

City of Kawartha Lakes

# Healthy Environment Plan



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# Introduction

The municipality of Kawartha Lakes recognizes the importance of understanding the risks that climate change poses. As a community and a corporation, Kawartha Lakes is committed to taking action to protect our local environment. A Healthy Environment is one of Council's three main goals in the municipality's Corporate Strategic Plan. The aim of the Healthy Environment Plan (HEP) is to reduce Green House Gas emissions and better prepare, respond and adapt to a warmer, wetter and more unpredictable climate. This plan has identified 24 strategies to invest in and enhance the resiliency of our community and municipal assets, human and environmental health and the protection of vulnerable populations.

Kawartha Lakes' approach to climate action is unique in that the HEP considers integrated climate action – addressing mitigation and adaptation holistically. The HEP was developed over a two-year period under the guidance of a Steering Committee and multi-stakeholder Working Group. The Steering Committee was comprised of Kawartha Lakes staff, representatives from Kawartha Conservation, Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee and Fleming College with support from LURA Consulting and ICLEI Canada. The Working Group represented a cross-section of organizations and provided a broader sense of community interests and priorities as the plan was developed. Overall the HEP was shaped through conversations with over 2,600 people and 40 organizations, institutions and community groups.

Development of the HEP was supported with funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and followed the FCM Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) ve-milestone framework to mitigate GHG emissions. From an adaptation perspective, the plan followed the Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) framework.

## Our Vision

**“We will be leaders in addressing our changing climate to ensure a healthy environment and a prosperous community.”**

## Our Target

Through the implementation of the actions laid out in this plan, Kawartha Lakes will be on track to meet the emissions reduction target of 30% below 2005 levels by 2030, as established by the federal and provincial governments.

## Mayor's Message



At Kawartha Lakes, our environment is our namesake. Our municipality is named after our famous lakes, and we're known for our beautiful rivers, woodlands and farmlands. From the Kawartha Lakes cottage country to the agriculture industry, our environment is who we are – it's what makes us unique. This is why the Healthy Environment Plan (HEP) is so important. More than 2,500 people and organizations have taken part in shaping and carrying out the HEP which provides us with the tools to help us face the changing climate and protect vulnerable people and resources.

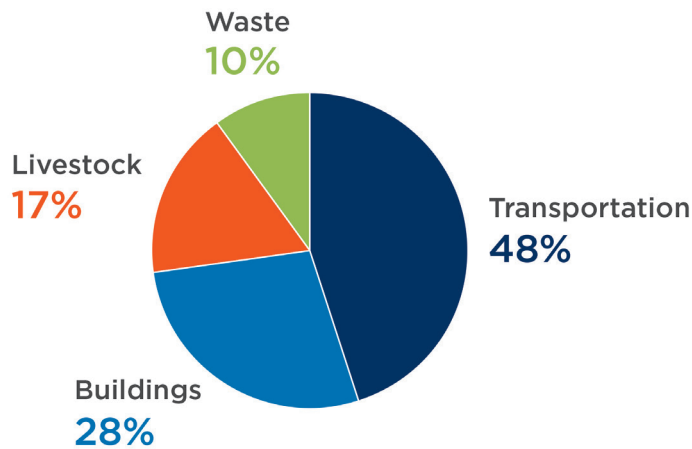
By looking after the citizens of Kawartha Lakes and reducing the economic impact of the changing climate, the HEP directly aligns with the municipality's Strategic Plan. The Plan allows us to keep those dollars in our community where we can put them towards our needs. Councillor Miller was a past champion of the HEP and Councillor Richardson has since taken up the mantle, as Kawartha Lakes Council looks forward to working towards a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable Canada. We all have a role to play. Let's work together to carry out this plan as it takes shape.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Letham'.

