

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL

Sustainability Workshop

By EMA

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1 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the Sustainability Workshop held on June 6, 2008 as part of the Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR).

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

1. The purpose of the workshop was to explore connections between various areas of the PROPR and sustainability, the incorporation of the sustainability concept and principles into the relevant PROPR project areas and ideas for possible amendments to the ROP.
2. In all, about 79 people were in attendance, including the speakers, representing 36 organizations including the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga and the Town of Caledon.
3. Each of the eleven policy areas were given significant input into policy development; the major finding comes from breakout session 9 which concluded that the potential planning theme of **sustainable development** for the ROP theme is forward-thinking, responsible, inclusive and comprehensive.
4. Input from workshop participants and material in the Background Paper on Sustainability – by Dr. David Bell and Claude Williams, EMA, will be used to develop a Discussion Paper on Sustainability. This Paper will be used by the PROPR project team to review and develop all policy.
5. The PROPR project team will also use the experience gained from training and from leading breakout sessions in the workshop to apply the sustainable development ‘lens’ to all ROP policy.

2 DISCUSSION

2.1 Background

This report summarizes the workshop on sustainability conducted on June 6, 2008 as part of the Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR). PROPR is a program of fifteen focus areas, one of which is the concept of sustainability. The sustainability review consists of two phases. Phase one is the efforts to achieve official plan conformity with provincial requirements. Phase two is providing ideas for future work which aims to apply sustainability to the corporation.

2.2 Purpose of the Workshop

The purpose of the workshop was to explore connections between various areas of the PROPR and sustainability, the incorporation of the sustainability concept and principles into the relevant PROPR project areas and ideas for possible amendments to the ROP.

Workshop Objectives

1. Build awareness on sustainability best practices, high level indicators, possible targets and tools including case studies.
 - a. Overview of major sustainability frameworks
 - b. Presentation of best practices
 - c. Presentation of sustainability measurement practices and indicators
2. Build awareness on current sustainability initiatives in the Region.
3. Obtain stakeholder high-level direction on sustainability which can be used to inform future discussion paper and by extension amendments to the ROP and input to subsequent phase(s).
 - a. Agree on sustainability principles (definitions and process)
 - b. Determine requirements of the framework of sustainability.
 - c. Consider sustainability as a guiding theme for the Region Official Plan
 - d. Get consensus on selecting indicators and setting targets
 - e. Get values and ideas for policies or plans related to sustainability

3 SUMMARY OF EVENT

2.1 Opening

The workshop took place at SGI Canada – Caledon Centre for Culture and Education, 20490 Porterfield Road in Caledon. The following measures were taken to reduce waste and emissions:

- Renewable sources of energy were purchased to match the amount of electricity used at the venue
- A coach bus service was provided to transport participants between the venue and Region of Peel Headquarters
- Recyclable paper plates and cups were used
- Metal utensils were used
- No bottled water
- Recycling and organic bins were used
- The workshop workbooks were made from 100% recycled paper
- All attendees were given reusable bags
- All presentations were posted on the Region of Peel's website
- Reusable posters and displays for future events

In all, about 79 people were in attendance, including the speakers, representing 36 organizations including the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga. Twelve Region staff led eleven small group discussions applying a sustainable development lens to selected new or amended policy statements. A full list of participants is contained in Appendix 1.

The workshop opened at about 9:15 with a welcome from Nick Tunnacliffe, Executive Director, ETPS, Region of Peel.

Claude Williams from EMA introduced himself as plenary facilitator and presented the workshop purpose, objectives and agenda. He also explained how the break-out sessions would apply the sustainable development lens to policy throughout the day.

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Claude introduced Arvin Prasad, Director of Planning Policy and Research Division, of the Environment, Transportation and Planning Services of the Region of Peel.

2.2 Highlights of Presentations

2.2.1 Sustainability in Peel: A Peel Perspective

The opening presentation was made by Arvin Prasad, Director of Planning Research and Policy, Region of Peel. He showed examples of world-wide climate change as a challenge to every level of government for action. Arvin reviewed past and current activities of the Region towards sustainability. Notable milestones include the Smart Growth Conference in 2003 and the Liveable Peel Workshop in 2006.

The presentation is in Appendix 2.

2.2.2 Municipal Sustainability Planning

This presentation was made by Dr. David Bell. In it, Dr. Bell explained the context and the challenge of sustainability. He presented leading definitions of sustainability, built on the global sustainability challenges highlighted in the first presentation of the day, and explained Implications for urban areas, local governments and for Peel Region sustainability planning.

Integration is one of the major principles of sustainable development that goes beyond the balance of resolving conflicting drives often encountered in planning. Balance implies unavoidable trade-offs that are “zero-sum”. Integration aims to provide multiple benefits that are “win-win-win”. Integration inspires a search for solutions that are economically feasible, environmentally positive and good for people and for society.

He cited David Bell and Michelle Grinstein, “Sustainable Urban Communities in Canada: From Rio to Johannesburg” (2001) for a definition of sustainable communities:

‘Sustainable Communities’ are communities that use their resources to meet current needs while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations; they seek a better quality of life for their residents while maintaining nature’s ability to function over time. This involves a reconciliation of ecological, social and economic imperatives.

To these imperatives, recent legislation for integrated community sustainability planning (ICSP) has articulated a cultural imperative.

The presentation continued with an explanation of the core concepts of sustainability:

1. “Prospective” (futures-oriented) thinking - Intergenerational responsibility
2. Integrated systems thinking - “Connecting the dots” between environment, economy, society and culture
3. Governance (decision making with Intragenerational equity) - inclusion, dignity, basic services, human rights, stakeholder voices and participatory processes
4. Care for the Earth, Care for Each Other, Care for the Future (and get on with action!)

The presentation concluded with descriptions of planning for sustainability in an ICSP, sustainability in the Natural Step method and sustainability being planned by the Region of York. The presentation is in Appendix 3.

