

Members of Council and members of the City's local boards/committees are required to file a written statement when they have a conflict of interest. If a conflict is declared, please visit www.kitchener.ca/conflict to submit your written form.

3. Delegations

Pursuant to Council's Procedural By-law, delegations are permitted to address the Committee for a maximum of five (5) minutes. All Delegations must register by 12:00 p.m. on November 21, 2024 , in order to participate in the meeting.

3.1 Item 4.2 - B. Williams

3.2 Item 4.3 - P. Gilbride, R. Robinson & L. Truong, Reep Green Solutions

4. Discussion Items

4.1 Bird Friendly City and World Migratory Bird Day, DSD-2024-453

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4.2 The Environmental Impacts of Chemical Rodent Control

B. Williams will provide a 5-minute presentation on this matter.

4.3 2023-2024 Reep Green Solutions Impact Report

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P. Gilbride, R. Robinson & L. Truong, Reep Green Solutions, will provide a 5-minute presentation on this matter.

5. Information Items

5.1 Kitchener 2051 - Official Plan Project Update, DSD-2024-424

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6. Adjournment

Natalie Goss
Committee Administrator

Staff Report



Development Services Department

www.kitchener.ca

REPORT TO: Climate Change and Environment Committee

DATE OF MEETING: October 17, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: Natalie Goss, Manager Policy & Research, 519-741-2200 ext. 7648

PREPARED BY: Carrie Musselman, Senior Environmental Planner, 519-741-2200 ext. 7068

WARD(S) INVOLVED: All Ward(s)

DATE OF REPORT: September 6, 2024

REPORT NO.: DSD-2024-453

SUBJECT: Bird Friendly City and World Migratory Bird Day

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Climate Change and Environment Committee support Kitchener becoming certified as a Bird Friendly through Nature Canada; and

That the Climate Change and Environment Committee support Kitchener proclaiming World Migratory Bird Day on an annual basis on the second Saturday of May.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to seek the Climate Change and Environment committee's support for Kitchener becoming a Bird Friendly City.
- Becoming a Bird Friendly City means that the city will be issued a certificate, be recognized for its contributions made to reverse bird population decline, and have standards to measure the impact and progress of its work,.
- This report supports Cultivating a Green City Together: Focuses a sustainable path to a greener, healthier city; enhancing & protecting parks & natural environment while transitioning to a low-carbon future; supporting businesses & residents to make climate-positive choices.

BACKGROUND:

This report is in response to the following Council resolution:

"That staff be directed to investigate the benefits and feasibility of Kitchener becoming a 'Bird Friendly City' including any resource and budgetary considerations as outlined in Development Services Department report DSD-2024-081."

REPORT:

A Bird Friendly City is a community where:

- Key threats to birds are effectively mitigated.
- Nature is restored so native bird populations can thrive.
- Residents are actively engaged in admiring and monitoring local bird populations.

*** This information is available in accessible formats upon request. ***
Please call 519-741-2345 or TTY 1-866-969-9994 for assistance.

- Organizations are creating events to protect birds.
- Progressive municipal policies are created to protect urban bird populations; and
- A Bird Team has been created to oversee and lead these initiatives.

Benefits of Kitchener becoming a ‘Bird Friendly City.’

- Certification
 - Is a badge of honor and a source of community pride. It tells the world that Kitchener does things to help birds and reverse their decline.
 - Kitchener will be issued a Bird Friendly City Certificate, to recognize the contributions made to reverse bird population declines.
 - Certification provides a rigorous standard to measure impact and progress of our work, while providing flexibility.
- Networking with other cities
 - As a Bird Friendly City, Kitchener will have access to a network of other cities and a community of people with shared values.
- Ecotourism
 - Certified bird cities can use their status to attract visitors and promote bird-based ecotourism.
- Kitchener gets advantages.
 - Kitchener will have access to feather friendly products and discounts, potential access to small grants, potential to infuse biodiversity considerations into green infrastructure projects, and tools to address key issues.

‘Bird Friendly City’ Standards, Criteria or Actions (Certification)

The standard consists of a series of criteria or actions; each assigned a weighted score based on Nature Canada’s assessment of the relative importance of each criterion within the three major categories of criteria that reflect what Nature Canada believes to be the most important elements of a Bird Friendly City:

Section 1 – Threat Reduction

- Reduce threats to birds through educational and regulatory measures to create more opportunities for birds to survive and thrive.

Section 2 - Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency

- Factor in the well-being of birds and communities when planning urban development projects to ensure that habitat conservation and restoration are prioritized.

Section 3 - Community Outreach / Education.

- Officially recognizing and celebrating days like World Migratory Bird Day allowing communities to celebrate birds and the diverse places they call home.

Once the application is completed including supporting evidence and information it is submitted to Nature Canada. Nature Canada staff will review the application and inform the BFC Bird Team of the decision/status. The Status Level is only determined once a review of the application by Nature Canada has been completed and points have been awarded.

There are three levels of Bird Friendly City status:

- Entry: The minimum standard is approximately 50% of the possible points within each category.
- Intermediate: is attained by achieving from 65% to 80% of possible points.
- High: is attained by achieving 80% or more of possible points.

All cities and towns that meet the standard will have some common elements, such as:

- Hosting a World Migratory Bird Day event in their community,

- Having a Bird Team, and
- Promoting their status on their website.

Feasibility of Kitchener becoming a ‘Bird Friendly City.’

Bird Friendly Application

This spring, members of the BFC Bird Team reached out to staff to collect information that would support how criteria in the Bird Friendly City Application from the Nature Canada is met.

Staff from across the organization (By-law Enforcement, Planning, and Forestry and Natural Areas Management) worked with members of the BFC Bird Team, providing information, specifically for Sections 1.1 - 1.7 (Threat Reduction), as well as Sections 2.1 - 2.8 (Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency) of the application.

Bird Team

The BFC Bird Team’s mission is to campaign for implementing bird friendly actions in their respective City to create safer urban environments for birds. The Bird Team will seek to complete its mission by:

- addressing and mitigating key threats to birds in their city,
- protecting and restoring natural habitat and increasing climate resiliency in their city, and
- conducting community outreach and education.

Members are to have a strong interest in working towards helping their city become bird friendly and reside and/or have a working connection to the city. Two members are to be liaisons, one municipal the other from Nature Canada.

Once supported by Council, it is recommended that the City’s Natural Area Project Manager become the Municipal Liaison to the BFC Bird Team. They will be the communicating bridge between the local Bird Team and the municipality, highlight important considerations and context of the Bird Team’s efforts, assist with identifying champions and allies, and if/when necessary, recruit municipal representatives on the Bird Team.

Currently the BFC Bird Team has representatives from Nature Canada, Feather Friendly, Rare Charitable Research Reserve, Birds Canada, University of Waterloo, Waterloo Region Nature, and private citizens who are interested in taking on a large role on the BFC initiative.

BFC Bird Team continues to build the team and public presence (website, social media, presentations) as well as document all the bird friendly measures undertaken as part of the Bird Friendly Application for Consideration (Appendix A). Once achieved, the BFC Bird Team will work to maintain the certification, which must be renewed every 2 years.

World Migratory Bird Day

Every year Nature Canada and their partners work alongside nature organizations across the country to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day. World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated the second Saturday of May each year. This time of year, is the peak of spring migration in southern Canada, marking a celebration as Canadians re-discover their feathered friends in their communities.

World Migratory Bird Day is a time to discover the wonderful birds that join us every spring and celebrate the impressive journey they've endured after many months beyond our borders! Forestry and Natural Areas staff have indicated that celebrating World Migratory Bird Day aligns with and could be incorporated into existing events or programing.

Promoting their status on the Municipal website.

If the city qualifies as a Bird Friendly City, we will receive a certificate from Nature Canada and information for a press release to announce our new status. We would need to provide a one paragraph description about our city for Nature Canada's Bird Friendly City website and the city would need to identify it's Bird Friendly City status on our website.

Conclusion

To date, minimal staff time has been necessary to support completion of the Bird Friendly Application. At present, staff have not identified any additional work needed to complete the application. In many cases, actions to meet a criterion are community-based (not municipal). Going forward, the program allows cities to choose what issues they would like to work on.

Although, there is no cost for Bird Friendly City certification, going forward, some costs may occur for staff required to liaison with the Bird Team or to assist with World Migratory Bird Day.

PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:

- [DSD-2024-081](#) Kitchener Becoming a Bird Friendly City

REVIEWED BY: Gloria MacNeil, Director, By law Enforcement.
Rachel Voros, Natural Area Project Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Draft Bird Friendly Application for Consideration

BIRD FRIENDLY

APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION

Scoring and Evaluation Rubric Version 2.0 June, 2023



BIRD FRIENDLY
CITY

CITY REPRESENTED:

DATE OF SUBMISSION:

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Section 3: Community Outreach/Education_____	39

MANDATORY CRITERIA

Who can apply? The Bird Friendly City Canada Standard generally applies to cities with populations over 30,000. Cities (municipalities) that have populations between 15,000 and 30,000 have the option of applying for this standard or for the small municipality standard. The applicant municipality must have its own elected Council with typical municipal powers.

To obtain Bird Friendly status, a certain number of points must be obtained in each category of criteria. The level that an applicant is awarded is equivalent to the lowest level achieved in each of the three categories of criteria (threat reduction, habitat protection, restoration and climate resilience, and community outreach/education). Many of the criteria include evidence of a policy and evidence of implementation of the policy. In many cases, actions to meet a criterion are community-based (not government). It is a good exercise for Bird Teams during the application process to identify those actions that can be implemented by community members and those that require implementation by the municipality or some other level of government.

Generally all of the points are awarded contingent on evidence in support of the action. However, points can be rewarded even if the action has not been completed, as long as there is strong evidence that a process to implement or complete the action is underway.

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-1 – ESTABLISHMENT OF BIRD TEAM

DESCRIPTION

Establish a Bird City Team (standing committee) to drive the project forward. Try to ensure that your team represents different perspectives and has a liaison with the municipality.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide a list of the bird team members, affiliations and contact information.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

First Name Last Name Organization (if applicable) email address

Jennifer Clary-Lemon, University of Waterloo, jclarylemon@uwaterloo.ca (co-Chair)

David Gascoigne, Waterloo Region Nature, davidmgascoigne@gmail.com

Paul Groleau, Feather Friendly, pgroleau@featherfriendly.com

Aleksandra Dolezal, rare Charitable Research Reserve, aleksandra.dolezal@raresites.org

Natasha Barlow, Birds Canada, nbarlow@birdscanada.org

Bob Williams, r.j.williams044@gmail.com

Roderick Hornby, Waterloo Region Nature (Teens), Roderickhornbyphotography@gmail.com

Victoria Lamont, University of Waterloo, vlamont@uwaterloo.ca

Meredith Blunt, Independent Artist, meredith.blunt@gmail.com (co-Chair)

Marcel O'Gorman, University of Waterloo Critical Media Lab, marcel@uwaterloo.ca

Ethan Gosnell, University of Waterloo (undergrad), egosnell@uwaterloo.ca

Yu-Ting Chen, University of Waterloo (grad), yu-ting.chen1@uwaterloo.ca

Roger Suffling, U of Waterloo/Waterloo Region Nature, rcsuffli@uwaterloo.ca

Kathy Mortimer, Waterloo Region Nature, kathy.mortimer@speedymail.org

Keira McManus, University of Waterloo/ UW-Society for Ecological Restoration, k4mcmanus@uwaterloo.ca

Amanda Armstrong University of Waterloo/ UW-Society for Ecological Restoration, am2armst@uwaterloo.ca

Istafa Sufi, rare Charitable Research Reserve, istafa.sufi@raresites.org

Gabriel Evans-Cook, Birds Canada, gevenscook@birdscanada.org

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-2: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LAND AND INCLUSION

DESCRIPTION

We recognize that all of Canada is still within the traditional territory or unceded territory of Indigenous Peoples. Through respect of this fact, and the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples, an Indigenous perspective should be included in this program if possible. We encourage prospective applicant bird teams to seek this perspective as is possible. Bird teams must identify the Indigenous traditional territory (ies) of the municipality and invite it/them to participate in the initiative.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide the name of the relevant Indigenous Nation(s) and report on the outcome of an invitation to participate in the initiative. Reporting on progress of having an Indigenous perspective on the Bird Team is an annual requirement.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The Kitchener Bird Team acts in a consultative manner with both Municipal partners and rare Charitable Research Reserve, both of which have existing contact with local First Nations (we have two Bird Team members that are employed by rare). Local Indigenous groups that they work with include: White Owl Native Ancestry, Crow Shield Lodge, and Wisahetwinowak. Both rare and the municipality also consult with Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit River First Nation. Because we do not wish to create more labour for First Nations individuals, who often bear high brunt of community service loads such as these, we are relying on our partners as our connection to First Nations. In every initiative, we plan on connecting with First Nations using these existing partnerships.