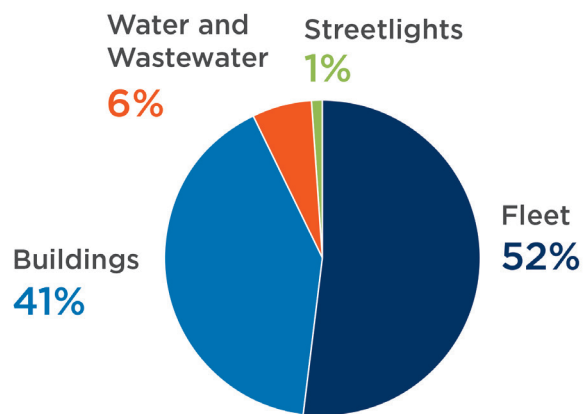
Mayor Andy Letham



## Community Baseline Emissions 2015



## Municipal Baseline Emissions 2015

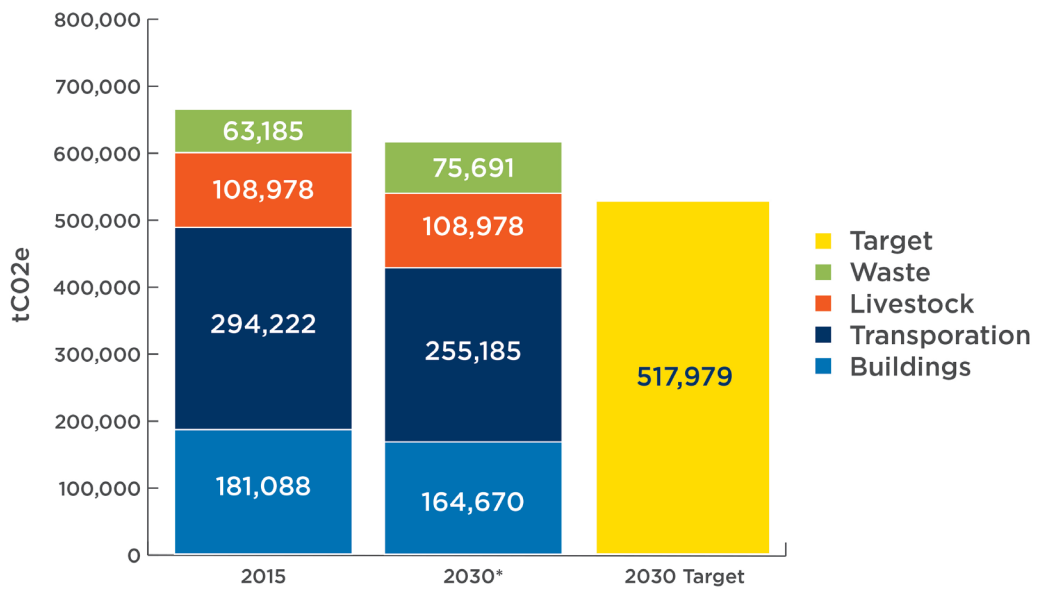


## Potential Impacts

- More extreme temperatures, both hot and cold;
- More frequent and intense rainfall that may lead to flooding;
- More invasive species;
- Longer growing season coupled with increased stress on local water supply;
- Damage to municipal infrastructure, power system failures, closure of public facilities, increased maintenance costs, increased nutrient and contaminant loading in rivers and lakes; and
- Impacts to tourism and recreational activities.