2.2.3 Planning a Sustainable Future for Peel Region

This presentation was made by Dr. David Bell and started with a review of important Provincial laws, regulations, policies and guidelines regarding planning for sustainability.

Dr. Bell described approaches to planning for sustainability and posed challenges to be considered during planning. The presentation is in Appendix 4.

2.2.4 Sustainable Development Worksheet

The sustainable development worksheet, sometimes called a sustainability lens, was prepared by workshop facilitator as a short guide to help analyze policy from a sustainability perspective. The 'lens' contains brief definitions of the ten key principles for sustainability described in the Background Paper and a few questions to probe into the policy content and context. It is a simple way to apply the concepts presented in the Background Paper to review policy. About twenty policies or policy areas were analyzed using the 'lens' and presented to Focus Area Managers so that consistent review from a sustainability standpoint could be conducted in the 'design stage' when updating or developing ROP policy.

Due to the tight timeframe of the workshop discussion periods, the sustainable development worksheet was streamlined by removing the principle of implementation and reducing the probing questions to no more than two per principle. The Focus Team leaders were then trained on how to facilitate a small group discussion on an area of policy during the workshop using the 'lens.' This process is shown in Figure 1.

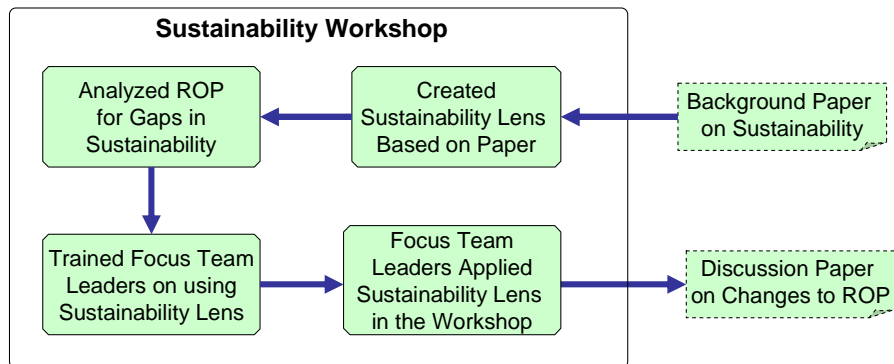


Figure 1: Sustainability Lens Provides Practical Guide to Review Policy

Although the 'lens' itself is relatively simple, applying it to an area of policy with a group of stakeholders brings out the complexity of the issues that need to be resolved to achieve sustainability. The following principles and related questions in Table 1 are from the 'lens' used in the workshop.



Table 1: Principles and Questions for Viewing Sustainability

Sustainability Principle	Questions
<p>1. “Prospective” Thinking (futures-oriented) Intergenerational responsibility</p>	<p>a. For the initiative/policy identified, what is the vision we are trying to achieve?</p> <p>b. How does the vision show multi-generational responsibility?</p>
<p>2. Environmental imperative of conserving and improving ecosystems, fostering self-sustaining biodiversity, <i>minimizing our ecological footprint*</i> by reducing it over time, and living within the global biophysical carrying capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promotes a diverse ecological system • provides natural resources for humans and other species • continually performs life sustaining functions 	<p>a. Does the policy protect natural resources?</p> <p>b. How does the policy <i>minimize our ecological footprint</i>?</p>
<p>3. Social imperative of ensuring healthy communities and the development of democratic systems of governance including a commitment to social cohesion and social inclusion that will ensure that basic needs are met</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for the health of all people • Secures long-term affordable housing for all • Has respect for and recognizes the needs of a diverse population 	<p>a. How are all portions of society included or benefited?</p> <p>b. How will the quality of life be preserved or improved?</p>
<p>4. Economic imperative of ensuring a vibrant economy that operates on sustainability principles and provides for local employment and sustainable livelihoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong vibrant economy that is competitive • Offers a range of jobs • Adapts to change • Provides long-term security to the community • Recognizes social and ecological limits 	<p>a. How does the policy promote more local jobs?</p> <p>b. How does the policy <i>sustain vibrant economies where all people can realize their full potential</i>?</p>
<p>5. Cultural imperative of arts, culture and heritage, cultural assets/quality of place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is central to tourism and downtown revitalization strategies • Recognizes and appreciates cultural heritage • Stimulates economic creativity • Creates authentic urban environments 	<p>a. How does the policy preserve or develop our collective culture?</p> <p>b. What culture or cultures benefit from the policy?</p>
<p>6. Integrated Systems Thinking “Connecting the dots” between environment, economy, society and culture</p>	<p>a. How does the policy integrate the imperatives?</p> <p>b. Is the policy balanced or win-win?</p>



Sustainability Principle	Questions
7. Governance/Decision Making Intragenerational Equity, Inclusion, Dignity, Basic services, Human rights, Stakeholder voices, participatory processes	a. Who should be part of the planning process? b. Was the planning process stated and inclusive?
8. Objectives: goals, targets, performance indicators and outcomes	a. What indicators are suitable? b. What are the targets (at specific times)?
9. Amended policy ideas	a. Review the analysis from the beginning and adjust as needed. b. How else could the policy be amended to be more effective in supporting sustainable development?

2.3 Major Themes of Breakout Sessions

The breakout groups primarily discussed eleven policy areas by applying the sustainability principles and following the set of questions in the sustainable development lens (Table 1). The lens form and full instructions for the breakout sessions are included in Appendix 5.

The lens was applied to specific policies, general policy areas or visioning depending on the stage of PROPR for the policy area. Whatever level was discussed, the lens provided the structure for addressing the whole topic in terms of sustainability.

