



A Climate Action Plan for North Bay

An aerial photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, showing a dense cluster of skyscrapers and buildings along a waterfront. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue. The image is partially obscured by a white diagonal shape on the right side of the slide.

Climate

In 2019, the City Council of the time voted not to declare a climate emergency. How would this council vote today given what you have witnessed in the past four years?

Climate: Thinking Globally/Acting Locally

- ▶ There are many things that the City of North Bay can do to combat climate change and improve our local environment
- ▶ As you will see from our presentation, the city has already developed a number of plans which point us in the right direction. We would like to reinforce some of the ideas in those plans

Climate

- ▶ The 2023 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan states that the Plan “...will continue to guide the organization [the City] as it embeds environmental awareness into the City’s processes and decision-making in order to minimize its carbon footprint on the environment while meeting social and economic responsibilities.”
- ▶ Sometime soon, could you give examples of how this embedding is occurring? Could you consider embedding environmental awareness amongst your stakeholders?





Climate

We fully support the goals of the Plan, in particular:

- ▶ **3. Establish a Sustainable Buildings Program**
- ▶ **a. Develop a Sustainable Building Policy.**
- ▶ **b. Complete 2 Building Energy Studies targeted on major energy consumers with potential for significant improvement over the next 5 years.**
- ▶ **c. Integrate Sustainable Building Best Practices into all new building construction and retrofit projects.**
- ▶ **d. Improve utilization of Building Automation Systems(BAS) where available**
- ▶ **e. Investigate feasibility of a corporate wide open protocol BAS**
- ▶ **f. Identify peak demand for development of peak demand management strategies**
- ▶ **g. Include major departments and Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABC's)**
- ▶ **h. Improve energy efficiency for new and existing residential and commercial buildings in the community.**

Climate - Additional Ideas



- ▶ Low Cost Green Loans for Homeowners to retrofit
- ▶ Expand the City's Grow Our Canopy program
- ▶ No trade offs for required green space in new developments



Emergency

Communicate more and better with the public about emergency preparedness:

- ▶ Who's in charge?
- ▶ What areas are flood prone?
- ▶ What risks do we have from wildfires?
- ▶ Where should people go in an emergency?
- ▶ What concerns do the public have about local emergency preparedness?
- ▶ There is very limited information on the City website, mainly dealing with traditional fire services and their organizational chart



Transportation

First and foremost, council should follow the North Bay Active Transportation Master Plan as a guide for expanding active mobility in existing and developing neighborhoods.

1. The plan was implemented in 2019. The plan was developed with a scope of 25 years with five 5 year phases. Phase One – Plan Administration and Communication - is to be completed by 2024. Will there be a report on phase one?
2. Phase 2 - Neighbourhood and Inner City Connectivity – work is to begin in 2024. As much of the recent housing development is outside of the city core (e.g., Airport Hill), could the planning department report on how neighbourhood connectivity is factored into the approvals of expanding subdivisions?



Transportation

3. Given the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, we believe the city should consider accelerating the timeline of their active transportation plan

4. Ask residents what would increase their use of active transportation options and seek ways to encourage and promote more use of public transportation.



Parks and Green Space

How we develop and manage green space is also a key element in combatting climate change . Here are some things to consider.

1. **How accessible is green space to all residents? Consider requesting a staff report on this metric and determining where we fall short.**
2. **Remove school playgrounds from the Parks Master Plan since many schools have been closed and several have little or no vegetation.**
3. **Report on progress in implementing the Big Ideas in the Parks Master Plan, especially Eco-Mobility Connectivity, Green Growth, Activated Lakefronts, Natural Landscapes, Amenities Supporting Atmosphere and Activity and Equitable Access to Park and Lake Access**
4. **Develop a land use plan for Marsh Drive to limit the number of informal trails, reduce erosion to Chippewa Creek, monitor firepits**



Clean Air

What we can do:

1. Examine new industrial projects for how they would affect air quality before incentivizing
2. Increase tree canopy in low canopy areas
3. Update our idling by-law to be a city-wide law with increased fines & enforcement.
4. Add the idling by-law to the good neighbour handbook and provide further public education.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a clear green plastic bottle with a blue cap. The bottle is being held over a yellow recycling bin, which is part of a larger recycling station. The background is blurred, showing other recycling bins and a blue sky. The image is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping a white background.

Waste

The City has developed a Waste Diversion Strategy report. We support the following from that report:

- ▶ ban on blue box recyclables in curbside garbage (p.18)
- ▶ leaf pick-up
- ▶ Establishment of a wood reuse area at the landfill
- ▶ Implementation of a backyard composting program (pg.22)
- ▶ Drywall diversion program (pg. 23)
- ▶ Subsidy for cloth diapers, wipes, reusable paper towels (pg. 24)
- ▶ directly communicate new initiatives with local groups (pg. 15), e.g. NEW. We would be happy to help spread the word



Housing

The Official Plan includes “In all situations, growth and development will be encouraged to locate within existing built up areas that have existing or planned infrastructure.”

▶ **“4.5 Sustainability in Urban Design”**

The City of North Bay encourages energy efficiency and sustainability in design at all levels. New lot creation and subdivisions should give regard to energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities. The City supports sustainable neighbourhoods that employ improved insulation, energy star rated equipment and appliances, maximization of the use of passive and active solar energy, light harvesting, geothermal heat extraction, district heating and other forms of renewable energy that can show that they do not create other community issues with noise and/or air quality. Through good planning over the past four decades, the City of North Bay has achieved an enviable mix and location of employment, residential and commercial lands. In addition to these critical areas, sufficient lands have been set aside for Parks and Institutional areas. All of the above land designations have been purposefully distributed within the City’s Settlement Area in a manner that creates a live/work/play balance (Appendix C). By way of an Active Transportation Strategy these same designations are linked by way of public transit and pedestrian/cycling trails.”

- ▶ How is the City encouraging and/or incentivizing developers to build houses that are energy efficient, renewable, employ district energy provision within the Settlement Area?
- ▶ Change tax breaks for unoccupied properties and vacant land.



2007 call for pesticide bylaw
Nipissing Environment Watch established 1989

<https://nipenviro.ca>