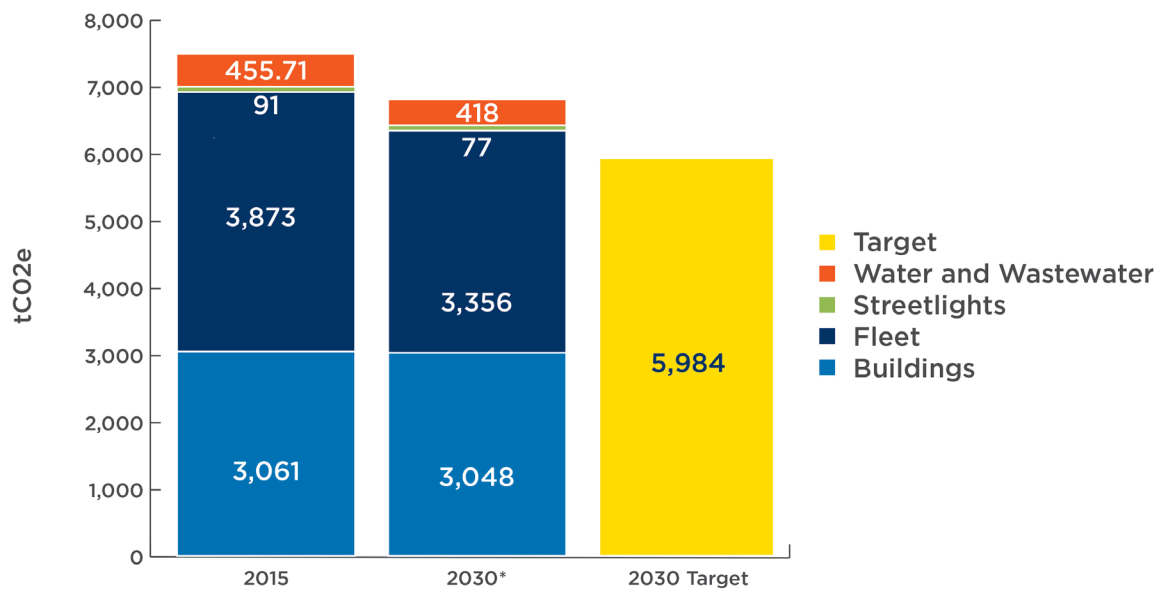
## Community Emissions Target



\*Emission levels should the Healthy Environment Plan not be implemented






## Municipal Emissions Target







\*Emission levels should the Healthy Environment Plan not be implemented




# How We Will Accomplish This

Theme	Goals	Strategies
<b>Cross Cutting</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations in plans and policies;</li> <li>• Develop and implement education and awareness strategies to ensure the community prepares for climate change; and</li> <li>• Support local business and tourism industry partners in adapting to climate change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate residents and seek out financing for all strategies in the HEP.</li> </ul>
<b>Agriculture</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase resiliency to support long term food security; and</li> <li>• Optimize sustainable agricultural practices that reduce GHG emissions and maximize sequestration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement agricultural and manure management best practices; and</li> <li>• Increase in carbon sequestration.</li> </ul>
<b>Buildings</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate adaptive measures into construction, retrofit and maintenance of new and existing buildings; and</li> <li>• Increase energy efficiency in new and existing buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage efficiency and resiliency in new and existing buildings; and</li> <li>• Embed climate change risks into the inspection, maintenance and design of municipal infrastructure.</li> </ul>



Theme	Goals	Strategies
<b>Energy Systems</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster a culture of energy conservation that is resilient to climatic threats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase energy reliability and security.</li> </ul>
<b>Land Use</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement smart, dense, mixed-use growth to reduce sprawl; and</li> <li>• Increase the use of green infrastructure and reduce hardscaping to improve stormwater management and reduce heat island effect.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage compact neighbourhood design; and</li> <li>• Integrate urban heat reduction, air quality improvement and flood risk reduction.</li> </ul>
<b>Natural Environment</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and enhance natural environment assets and ecosystems;</li> <li>• Enhance carbon sequestration; and</li> <li>• Build resiliency in forests, bodies of water, open spaces and natural heritage features.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect natural assets; and</li> <li>• Develop and implement tree management and resiliency program.</li> </ul>
<b>People, Safety and Health</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement measures to enhance health, safety and resilience by preparing for an increase in climate change related health impacts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a response program for vulnerable people; and</li> <li>• Communicate climate readiness initiatives.</li> </ul>



Theme	Goals	Strategies
<b>Transportation</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultivate sustainable, low-carbon transportation options; and</li> <li>• Minimize the potential disruption of transportation networks from climate change impacts and extreme weather events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and encourage uptake of electric and low emission vehicles;</li> <li>• Encourage use of transit, walk, bike and carpooling; and</li> <li>• Transition municipal fleet and equipment to emit less carbon.</li> </ul>
<b>Waste</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase waste diversion from landfills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce waste in landfills.</li> </ul>
<b>Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Management</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect water resources and water treatment infrastructure capacity from impacts of climate change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase operational efficiency and resiliency of water and wastewater systems; and</li> <li>• Update Stormwater Design Requirements and the Stormwater Management Plan.</li> </ul>

# Acknowledgements

## Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

The municipality of Kawartha Lakes acknowledges it is situated on traditional Michi Saagiig Territory and lands included in the Williams Treaty and Treaty 20.