Each of the eleven policy areas were given significant input into policy development by the participants; the major finding comes from breakout session 9 which concluded that the potential planning theme of **sustainable development** for the ROP theme is forward-thinking, responsible, inclusive and comprehensive. Key messages for each group are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Key Messages

Focus Area	Key Message
Agriculture	Agriculture should be sustainable, promoting local food supply, responding to demographic changes and be economically self-sufficient.
Air Quality	Integrate clean air objectives into policies of other policy areas.
Employment Lands	Focus development on non-environmental lands so as to foster live-work lifestyle.
Energy	Require gold or platinum LEED standard for buildings to conserve energy. Develop policies to incent on-site, distributed energy generation for homes and businesses
Public Housing	Integrate public housing into transportation policy to promote economic, social and cultural development.
Integrated Waste	Increase opportunities to reduce consumption and increase

Focus Area	Key Message
Management	recycling
Managing Growth	Increase intensification and bolster with additional policies to become sustainable.
Sustainability	Formally adopt sustainable development as the theme of the ROP
Transportation	Combine transportation and land use planning so that the results are complete communities that are self-sustaining with integrated land-use, employment and transportation.
Natural Heritage	Include entire natural heritage system in core Greenlands (one step further) and move to restoration and linking islands of green.
Water Resources	Because water resource sustainability is so fundamental to social, economic and cultural well-being water resource policy should address all four pillars from a systems perspective.

Summaries of the breakout sessions are in Section 5. Full workshop notes were posted on the Region’s website after the workshop.

2.4 Closing

The final plenary session heard reports from the last six break-out teams. Participants were invited to comment on the pros and cons of the planning using a framework of sustainable development based on their use of the sustainable development lens used in the break-out sessions.

Dr. Bell recapped some of the priorities that the break-out teams had identified earlier in the day and encouraged participants with examples of how sustainable development is making a difference for good in other planning jurisdictions.

Arvin Prasad brought the workshop to a close by thanking the speakers, facilitator and staff for their efforts in preparing and setting up for the workshop. He thanked participants for their time and the insights they shared on how to amend policy to sustainably resolve the problems facing our community.

2.5 Policy/Legislation References

Three such references cited in the workshop are:

1. Places to Grow Act – and “Places to Grow: Better Choices, Brighter Future Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe” Section 2 of the Planning Act is amended by adding the following clause:
 “the promotion of development that is designed to be sustainable, to support public transit and to be oriented to pedestrians.”
2. Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) 2005 states:
“A policy-led planning system recognizes and addresses the complex inter-relationships among environmental, economic and social factors in land use planning. The Provincial Policy Statement supports a comprehensive,

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integrated and long-term approach to planning, and recognizes linkages among policy areas.”

3. “New Deal for Cities and Communities” providing Federal gas tax funds to local governments established a requirement for an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP):
"A long-term plan, developed in consultation with community members, that provides direction for the community to realize sustainability objectives it has for the environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions of its identity."

4 NEXT STEPS

Input from workshop participants and material in the Background Paper on Sustainability – by Dr. David Bell and Claude Williams, EMA, will be used to develop a Discussion Paper on Sustainability. This Paper will be used by the PROPR project team to review and develop all policy.

The PROPR project team will also use the experience gained from training and from leading breakout sessions in the workshop to apply the sustainable development ‘lens’ to all ROP policy.

5 SUMMARY

Breakout discussions are summarized in the following subsections. Note that group 8 did not meet due to the number of participants at the workshop.

5.1 – Agriculture

Discussion focused on the following policy:

Encourage Planning authorities to support long-term economic prosperity by promoting the sustainability of the agri-food sector and by protecting agricultural resources and minimizing land use conflicts. (PPS 1.7.1g)

Vision

A transition in thinking is needed to see agriculture is a part of the environment and integrated into the life of the surrounding area.

Environmental Imperative

Protecting farmland is not seen in context instead it currently looked at by itself. The result of this thinking is a focus on protecting the land with little attention given to the business of farming and MDS. The context of agriculture needs must be in the context of the countryside.

The local sustainable agricultural system would use fewer inputs, use grey water to water trees and crops, look for better ways to grow food responsibly and deliver food to market with lower carbon footprint.

Social Imperative

Locally produced food increases security (health and safety) of local food supply. Need to produce ethnic foods so that agriculture is for all of society.

Economic Imperative

Agriculture in Peel needs to transition to a countryside economy with more diverse farm sizes (more large farms and more smaller farms) with more land uses (such as pick-your-own, farm gate, farm cottages). The farms should be self-sufficient in energy, e.g. countryside-scale wind mills on each farm: possible **OP Policy** for energy self-sufficiency.

Cultural Imperative

Contribute to liveability: agriculture is part of our culture: farmers' markets, historic farmsteads, barns, rock walls and hedgerows. Create space for festivals in **OP Policy** to encourage fairs and festivals that promote countryside and their products throughout the Region.

Governance

Everyone, including farmers, should participate because everyone has an interest.

Indicators and Targets (Objectives)

Measure and publish the carbon footprint of all food so that consumers can support green. Also, report other agricultural indicators such as the number of farms with environmental protection practices and the type of farming done i.e. ethnic, organic, pick-your-own, and horse training

Key Theme

Agriculture should be sustainable, promoting local food supply, responding to demographic changes and be economically self-sufficient.

5.2 – Air Quality

The group created their own policy statement based on the following vision.

Vision

Breathable, clean air should be available for everyone.

Environmental Imperative

Change zoning to reduce parking requirement.

Optimise our resources and minimize waste and pollution (do more with less).

Create Environmental Ombudsman.

Social Imperative

Encourage all parts of society to reduce air emissions.

Economic Imperative

Encourage green technology to create new jobs and sectors

Educate on the impact of clean air on health system – clean air increases productivity

Have better land use (more compact development with live-work balance) so that no one needs to drive.

Cultural Imperative

Need education and awareness to create culture of reducing air pollution.

Integration

In principle, the policies, values and principles of the ROP translate into corporate policies

Governance

Because of the global impact we have on others and that others have on us, many groups should be involved in setting ROP including experts on air quality, agencies such as Federal, Province (MOE, MOH, MTO, Energy and Finance), local municipalities, industry, public, other countries and provinces, schools, educators and public outreach groups.