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-3: FORMAL MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

DESCRIPTION

Pass a council resolution nominating or supporting your municipality's efforts to be a Bird Friendly City OR a letter of support from a high-ranking city official (latter only applies to entry level).

SCORING INDICATORS

Willingness to pass council resolution within the first year of certification OR a letter of support for the certification program from a high-ranking city official (mayor, CEO, etc.). Intermediate and High status require a Council resolution.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

We have presented at the City of Kitchener's Committee on Climate Change and the Environment (CECC), who voted to allow city staff to investigate the feasibility of the City of Kitchener to become a Bird Friendly City (see <https://www.kitchener.ca/en/news/key-decisions-of-kitchener-council-march-18-2024.aspx>). This is the first step in preparing for a council resolution. City staff have been helping research and complete the certification materials as a result. Once the BFC application has been submitted, we will return to the CECC with our certification packet with a request that they support a council resolution (this is currently on the September CCEC agenda), with the intention of getting on the October Council agenda. Thus we should have a Council resolution within the first year of certification.

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-4: ANNUAL REPORT

DESCRIPTION

Once your municipality has been accorded Bird Friendly City status, the Bird Team must provide an annual report card on activities related to your Bird Friendly City status. Download Report cards from the Bird Friendly City website or request from Nature Canada staff.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide an Annual Report card by your municipality's one-year certification anniversary.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

This criterion will be met upon certification.

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-5: WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

DESCRIPTION

Hold a World Migratory Bird Day event annually to celebrate birds in your municipality. Municipalities applying for the first time must hold a Bird Day within the year of application and continue the event to maintain status.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of the event and Mayor's or Council proclamation in support of Bird Day.

Although this is not yet needed, we have ongoing activities that celebrate World Migratory Bird day: 1) we have held an event with Princess Cinemas here:

<https://www.princesscinemas.com/movie/world-migratory-bird-day-purple-haze-waterloo>; 2) the City of Kitchener hosted a Tree Planting Event here

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/tree-planting-for-world-migratory-bird-day-tickets-899315114717?aff=oddtcreator>.

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-6: PROGRAM VISIBILITY

DESCRIPTION

Include information about Bird Friendly City on the City website where it can be easily found, once certification is accorded.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide a link and proof of posting. This is expected to happen during the annual report or when as city re-applies for certification.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

We have established a website presence through affiliation with Waterloo Region Nature at www.bfck.waterlooregionnature.ca. The City of Kitchener has agreed to link to this website once we are a certified BFC. We also have a BFC Kitchener Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/people/Bird-Friendly-Kitchener/61560111744082/>), Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/birdfriendlykitchener/>), and designated email address (birdfriendlykitchener@gmail.com).

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-7: RENEWAL

DESCRIPTION

Bird Friendly City status will last two years, after which you must reapply. Each application can use and build-on past applications, but must show some evidence of progress over time. No evidence of progress will result in rejecting the application or dropping a certification level.

SCORING INDICATORS

Submit an application for renewal. Applications for renewal are due by the September or February application window that follows the two-year anniversary of their most recent application's acceptance and their recognition as a bird friendly city.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

We intend to submit a renewal application once certification is granted.

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

SECTION 1: THREAT REDUCTION

THREAT REDUCTION

1.1 (A) OWNED CATS

DESCRIPTION

Regulatory and educational measures taken to help control and reduce populations of cats roaming at large:

(A) Coordinated efforts directed at cat owners to reduce the number of owned cats outside such as educational campaigns, licensing and no-roam bylaws.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for a no-roam bylaw (i.e. owned cats not allowed to roam at large), one point for evidence of enforcement of the bylaw, and one point for an educational campaign targeting residents to make them aware of the bylaw. High-level certification requires proof of a no-roam bylaw all three indicators.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Kitchener has a chapter in its municipal code related to the regulation of animals. Within Article 2 a pair of clauses state, “No owner of an animal shall allow his/ her animal to run at large,” and, “An animal shall be deemed to be running at large when it is found not under the effective control of an adult person and not under leash, unless the animal is on the lands of a person who has given prior consent to it being unleashed.”

Regulations are posted on the City’s website (Chapter 408 - Animals - Regulation (kitchener.ca, <https://lf.kitchener.ca/WebLinkExt/DocView.aspx?dbid=0&id=1497603&cr=1>).

The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth is contracted by the City of Kitchener to provide animal by-law and animal control services (<https://kwsphumane.ca/municipal-animal-services>), among others, most notably confined stray cat removal. Humane Society officers are municipal law enforcement officers empowered to enforce municipal animal by-laws and may issue offence notices for by-law violations.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.1 (B) UNOWNED CATS

DESCRIPTION

Within the municipality, there is an active strategy to reduce populations of unowned (feral) cats and mitigate their threat to birds (e.g. removing feral colonies from areas of high bird importance);

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for evidence of active, municipal-wide strategies and actions that demonstrate progress on reducing the population of unowned cats. A second point for proof of efforts to remove feral cats from important bird habitats where they present increased risk to birds. An example would include relocating feral cats to areas such as a cat sanctuary, where they do not pose risks to wildlife.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

In an effort to control feral and stray cat populations within our community, the Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society offers the Trap-Neuter-Return Program. Anyone may bring a trapped cat to the Kitchener centre and pay \$45 for sterilization, vaccination, microchip implanting, and ear tipping. Cats are then returned to their trapping location rather than relocated.

The Humane Society tracks statistics related to participation in sterilization programs. Annual sterilizations performed at the Kitchener centre (includes cats trapped in adjacent Waterloo) have trended upward as data has been made available.

- 2020 - 470
- 2021 - 466
- 2022 - 589
- 2023 - 595

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.1 (C) MONITORING OF ROAMING CATS

DESCRIPTION

(C)The Bird Team and/ municipality either has, or is a partner in programs/ projects to estimate the number and/or distribution of cats outdoors so that progress on reducing the populations of outdoor cats can be tracked over time.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for proof of implementation of a cat counting / estimating protocol to establish baseline numbers or to compare with baseline numbers. Data collected from shelters that demonstrate trends showing fewer cats over time is acceptable.

*** Note that this criterion does not apply to municipalities in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories or the Yukon.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Kitchener does not currently have a way to count or estimate the number of roaming community cats for eventual tracking. As noted in the prior section, the Humane Society does track sterilized cats in their trap and release programs.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.2 (A) WINDOW COLLISIONS – NEW CONSTRUCTION

DESCRIPTION

Demonstrate that your municipality is taking measures to reduce window collisions by:
(A) Developing and implementing bird friendly design standards/CSA Bird Friendly Building Design standard for new construction

SCORING INDICATORS

Proof of each action required.
(A) One point if a municipality has a bird-friendly building design standard that is a guideline, and two points if the standard is a requirement. *Note High-level status requires that a municipality have, at least, a guideline.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Kitchener's Urban Design Manual is a guiding document and vision for design. An Urban Design Report, when required to accompany a Development Application will reference applicable guidelines.

Per the Design for Wildlife subsection of Section 01.2.3 (Design for Sustainability) of the Urban Design Manual, the first 12 metres from the ground should be designed to prevent bird strikes by limiting the potential for reflection of trees and sky through material choice and detailing. Where glazing is prominent on the first 12 metres of a building, the Urban Design Manual requests consideration of the use of treatments which can be applied to the glass surface, creating visual markers for birds. Further, Section 01.2.3 guides designers to use awnings, canopies, recessions, projections, and other architectural interventions to disrupt the reflection of trees and sky in ground floor windows.

Likewise, a subsection entitled Bird Friendly Design under Section 09.3.5 Design for Sustainability within the Site Design for Tall Buildings chapter relays that daytime bird strikes generally occur from ground level to tree top level, while migratory birds are attracted at night to tall structures that are excessively lit. This subsection implores for design of tall buildings to minimize bird collisions with glass by avoiding untreated reflective glass or clear glass that reflects trees and sky. Glass should have visual markers and any reflection should be muted within the first 12 metres of building height and lighting should be located and managed to reduce reflections that may cause confusion for migratory birds.

The City of Kitchener Urban Design Manual can be downloaded at <https://www.kitchener.ca/en/development-and-construction/urban-design.aspx>

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.2 (B) WINDOW COLLISIONS – EXISTING AND PROPOSED MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

DESCRIPTION

(B) Assessing and mitigating risk to birds from existing and proposed municipal buildings.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if individuals or a group monitors window collisions, and/or assess risk by using [BirdSafe](#), or a similar program.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Kitchener does not currently assess or mitigate risk to birds from existing and proposed municipal buildings. The Bird Friendly City team has begun monitoring window collisions using a customizing reporting tool on the Anecdata platform (BFCK Bird-Window Collision and Building Treatment Survey | Anecdata, <https://www.anecdata.org/projects/view/1314>) that follows the Fatal Light Awareness Program's (FLAP) protocol. Once collected, we will relay data to the Global Bird Collision Mapper to help FLAP better understand where and to what degree collisions occur.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.2 (C) WINDOW COLLISIONS - EDUCATION OF PROPERTY OWNERS

DESCRIPTION

(C) Informing and educating property owners and tenants of existing buildings (including home owners) of measures they can take to mitigate bird collision risk.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for evidence of educational campaigns focused on the broad public or specific neighbourhoods.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Kitchener does not currently inform/educate property owners and tenants of existing buildings of measures they can take to mitigate bird collision risk.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.2 (D) TREATED WINDOWS - BASELINE DATA

DESCRIPTION

(D) Establishing a baseline and maintaining a database of the number of residences or buildings with treated windows in the city to demonstrate progress over time.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide evidence of an active database on treated windows.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The Bird Friendly City team has created a database to establish a baseline of the number of buildings with treated windows following the FLAP's Bird-Friendly Building Survey protocol and using the same platform and customized reporting tool as our window collision data collection (BFCK Bird-Window Collision and Building Treatment Survey | Anecdata, <https://www.anecdata.org/projects/view/1314>). As with collisions, once collected, we will relay data to FLAP and Nature Canada to help them gather data on bird-friendly building designs and retrofits around the world.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.3 (A) LIGHT POLLUTION – REDUCTION STRATEGY (MIGRATION)

DESCRIPTION

(A) Municipality has a light pollution reduction strategy for existing and planned neighbourhoods.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point upon evidence of a municipal strategy or policy (including guidance or standards) to reduce light pollution.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Kitchener’s Urban Design Manual is a guiding document and vision for design. An Urban Design Report, when required to accompany a Development Application will reference applicable guidelines. As noted in the Manual, a wide array of birds and wildlife share our urban environment, and their needs should be appropriately considered when designing for Kitchener so that they may continue to thrive. All site and landscape design should conserve, enhance and promote biodiversity of all forms and at all scales.

Per the Design for Wildlife subsection of Section 01.2.3 (Design for Sustainability) of the City of Kitchener Urban Design Manual, all development is to meet a Dark Sky compliant standard by using full cut-off fixtures with no uplighting (U0). A Dark Sky standard improves the well-being, health, and safety of wildlife by reducing light pollution. The Manual requests that designers reduce light pollution from reflections and glare by orienting and placing fixtures in such a way as to project light only on non-reflective surfaces. As migratory birds move through cities at night, this section further requests consideration of automated lighting to reduce unnecessary interior light and lessen migratory bird strikes. Any architectural lighting at the top of buildings is to have an automated timer-shut-off to preserve dark skies.

The City of Kitchener Urban Design Manual can be downloaded at <https://www.kitchener.ca/en/development-and-construction/urban-design.aspx>

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.3 (B) LIGHT POLLUTION – NEW DEVELOPMENTS / RETROFIT

DESCRIPTION

(B) Municipality actively implements light pollution reduction strategy from point sources, such as retrofitting standard streetlights with downward directional, wildlife-friendly LED lighting that is 3000K or less, or make communication tower lighting and other facility lighting wildlife-friendly.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for proof of implementation of a program to reduce light pollution from point sources

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Kitchener's Development Manual outlines the City's current engineering requirements, guidelines, specifications and standards, which guide the design and construction of public infrastructure. It also outlines the expectations and requirements for obtaining engineering approvals associated with development applications with specific regard to Site Plans and Plans of Subdivision.

