



Town of Riverview Sustainability Priorities

MAY 2024



Background

In September, 2015, The Town of Riverview adopted their Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP), as presented by the Envision Riverview Committee, appointed by the mayor of the day, who were tasked with developing a framework that would guide policies and actions to help the Town prosper and thrive into the future. The ICSP presented tangible targets that the Town of Riverview council, staff, and community should work towards in the years ahead. The vision for the plan was researched, discussed and the community at large was consulted to form the plans and actions outlined in the ICSP.

Eight years after the plan was established, the Town of Riverview's newly formed Community Engagement team set to work to determine how many of the outcomes envisioned in the ICSP came to fruition, what aspects are still awaiting action, which initiatives are no longer relevant, and what new priorities should be added.



Recommendations for Future Actions

The vision of the Town's ICSP identified 12 strategic priority areas, and within each area, specific actions were determined to help bring about success in that area.

After consulting with Town of Riverview staff and community partners, conducting independent research, and offering a survey to residents capturing their views and actions regarding sustainable practices, the Town's Community Engagement Team gathered enough data to make many notable conclusions, and to reach the following recommendations for future efforts by the Town to continue towards sustainability.

In analysing the ICSP and its diverse listing of 12 priority areas, it is noted that many of the action items often overlapped, while several priority areas have received attention in other established plans and initiatives outside of the ICSP. As a result, the Community Engagement team streamlined the priority areas into 5 main areas of focus identified as requiring further attention and focus in the years ahead to continue moving the Town towards solidifying its future sustainability.



1 Sustainability Priority Area

ENERGY REDUCTION

Out of the 12 priority areas identified in the original ICSP, this priority was one of the least actioned areas however, it is the area that must rise to the top of the priorities. With the increasing need to reduce our carbon footprint, and with federally established targets for GHG emission reductions looming, we must act quickly to further reduce Riverview's energy consumption.

Actions identified in this priority area include:

- Finalize a Community Energy & Emissions Plan for the Town of Riverview.
- Create a Corporate Energy & Emissions Plan for the Town of Riverview.
- Create an EV Charging Station Plan for the Town of Riverview.
- Report annually on emission reductions within the Town.
- Submit CEEP to the Partners for Climate Protection as completion of Milestone 3.
- Implement the CEEP, including monitoring and reporting results.
- Develop a Sustainable Procurement Policy.
- Focus on energy reduction projects.



2 Sustainability Priority Area

FOOD SECURITY & LITERACY

The ICSP Priority Area of “Local Food” managed to see achievement of just over half of the actions that were envisioned, however, food security and literacy continues to be a growing concern in our community. With the dramatic increase in food costs, the impact on Riverview residents has been significant. The Albert County Food Bank reported a staggering 77.5% increase in food bank usage from 2021 to 2023, which highlights the importance of focusing on food security to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future.

Actions identified in this priority area include:

- Prioritize building capacity for local food and healthy eating for future Sustainability Microgrant applications.
- Establish a community garden in the west side of Riverview.
- Continue to offer subsidized garden plot access for food bank clientele.
- Continue to partner with the foodbank to share fresh produce from the Community Garden.
- Continue to promote and provide food literacy initiatives.
- Consider limiting fast, highly processed food vendors and restaurants.
- Encourage schools to buy local foods.



3 Sustainability Priority Area

NATURE – BIODIVERSITY & HABITAT PROTECTION

With increased population growth and the associated development that comes with that growth, protecting the natural biodiversity in our area is of the utmost importance. To date, the Town of Riverview has achieved many of the actions that were laid out in the original ICSP, and the Town prides itself on being “Close to Nature”, therefore, protecting the biodiversity that exists within the town must remain high on the sustainability priority list.

Actions identified in this priority area include:

- Continue with public education on the importance of protecting biodiversity.
- Continue to support initiatives protecting the biodiversity of the Town.
- Continue to identify and preserve green space.
- Develop a conservation policy and regulation around tree preservation.
- Continue to identify and protect areas of scenic, environmental and wildlife habitat value.
- Continue to promote negligible impact nature activities.
- Continue to enhance trail signage and maps, as more protected spaces are identified.
- Prioritize biodiversity and habitat protection projects for future Sustainability Microgrant applications.
- Evaluate banning the use of aesthetic and residential chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- Consider implementing an urban forest strategy to manage tree cover and reduce flooding risks.
- Consider implementing residential water meters.