Indicators and Targets (Objectives)

Percent reduction in GHG from 1990 level

Modal split – non-auto

Key Theme

Integrate clean air objectives into policies of other policy areas.

5.3 – Employment Lands

Participants brought their own ideas and it was difficult to narrow in on the potential policies below.

- Updates to the purpose, goals and objectives of the Plan to reflect the importance of an adequate supply of employment land to support a healthy economy;
- Requirement for area municipalities to designate a specific amount of employment land in 2021 and 2031 to accommodate the Growth Plan employment forecasts;
- Requirement for a comprehensive review before conversion of employment land to non-employment uses is permitted;
- Density of new employment uses in greenfield nodes and corridors sufficient to offset low density employment in traditional industrial development such as warehousing and distribution;
- Protection of provincially strategic employment areas such as the lands surrounding Pearson Airport.

Vision

Need self-sufficient communities where living and work are close.

Environmental Imperative

- Require gold or platinum LEED standard for buildings.
- Focus development on non-environmental lands.
- Require more water retention and reuse on site.
- Land-use patterns and urban design should encourage public transit, reduce our ecological footprint.

Social Imperative

Employment is fundamental to social imperative.

Public transit (transportation demand management) integrated with companies

Economic Imperative

Encourage live-work development and lifestyle. Spin-off activities from jobs

Cultural Imperative

Local services reflect communities of area i.e. ethnic stores and services

Integration

Consider waste management for office employment: paper going into garbage

Land use around airport okay (retrofit green roofs); offices/conventions near Pearson

Look at big picture. Implement environmental buffers. Intensify areas within 407.

Governance

Land use planning should include employers, economic development staff, big land developers, members of the public, Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce.

Indicators and Targets (Objectives)

Reserve enough land to supply overall demand. Stage release of adequate sized parcels to have some choice. Maintain fiscal responsibility (tax base) – 22% non-residential in Caledon by 2031.

Percent within built boarder

Fiscal, e.g. 22% non-residential in Caledon by 2031

Phasing – phasing framework, water-sewer where required, not everywhere

Size of parcels – inventory by size: 25, 50, 100 acres

Key Theme

Focus development on non-environmental lands so as to foster live-work lifestyle

5.4 – Energy

Discussion focused on the following policy, primarily bullet points 2 and 3.

Work with the area municipalities in developing a Culture of Conservation, and implement official plan policies and other strategies that support energy conservation objectives for the following:

- Energy conservation for municipally owned facilities;
- Opportunities for alternative energy generation and distribution;
- Energy demand management to reduce energy consumption;
- Land use patterns and urban design standards that encourage and support energy-efficient buildings and opportunities for cogeneration;
- Air quality protection, including reduction in emissions from municipal and residential sources. (Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 4.2.4)

Vision

Use a wide range of approaches: voluntary, regulatory, incentives, education and awareness to reduce the amount of energy being consumed.

Environmental Imperative

A culture of conservation enables communities to use resources efficiently; minimizes wastes. Alternative energy generation and distribution could reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality

Social Imperative

It is necessary for all sectors of society to have equal opportunity for finance and access to be involved to achieve meaningful change. Reduced pollution could improve community health, increase active forms of travel (cycling and walking) and reduce obesity

Economic Imperative

Contributes to urban economy by less dependence on foreign-based fossil fuels. Open opportunities for job creation as communities initiate local projects.

Cultural Imperative

Better appreciation and raised awareness of efficient systems that benefit society. Puts a value on energy consumption and generating energy sustainably. Establish cultural norms with regard to how we generate and use our electricity.

Integration

We need to consider the full life-cycle or integrated impact of a decision to determine whether it is actually positive.

Governance

Local communities and citizen advisory groups should give input on a regular basis.

Indicators and Targets (Objectives)

All Regional buildings use 30% renewable energy through combination of on-set and grid source of green power

Amended Policy Areas

- Increase public education and community awareness around energy conservation and renewable energy (local and grid source).
- Move towards distributed generation. This requires smart meters and policies to incent on-site renewables for homes and businesses.
- Mandate LEED standards. Assist with funding for homes and commercial buildings.
- Demand response.
- Higher density communities with mixed use that supports district energy (geothermal, solar thermal, etc.).

The Region's energy management plan promotes sustainability:

- Renewable technologies
- Energy efficient product procurement
- Education, awareness and outreach to promote a culture of conservation
- GHG emission tracking and target setting
- Life-cycle costing approach
- Sustainable procurement methods

Key Themes

Require gold or platinum LEED standard for buildings to conserve energy.

Develop policies to incent on-site, distributed energy generation for homes and businesses.

5.5 – Housing

The following policies were discussed.

1. Identify, in cooperation with the area municipalities opportunities for residential redevelopment and intensification to support Regional Official Plan policies, promoting compact development and residential intensification.
2. Work with the area municipalities and the development industry to promote energy efficient technologies in new residential development and redevelopment.
3. Ensure, in cooperation with the area municipalities that housing which is diverse, flexible, affordable and compact is achieved through the use of a wide range of development incentives.

Vision

Diverse, flexible and compact housing should be available and affordable for all throughout their life (multigenerational) in the same community

Environmental Imperative

Energy efficiency technologies and intensification are needed to reduce dependency and use of cars. Residential developments need to meet energy standards.

Social Imperative

The policy helps create a sense of place. It needs to support social inclusion and mobility within a community, particularly for special needs (i.e. accessibility, etc)

Economic Imperative

The policy encourages local jobs and vibrant economy with better connection between employers and labour force. Home-based businesses should be encouraged.

Cultural Imperative

The policy promotes a better quality of place and attachment to place by allowing people to remain in the community.

Integration

There is connection between the four imperatives in these policies.