Per Section H, Streetlighting, streetlighting design within the City of Kitchener is completed by Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro with the exception of Ornamental Streetlighting Design. The specifications for standard streetlighting equipment for the City of Kitchener include Leotek Electronics' GreenCobra Junior Series part numbers: GCJ0-15H-MV-WW-2R-GY-700-PCR7-CR, GCJ1-20H-MV-WW-2R-GY-580-PCR7-CR or approved equivalent (see https://leotek.com/wp-content/uploads/GCJ_H-Series_Specification-Sheet_10-17-22-Updated-1.pdf); where WW stands for 3000K colour temperature. The GreenCobra Junior series are downward facing, shielded, LED lighting products (see <https://leotek.com/greencobra/gcj/>).

Further, within residential subdivision, subdividers have the opportunity to request ornamental streetlighting as an alternative to the standard municipality approved streetlighting equipment. Per Section H.1.5, the only approved ornamental streetlighting equipment for the City of Kitchener is the Washington LED Post-Top Full Cutoff style manufactured by King Luminaire or Holophane at a colour temperature of 3000 Kelvin (see <https://holophane.acuitybrands.com/products/detail/1815270/holophane/wfcl3-lantern/washington-led-post-top-full-cutoff-lantern>). Full cutoff is a fixture light distribution where no light intensity is emitted at or above a horizontal plane drawn through the bottom of the fixture and no more than 10% of the lamp's light intensity is emitted at or above an angle ten degrees below that horizontal plane at all lateral angles around

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.3 (C) LIGHT POLLUTION - OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

DESCRIPTION

(C) Outreach campaign for residents and businesses to reduce external lighting that attracts nocturnal migrants such as "Lights out Toronto."

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for proof of educational and outreach campaigns to reduce light attraction during migration periods.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Kitchener does not currently promote responsible light practices through an outreach campaign.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.4 (A) PESTICIDE USE - COSMETIC PESTICIDES

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has a policy and bylaw to reduce or eliminate use of pesticides known to directly or indirectly harm birds on public and private lands including:

(A) Restricting or banning use of cosmetic pesticides (e.g. broad-leaved plant control);

SCORING INDICATORS

One point with proof of a municipal policy and bylaw that bans cosmetic use of pesticides (including herbicides), and evidence of its enforcement.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Per the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act, pesticides cannot be used for cosmetic purposes in Ontario on lawns, vegetable and ornamental gardens, patios, driveways, and in parks and school yards. There are no exceptions for pest infestations (insects, fungi or weeds) in these areas, as lower risk pesticides, biopesticides and alternatives to pesticides exist. More than 250 pesticide products are banned for sale and over 95 pesticide ingredients are banned for cosmetic uses.

While cemeteries are listed as an excepted entity to allow the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes as of the effective date of amending regulation 134/20, the City of Kitchener was quoted in a 2020 City of Hamilton staff report that pesticides for general turf maintenance in cemeteries were not recommended per the City's Integrated Pest Management program. The Natural Areas Project Manager with the City's Parks & Cemeteries Department subsequently relayed that Kitchener does not use herbicides for cosmetic purposes. They selectively employ land management and restoration techniques that include the application of herbicides when supporting the management and eradication of aggressive and harmful invasive species such as Giant Hogweed and Buckthorn, which requires permission from exemption to the Ontario Pesticide Act.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.4 (B) PESTICIDE USE - INSECT PESTICIDES

DESCRIPTION

(B) Restricting or banning use pesticides to control insects or rodents that are important food sources for birds (e.g. neonicotinoids, Bti for mosquito or midge control, rodenticides).

SCORING INDICATORS

One point with proof of a policy and bylaw that specifically bans or severely restricts uses of neonicotinoids, Bti and rodenticides.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Kitchener does not currently have a chapter in municipal code that specifically bans the sale and/or use of neonicotinoid insecticides, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*, or chemical rodent control.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.5 PLASTICS

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has effective regulatory or non-regulatory measures that result in a reduction of plastic waste generated and the elimination of plastic pollution in local ecosystems such as shorelines and riversides.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of regulatory (e.g. a municipal bylaw) and voluntary measures such as banning single use plastics, shopping bags, plastic straws, or actions to remove plastic pollution from local ecosystems.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Kitchener is committed to reducing plastic waste through recycling programs, as well as adhering to the current federal ban on single-use plastics (see <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/k-w-businesses-adapting-as-single-use-plastic-bans-take-effect-1.6202477>; https://www.therecord.com/news/waterloo-region/ban-on-single-use-plastics-has-started-with-no-visible-benefits-yet/article_7622f747-cc55-56cc-b561-64a53b676aad.html). Currently the following plastics recycling is in place for current plastics in circulation:

-Plastic bottles, jars, and clamshells with plastic identification symbols ("recycling symbol") one through seven: Recycling symbols 1 to 7. Note: Plastic flower pots/trays, and plastic containers that contained a vehicle fluid (antifreeze, windshield washer fluid, etc.) are also accepted.

-Plastic bags, only bread bags, milk bags, retail and grocery bags, mulch and soil bags, newspaper bags, salt bags, and outer wrap from packages of toilet paper, diapers, etc. (see <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/living-here/blue-box-recycling.aspx#What-goes-in>)

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.6 COLLISIONS WITH VEHICLES

DESCRIPTION

Measures in place to reduce bird collisions with vehicles such as lower speed limits when passing through important bird habitat, and measures to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads (such as a good public transit system and cycling infrastructure).

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of measures to protect birds from vehicle collisions. For example, at locations where a busy road cuts through a wildlife corridor, evidence of mitigation would include lower speed limits, signage about wildlife crossing, or proof of engineered solutions such as wildlife underpasses or overpasses.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Kitchener is a leader in reducing the number of vehicle trips taken versus active transportation modes such as walking, cycling, and public transportation. Designated a Silver Bicycle Friendly Community by the Share the Road Cycling Coalition (see <https://sharetheroad.ca/current-bfc-award-winners/>), Kitchener's Cycling and Trails Master Plan was approved in 2020 and has since won awards (see <https://kitchener.citynews.ca/2021/07/06/kitcheners-cyclingtrails-master-plan-wins-planning-award-3933697/>) for its community-based approach to active transportation and trail planning. The Cycling and Trails Master Plan focuses on creating a city-wide network of cycling routes and trails that is comfortable for people of All Ages and Abilities.

From 2017 to 2022, the largest increase in mobility infrastructure has been the active transportation and trails network (<https://pub-kitchener.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=12959>). Sidewalks and walkways increased by 55 kilometres, multi-use trails by 25 km, roadway parallel multi-use paths by 41 km, and protected bike lanes by 12 km. The downtown cycling grid, comprised of protected bicycle lanes, has transformed how people move around by making it safe, comfortable and convenient to bike. The network connects to popular trails like the Iron Horse Trail, Spur Line Trail and the Trans Canada Trail. Its development grid has resulted in a 164 percent increase in ridership (see <https://www.kitchener.ca/en/roads-and-cycling/bike-infrastructure.aspx>), with 54,781 cycling trips in the first seven months of 2023. Recently upgraded trails include the Henry Sturm Trail, Wilson Park Trail, Traynor Trail, and Shoemaker Greenway Trail. The new Cherry Park Trail connects the Iron Horse Trail with the future regional central transit hub (and current light rail station). The Iron Horse Trail continues to grow in use, with an average of 2,894 daily users in June 2023, compared to 819 in June 2016, an increase of 270 percent. On the busiest day in June 2023, there were 4,923 people walking, rolling and cycling at the three counter locations

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.7 HABITAT DISTURBANCE

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has policy and practices to prohibit or mitigate disturbance of birds from humans or their pets at natural areas or important bird habitat (e.g., leash bylaw, no-go zones certain times of year).

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of policy and examples of implementation such as signage at important bird habitat (e.g. a natural area, wetland or known migratory stopover site) or evidence of a bylaw in place.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Kitchener municipal code prohibits owners from allowing animals to run at large, defined as found not under the effective control of an adult person and not under leash, unless the animal is on the lands of a person who has given prior consent to it being unleashed (Chapter 408 - Animals - Regulation (kitchener.ca), <https://lf.kitchener.ca/WebLinkExt/DocView.aspx?dbid=0&id=1497603&cr=1>). A separate section of municipal code specifically extends these restrictions to dogs and defines a maximum leash length of 2.4 metres (Chapter 421 - Dog - Responsible Ownership (kitchener.ca), <https://lf.kitchener.ca/WebLinkExt/DocView.aspx?dbid=0&id=2024521&page=1&cr=1>).

The City of Kitchener's Official Plan (Section 7.C.2; see https://www.kitchener.ca/en/resourcesGeneral/Documents/DSD_PLAN_City_of_Kitchener_Official_Plan_2014.pdf) establishes policies for protection of its Natural Heritage System, currently comprised of 7,087 hectares of natural heritage features that maintain local and regional biological, hydrological, ecological and geological diversity and functions, support viable populations of indigenous species, and sustain local ecosystems. Policies within the Official Plan pertaining to the Natural Heritage System are intended to maintain, restore, or improve the diversity, connectivity, and ecological functions of the city's natural heritage features. Land uses and activities that do not achieve these ends to the satisfaction of the City, Region, Grand River Conservation Authority, and/or Province will be prohibited or generally not supported, as appropriate. Per the Official Plan, the City will, in conjunction with other interested groups and agencies, seek opportunities to acquire, manage and maintain Significant Wildlife Habitat areas. The City also commits to continued identification of ecological restoration areas through technical study, private land stewardship, and conservation/restoration/land securement programs of public agencies. Supporting policies within the Official Plan include Watershed Planning and the protection of associated ecological functions

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

SCORING

ENTRY

10 points from at least 3 categories.

INTERMEDIATE

13 points from at least 5 categories including at least 2 categories worth 3 or more.

HIGH

16 points or more. Must include at least 3 points in categories 1 and 2.

Must have no roam bylaw (cats), and bird friendly building guidelines for high level.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

SECTION 2: HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.1 NATURAL AREAS PROTECTION

DESCRIPTION

Natural areas within the municipal boundaries are protected within the Municipal Official Plan and there is a commitment to increase this area. Plan distinguishes between natural areas and other types of municipal space such as recreational parks.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of the policy. To maintain this criterion, the municipality must document the size of the area protected, and demonstrate a commitment to increase in this area over time. Any municipal plan that includes protection of natural area spaces will receive one point. Additional points are based on:

- a) evidence of implementation, and
- b), whether there are ambitious targets to increase the number and size of the protected areas.

One point is deducted if there are current or recent (within last year) examples of large-scale habitat destruction, or clear examples of "urban sprawl." "Urban sprawl" in this sense is when natural areas on the city's periphery are converted to urban uses such as residential, institutional or commercial areas.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

As of April 12, 2022, Ontario Nature and the City of Kitchener were pleased to announce that 20 properties (585 hectares) in Kitchener's Natural Heritage System qualified as protected areas, contributing to Canada's target to conserve 25 percent of lands and waters by 2025 (see <https://ontarionature.org/news-release/kitchener-protected-areas/>). These sites are among the first municipal conservation lands in Ontario confirmed to be managed to the national standards for protected and conserved areas.