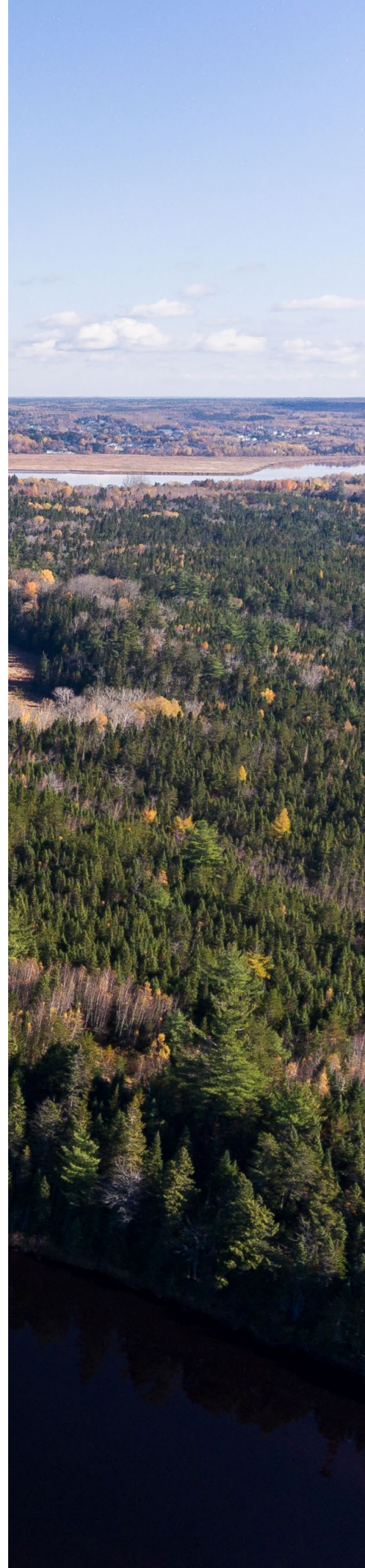
4 Sustainability Priority Area

TRANSPORTATION – HEALTHY, AFFORDABLE & CONVENIENT

While much has been accomplished towards the actions outlined in the Transportation area of the ICSP, there is still work to be done. Figures from Codiak Transpo illuminate the fact that more residents are choosing to access public transportation. To that effect, it is important that ridership continues to trend upwards and that residents continue to become aware of the various alternative transportation options available to them within the Town of Riverview.

Actions identified in this priority area include:

- Continue to develop, implement, support, promote and seek public input for the Town of Riverview's Active Transportation Plan.
- Complete an updated Active Transportation map for the Town of Riverview.
- Continue to make improvements to public transportation services.
- Collaborate on the development of a Tri-Community map of Active Transportation.
- Ensure safe and efficient accessibility for non-motorized transportation.
- Prioritize projects that promote public and active transportation for future Sustainability Microgrant applications.



5 Sustainability Priority Area

WASTE REDUCTION

While some actions outlined in the ICSP regarding waste reduction have occurred, much is left to be done to divert as much waste as possible from the landfill thus, ensuring our sustainability.

Actions identified in this priority area include:

- Determine if the Town of Riverview's corporate waste can be calculated and formulate a plan to promote waste separation at Town owned facilities.
- Continue to promote the impact of waste to residents.
- Consider completing a lifecycle assessment of major material purchases for municipal operations & implement a strategy to reduce waste.
- Promote awareness of Eco360 tours.
- Continue to promote the use of reusable water bottles and coffee mugs.
- Evaluate ways to further reduce waste at community events and programs.
- Encourage multi-unit buildings, schools, and institutions to separate at source.
- Prioritize waste reduction projects for future Sustainability Microgrant applications.

**"THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE IS TO CREATE IT."
- PETER DRUCKER -**





**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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