## Council Champions

Special thanks to the HEP Council Champions for leadership and encouragement throughout – the late Councillor Gord Miller and Councillor Tracy Richardson.

## Steering Committee

Working closely with the consulting team, the following individuals and organizations contributed their valuable knowledge and expertise to lead the development of the Healthy Environment Plan:

**Ron Taylor**, City of Kawartha Lakes – Chief Administrative Officer

**Adam Found**, City of Kawartha Lakes – Manager, Corporate Assets

**David Kerr**, City of Kawartha Lakes – Manager of Environmental Services

**Kelly Maloney**, City of Kawartha Lakes – Agricultural Development Officer

**Chris Marshall**, City of Kawartha Lakes – Director, Development Services

**Denise Williams**, City of Kawartha Lakes – Strategy and Performance Specialist

**Bryan Robinson**, City of Kawartha Lakes – Director, Public Works

**Juan Rojas**, City of Kawartha Lakes – Director, Engineering and Assets

**Trish O'Connor**, Fleming College – Director, Office of Sustainability

**Mark Majchrowski**, Kawartha Region Conservation Authority – Chief Administrative Officer

**Pat Warren**, Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee – Chair

## Working Group Members and Member Organizations

**Don Armitage**, Enbridge Gas

**Paul Brown**, Agricultural Development Advisory Board

**Paul Buckley**, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

**Graham Clark**, Balsam Lake Association

**Tania Clerac**, Fleming College

**Kyle Chivers**, Curve Lake First Nation

**Ginny Colling**, Kawartha Cycling Club

**Federation of Ontario Cottagers**

**Richard Fedy**, Environmental Action Bobcaygeon

**Enzo Ingribelli**, Lindsay Transit

**Debbie Keenan**, City of Kawartha Lakes Building Services

**John Kintare**, Peterborough and the Kawarthas Home Builders Association

**Keith Kirkpatrick**, City of Kawartha Lakes Paramedic Chief

**Hope Lee**, City of Kawartha Lakes Human Services  
**Gillian Lind**, Hydro One  
**Lloyd McEwan**, Kawartha Field Naturalists  
**Michael Nasello**, PVNC Catholic District School Board  
**Jon Orpana**, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
**Jordan Prosper**, Community Care City of Kawartha Lakes  
**Steve Rankin**, Capstone Infrastructure  
**Sue Shikaze**, HKPR District Health Unit  
**Holly Shipclark**, Kawartha Conservation  
**Iryna Shulyarenko**, Kawartha Conservation  
**Marc Sorenson**, Ross Memorial Hospital  
**Vic Tavaszi**, Ross Memorial Hospital  
**Bill Thompson**, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority  
**Lee Anna Thornbury**, City of Kawartha Lakes Community Services  
**Mark Torrey**, Ontario Federation of Agriculture  
**Dan Whalen**, Trillium Lakelands District School Board  
**Jeff Wiltshire**, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

**Additional Contributors:**

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**Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority** – Pam Lancaster  
**Otonabee Region Conservation Authority** – Meredith Carter and Dan Marinigh  
**Ontario Clean Water Agency** – Natalie Baker, Indra Maharjan, Geoff Redden and Cindy Spence  
**City of Kawartha Lakes Corporate Communications**  
**City of Kawartha Lakes Police Services**

## **Project Team**

**City of Kawartha Lakes** – Chris Marshall and Denise Williams  
**LURA Consulting** – Susan Hall, Jeff Garkowski, Melissa Gallina, Ryan Adamson  
**ICLEI Canada** – Megan Meaney, Michael Dean, Sarah Shenstone-Harris, Christina Schwantes

## **Project Funders**

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**“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,  
nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”**

Dr. Seuss

**“Climate change is happening, humans are causing it, and I think this is perhaps  
the most serious environmental issue facing humanity.”**

Bill Nye

**“Environmentalism isn’t a discipline or specialty. It’s a way of seeing our place in  
the world. And we need everybody to see the world that way. Don’t think ‘In order  
to make a difference I have to become an environmentalist’.”**

Dr. David Suzuki

