Corporate Mission

To enhance the quality of life for present and future generations by providing progressive, professional services and leadership that reflects the needs of all those who work, live, visit or play in the City of Kingston.

Corporate Vision

We are a progressive, innovative corporation with satisfied citizens and employees. Our fiscal health enables us to update our infrastructure and grow our community. We support a high quality of life for all of our citizens and they value the services we provide.

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CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

The City of Kingston is committed to sustainability so we can meet the needs of citizens now and in the future.

CORPORATE GOALS

To contribute to the achievement of our community’s vision of Kingston - Canada’s Most Sustainable City.

To be a leader in achieving the objectives established in the community’s Sustainable Kingston Plan, applying the four pillars of sustainability: economic, environmental, social and cultural.

To achieve the goals and objectives set out by City Council as defined by the key corporate strategies identified in Kingston’s Strategic Plan 2011-2014.

Bring together staff from multiple departments or build on existing relationships between the municipality and external community stakeholders.

Within the development of Kingston’s first community and corporate climate action plan, contribute to the identification and promotion of a better understanding of the anticipated impacts, vulnerabilities and opportunities related to climate change and the associated strategies for adaption.

OVERALL KEY OUTCOMES

• Supported the implementation of the Sustainable Kingston Plan and embed sustainability practices in the delivery of corporate municipal services such as public works or emergency planning focusing on climate change mitigation and adaption through the Kingston Community and Corporate Climate Action Plan.

• Contributed to the development of a corporate culture of long-term asset management and sustainability planning – including asset rehabilitation, energy conservation, “green” solutions and the implementation of the urban forestry management plan with targeted shade tree planting.

• Fostered community awareness of increasing health effects associated with climate change and the vulnerabilities to increasing extreme weather in Eastern Ontario and the Great Lakes region.
PROJECT PROCESSES

Under the umbrella of the 2013-2014 Kingston Climate Action Plan, the City of Kingston commissioned an analysis of risks and opportunities for climate change in Eastern Ontario. Using the latest models from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the research team, made up of Don McIver and Heather Auld, focused on anticipated changes to the climate in the Eastern Ontario Great Lakes region up to 2050 and examined where vulnerabilities would lie in all municipal sectors. The commissioned research on climate change adaptation in Eastern Ontario was the first of its kind and was a necessary ingredient in developing best practice for municipalities in the Great Lakes region. In addition, members of the project management team attended webinars and presentation made by GLAA-C on topics of health impacts and urban canopy management. The information provided was also integrates into the project.

This new body of knowledge has been embedded into municipal best practice and serves as a new management tool for emergency planning, community health, public awareness, communications and the management of the urban tree canopy.

The coinciding development of the Kingston Climate Action Plan provided the framework and the administrative and Council support to proceed with the investigation of adaption aspects. Along with feedback obtained from the September 26th 2013 Climate Action Plan Roundtable, the UCSA small grant funding was also key to developing community education and providing specific analysis of the adaptation report and integrating the new knowledge into municipal best practice.

These activities have contribute to an increased awareness in both the municipal corporate sector, and the community of the need for action towards climate change mitigation and adaptation and ultimately, a much broader integration of adaption planning across the municipality. Over the next six months, this new body of knowledge and best practice will be integrated into the completion of a Corporate Climate Action Plan for the City of Kingston and a high-level Municipal Energy Plan which will examine the ways the community will generate, deliver and use energy in the long-run.

Activity 1) Shade Tree Planting

**Project Goal:** Replace damaged trees and enhance new express bus routes with shade to encourage ridership and address heat vulnerable meeting places.

**Project Result:** With a matching grant from the RBC Finance Blue Water Project combined with funds from the City of Kingston, this component of the small grant funding realized the planting of shade trees on City owned public property.
The placement of the shade trees was determined by Public Works based on a recent municipal tree and canopy inventory that has identified trees at risk due to vulnerability to insects and canopy loss due to heat, wind and shifting precipitation levels and an assessment of high-risk heat vulnerable locations in public parks, bus shelters and community meeting spaces. Media coverage of the first tree planted by the Mayor, City staff and leaders from Sustainable Kingston and RBC, brought these organizations together and educated the general public on the importance and need for adaptation strategies such as shade trees, the importance of using active transportation and the City’s commitment to these issues.

**Activity 2) Health Impact Assessment & Public School Campaign and Poster Contest**

**Project Goal:** Develop a climate change adaptation tool for teachers and educate the community on health impacts related to climate change.

**Project Result:** Based on the recently commissioned study of risks and opportunities for climate change and Eastern Ontario, the grant funding was applied to hire a researcher through the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Public Health to complete an assessment and educational tool on health related impacts of climate change.

Specifically the analysis looked at the demographics of the area to determine heat and air quality vulnerabilities, and preventative strategies for rising vector-borne diseases in Eastern Ontario such as West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis and Lyme disease transmitted through infectious insects such as ticks and mosquitos.

Subsequently, this new body of knowledge was developed by KFL&A staff into a teaching tool kit for elementary school teachers. In addition, a brochure and new webpage content was prepared to educate people on health risks associated with climate change and recommended adaptation measures. Brochures were distributed to rural communities through the KFL&A’s Well Inspection Program. This effort was integrated into the final Kingston Climate Change Action Plan.

City and KFL&A staff facilitated five presentations on climate change mitigation and adaptation to the schools and a climate change adaptation public school poster campaign. On Clean Air Day the posters were hung on simulated ‘clotheslines’ displayed in Confederation Park as a form of public art as part of a Kingston’s Climate Action Plan awareness event.
Activity 3) City of Kingston Emergency Management

Project Goal: The integration of a Great Lakes Region extreme weather impact analysis functionality into the City of Kingston’s Emergency Management Common Operational Picture (EM-COP).

Project Result: The GLAA-C grant has funded the development of new tools, techniques and applications in the Emergency Management-Common Operational Picture EM-COP. These enhancements were designed to be both dynamic and simple in order to promote consistency and adaptability to a wide variety of climate, extreme weather, and environmental situations (e.g. heat/cold warnings, intense rainfall/flooding, power outages, spills, etc.).

A new EM-COP dashboard was developed enabling more critical infrastructure layers of interest to be turned on/off according to the type of real, or predicted, emergency. New links to live data have been created and added to the dashboard to capture weather and other environmental information (e.g. NOAA’s water currents, wind data, etc.), as well as links to key critical infrastructure operators.

A heat emergency layer has been developed. It includes locations of public washrooms, drinking fountains, pools, splash pads, shelters, and Cool Down Here locations. Residents and visitors are encouraged to make use of these amenities during extreme heat and smog advisories. City and Public Health staff will be able to use this layer and compare it with census and other data to identify underserviced areas, etc.

The City’s GIS summer students created a road network layer which displays all road surfaces with more than a 10% grade. This enables decision makers to delineate areas of interest/impact during intense rainfalls, ice storms and other related extreme weather events. This new layer includes pop-ups enabled on the road network in which the road name, nearest two intersections, plow routes and priority, fire zone, elevation data, and slope can be easily and quickly displayed. This layer can help users to determine which routes may be impacted, should be avoided, and help to prioritize response and recovery efforts and analysis.

A shoreline cleanup assessment tool for the Kingston shoreline on Lake Ontario has been integrated into the EM-COP. Key features generated include water table and well related data, critical infrastructure, heritage sites, utility networks, land use types, etc. within a 500 metre buffer of Lake Ontario’s shoreline in Kingston.

We are in the process of developing user guides for the EM-COP and the new features that have been, and will continue to be developed.