Qualified protected areas in Kitchener include:

- Borden Wetland
- Briarfield Park
- Homer Watson Park
- Huron Natural Area
- Idlewood Park
- Lackner Woods
- Lakeside Park
- Laurentian Wetland
- Springmount Park-Idlewood Creek
- Steckle Woods Tilt's Bush
- Topper Woods
- Brigadoon Woods
- Carisbrook Drive Natural Area
- Doon South Creek

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

2.2 BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has an official strategy to protect and restore the biological diversity in its parks and natural areas. The strategy can include measures such as promoting connectivity between natural areas, buffering core biodiversity hotspots from harmful human activities, increasing the number of protected areas, and bird monitoring within municipal limits to assess the success of the strategy.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of the strategy and its implementation. The strategy to protect and restore biological diversity can be part of the protected areas plan, or vice versa, but must specifically identify protection of biological diversity as a goal. One point for having an official biodiversity conservation strategy or goal (adopted by Council). Two points if the strategy or goal has targets and metrics for success and evidence of implementation. Three points for municipalities that meet the previous two tests as well as using monitoring to track changes to biodiversity and use results for adaptive management (e.g. bird monitoring in city owned natural areas). One point is deducted upon evidence of current or very recent (within one year) activities that damage biodiversity such as loss or degradation of important habitat for wildlife, or contamination of wildlife habitat by toxic chemicals.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Kitchener has a Sustainable Urban Forest Strategy (see https://www.kitchener.ca/en/resourcesGeneral/Documents/INS_PARKS_Urban_Forest_Strategy.pdf). This Plan has five goal areas:

- 1) **PLAN** first: the cornerstone of a sustainable and resilient urban forest;
- 2) **ENGAGE** often and widely: building critical community support, collaboration and stewardship;
- 3) **MAINTAIN** proactively: increasing health, longevity and resiliency;
- 4) **PROTECT** prudently: maintaining and maximizing what we already have;
- 5) **PLANT** correctly and deliberately: ensuring future generations have a vibrant and resilient tree canopy.

Metrics regarding this Strategy are ongoing. You can see an example of Kitchener's Sustainable Urban Forest Report Card, which examines 28 targets from a prior forestry program that map on to the Sustainable Urban Forestry Strategy, here:

https://www.kitchener.ca/en/resourcesGeneral/Documents/INS_PARKS_Sustainable_Urban_Forest_Report_Card.pdf

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

2.3 CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has a climate change adaptation strategy that includes specific measures including nature-based climate solutions. Examples of this include wetland creation to absorb and retain floodwater, or planting trees to create shade and lower the surface air temperature.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of the strategy and its implementation. One point if the City has an official strategy to address the impacts of climate change and reduce the municipality's climate impact. A second point if nature-based climate solutions are an important part of the strategy. A third point if there are active examples of wetland restoration projects and/ or large-scale projects to mitigate the urban heat island through planting of trees and other vegetation that favour use by birds.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Kitchener has a municipal Committee on Climate Change and the Environment (previously the “Environmental Committee”; see <https://www.kitchener.ca/en/council-and-city-administration/advisory-committees-and-boards.aspx#Climate-change-and-environment-committee>), which advocates positions that reduce the municipality's climate impact and forwards those positions to City Council.

The City also maintains a Corporate Climate Action Plan for all municipally-owned property (see https://www.kitchener.ca/en/resourcesGeneral/Documents/DSD_Kitcheners_Corporate_Climate_Action_Plan.pdf). This Action plan is developing a regional flood plan in collaboration with the Grand River Conservation Authority; expanding existing Stormwater management plans (inclusive of habitat expansion and increased credits in the Habitat Bank with the Idlewood Creek Restoration Project; see <https://www.stantec.com/en/projects/canada-projects/i/idlewood-creek-dam-removal>); advocating for tree preservation that considers future climate conditions, and for increasing “tree shade in urban areas and positioned to help mitigate flooding, wind and heat in open spaces and grounds of facilities.”

As mentioned in section 2.1, the City is currently restoring Strasberg Creek (<https://www.engagewr.ca/northstrasburgcreek>), and Schneider, and Shoemaker Creeks (<https://www.engagewr.ca/schneidercreeke>). They are also upgrading Cherry Park stormwater features (<https://www.engagewr.ca/cherrypark>). Prior wetland restoration projects include Filsinger Park (<https://www.fivessr.com/portfolio/fish-habitat-bank-city-of-kitchener-on>) and Balzer Creek.

The City of Kitchener's tree planting programs depend on the urban Tree Canopy Report, which includes heat island mapping as an indicator of site selection (see pages 5-6 of

Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	
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2.4 (A) HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has a habitat management strategy based on ecological and climate considerations. These include: (A) increasing the number of trees and area of the urban forest canopy.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of implementation of the strategy and each action. One point per action. Evidence for a. includes inventories of trees and plans for increasing their numbers.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Based on the City of Kitchener's Urban Forest Strategy, in January 2022, city council approved a tree canopy target of 30% in each ward by 2050 and a target of 33% across Kitchener by 2070. This targeted approach to growing the tree canopy over time will involve new tree planting, as well as increasing the maintenance of existing trees. (see <https://www.kitchener.ca/en/strategic-plans-and-projects/urban-forest-strategy.aspx>)

The City of Kitchener maintains an urban forest map that tracks upcoming and ongoing forestry work around the city. This includes a street tree inventory (see <https://open-kitchenergis.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/tree-inventory/explore?location=43.436669%2C-80.470356%2C13.00>), as well as an ongoing community-based consultation for determining increases and tree canopy targets for specific neighbourhoods (<https://www.engagewr.ca/treecanopytarget>). One such outcome of this consultation and collected inventory data is increasing community tree canopy in the Chandler Mowat neighbourhood (see <https://www.engagewr.ca/CommunityCanopyChandler>).

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

2.4 (B) SNAG PROTECTION

DESCRIPTION

Leaving snags standing in cases where public safety is not jeopardized;

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for snag retention based on evidence such as policy statements or evidence within management plans for natural areas.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

While a number of Environmental Impact Assessments for development of sites within Kitchener city limits do address the existence of snags, particularly as they relate to maintaining healthy habitat for Species at Risk, the city of Kitchener has no official policy statement regarding snags or snag protection.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.4 (C) PROTECTION OF TREES

DESCRIPTION

(C) Protecting trees on private and public lands;

SCORING INDICATORS

Refers to a tree bylaw that protects trees as a public value from private landowners cutting them down without permits.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

As shown in the following table, the City of Kitchener has bylaws set in place for the protection and maintenance of trees on city property. Trees on private property are also protected from being cut down without permits. The Director of Enforcement is responsible for overseeing enforcement by delegates through inspections made by entering the property at any reasonable time and persons or corporations found to violate Chapter 692 is liable to a fine.

Bylaw Protection	Quote	Citation
City property upkeep and maintenance of trees.	"The Department is hereby authorized and requested to do all acts necessary to provide for the planting, care and maintenance of all trees on City property." Article 2.2	City of Kitchener Bylaws (Municipal Code) Section 10. Property Maintenance Chapter 690-Trees ByLaw
Protection against damages of trees by civilians or construction on city property.	"No person shall: a) deface, cut, pollard, injure, cause compaction to or otherwise damage or destroy and tree or part thereof; b) damage, destroy or remove any supporting post, stake or guard attached to or around a tree; or c) cut down, root up or remove any tree or part thereof, whether living or dead." Article 3.1 "Any contractor, commission or corporation or any other organization, person or individual, having a contract for paving streets, constructing sidewalks or excavating or doing any work on City property, shall when executing such work or contract take all necessary steps to avoid inquiring any tree..." Article 4.1	City of Kitchener Bylaws (Municipal Code) Section 10. Property Maintenance Chapter 690-Trees ByLaw
Protection against tree destruction on public property without a permit.	"Injury to trees-prohibited-without permit" Article 2.2.1 "Specific Exemptions Land less than 1 acre Dead-diseased-hazardous trees-certified Damaged-destroyed trees-certified Tree-within 5 metres of occupied building Tree-within building envelope-permit issued Small trees" Article 4.1-4.6	City of Kitchener Bylaws (Municipal Code) Section 10. Property Maintenance Chapter 692-Trees-Protection-Destruction-Injury
Enforcement for protection of trees on private property include: a) inspections b) fines	"Inspection-entry upon land-at any reasonable time" Article 13.2 "Fine-for contravention-person" Article 14.1	City of Kitchener Bylaws (Municipal Code) Section 10. Property Maintenance Chapter 692-Trees-Protection-Destruction-Injury

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

2.4 (D) RESPONSIBLE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

DESCRIPTION

(D) Prohibiting active vegetation management during breeding season on municipal lands, including forests, storm-water management facilities, and easements.

SCORING INDICATORS

A point by demonstrating that municipal employees involved in active habitat management do not harm breeding birds or their habitat.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Kitchener follows “Good Forestry Practices” by restricting the removal of vegetation when the Director deems the damage would have a significant impact on the health of the vegetation community or on wildlife habitat at the site or/and in proximity to the site (Bylaw Trees Protection Destruction Injury 692.8.3). Mitigation strategies include conditions on permits which can control the method and timing of the damage to trees which can take into account nesting period for breeding birds (Bylaw Trees Protection Destruction Injury 692.9.1). The Tree Management Policy of the City of Kitchener greatly recommends tree removal and pruning completed during the winter months (Tree Management Policy- Appendix J)

<https://www.kitchener.ca/en/bylaws-and-enforcement/municipal-code.aspx#6-Facility>

https://www.kitchener.ca/en/resourcesGeneral/Documents/INS_OPS_Treemanagementpolicy.pdf

The City of Kitchener conducts an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for proposed development in or in proximity to a significant natural area or feature. Early consultation is in accordance with the Migratory Birds Convention Act and Endangered Species Act which use breeding bird surveys to determine presence and requires stoppage or/and mitigation strategies for protected bird species during breeding and nesting periods.

<https://www.kitchener.ca/en/water-and-environment/environmental-impact-study.aspx>

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

2.5 IMPORTANT BIRD AREA NEARBY (IBA)

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) within or adjacent to its boundaries. A local partnership promotes the protection and stewardship of this area.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if there is one or more nearby IBAs and the Bird Team can provide the names of the IBAs and at least one IBA caretaker group or individual.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

There are no IBAs in the region. However, some Locally Significant Wetlands and Woodlands were assessed by the city in 2014. No development is permitted in these areas. Please see page 24 and 32-33 of https://www.kitchener.ca/en/resourcesGeneral/Documents/DSD_PLAN_Natural_Heritage_Systems_Background_Report.pdf

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

2.6 NATIVE FLORA - MUNICIPAL LANDS

DESCRIPTION

Municipality promotes the importance of planting native flora appropriate for the ecoregion on municipal lands, especially where new development is occurring through development and landscaping guidelines and standards in areas near natural features. Subdivision permits should include conditions protecting existing natural habitat and promote use of native vegetation, and include measures to discourage illegal disposal of yard waste (a source of invasive exotic plants) in natural areas.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for evidence that the municipality promotes the use of site-appropriate native flora in landscaping for its own properties and for development landscaping standards for subdivision permits.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Kitchener promotes site-appropriate native flora in buffers, parks, and stormwater projects.

The City of Kitchener’s Urban Design Manual (3.0) states in its “Landscaping and Site Furnishing Zone Guidelines”: #13, “Resilient and native tree species that are able to withstand an urban setting with minimal maintenance are preferred.” The Urban Design Manual 15.0 further states “The planting of aggressive non-native species within or adjacent to woodlands or natural areas is discouraged in order to help safeguard the long term ecological integrity of these areas.” Section 14 of the Urban Design Manual contains a list of trees and shrubs native to the Waterloo Region and a list of aggressive alien species which are not to be planted in the vicinity of woodlands and natural areas.

In their “Design for Climate Change” section, the Urban Design Manual states, “Introduce green infrastructure along existing and new public open spaces including; bioswales, groundwater infiltration areas and permeable surface treatments; native planting species which enhance urban wildlife habitats; energy efficient, human-scaled and wildlife friendly lighting fixtures and; locally sourced, recycled and reusable materials.”

The Urban Design Manual promotes the planting and maintenance of both native and non-native trees in subdivisions; however, section M.2.10 “Species Diversity” states that “no one genus can exceed 20% of the total planted trees” (157) in new subdivisions.

You can view links to these statements here:

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.7 NATIVE FLORA – PRIVATE PROPERTY

DESCRIPTION

Demonstrate widespread community participation in initiatives to encourage native plant habitat that supports native birds and pollinators on private property, to increase the urban tree canopy on private land, and to support other “green infrastructure” initiatives to address climate change.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if you provide evidence supporting “widespread community participation” in at least one initiative or program that encourages increasing wildlife habitat on private land. This could include membership in a program like Bee City for example.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The city of Kitchener is officially a Bee City, committed to protecting pollinators across our community. Pollinated plants provide a third of our food, and by planting native plants throughout Kitchener in pollinator gardens, we can support our bee population that in turn support us. Please see <https://www.kitchener.ca/en/water-and-environment/pollinators.aspx>

The City of Kitchener also partners with Reep Green Solutions, supporting their Backyard Tree Planting Program (<https://reepgreen.ca/trees/>), and Rain Smart Neighbourhoods program (<https://reepgreen.ca/rain-smart/>).

