

## Introduction

The Canada, Ontario, AMO, City of Toronto Agreement for the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues under the New Deal for Cities and Communities is an Agreement that allows municipalities to tailor funding to their local needs and places responsibility on municipalities to meet its requirements.

Section 8.2 of the Municipal Funding Agreement (MFA) requires municipalities over the life of the MFA to develop or enhance an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP).

An ICSP is defined in the MFA as:  
*A long-term plan, developed in consultation with community members that provides direction for the community to realize sustainability objectives, including environmental, culture, social and economic objectives.*

This Backgrounder offers guidance on how municipalities can demonstrate the principles of the MFA's ICSP requirement and is endorsed by the Oversight Committee responsible for managing the implementation of the federal gas tax program.

The principles that should be demonstrated to meet the ICSP requirement are:

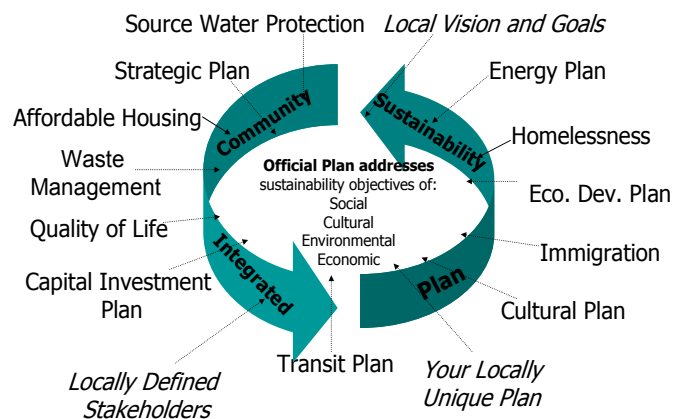
- *a co-ordinated approach to community sustainability (e.g., linkages of various plans, planning and financial tools that contribute to sustainability objectives);*
- *reflected and integrated social, cultural, environmental and economic sustainability objectives in community planning;*

- *collaborated with other Municipalities where appropriate to achieve sustainability objectives; and;*
- *engaged residents in determining a long-term vision for the Municipality.*

The Oversight Committee has agreed that a municipal official plan can demonstrate the principles of the ICSP. In the case of municipalities without an official plan, municipalities will need to demonstrate through another document the principles of an ICSP.

While the official plan may meet the requirements for demonstrating an ICSP, a municipality may also take this opportunity to enhance sustainability through other plans or initiatives. A number of municipalities have prepared plans that go beyond legislative requirements of the *Planning Act*. These plans complement the Official Plan and deal in more depth with specific issues that are relevant to local context. This benefits the municipality by providing more strategic, sustainable direction over the long term.

The following chart provides examples of the other types of plans supportive of the ICSP principles.



## Suggested Steps to Meet the ICSP Requirement

1. *Take stock of plans and show how they create a sustainable community.* To demonstrate the ICSP principles, it is suggested that the municipality take stock of the plans it already has in place and then describe how the municipality is knitting together the various municipal plans to create a sustainable municipality. In addition to land use plans, these could include plans for financial, social and cultural aspects of the community to create a sustainable municipality.
2. *Linkage to capital investment plan.* Reference how the capital investment plan links to the ICSP. The four pillars of sustainability are: economic, environmental, social and cultural. Municipal infrastructure plays a key role in not only environmental sustainability but also economic sustainability. Demonstrating a linkage between a capital investment plan and ICSP fits with the principles of coordination and collaboration.

## What if we want to do more?

If a municipality wishes to build or enhance upon existing plans federal gas tax revenue can be used to fund this work through the capacity building provision of the MFA.

In support of those who wish to do more, AMO will be undertaking to develop a detailed guide over the fall of 2007.

AMO is also working on profiling municipal experience, through case studies, in developing

integration between the various types of plans found within a municipality as well as addressing sustainability challenges and regional considerations.

## How will municipalities demonstrate they have met the ICSP requirement?

AMO will expand the municipal annual expenditure reporting module to provide municipalities with an opportunity to demonstrate how they have met the ICSP provision. Further details will be made available in time for 2007 municipal reporting.

## Resources

The following is a preliminary list of resources to assist municipalities to start researching ICSPs.

### Municipal

#### Associations/Provincial/Territorial

Association of Urban Municipalities of Alberta  
<http://msp.munilink.net/>

Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
<http://sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca/infraguide/>

Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
<http://ubcm.fileprosite.com/content/pdf/storage/B4D39F912A3D4798B286D4129AAB4896-ICSPProgramGuide.pdf>

Yukon Government  
[http://www.infrastructure.gov.yk.ca/gas\\_tax/docs/icsp\\_template.pdf](http://www.infrastructure.gov.yk.ca/gas_tax/docs/icsp_template.pdf)

### Government of Canada

Infrastructure Canada's Research Gateway



[http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/research-recherche/index\\_e.shtml](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/research-recherche/index_e.shtml)

Sustainable Community Plan - Canada  
Mortgage and Housing Corporation

<http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/inpr/su/sucopl/wykoiyso/index.cfm>

Sustainable Community Indicators Program –  
Environment Canada -

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/soer-ree/english/scip/default.cfm>

Centre for Sustainable Infrastructure Research  
- National Research Council

[http://irc.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/csir/index\\_e.html](http://irc.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/csir/index_e.html)

### **Non-Governmental Organizations**

Natural Step

<http://www.naturalstep.ca/>

Global Footprint Network

<http://www.footprintnetwork.org/>

Canadian Sustainability Indicators Network

<http://www.csin-rcid.ca/>