Governance

The following should be involved in planning: Regional Council, stakeholders such as aboriginal groups, ethnic groups and visible minorities, businesses, local councils, Provincial and Federal governments, people living in poverty, NGOs (United Way, Social Planning Council, advocacy groups), school boards, faith groups, education and academic community, homeless and people with special needs.

Indicators and Targets (Objectives)

- Number of households on social housing waiting list
- Percent of households spending 30% or more on housing
- Rating of services around residential areas
- Housing form mix, affordability, and tenure targets

Key Theme

Integrate public housing into transportation policy to promote economic, social and cultural development.

5.6 – Integrated Waste Management

The following policy was discussed

ROP Policy 6.4.2.2: Actively encourage, promote and *support* efforts of government, the private sector and the general public which reduce waste, or emphasize reuse, recycling (3Rs), composting and other minimization options.

Vision

High-rise buildings have greater convenience for recycling (implementation requires changing building codes and greater education).

For older buildings, need financial incentives to encourage recycling.

Cost sharing of retrofitting, e.g. owners, Region, other partners.

Businesses should be mandated to recycle.

Region could provide bins to businesses on an initial basis.

Environmental Imperative

Reduce residual waste by diversion; aspiration should include 100% diversion target.

This implies greater recycling and composting.

Should examine packaging of products, particularly using less plastic.

Education to influence consumer preference towards biodegradable packaging.

Should provide incentives to residents to aim for 100% diversion.

Social Imperative

Education: younger (school age) generation educate older generation

Economic Imperative

Reduced and environmentally friendly packaging will reallocate jobs, e.g. refill sun tan containers, discount on refills. This is outside Peel's mandate, but Region has a responsibility to promote.

Cultural Imperative

Promote a culture in which recycling is “the cool thing to do”.

Integration

Governance

All socio-economic brackets should be involved because of the business impact. All levels of government should help set broad policy framework in which implementation could be done by local groups.

Indicators and Targets (Objectives)

- Garbage reduced by 50%
- Waste diversion: 70%
- Apartments: 13%

Key Theme

Increase opportunities to reduce consumption and increase recycling.

5.7 – Managing Growth

The following policies were discussed in general terms.

ROP Policy 5.3.2.1: Define the Urban System, as shown on Schedule D, to include: all lands within the 2031 Regional Urban Boundary including lands identified and protected as part of the natural environment and resources in the preceding chapters of this Plan, Lester B. Pearson International Airport, Urban Growth Centres and Built-up Area (Modified)

ROP Policy 5.3.2.8: Ensure that by the year 2015 and for each year thereafter, a minimum of 40 per cent of all residential development occurring annually within the Region's built-up area. (New)

Vision

Can policy allow us to 'vision' what we want, not what we do not want? Policy would then be written in the negative. Recognize that policy is only first step to be superseded by future policy statement.

Environmental Imperative

Reduces pressure on environment by limiting sprawl.
Creates better opportunities for transit uses.
Helps dealing with health issues (e.g. obesity, diabetes, depression, etc).
All aspects of sustainability need to be addressed i.e. financial aspect of environment

Social Imperative

Helps achieving complete communities.
Helps achieving social integration.
Creates opportunities for more pedestrian-friendly environment.
Helps achieving live-work balance.

Economic Imperative

Can help reducing costs of infrastructure and services.
Can create opportunities for new businesses.
Improves feasibility of public transportation.

Cultural Imperative

Quality of life – all aspects.
Preserve and restore heritage buildings.
Easier access to culture.
Promotes innovative thinking.
Why is culture separate from society?

Integration

Intensification in itself does not lead to sustainability; additional policies are required.

Governance

All levels of government (federal, provincial, regional and local); general public; stakeholders; community groups; development industry; businesses; environmental

groups; and education and academic community should participate in policy development.

Indicators and Targets (Objectives)

- If in 50 years all greenfield opportunities were built-out, then 100% of growth will be in ‘built areas’. Is that when sustainability is achieved?
- Natural areas’ target should increase from 14% to 30%
- Intensification should be increased above a current target of 40% in phases reaching 70% in 15 years.
- Set non-growth targets, i.e. developmental indicators; measure outcomes not output.

Key Theme

Increase intensification and bolster with additional policies to become sustainable.

5.9 – Sustainability

The discussion of this group was on the following potential planning theme of sustainable development for the ROP:

The theme of this Plan is sustainable development. In recent years sustainable development frameworks have been formulated to provide holistic approaches to planning, action and measurement. In as much as these frameworks aim to be comprehensive by adopting the framework, the Plan will be complete and will guide the Region into becoming and remaining a sustainable community.

The framework is based on “**Prospective**” **Thinking** (futures-oriented vision) that sets intergenerational responsibility for four integrated imperatives:

1. **Ecological imperative** of living within the global biophysical carrying capacity maintains biodiversity and *minimizes our ecological footprint?*
2. **Social imperative** of ensuring healthy communities and the development of democratic systems of governance including a commitment to social cohesion and social inclusion that will ensure that basic needs are met. We are striving to have a society that *fosters respect for one another; inclusiveness, kindness and human dignity, that includes new arrivals with grace and speed; and that ensures a civil and peaceful society for all people?*
3. **Economic imperative** of ensuring a *vibrant economy* that operates on sustainability principles (eco-efficiency, pollution prevention etc.) and provides for adequate local employment and sustainable livelihoods *where all people can realize their full potential.*
4. **Cultural imperative** of arts, culture and heritage, and quality of place that will *attract and retain talented people, and encourage creativity and entrepreneurship; create buildings and public spaces that are beautiful and accessible and that will build on our distinctive human, cultural, historical and natural characteristics, where people take personal responsibility for the success of our community.*

Objectives and policies in the Plan are integrated between environment, economy, society and culture to not only balance them, but to reinforce them within each sector of the Plan. The governance and decision making that has created the plan was a participatory process that heard representatives from all stakeholder groups. Policies address implementation through direction, encouragement and collaboration of the stakeholders. Where possible, objectives have been stated with targets, performance indicators and outcomes to be achieved.