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

2.8 STOPOVER & NESTING HABITAT

DESCRIPTION

Implementation of stewardship projects to increase or improve breeding or stopover habitat for bird species that are of high conservation priority species from your Bird Conservation Region Plan. Example species include Species at Risk (e.g. Chimney Swift) and other aerial insectivores, Eastern Meadowlark and other grassland birds, shorebirds, and birds requiring old growth forest conditions. Example actions include providing housing (e.g., maintained Purple Martin housing), and maintaining bird-friendly hay production, and managing municipal forests to promote old growth conditions.

SCORING INDICATORS

A point is awarded if there are active stewardship recovery projects (can be led by individuals or groups in the community) such as those suggested in the criterion description. Two points if there are more than two active projects for different species or groups of species. For information on Bird Conservation Regions and their priority species, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-conservation/regions-strategies.html>

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

1. At Sprucehaven, a family-owned farm has been consistently taking fields out of production and committing themselves to various stewardship initiatives for bird species at risk. They provide 25 Eastern bluebird and tree swallow boxes; have dedicated their barn completely to barn and cliff swallows; they've converted 42 acres of soybean crop to native tall-grass prairie that has been now home to Vesper sparrows and Savannah sparrows, and have had initial scouting activities by Eastern Meadowlarks and Bobolinks. They've allowed public and educational outreach on their property, including field ecology classes for regional universities and K-12 education, and work with local naturalist groups. Email owner Dave Westfall, owner, at djwestfall@hotmail.com for more information.
2. At Handy Dog farm, owner Victoria Lamont has practiced sustainable haying practices on her hayfields, cordoning off selections of fields to allow for bobolinks to nest. Email Victoria Lamont <vlamont@uwaterloo.ca> for more details.
3. Adjacent to Sprucehaven, Jeff Grant and Peter Bissett have installed a bluebird trail on private property with approximately 10 bluebird boxes. Email jeffgrant13@gmail.com for more details.
4. At rare Charitable Research Reserve, two barn swallow structures have been set up as alternative nesting habitats for the birds. The also host an interactive educational swallow structure on their property.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

SCORING

ENTRY

9 points from at least 3 categories.

INTERMEDIATE

12 points from at least 4 categories.

HIGH

15 points from at least 6 categories including at least 1 point from categories 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4.

Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	
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SECTION 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.1(A) CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

There are educational programs and activities for children and youth about birds and nature in the municipality.

(A) A significant percentage of local schools and other educational organizations (e.g. Scouts Canada, Earth Rangers, 4-H) provide students with opportunities to connect with nature, enjoy birds and learn how to help them. Local school boards, conservation authority, or municipality, has facilities/staffing to support outdoor/environmental education, including opportunities to observe birds

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide a description of the programs and the names of the organizations or institutions that offer them.

One point if there are local education facilities and institutions that offer children or youth programming on nature appreciation and bird observation.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Kitchener has a variety of organizations and school programs with nature and bird-focused outreach, which are detailed below.

1) Waterloo Region Nature:

*Teens Club: <https://waterlooregionnature.ca/teens/>

WRN Teens is a club sponsored by Waterloo Region Nature to encourage kids ages 13+ to learn about the environment while helping it. The club currently engages in weekly Saturday morning monitoring from April to October at a farm just outside of Waterloo. We do about 20 weeks of monitoring salamanders, tree frogs, snakes and nest boxes for Eastern Bluebirds, 2 hours each time, all of which qualify as high school volunteer hours. Through involvement in these monitoring efforts, teens learn scientific procedures for data collection while learning more about the species they are monitoring. The club is also involved in Saturday afternoon work projects or learning projects once or twice a month at various locations.

In the past year, Teens projects involving birds included an owl prowl, 2 birding outings, the Christmas Bird Count for Kids (sponsored by Rare Charitable Reserve Reserve), several invasive plant removals to improve habitats, and about 16 weeks of nest box monitoring.

*Kids Club: <https://waterlooregionnature.ca/kids/>

WRN Kids is a club sponsored by Waterloo Region Nature to encourage kids ages 7-12 to enjoy nature. During the 2022-2023 season WRN Kids went on a butterfly hike, a nature scavenger hunt, a birding hike, and an archaeology hike which included a demonstration of how to knap stone tools. WRN Kids participated in the Christmas Bird Count for Kids, went on an owl prowl, hand-fed Chickadees and built shelters. Spring brought a predator-prey game, earth day garbage cleanup, and a pond study.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.1 (B) CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

Educational programs include specific elements designed to engage children and youth who could be considered underprivileged, racialized or recent arrivals to Canada.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if there are specific bird-related nature programs for recent arrivals to Canada, underprivileged, marginalized or racialized children, youth or families.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Ontario Nature Youth Circle for Mother Earth

(<https://ontarionature.org/programs/nature-guardians/ycme/>)

The Youth Circle for Mother Earth project aims to create and support a cross cultural network of young Indigenous and non-Indigenous environmental leaders looking to honour their responsibilities and relationship with Mother Earth. The project is led by the Indigenous Environmental Institute at Trent University, Plenty Canada, Walpole Island Land Trust, and Ontario Nature.

rare Every Child Outdoors (ECO) program

ECO camps subsidize underprivileged youth/families to be able to attend camp, sometimes these youth are from marginalized or racialized families. ECO Camps feature bird specific programming, bird watching and bird specific presentations from researchers at rare or community organizations (e.g. Eastern logger-head shrike presentation by Helmi Hess from Wildlife Preservation Canada, raptor specific presentations from Wild Ontario).

The rare Charitable Research Reserve provides transportation and program subsidies to many schools across Kitchener (or Waterloo Region as a whole), including 6 visits each from alternative education programs from the WRDSB like U-Turn Cambridge, U-Turn Waterloo, New Dawn, Elev8 etc. Many of the programs youth from these programs attend includes specific bird related programs (One station in Animals in Motion program (KG-Gr 2), many guided hikes feature bird education on ospreys, bald eagles and other birds).

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.1 (C) CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

At least one school does a specific bird-related program such as [Christmas bird count for kids](#), [School Yard Bird Blitz](#), [Global Bird Rescue](#), or curriculum from [Keep cats safe and save bird lives](#).

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if at least one school or organization does a specific bird-related programs for children and youth, such as [Christmas bird count for kids](#), [Global Bird Rescue](#), or curriculum from [Keep cats safe and save bird lives](#).

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Waterloo Region District Schoolboard (WRDSB) hosts virtual activities for Winter Bird Count and Backyard Bird count for WRDSB students. They provide tutorials on e-bird and identifying key birdspecies in Kitchener. The Winter Bird Count is hosted in December to January (see <https://schools.wrdsb.ca/environmental-education/citizen-science/winter-bird-count/>). The Backyard Bird count is a five day event and open to all ages of students in April.

The WRDSB has outdoor and environmental education centers. This includes the Huron Natural Area, Blair Outdoor Education Center, Laurel Creek Outdoor Education Centre, and Wrigley Corners. Please refer to the following table for more detailed information.

Huron Natural Area	Blair	Laurel Creek
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth and Change in Animals (Gr. 2) • nature hikes looking for animals including birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Birds: Habitats and Communities (Gr. 4) • students learn about birds, habitats, structural adaptations during a hike 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Birds: Habitat and Communities (Gr. 4) • students learn about birds, habitats, structural adaptations during a hike

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.2 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

DESCRIPTION

College, CEGEP, and University campuses have adopted practices that actively reduce threats to birds or establish habitat that benefits birds. Implementation of practices should include or be driven by student committees or groups.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point is awarded based on evidence that institutions that have policies and practices to benefit birds including names of institutions, the programs that they participate in (e.g. BirdSafe, Bee City), as well as an example of a recent action and evidence of student involvement.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The University of Waterloo Society for Ecological Restoration has a bird-window collision monitoring volunteer program that surveys the campus for bird-window collisions. These surveys contribute to bird collision mortality data collection. In April 2024 a glass walkway between Student Life Centre and Math and Computing building was retrofitted with bird-safe window markers. There are plans to continue mitigating risks to birds on campus and updating the building code standards. UW-SER also hosts birding hikes on and off campus. (Supporting material: instagram @seruwaterloo)

In addition, the University of Waterloo Animal Rights Society displayed posters on preventing bird-window collisions on the 2023 Clubs Day.

The University of Waterloo Sustainability Office also hosted a BioBlitz and led a guided bird walk on May 6, 2024.

The University of Waterloo currently convenes a “Bird Friendly Campus” group, consisting of members from the University’s Office of Sustainability, Birds Canada, the Department of Biology, the Faculty of Environment, and the co-chair of the BFC Kitchener Bird Team. They seek to make safer bird spaces on campus, and are currently working with Birds Canada on a campus native plant garden space to attract aerial insectivores. Contact Jennifer Clary-Lemon jclarylemon@uwaterloo.ca or Trevor M. Swerdfager trevor.swerdfager@uwaterloo.ca for more information.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.3 COMMUNICATING BEST PRACTICES TO HELP BIRD

DESCRIPTION

Bird Team partners (including Municipality) provide public access to resources (web links, brochures etc.) that encourage and inform the public of ways to help birds. For example: 1) the benefit to birds from native plant gardening or establishment of natural habitat patches on their property in support of birds and/or pollinators (e.g. backyard habitat program), 2) best practices in feeding birds that mitigate risks from feeding (e.g. predation at feeder, contamination from pathogens, etc).

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if you can provide evidence of the digital or paper resources, as well as evidence of public interest and knowledge of them (e.g. social media activity).

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Kitchener offers Bee City Events that coordinate with bird-friendly events: see <https://beecitycanada.org/celebrating-bee-cities-kitchener-and-waterloo/>

The rare Charitable Research Reserve also engages bird monitoring surveys for the Eramosa Corridor to capture data on bird migration during the spring and fall months. In the spring, this started April 5th for 6 weekends until June 23rd . In the fall, this will begin on August 16 and go until November 3rd. This is a volunteer driven research network with all data contributed to eBird. You can find record of this event here: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/rare/sites_nationalvolunteerweek-activity-7186045789381496832-zmSQ/

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.4 PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS FOR EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

Municipality and Bird City partners install demonstrations or displays in public areas that educate citizens on the benefits of bird friendly actions and encourage engagement (benefits of dark sky lighting, window modifications etc.)

SCORING INDICATORS

One point based on proof of installations (e.g. photographic evidence, or news stories.)

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

A public art installation titled Hirondelusia (<https://cafka21.cafka.org/critical-media-lab>; see also <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FB-U7ujTCI8> for a description of installation piece) was “retired” to rare charitable eco reserve, where it is now an educational structure to inform the public about barn swallow mitigative habitats (see https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SP0DQmDsnB0SjldQzGzVawnT9IH11XAQ/view?usp=drive_link for a picture of its new home).

Two members of the bird team are working on bringing a swallow conservationist to the region to showcase her work with creating clay cliff swallow nests as a public art intervention. You can read the email trail for this conversation, which will result in a public art installation at the Clay and Glass Gallery in 2025, here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n3VIGNyMx-SDdHzXtJp5cYewd2NsUS9O/view?usp=drive_link

Finally, you can observe bird-related art in a variety of municipal natural areas. You can view examples here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QaAFm_UIE5Ed4pm-kiCXqpMmr7NLJEA6/view?usp=drive_link

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.5 ACCESSIBLE BIRD-WATCHING LOCATION(S)

DESCRIPTION

There is at least one birding location within your city or town that has infrastructure to facilitate the observation and appreciation of birds (e.g. signs, panels, observation tower, and trails). This facility is publicly accessible for people without a car (serviced by public transit and/or bicycle and pedestrian trails) and is accessible to people with disabilities or who are mobility impaired. Information on birding areas should be easily available.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point based on evidence of a local birding area that is publicly accessible, a brief description of the infrastructures (e.g. trails, observation tower), and how the area can be accessed by someone without a car or with disabilities.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Huron Natural Area, free parking off Trillium Dr. GRT route #28 stops at the park entrance. Public washrooms are available. Trails are a mix of asphalt, stone dust and natural surface. Trails are well marked and colour-coded for easy navigation. One ground level viewing platform and two wooden boardwalks. A huge number of bird-species can be spotted at HNA. It is one of the most popular birding spots in the city and voted Waterloo Region Nature's top greenspace in the region.

