



Where we started

Council endorsed the town's first Environmental Strategic Plan (ESP) in December 2005 and an update was completed in 2011. As the result of a recommendation in the ESP, an Environmental Indicators Program and the first State of the Environment Report (SOER) were developed in 2008. Measuring aspects of the environment can help residents, staff and Council better understand our impact and how we can take action.

As part of our ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability, the SOER is updated every year and focuses on the six goals related to the town's ESP:

- Goal 1** To sustain and enhance our natural environment
- Goal 2** To reduce our resource consumption and waste production
- Goal 3** To establish and support an environmentally friendly transportation network
- Goal 4** To create and support a healthy resilient community
- Goal 5** To foster environmental stewardship through education and community involvement
- Goal 6** To lead in applying best environmental management practices

An **SOER report card** can be found on the next page.

The value of State of the Environment reporting

As the saying goes "what gets measured gets managed". The SOER assists staff and Council to determine priorities for the environment and gives us information on the programs we're implementing. It provides quantitative data to residents and our community on how the town's environment is faring, what actions the town is taking and what we can do. For schools and educators, the SOER can act as a springboard for school projects, teaching concepts or developing school based projects. In general the better our data, the better our choices.

For more information on the State of the Environment Report or any of Oakville's many other environmental initiatives, please visit our website at: www.oakville.ca/environment.htm or contact us at 905-845-6601 or by email at environment@oakville.ca

State of the Environment Report 2012 Report Card

INDICATOR	STATUS	WHAT IT IS	NOTES
Goal 1: To sustain and enhance our natural environment			
Greenspace and biodiversity		Publicly owned greenspace; Trees planted by town staff; Total suspended solids (aquatic)	The town is in a good position with 2,414 ha of public greenspace as of 2011, however, population increases are causing a decrease in per capita values. Likewise, the town enjoys a tree canopy cover of 29% and while tree planting continues by both staff and volunteers, Emerald Ash Borer and other invasives are creating gaps in the urban forest. For aquatic health, total suspended solid levels
Air quality		Average annual ground level ozone; PM _{2.5} ; 24 hour exceedances	Ozone showing very moderate increases since 2004 and PM _{2.5} climbing since 2009.
Water quality		Mean chloride and phosphorus in creeks	Chloride generally decreasing in all creeks and all are within PWQO standards. Phosphorus increasing in in Fourteen and Sixteen Mile Creeks since 2009 and all
Climate change		Local annual precipitation and seasonal temperatures	Generally decreasing precipitation and increasing seasonal temperatures following climate change model predictions for province.
Goal 2: To reduce or resource consumption and waste reduction			
Energy conservation		Gas and electricity use by sector and per capita	Per capita residential gas use showing increase over 2010 while electricity use continues to decline and is now at 2004 levels. Due to population increases,
Solid waste		Waste and recycling per capita and totals	Residential per capita waste declined slightly and waste diverted remains
Water conservation			DATA NOT AVAILABLE
Goal 3: To establish and support an environmentally friendly transportation network			
Transit		Oakville Transit trips per capita and average cost per passenger trip	Transit use continues to increase since service improvements introduced in fall 2008 and costs per passenger trip have shown a very minor increase since 2009
Transportation choices		Personal vehicle ownership	Per capita personal vehicle ownership continues to climb.
Goal 4: To create and support a healthy resilient community			
Green space access		Garden plot rentals; Adopt-a programs; kms of trails; outdoor recreational facility space	Adopt-a program participation rates are showing moderate increases, garden plot rentals remain steady and per capita outdoor recreation facility space has been
Green development		Housing completions; Building permits	Housing completions are moving towards more dense levels with townhouse development outpacing single family home construction at 66.4% vs 33.6%. Building permits issued continues to climb since 2009, and in 2011 gains were
Goal 5: To foster environmental stewardship through education and community involvement			
Environmental outreach events		Number of outreach events by town staff	Environmental outreach and education events by town staff declined slightly but increases were seen in the number of larger events and number of participants.
EcoSchools		EcoSchools certification	EcoSchools continues to be a positive program within the school boards, however, declines were seen in 2011 primarily in the bronze category.
Goal 6: To lead in applying best environmental management practices			
Innovative programs		General statistics on new programs	Implementation of new programs increasing.
ESP implementation		Implementation progress	Implementation of the updated ESP is ongoing.

LEGEND: No change Improving Worsening