Italicized phrases are taken from the vision for sustainable communities articulated by the Prime Minister's External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities. In summary, the themes of the Plan are to care for the earth, care for each other, care for the future (and get on with action)!

Vision

The potential planning theme **sustainable development** for the ROP theme is forward-thinking, responsible, inclusive and comprehensive. The word “imperative” implies that there is not an alternative; we must act and do so urgently. It is the responsibility of planners and decision-makers to look forward, but everyone needs to build and act sustainably.

Environmental Imperative

The language in this overview section could be strengthened, i.e. “reducing” ecological footprint from current level, rather than minimizing our ecological footprint. Protect water resources. Elevate recognition on the importance of the three watersheds: CVC and TRCA strategies. Zero carbon emissions should be the goal.

Social Imperative

Include specifics such as energy and land efficiency, social interaction and civic engagement. Health is tied to all affected whether mental health, physical health, spiritual, air quality, lost time and social capital.

Economic Imperative

Economic imperative needs more description. Need fiscal initiatives to support sustainable practices.

Cultural Imperative

People want inclusive, vibrant areas, progressive. Take for granted and need to focus and celebrate diversity. Educate. We need to adjust our lifestyle expectations to a sustainable level. We talk about traffic demand management; we also need to address lifestyle demand management

Integration

Integrate considerations of all aspects of sustainability. It’s more than just balancing, look for the synergy.

Governance

Everyone should be involved

Indicators and Targets (Objectives)

Should include the need to collect data and monitor our progress. Use data to inform and adapt actions.

Key Theme

Formally adopt sustainable development as the theme of the ROP.

5.10 – Transportation

The following vision from *Metrolinx White Paper #1: Visions, Goals and Objectives* served to guide policy discussion.

“An integrated transportation system for our region that enhances prosperity, sustainability and quality of life.

A generation from now, the nine million residents of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area will use a well-integrated transportation system that supports:

A high quality of life. A high quality of life for people in this region will be our greatest motivator. Our cities, towns, suburbs and rural areas will be more liveable, with more options for getting around the whole region conveniently.

A thriving, healthy and protected environment. We will plan, establish and maintain a transportation system that conserves resources and leaves a legacy of a healthy and clean environment for our children and grandchildren.

A strong, prosperous and competitive economy. At the heart of Canada’s economy, our region will be competitive with the strongest regions in the world, based on an efficient and convenient transportation system. It will help attract and retain the best and the brightest, and make the shipping of goods and delivery of services efficient.

Vision

The vision should also relate to culture and access for all of society.

Environmental Imperative

“Healthy and clean” is not broad enough; our environment should be thriving. We must not only conserve but also protect. Transportation policy should also address dealing with emissions, conserving oil and recycling vehicles.

Social Imperative

Need choices. Need affordable, accessible and equitable transportation that meets the diverse needs of the population.

Need access.

Economic Imperative

Does not support local jobs; need to focus on complete communities
Attractive transportation system must be part of employment package

Cultural Imperative

Build transportation systems that enhance quality of place.

Integration

Should combine transportation and land use planning so that the results are complete communities that are self-sustaining with integrated land use and transportation. Integration should also be part of the design stage.

Governance

All levels of government planning, transportation agencies, private sector, other agencies, education and awareness groups, university researchers (academics and experts), public health experts (including accessibility) and all other stakeholders (environmental groups, land use, developers, bins, etc.) should be involved.

Indicators and Targets (Objectives)

Work and live in same community leads to increase in self-containment

- Services available within X kilometres (an indicator of a complete community) should increase
- Percent of people within walking distance to rapid transit should increase
- Shorter trip length means smaller carbon footprint
- Average distance of goods travelled should decrease

Modal split takes into account multiple trips and destinations; walking, cycling, carpooling, transit

- Fuel consumption in Peel should decrease
- Vehicle-kilometres traveled should decrease
- Automobile occupancy should increase
- Smart commute – number of carpools formed should increase
- Total GHG emissions and pollution should decrease
- Transit frequency should increase
- Headways (time between public transit) should decrease
- Choices of transportation available (sustainable modes) for G.M. and passengers should increase

Investment in transit infrastructure should increase

- High-occupancy-vehicle lane kilometres should increase
- Rail – kilometres of tracks should increase
- Road – kilometres

Key Theme

Combine transportation and land use planning so that the results are complete communities that are self-sustaining with integrated land-use, employment and transportation.

5.11 – Natural Heritage

The following policies were discussed.

2.1 Goal

To create and maintain a system of viable, well-functioning environmental features to ensure a healthy, resilient and self-sustaining natural environment within *Peel Region*.

Policies

It is the policy of Regional Council to:

2.1.3.2 *Protect*, maintain and enhance the quality and *integrity* of *ecosystems*, including air, water, land and biota *jointly* with the area municipalities, conservation authorities and provincial agencies.

7.6.2.4 Explore alternative methods for the study, acquisition, stewardship and *restoration* of the natural environment in *Peel*, consistent with the objectives and policies in this Plan, *jointly* with the area municipalities, conservation authorities, the Province and other agencies and groups.

Vision

Create a healthy future for Peel. A healthy environment means healthy people, culture and economy. The goal is well functioning, self-sustaining environmental systems, not just features.

Environmental Imperative

Move beyond protection of existing features and areas and consider total requirements for natural heritage system enhancement (one step further) and move to restoration and linking islands of green. Large cross-boundary ecosystems and features need protection and support at Regional level (green satellite image). Integrate with other interests (recreation, etc.).

Social Imperative

Natural capital is Peel's natural capital. We need to investment in our future Ecological goods and services (such as timber and fish) clean air, water, place of peace (social benefit) drive the economy.

Economic Imperative

Natural heritage is important for tourism and for attracting “green” business. Attract talent and residents to meet needs of labour market by enabling balanced lifestyles that include open spaces and the natural environment.