Willow River (Victoria) Park in downtown Kitchener. Accessible for pedestrians, biking and by public transit (routes #1, 20 and 204). Free parking is available off Jubilee St in two locations and one off Schneider Ave. Public washrooms are available. The park's trails are asphalt and wide; they connect to the Iron Horse/TransCanada Trail. Otis and Ophelia, the city's mascot mute swan pair, live at the park seasonally. Birds spotted in the park range from common waterfowl to pileated woodpeckers and migrating warblers.

Lakeside Park is an urban greenspace in Kitchener. It is within a reasonable (under ~2km) walking distance of many neighbourhoods and accessible by several transit routes. Paved paths facilitate wheelchair travel. It is connected to many water and greenway corridors throughout the city.

The Kitchener section of the Walter Bean Trail goes from Blair Road to Kiwanis Park. The trail continues South into Cambridge and North through Waterloo. The trail mainly follows along the Grand River and, except for a few sections, is very accessible.

The trail crosses the river, with the southernmost section being on the east side, the northern sections being located on the west side of the river. The trail runs through Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge and Kitchener is proud that more than 25km links the City from north to south along the Grand River. Most of

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.6 LOCAL BIRD FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

DESCRIPTION

Businesses in your area promote bird friendly practices (e.g. sell or offer bird friendly coffee, no single use plastics, treat their windows with feather-friendly markers, etc.), and reflect these values in their supply chains. These businesses are recognized on partner websites.

SCORING INDICATORS

To receive a point, you must name the businesses and describe what bird-friendly practices they have. These practices must include the sale of bird-friendly products, and demonstrated bird-friendly business practices (e.g. window treatments, low carbon footprint, plastic bag policy, etc.). For one point, for cities under 100,000 residents, there must be at least 2 businesses. For cities from 100,000 to 500,000 there must be at least 3 businesses. For cities between 500,000 and 1,000,000, there must be at least 4 businesses. For cities over 1 million, there must be 5 or more businesses. For two points there needs to be double the previous numbers of bird-friendly businesses, based on population size.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The following is a list of bird-friendly businesses, inclusive of their websites and activities:

Princess Cinemas, <https://princesscinemas.com/>

Hosted showing of "Purple Haze" (purple martin documentary) for World Migratory Bird Day

TWB Brewing <https://www.twbbrewing.com/>

Hosts Bird-Bingo nights and has offered to sponsor a "City Bird" beer upon BFC Certification

Wild Birds Unlimited <https://www.facebook.com/WBUKitchener/>

Marketing bird feed and other bird-related products in Kitchener

Ontario Seed Company <https://www.oscseeds.com/contact/>

Processing and marketing bird seed and feeder for many years. Plant in Kitchener, shop in Waterloo

Ontario Die International <https://www.ontariodie.com/contact-us/>

A manufacturing company with natural landscaping on site

Allied Real Estate Investment Trust <https://alliedreit.com/properties/195-joseph-street/>

Allied's managers at 195 Joseph St. Kitchener worked to restore an industrial stack. When the danger of the

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.7 CITY BIRD

DESCRIPTION

You have a “City Bird” species that was selected through a public engagement process.

SCORING INDICATORS

You must provide proof that a campaign to select a “City Bird” is underway or has been successfully completed, evidence of community engagement, the name of the “City Bird” species, and proof that it is officially the “City Bird” through Council support/recognition.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

We plan on selecting a city bird once the City of Kitchener has been certified as a bird-friendly city. The certification process will be a public vote shared through our social media platforms. We have been in touch with TWB Brewing, who has offered to create and promote a “City Bird” beer with Kitchener’s elected bird, once the initiative has passed Council.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.8 PARTICIPATORY SCIENCE TO MONITOR BIRDS

DESCRIPTION

There are active participatory science programs to monitor birds in your municipality including [Christmas Bird Count](#), [Great Backyard Bird Count](#), [Project Feederwatch](#), [Marsh Monitoring](#), [Swiftwatch](#), or [Global Bird Rescue](#), which monitor birds on areas that include public land. Public participation in these programs is promoted on local media. Demonstrate efforts to engage members of the public could be considered underprivileged, racialized or recent arrivals to Canada.

SCORING INDICATORS

To receive one point, provide a list of bird-related participatory science programs in your city and describe the level of public interest and engagement of target audiences. A second point for communities in which more than three of these programs are practiced. You must demonstrate widespread community involvement.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The municipality engages in local programs through Waterloo Region nature and rare Charitable Reserve such as the Christmas Bird Count (<https://waterlooregionnature.ca/event/christmas-bird-count-2023-kitchener/>), Great Backyard Bird Count (<https://waterlooregionnature.ca/2020/02/19/great-backyard-bird-count-2020/>), Bioblitz (<https://ontarionature.org/event/rare-2024-bioblitz/>); <https://waterlooregionnature.ca/event/sprucehaven-nature-inventory-blitz-8/>), Swiftwatch, Outings to which the public is welcome. (see rare's newsletter at <https://myemail-api.constantcontact.com/rare-eNews-for-Early-April.html?>)

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

SCORING

ALL LEVELS MUST DO 3.1

ENTRY

7 points from at least 3 categories.

INTERMEDIATE

9 points from at least 5 categories.

HIGH

11 points from at least 7 categories.

Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	
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BIRD FRIENDLY TEAM LIST OF MEMBERS, AFFILIATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION (M-1)

CURRENT AS OF:

Current as of July 2024

1. Jennifer Clary-Lemon, University of Waterloo, jclarylemon@uwaterloo.ca
2. David Gascoigne, Waterloo Region Nature, davidmgascoigne@gmail.com
3. Paul Groleau, Feather Friendly, pgrroleau@featherfriendly.com
4. Aleksandra Dolezal, rare Charitable Research Reserve, aleksandra.dolezal@raresites.org
5. Natasha Barlow, Birds Canada, nbarlow@birdscanada.org
6. Bob Williams, r.j.williams044@gmail.com
7. Roderick Hornby, Waterloo Region Nature (Teens), roderickhornbyphotography@gmail.com
8. Victoria Lamont, University of Waterloo, vlamont@uwaterloo.ca
9. Meredith Blunt, Independent Artist meredith@birdnerd.art or meredith.blunt@gmail.com
10. Marcel O'Gorman, University of Waterloo Critical Media Lab, marcel@uwaterloo.ca
11. Ethan Gosnell, University of Waterloo (undergrad), egosnell@uwaterloo.ca
12. Yu-Ting Chen, University of Waterloo, yu-ting.chen1@uwaterloo.ca
13. Roger Suffling, U of Waterloo/Waterloo Region Nature, rcsuffli@uwaterloo.ca
14. Kathy Mortimer, Waterloo Region Nature, kathy.mortimer@speedymail.org
15. Keira McManus, University of Waterloo/ UW-SER, k4mcmanus@uwaterloo.ca
16. Amanda Armstrong, University of Waterloo/ UW-SER, am2armst@uwaterloo.ca
17. Istafa Sufi, rare Charitable Research Reserve, istafa.sufi@raresites.org
18. Gabriel Evans-Cook, Birds Canada, gevanscook@birdscanada.org



BIRD FRIENDLY
CITY



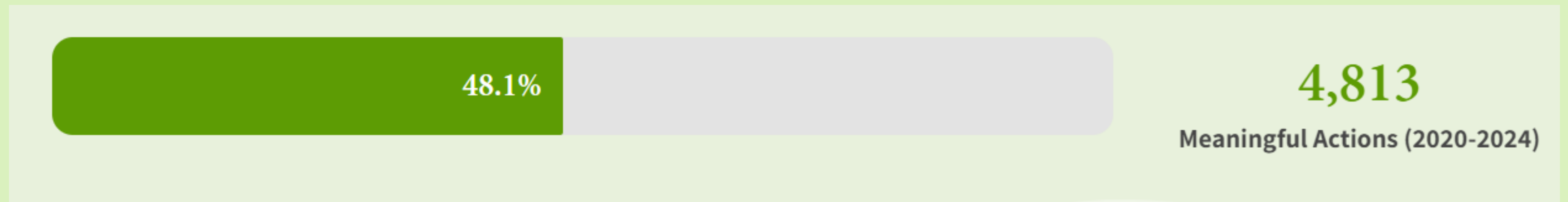
IMPACT REPORT 2023-2024



By 2030, Reep Green Solutions will have completed 10,000 actions that make our community stronger and more eco-friendly.

4,813

MEANINGFUL ACTIONS



Karin Dobbbs' Sustainability Journey

"Brendan, my advisor, understood what made sense to do in a 70-year-old house. He took care to understand what I wanted to do and provided guidance regarding how to approach the improvements needed."

32% reduction in energy costs

Last year, we visited 662 homes like Karin's.



English Conversation Circles



Helping newcomers understand energy use better by providing them with information on how to save energy





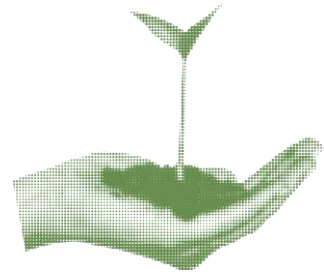
Water Conservation and Protection

Road salt is the Region of Waterloo's top water quality issue. Throughout the winter we met people at markets and events to provide them with practical tips on how to reduce your salt usage and alternatives to reach for first.



Region of Waterloo



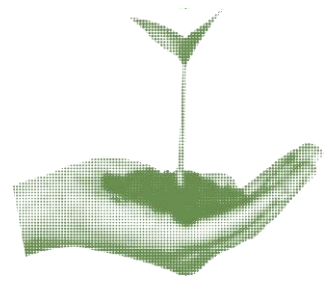


Healthy Yards & Neighbourhoods

724 Healthy Landscape features installed

"The increasing number of rain gardens in the city is helping people feel like they are making a positive impact on the climate crisis. These gardens also create green spaces that make our streets look nicer and feel cooler." - Guelph Resident





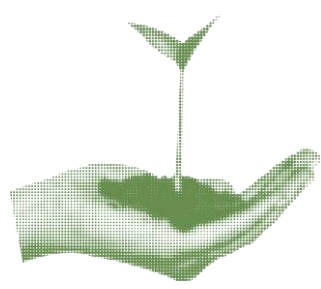
Community Canopy



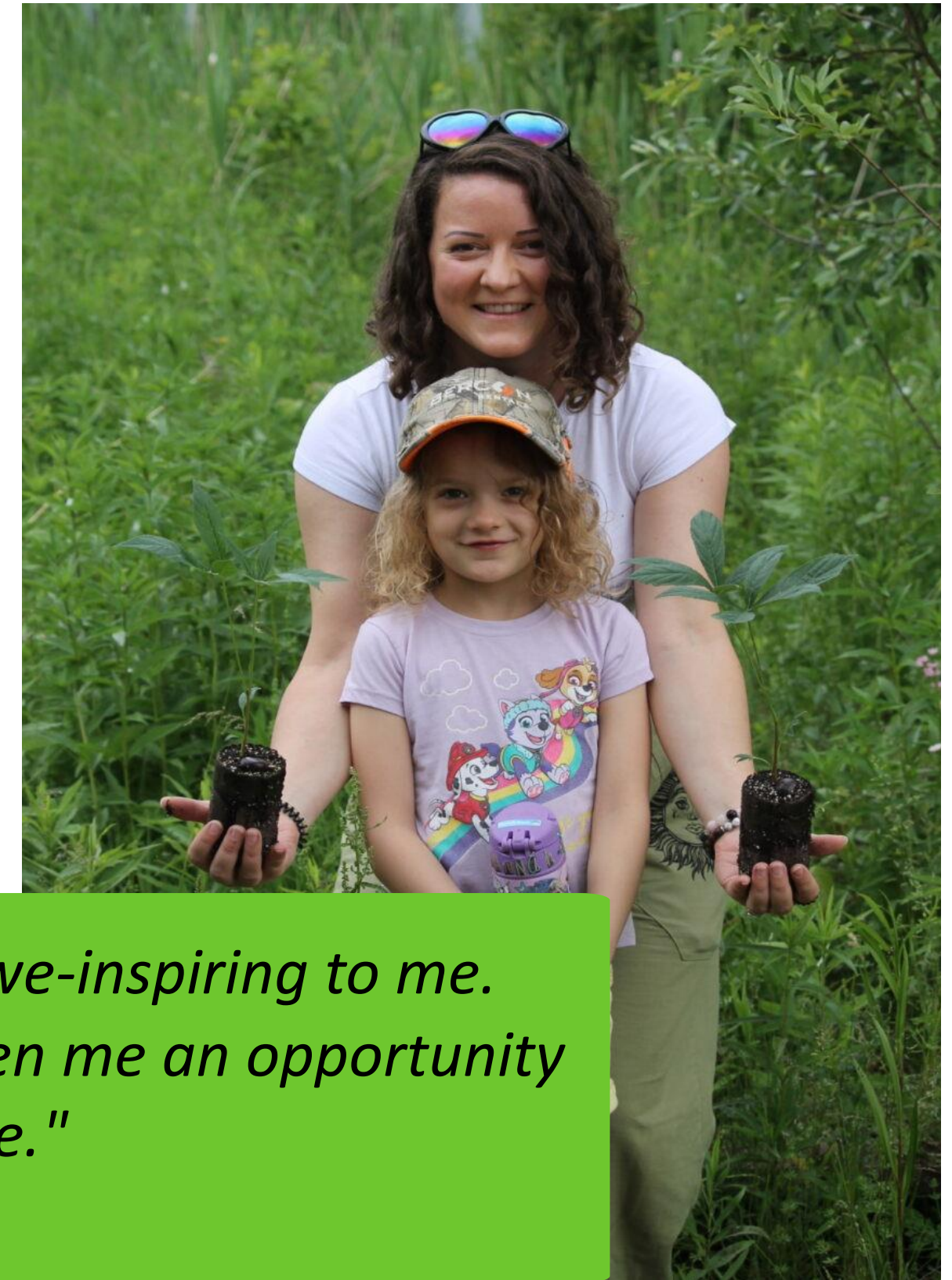
"Plant trees near enough park structures to provide shade for kids and parents while they're there."

