

Strathcona County's Vision

"Strathcona County is a safe, caring and autonomous community that treasures its unique blend of urban and rural lifestyles while balancing the natural environment with economic prosperity; and through strong, effective leadership is a vibrant community of choice."

Strategic Plan Direction

The Strategic Plan was developed by Council, based on input from the community as well as information from research and studies. The Strategic Plan is Strathcona County's principal guiding document for governance, community development and service delivery. It describes the County's vision for the future, the community goals and strategies for achieving these goals.

3.1 Water

- a) Improve surface and subsurface water quality; and
- b) Reduce the consumption of fresh water resources from lakes, rivers and aquifers.

3.2 Air

- a) Improve air quality.

3.3 Land

- a) Reduce the fragmentation of agricultural land;
- b) Reduce non-agricultural uses on prime agricultural land; and
- c) Reduce land use conflicts.

3.4 Environment

- a) Protect wildlife and their habitats;
- b) Conserve important and unique natural features; and
- c) Respect natural ecosystems.

3.5 Housing

- a) Increase the availability of affordable housing and social housing; and
- b) Increase the variety of housing stock.

3.6 Governance

- a) Develop policies and plans that provide guidance for the Corporation and the community;
- b) Advocate increased public input with respect to decision making and community consultation;
- c) Improve communication between the public and the County leading to more effective decision making;
- d) Maintain Strathcona County's status as an autonomous municipality; and
- e) Respect the rights of individual citizens and landowners within the context of the overall public interest.

3.7 Intermunicipal Relations

- a) Build and maintain effective channels of communication on intermunicipal issues;
- b) Cooperate and collaborate on resolving common planning issues; and
- c) Co-ordinate land use goals with other adjacent municipalities.

3.8 Economic Development

- a) Create a more diversified economy and increase employment opportunities by broadening the variety of industries and commercial businesses.

3.9 Infrastructure

- a) Reduce the lifecycle cost of infrastructure by maximizing the efficiency and utilization of utility services; and
- b) Maintain an efficient and effective transportation network and reduce traffic related impacts such as noise and air pollution.

3.10 Public Service

- a) Ensure adequate lands are designated for services such as health care to keep pace with growth; and
- b) Maximize the use of existing and future community facilities.

3.11 Culture

- a) Retain the rural character of the community;
- b) Conserve heritage resources; and
- c) Create high quality public spaces and facilities.

3.12 Community Design

- a) Improve the quality of commercial and residential environments through urban design;
- b) Ensure development occurs in an orderly manner and is tied to the logical extension of infrastructure;
- c) Create more compact, walkable communities; and
- d) Improve transportation connections between developments.

Incorporation of the Strategic Plan Direction into the MDP

The Strategic Plan supports the development of sustainable communities and the incorporation of the three pillars of sustainability, into the framework of the Municipal Development Plan. The three pillars of sustainability involve the integration of social, economic and environmental variables into the decision making process for community change and development.

As noted in community consultation initiatives, residents of Strathcona County feel strongly about a variety of issues, including the rate and direction that recent growth in the community has taken. The challenge is to manage growth while maintaining and enhancing the quality of life of County residents, in a sustainable manner. The Municipal Development Plan creates a roadmap for decision making that will manage and direct growth within the County.

Incorporation of the Capital Region Growth Plan Direction into the MDP (Bylaw 42-2012)

As a member municipality of the Capital Region Board, Strathcona County supports the policies, regulations and mandates of the Board. A result of being part of the Capital Region is that all member municipalities are required to ensure their Municipal Development Plans are consistent with the direction of the Capital Region Growth Plan. A review of this Municipal Development Plan was completed in November of 2011 and amendments were approved by the Capital Region Board in January of 2013 and adopted by County Council in February of 2013. The amendments ensure that development occurring within Strathcona County is consistent with the goals of the Capital Region.

The County will ensure the MDP remains in conformity with all aspects of the Capital Region Growth Plan at all times. Should the policies, regulations or mandates of the Capital Region Board alter, this Plan shall be amended as required to ensure it maintains consistency with the Capital Region Board's direction.