Cultural Imperative

Canada is known for its natural landscape. Nature is part of our heritage, part of our life style and part of our tourism and economy. Natural heritage encompasses natural features and includes healthy life style.

Integration

Need bold statement about integration. All components of the ROP are tied to the environment in sustainability lens. All components are part of a larger system, dependent on each other.

Governance

Governance should be an open and transparent process where all stakeholders have voice that is recorded and shared. Go out into the community to reach everyone. Region should mobilize community through local municipalities and connect Councils (Region and Local) to issues of sustainability.

Indicators and Targets (Objectives)

Goal: Preserve and protect existing natural heritage features and systems

Indicator: Number of hectares secured per year

Target: Increase securement by X hectares over time; e.g. 200 acres per year

Indicator: Amount of land in natural heritage systems; measure every three years due to availability of ortho-imagery

Target: No net loss forever

Goal: Increase natural cover through restoration

Indicator: Area and health – measure every 3 years for area and 5 years for health
% forest cover
% wetland

Target: How much habitat is enough? Guidelines from MOE represent current science

Key Theme

Protect existing natural heritage features and areas, include greater consideration for natural heritage system planning and move to restoration and linking islands of green.

5.12 – Water Resources

The following policy was discussed:

Water resources in *Peel* are comprised of complex interrelated systems such as aquifers, *groundwater recharge and discharge areas*, rivers, streams, ponds, *wetlands* and lakes. These systems interact through the hydrological cycle which is a combination of precipitation, runoff, percolation, evaporation and discharge. Groundwater and surface water are important regional resources. Not only do these resources supply drinking water, they also play a vital role in maintaining *ecosystem integrity*.

The sustained social, economic and environmental well-being of *the region* is dependent on the proper protection, management and conservation of *Peel's* water resources and related natural systems. Water resources are also important for *recreation*, agriculture and industrial purposes.

3.4.1 Objectives

The following policies were discussed

3.4.1.1 To *protect*, maintain and enhance the quantity and quality of water resources for the supply of potable water and maintenance of *ecosystem integrity* in *Peel*.

3.4.1.2 To eliminate or minimize negative potential land use impacts on *headwater* recharge and discharge areas, groundwater aquifers, producing wells, stream base flow, surface water, downstream aquatic systems and related natural systems.

3.4.1.3 To increase the collective knowledge of water resources in and adjacent to *Peel* through the study, analysis and monitoring of these resources.

3.4.1.4 To promote public awareness and education initiatives with respect to the protection and conservation of water resources.

Vision

Systems perspective is not as clear as it could be - need clear explanation of “ecosystem integrity”.

Environmental Imperative

In terms of minimizing ecological footprint the policy and objectives need to reflect conservation, reduction and reuse of resources (i.e. emerging sustainability imperative).

Social Imperative

Objectives should be clearer for social benefits (e.g. public health), addressing “safe” potable water, ecosystem and “social” integrity in the vision/preamble.

Economic Imperative

Economic imperative is missing from the objectives.

Cultural Imperative

Cultural pillar is missing from the vision/preamble and objectives

Integration

Because water resource sustainability is so fundamental to social, economic and cultural well-being it should address all four pillars from a systems perspective. Currently, integration is completely missing from policy or is not clearly stated.

Governance

Official Plan should state very clear responsibilities for the Region, lower-tier municipalities and developers and have responsibilities for residents and neighbouring municipalities. Other participants include the provincial (MMAH, MOE, MNR, etc) and federal government (Great Lakes), other stakeholders (e.g. focus groups, Source Protection Committee, etc) and the general public.

Indicators and Targets (Objectives)

Objectives should provide clear targets and there should be policy requiring monitoring and enforcement to ensure measurable targets are being met - policy is too vague.

There is solid rationale to require performance targets in development approvals at a local level. The possibility of performance targets at a regional official plan level is more challenging (what indicators and targets can we use for Regional water resource health and can they be measured, monitored and enforced at a Regional level?).

Some possible targets:

- By 2031 there will be no significant drinking water threats in vulnerable source water protection areas.
- By 2031 80% of summer swimming season will have no beach postings.
- By 2031 or beyond the Region will have a protected target natural heritage system as identified through accepted studies (target could be stated in hectares so that it is specific)

The regional and area municipal official plans need to have adaptive environmental management policies with objectives, targets, monitoring and enforcement so that performance results can feedback to subsequent stages of development.

Key Theme

Because water resource sustainability is so fundamental to ecological, social, economic and cultural well-being water resource policy should address all four pillars from a systems perspective.

APPENDIX 1: WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations that Attended the June 6, 2008 Workshop

Brampton Environmental Community Advisory Panel
Bullfrog Power
Caledon Countryside Alliance
City of Brampton
City of Mississauga
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Credit Valley Conservation Authority
DPRA Canada
Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
EMA Canada
Gagnon Law Bozzo Urban Planners
GHK Consulting
Greater Toronto Agricultural Action Committee
Learning for a Sustainable Future
Malone Given Parsons
MMM Group
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs
Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ontario Ministry of Natural Environment
Ontario Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Renewal
Ontario Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities
Ontario Ministry of Transportation
Peel Police
Pitura Husson
Region of Halton
Region of Peel
Royal LePage
SHS Consulting
Sierra Club of Canada
Solmar Development
Sustainable Urban Development Association
The Planning Partnership
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Totten Sims Hubicki Associates
Town of Caledon
University of Toronto Mississauga Campus



**APPENDIX 2: SUSTAINABILITY IN PEEL: A PEEL PERSPECTIVE –
BY ARVIN PRASAD**

**APPENDIX 3: MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING – BY DR.
DAVID BELL**

**APPENDIX 4: PLANNING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR PEEL
REGION – BY DR. DAVID BELL**

APPENDIX 5: WORKSHOP MATERIALS

APPENDIX 6: SPEAKER BIOS AND AGENDA

1.1 Speakers

Claude Williams, the consultant project manager for the PROPR sustainability project, has approximately thirty years of experience working for EMA in planning and design and has acted as project manager for several projects. He has worked primarily in the water and wastewater treatment industries. Claude was the project manager for developing the Strategic Technology and Automation Master Plan (STAMP) for Peel Region's Water and Wastewater departments and facilitated many of workshops in that project. He has facilitated over 30 structured workshops on a wide range of topics in the last three years.