- 'Where Would You Like More Trees?' survey respondent





Tree Nursery: Future proofing

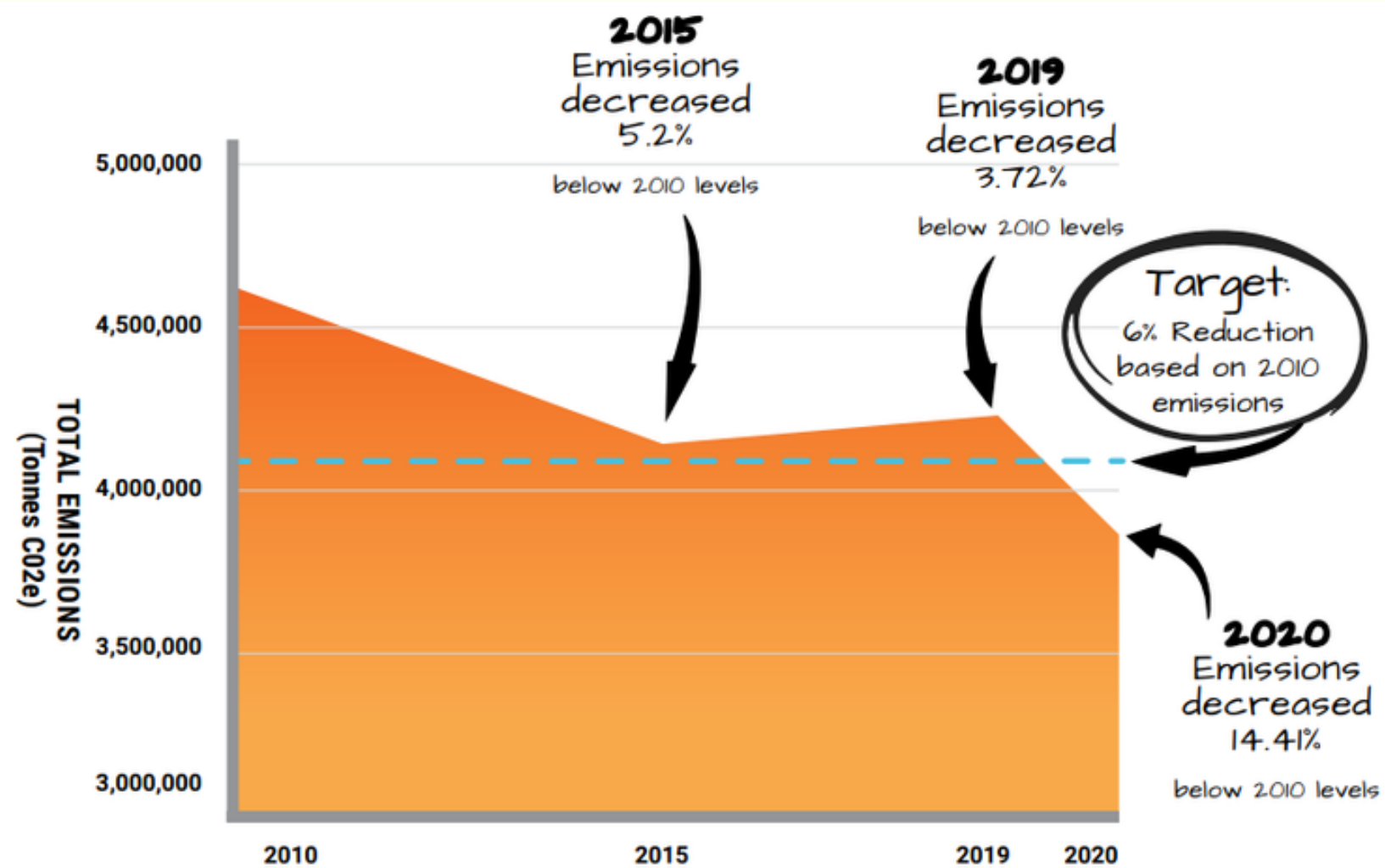


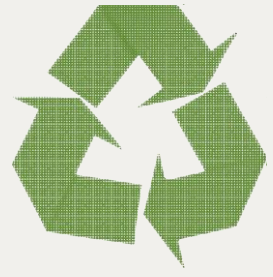
"Trees have always been incredibly awe-inspiring to me. Volunteering at the tree nursery has given me an opportunity to be part of that hope."

- Marie M

CLIMATE ACTION WR

ClimateActionWR is a team effort involving local organizations, community members, and cities in the Waterloo Region.





Zero Waste Challenge

“I want to become more conscious of my waste and minimize it. I want to figure out where I am producing the most waste.”

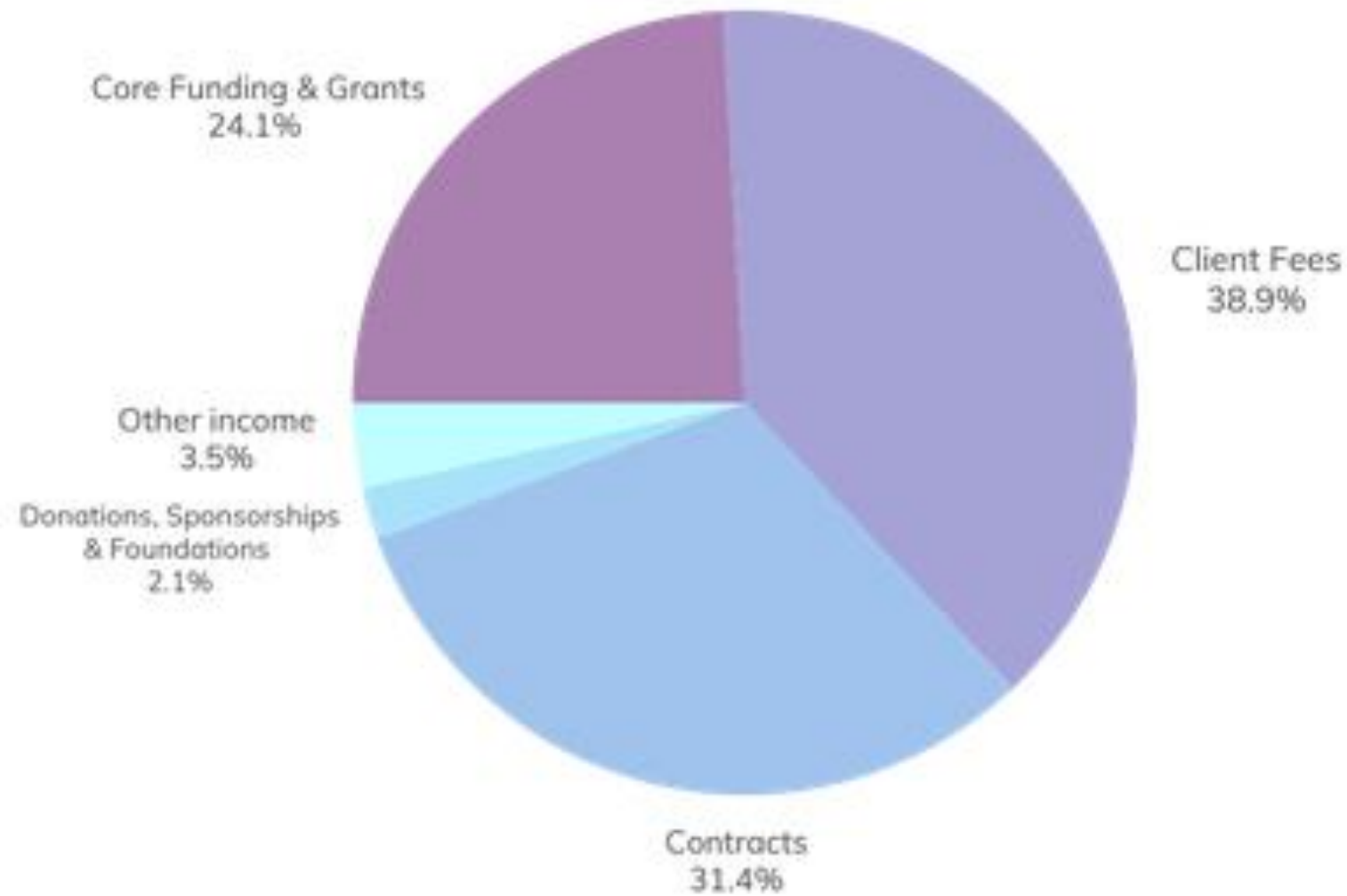
- A determined 30-day challenge participant

