

**GREENING
THE HILL**
Our Community
Our Future

Environment Strategy 2021 Accomplishments

Richmond Hill's Environment Strategy, *Greening the Hill: Our Community, Our Future*, was approved by Council in 2014. Based on community and stakeholder input, *Greening the Hill* outlines Richmond Hill's vision and plan to become a more environmentally sustainable community. This document highlights achievements from the Environment Strategy in 2021.



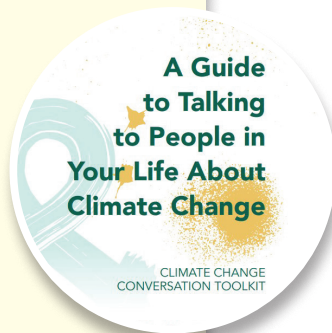
**Saving
Water at
Elgin West**

Richmond Hill continues to reduce water consumption and save money in our facilities. Funded in part through the York Region Water for Tomorrow program, the City upgraded the water level control system at the Elgin West Community Centre in 2021. These improvements will result in costs savings of more than \$100,000 and water savings of over 21 million litres per year!



**Planning
for a
Low Carbon
Future**

In 2021, the City released its first Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) – **Richmond Hill's Path to a Low Carbon Future**. Developed in consultation with residents, businesses and community partners, the CEEP will guide community efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) and conserve energy, with a goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. To accompany the CEEP, the City released a conversation toolkit called **A Guide to Talking to People in Your Life about Climate Change**. This made-in-Richmond Hill resource, co-created by and for members of the community, provides information, tips, and Richmond Hill-specific data to inspire local climate action.



**Putting
Waste in the
Right Place**

Over the past two years, Richmond Hill, in partnership with York Region, has taken great strides to reduce the amount of unrecyclable items that end up in the blue box. Through its resident education and enforcement program, the City provided helpful tips through its Waste Management Calendar, website, social media, Recycle Coach app, outreach events, road signs and media products. The City and its waste collector also used educational stickers and door hangers to inform residents about what waste goes where. As a result, the blue box contamination rate dropped from 21.7% in 2019 to 13.8% in 2020 – an almost 8% reduction!





Building a ClimateWise City

Richmond Hill continues to collaborate with the ClimateWise Business Network to encourage local businesses to reduce their energy consumption and increase efficiency. In 2021, the City was recognized with the **Mayors' Energy Challenge Advocate Award** for encouraging businesses to participate in the Energy and Water Benchmarking Reporting program. Richmond Hill also walked the talk by participating in the Mayor's Energy Challenge, and was recognized with the **Lowest Energy Use Intensity Leader Award** for our main Municipal Offices under the ClimateWise Business Network's Mayors' Energy Challenge Program.



Taking Advantage of Green Funding

In 2021, the City continued to provide high quality, environmental projects, programs and services to the community while reducing costs through grants and funding partnerships, including:

- the ICLEI Advancing Adaptation Project to address the impacts of climate change as part of the revitalization of Minthorn Park;
- the IESO to achieve energy savings from the installation of a smart lighting control system for our streetlights;
- the York Region Water for Tomorrow program for water efficiency upgrades at the Elgin West Community Centre; and
- funding from Alexicon for the installation of a replacement Level 2 charge station at the Operations Centre.



Measuring our Progress

Richmond Hill released its first Environmental Scorecard in 2021. The Scorecard provides a snapshot of environmental progress from the first five years of Environment Strategy implementation (2015-2019). Through indicators focused on greening our consumption, greening our natural spaces and greening our growth, the Scorecard illustrates positive environmental trends and opportunities for future improvement. Over the next decade, we will continue to monitor, analyze and report progress through the Scorecard in five-year intervals. To view the Scorecard, visit RichmondHill.ca/Greening.



Watch for these environmental projects in 2022!

- Environment Strategy Update
- Parks Plan Update
- Completion of phase 2 restoration tree plantings at David Dunlap Observatory Park
- Headwater Pond and Silverland Pond sediment removal and restoration projects
- Energy efficiency upgrades at the Central Library



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RichmondHill.ca/Environment