Dr. David Bell, B.A., A.M., Ph. D., Political Science, the principal researcher for the PROPR sustainability project, is responsible for working with the Region staff to research sustainability issues for the review of the official plan. He will be the content expert in the sustainability workshop, presenting the research resulting and will author the sustainability papers

David has extensive experience related to sustainability (especially in the urban/community and the transportation sectors), multi-stakeholder facilitation, and sustainability strategic planning. Some projects that show the range of David's experience:

- York Region – David served as Chair/Facilitator of the Towards Sustainability in York Region Advisory Group and was the principal author of the final report.
- City of Toronto - David was a member of the Environmental Task Force of the City of Toronto (1998 – 2000) and the Toronto Sustainability Round Table (2000 – 2003). David chaired the SRT Governance Working Group.
- ORTEE Transportation Collaborative (1994-95) – David chaired the Working Group of more than 30 stakeholders who (over the course of more than a year of intensive meetings supported by extensive background research studies) reached consensus on a strategy to substantially reduce GHG emissions in the Ontario transportation sector. David also chaired the ORTEE community sustainability working group.
- VCR – David chaired the Technical Advisory Group of the Voluntary Challenge and Registry (established to promote and record reductions in energy use in the public and private sectors across Canada) from its inception throughout its 5 year span.
- NRTEE – David was an active member of the National Round Table on Environment and the Economy and served on the Executive during the period that the NRTEE devised a scenario for reducing Canada's GHG production by 60% by 2050.
- PDP – As Chair of the Board of Parc-Downsview-Park David played a key role in ensuring that sustainability became a core value and key element of the Vision of



this Crown Corporation. Under his chairmanship PDP developed its Sustainable Community Development Guidelines.

- York University Sustainability Task Force – David served on this group which developed recommendations (including key indicators) for setting York University on a more sustainable path with respect to waste, water usage, energy etc.
- LSF – as a long standing Board member (and now Chair) of Learning for a Sustainable Future (www.lsf-lst.ca), David has encouraged the development of and provided input into learning and teaching materials related to all aspects of sustainability.
- Canadian Secretariat for the WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002) – David (with the assistance of Michelle Grinstein) prepared a background paper on “Sustainable Urban Communities in Canada: from Rio to Johannesburg.”

1.2 Workshop Agenda

Start	Minutes	Item	Notes
8:30	30	Continental Breakfast and Registration Refine the definitions of sustainability and sustainable development posted on easels.	
9:00	5	Welcome	Nick Tunnacliffe (Executive Director, Environment, Planning and Transportation Services, Region of Peel)
9:05	15	Purpose and Objectives of the workshop and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief walk through of agenda • Introductions 	Claude Williams (Facilitator)
9:20	20	Presentation – Sustainability in Peel: A Peel Perspective	Arvin Prasad (Director, Planning Policy and Research Division, ETPS, Region of Peel)
9:40	45	Small group session #1 Discuss priorities and vision for the Region.	
10:25	15	BREAK	
10:40	15	Small group session #1 report to plenary	Cue Cards to be read out by Claude
10:55	30	Presentation – Municipal Sustainability Planning	Dr. David Bell
11:25	60	Small group session #2 For each sustainability lens concept area (social, cultural, economic, environmental, and integration)	



Start	Minutes	Item	Notes
12:05	20	Small group session #2 report to plenary Six teams will present (4-5 minutes each)	
12:25	60	LUNCH and walk	
12:50		nature walk in groups led by Peel Staff	
1:25	30	Presentation - Planning a Sustainable Future for Peel Region	Dr. David Bell
1:55	45	Small group session # 3 Review policy area for governance, indicators- targets and other observations	
2:40	15	BREAK	
2:55	25	Plenary Session Remainder of teams present (4-5 minutes each):	
3:20	25	Final Plenary discussion on using sustainable development as a framework for the official plan review.	Claude Williams (Facilitator)
3:45	5	Perspective	Dr. David Bell
3:50	15	Wrap-up	Arvin Prasad

APPENDIX 7: RESULTS OF EVALUATION SURVEY

How would you rate the following:					
	Number of responses				
	Excellent	Very good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
Workshop overall	1	11	2		
Facilitation		12	2		
Breakout sessions	3	8	3		
Venue	7	4	2		1
Presentations	2	10	2		

The workshop was very informative:	
	Number of responses
Strongly Agree	2
Agree	9
Not sure	2
Disagree	
Strongly Disagree	

The workshop lived up to my expectations:	
	Number of responses
Strongly Agree	2
Agree	7
Not sure	4
Disagree	
Strongly Disagree	

In your view, what was the main highlight of the workshop?
Response
Learning about the Region's plans and key stakeholders ideas for adding value to the plan.
I liked the breakout sessions, but my impression was this workshop would be informing participants about the initiatives versus asking for our opinion
The provision of information through excellent presentations and the ability to develop ideas through breakout sessions.
Sustainability is on the forefront of planning.
Keynote remarks by Arvin Prasad got the day off to a good start. Set the tone.
Discussion period and getting ideas from those around the table.
The Breakout Sessions were very interesting and gave opportunity for people to provide their input to the Region.
It informed everyone of the Region's planning initiatives. Many were not aware
Breakout sessions and presentations
David Bell gives a very interesting lecture. The other people in the room were very interesting as well. Great diversity of invitees
No changes. Everything went great.
Framework forced us to look at the different aspects of sustainability