Register Now:
reepgreen.ca/zwc

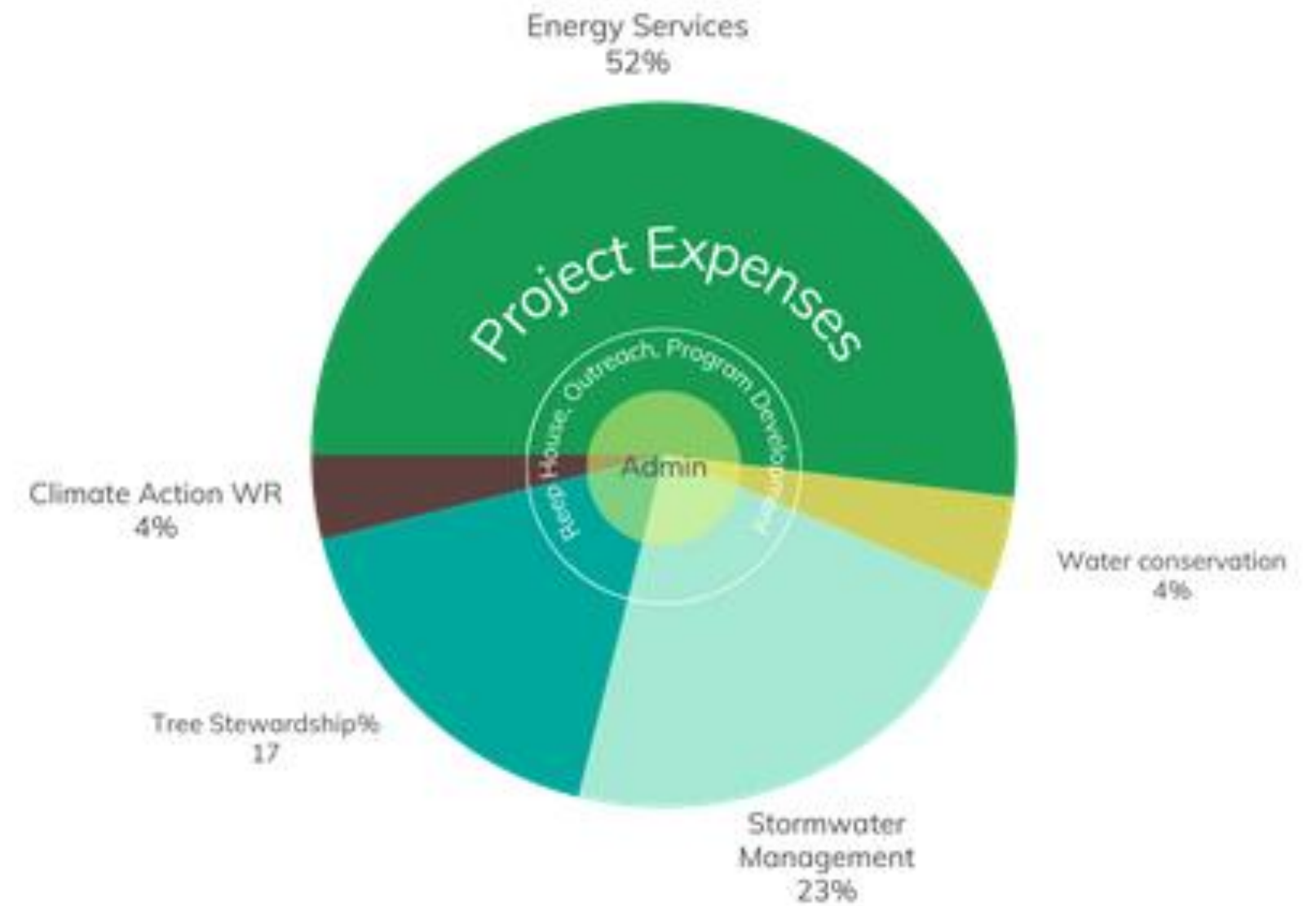


Financial Summary

Revenue

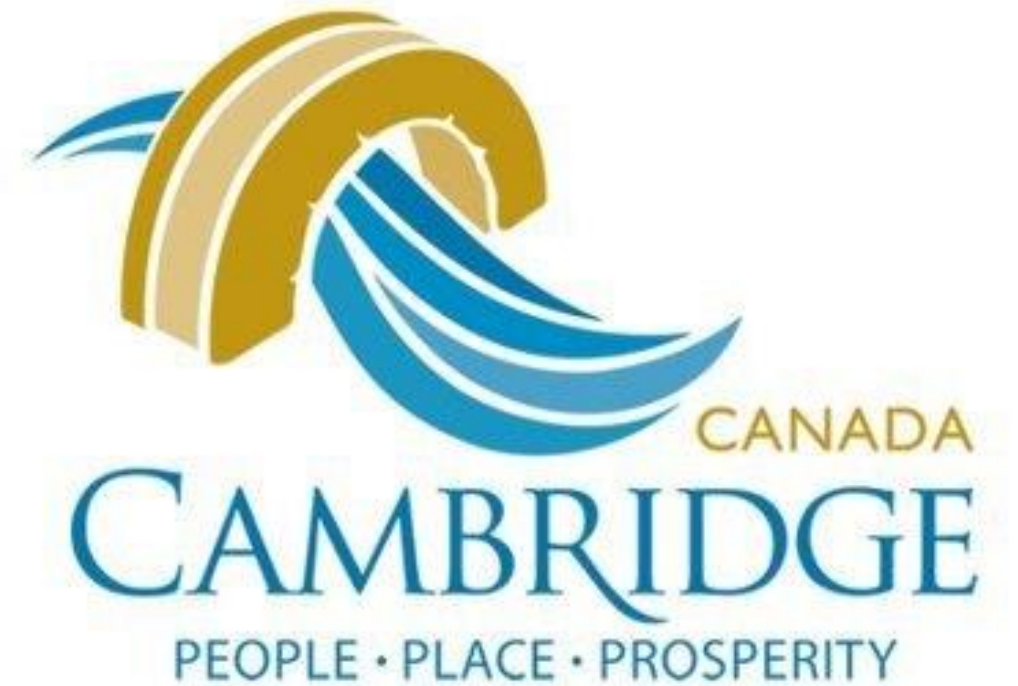


Expenses



**The size of Reep House, Outreach, Program Development and Admin circles are not represented proportionally relative to other expenses.*

Thank You to our Partners!
Core Funders
We couldn't do it without you!



Staff Report



Development Services Department

www.kitchener.ca

REPORT TO: Climate Change and Environment Committee

DATE OF MEETING: October 17, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: Natalie Goss, Manager of Policy and Research, 519-741-2200 ext. 7648

PREPARED BY: John Zunic, Senior Planner, 519-741-2200 ext. 7685
Tim Donegani, Senior Planner, 519-741-2200 ext. 7067

WARD(S) INVOLVED: All Wards

DATE OF REPORT: October 1, 2024

REPORT NO.: DSD-2024-423

SUBJECT: Kitchener 2051 – Official Plan Project Update

RECOMMENDATION:
For information.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of Kitchener 2051, the City's new Official Plan project.
- The key finding of this report is that the development of Kitchener 2051 is well underway. The delivery of the initial phase of work sees the project divided into five distinct studies:
 - Engagement;
 - Population and Employment Forecast Update and Housing Needs Assessment;
 - Non-Residential Technical Background Study;
 - Growth Scenarios Study; and
 - Climate and Energy Technical Background Study.
- Each of these five studies will assess existing conditions and provide recommendations for how the City should move forward, in alignment with corporate goals and objectives. City staff will be responsible for development the new Official Plan document, informed by the deliverables and outcomes of the five studies referenced above.
- There are no financial implications arising from this report
- Community engagement is currently underway and includes numerous ways of reaching community members and collaborators. The use of a Community Working Group is a core component of the community engagement approach for this project.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Kitchener is preparing a new Official Plan (OP) – referred to as Kitchener 2051. An OP is a document that shapes the way a city grows and develops. Provincial legislation, specifically the Planning Act, sets out what an OP can do, including:

- Directing growth and change, mostly related to how land and buildings are used;

*** This information is available in accessible formats upon request. ***
Please call 519-741-2345 or TTY 1-866-969-9994 for assistance.

- Guiding decisions on land use, development, transportation, physical and community infrastructure, and more;
- Implementing the City’s vision, established through the Strategic Plan; and
- Providing direction for implementing tools like the Zoning By-law.

The existing City of Kitchener OP was adopted in 2014 and has positively shaped growth and development across the City over the last decade. A new OP is needed to respond to current and future conditions and trends. Kitchener is growing fast and facing city-building challenges like the housing crisis, pedestrian and cyclist deaths and injuries, inequity, climate change, social isolation and how to pay for aging infrastructure and city services. The City is also presented with opportunities like new mobility technologies, a young and highly skilled workforce, strong neighbourhoods and communities, a rich and diverse culture, and a growing desire for urban connection.

Kitchener 2051 presents an opportunity to tackle these issues head-on, ask big questions, and prepare for an uncertain future. It should reflect the City’s values and aspirations for what it can become – a thriving city that offers well-being, potential and quality of life, for everyone. Kitchener 2051 will address conformity with Provincial policy and legislation and the Region of Waterloo OP, alongside recently completed plans for the City, such as Housing for All, Places & Spaces, and Cycling & Trails Master Plan, to set out a forward-thinking and contemporary city-wide policy framework.

REPORT:

The City is a community of approximately 280,000 residents and is the largest city in Waterloo Region, which is home to more than 650,000 residents. The City adopted its current OP in 2014. Since that time, there have been many changes to Provincial planning legislation and policies. In 2024, Regional Official Plan Amendment No. 6 (ROPA 6), the Region’s Municipal Comprehensive Review, was approved by the Province. This Municipal Comprehensive Review forecasted growth for Kitchener to 2051 and sets key growth management policies.

The City’s current OP forecasts 319,500 people and 132,500 jobs by 2031. Kitchener 2051 will determine where and how Kitchener will grow to accommodate the 2051 population forecast of 409,200 people and 170,500 jobs, as identified in the Region of Waterloo Official Plan (ROP).

As part of developing the new OP, City staff divided the project into five distinct studies within the overall Kitchener 2051 project, each with their own separate consultant teams. The five distinct studies include:

- Engagement;
- Population and Employment Forecast Update and Housing Needs Assessment;
- Non-Residential Technical Background Study;
- Growth Scenarios Study; and
- Climate and Energy Technical Background Study.

Engagement

The engagement workplan is informed by the following principles, which will guide conversations with the community and collaborators:

1. Provide meaningful opportunities to shape the plan

2. Build community capacity for informed engagement
3. Build trusting relationships
4. Strive for Representation
5. Elicit a broad range of ideas and go deep on the interesting ones

Community Working Group

Kitchener 2051's engagement approach is centered on the establishment of a Community Working Group. City staff sought a diverse group of individuals that represent the demographics of Kitchener (and look like the Kitchener of tomorrow), each of whom will bring unique perspectives to this process. The Community Working Group will learn about what the City needs to consider through the process of developing a new OP, and collaborate with City staff and consultants to meaningfully shape the recommended policies. The Kitchener 2051 community working group application process received nearly 150 applications from across all wards of the City. A selection committee made up of two staff and three community members reviewed the applications based on equity and representation considerations, interest and experience in city building issues, and community connections. In the end, 30 individuals were selected to form the Community Working Group. The Community Working Group will meet on a monthly basis to stay informed of the project and when applicable, provide input to shape and inform future deliverables and community engagements.

Population and Employment Forecast Update and Housing Needs Assessment

This study will look at updating the population and employment forecast for the City of Kitchener in light of recent changes impacting the City.

The study will also develop a new Housing Needs Assessment which will identify housing needs in terms of type (single detached dwellings, apartments, and everything in between), tenure (rental or ownership) and affordability (suitable homes that all kinds of households and incomes can secure by spending less than 30% of their income on housing).

Non-Residential Technical Background Study

The Non-Residential Technical Background Study will inform the development of the City's new OP to ensure that the City's neighbourhoods are complete communities, with access to a range goods, services, and amenities that enhance the quality of life for residents. The study will also assess matters of compatibility between industrial and sensitive uses, and provide recommendations around the future of local employment lands in the City.

Growth Scenarios Study

This Growth Scenarios Study will focus on the ways in which the City can accommodate the population and employment growth forecasted by 2051.

Climate and Energy Technical Background Study

Of particular importance and relevance to the Climate Change and Environment Committee is the Climate and Energy Technical Background Study. The City of Kitchener has ambitious goals of advancing community energy solutions in pursuit of climate, economic and energy security objectives. In 2018, the Region of Waterloo, area municipalities, and local energy service providers approved the Community Energy Investment Strategy (CEIS). Its goal is to improve the Region's economic competitiveness and quality of life through the coordination of targeted energy investments. City Council declared a Climate emergency in 2019 and directed continued support of corporate and community climate initiatives to

reduce greenhouse gas emission by 80% by 2050. The CEIS seeks to integrate economic and environmental thinking and transform the energy system of the region.

Transform WR is Waterloo Region's community-wide response to the global climate crisis and is led by ClimateAction WR, in partnership with the Region of Waterloo, City of Kitchener, other local municipalities and organizations. The strategy outlines the collective long-term strategy to achieve an 80% local greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reduction target (based on 2010 levels), and identifies local action needed to reduce our emissions by 30% by the year 2030.

The Study will provide strategic direction on how the OP must be positioned to achieve an 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050, support future climate mitigation and climate adaptation initiatives, and support the transition to a low carbon community.

Project Timeline and Next Steps

Kitchener 2051 has set an ambitious timeline, with a new OP proposed to be presented to City Council for a decision in early 2026. The project timeline includes robust community and collaborator engagement throughout.

2024 – In 2024, the focus will be on initiating the technical background studies, establishing the community working group, and undertaking broad community engagement on the technical inputs of the Official Plan.

2025 – In 2025, City staff will begin drafting a new OP that will be informed by community and collaborator conversation from 2024 and all of the technical studies. There will be continuous engagement with the community working group, community and collaborators on the policies that form Kitchener's new Official Plan.

2026 – In early 2026, a new OP will be presented to Council for a decision.

Throughout 2025 the Kitchener 2051 project team will share updates on this work and will have specific conversations with CCEC on the Climate and Energy Technical Background Study.