

## Strategic Pillar for Change



# Living Green

A close-up photograph showing several pairs of hands holding small green seedlings with soil. The hands belong to different people, suggesting a community effort. The background is dark and out of focus.

Visionary Action

Strategic Goals

Actions

# green

We will transform Mississauga into a “net-zero” carbon city to become a leader in green initiatives by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our city.

Transforming Mississauga to a net-zero carbon city is a long-term goal, one shared by several cities (including Melbourne, Australia and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates). No large urban city has achieved true zero-carbon so far, and this ambitious action will no doubt take decades to achieve. However, Mississauga has already taken steps to move in a more sustainable direction and create a net-zero city

corporation, a shorter-term target. We have partnered in various initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including the City Clean Strategy, City Smog Alert Response Plan, and Mississauga Anti-Idling Awareness Campaign. This visionary action will build on such current work, with the goal of creating a net-zero carbon city that will improve the quality of the environment and the health of Mississauga's citizens.



INDICATORS OF PROGRESS	2006 BASE DATA
Tons/percentage of carbon emissions reduction.	In progress
Percentage of energy used from renewable energy sources.	In progress
Number of cubic metres of water used per person.	107 m <sup>3</sup>
Number of buildings achieving City-approved green development standards.	2 LEED-certified, 18 registered projects with the Canada Green Building Council
Increase in tree canopy.	In progress
Natural areas (in hectares).	2181 ha (total) 993 ha (city-owned)
Number of new “green initiatives” started in the city.	160

Where “In progress” is listed there currently is no measure for the indicator. As part of the implementation of the Action Plan these indicators will be tracked and reported on in the Progress Report.



## City Initiatives Underway

- Credit River Master Plan • Credit River Water Management Implementation Strategy • Cycling Network Plan and Implementation Strategy • Environmental Master Plan • Green Development Standards • One Million Acts of Green • Storm Water Control Strategy • Transportation Master Plan • Mississauga Plan Review

# Lead and Encourage Environmentally Responsible Approaches

## Action 1 Pursue renewable energy production and use.

We will pursue renewable energy production and use to reduce green house gas emissions, improve air quality and protect natural resources.

Renewable energy is generated from resources that are naturally replenished – sunlight, wind, rain, tides and geothermal heat. Concerns around climate change and finite energy resources have increased the focus on pursuing renewable energy technologies. While the City of Mississauga has no decision-making or regulatory role regarding energy supply, we can show leadership and partner with key players such as Enersource Hydro Mississauga to develop programs to encourage renewable energy generation.

## Action 2 Implement water conservation programs.

We will partner with the Region of Peel to implement a program to conserve water, to ensure continued availability and conserve energy.

Conserving this critical resource is a matter of not only ensuring its availability for the future, but also decreasing the amount of energy required to deliver and treat wastewater. Distribution of water in Mississauga falls within the jurisdiction of the Region of Peel. We will look to support and strengthen the partnership with the Region in the implementation of conservation programs, such as Water Smart Peel, that apply to the everyday lives of residents and businesses of Mississauga. Examples may include the use of faucet aerators, low-flow shower heads, low-flush or composting toilets, waterless urinals, water-efficient appliances, reuse of graywater, and rain water harvesting.



## Action 3 Develop a green development standard strategy that addresses resource consumption and pollution emissions.

We will develop a green development standards strategy, with performance incentives, to reduce the environmental impact of new developments in Mississauga.

Buildings use land, energy, and water, and can have a significant impact upon air quality. Many practices and techniques can stem the environmental impact of new buildings, such as reducing energy and water consumption, using renewable energies, reducing waste, collecting and using rain and waste water on site, and using recyclable materials. Effective green buildings should be more than just a compilation of a few environmentally-friendly technologies. To be environmentally responsible, buildings need to address their resource consumption and pollution emissions over their complete life-cycle. Mississauga has recently registered 18 projects with the Canada Green Building Council to be certified for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). We will strongly support environmentally-sustainable buildings by implementing green development standards suitable for Mississauga.



# Conserve, Enhance and Connect Natural Environments

## Action 4 Plant one million trees in Mississauga.

We will create an environmental legacy by implementing Mississauga's Million Trees Planting Program.

Trees add beauty to our neighbourhoods, act as natural filters of the air we breathe and the water we drink, and save energy costs by providing shade. The Mississauga Million Trees Planting Program will green our city through natural processes, create a great environmental legacy and help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Trees will be planted by City departments on public property, as well as by individual volunteers, community groups, students, organizations and businesses throughout the remainder of the city.

## Action 5 Implement a city boulevard beautification program to foster civic pride and raise environmental awareness.

We will implement a boulevard beautification and maintenance program, with a focus on native species plantings, to beautify our streets in an environmentally responsible way.

Such programs will encourage residents and businesses in Mississauga to participate in greening and beautifying boulevards and take ownership of the ongoing maintenance of the property through corporate sponsorship of boulevard locations, or through an "adopt-a-boulevard" community initiative. This action will foster the development of civic pride on the part of residents and businesses, and will educate the public on the importance of conserving and enhancing native species.

*Precedent: The City of Vancouver, British Columbia implemented a "Green Streets" program, initiated by residents, for the beautification of medians and traffic islands. This program has achieved great results with the work of hundreds of volunteer gardeners.*



## Action 6 Pro-actively acquire and/or enhance land along the waterfront and in natural areas for recreational and ecological value.

We will be more pro-active and explore creative methods to acquire and/or enhance land along the waterfront and natural areas to maximize natural system connections and gain waterfront for public access and enjoyment.

Typically, greenbelt lands are acquired through the development application review process. Moving forward, we will create partnerships with conservation authorities, other levels of government and non-profit land trust organizations to acquire, protect and rehabilitate land, and to re-naturalize creeks, valley systems and waterfronts, all for recreational use and ecological value.



# Promote a Green Culture

## Action 7 Implement an incentive/loan program for energy improvements.

We will implement an incentive/loan program for energy improvements (residential, commercial and industrial) to promote a change in behaviours that will minimize our impact on the ecosystem and contribute to reversing climate change.

Various incentives pertaining to energy improvement projects already exist at the federal and provincial levels of governments. We will build on these programs by partnering with other levels of government, Enersource Hydro Mississauga, and private businesses. These partnerships will implement additional incentives and low-interest financing for energy improvements that will benefit residents and businesses in Mississauga.

## Action 8 Use resources efficiently by implementing eco-business zones.

We will implement eco-business zones to encourage partnerships between businesses and industries that support a more responsible and sustainable approach to the environment (such as reducing waste and pollution).

Buildings and infrastructure in eco-zones are designed to be environmentally-friendly. Land-use planning is focused on efficiency, higher densities, and protecting the natural environment, and businesses in the zone seek opportunities to collaborate to efficiently use resources (energy, water, land, infrastructure and waste). One example is the initiative Partners in Project Green launched by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and the Greater Toronto Airports Authority. The City of Mississauga is an important partner in this project, which will transform 12,000 hectares of industrial and commercial land surrounding Toronto Pearson International Airport. This action will build on this great work by expanding the concept to businesses in other areas of the city.

*Precedent: In the Regional Municipality of Halifax, a 1,200 ha industrial park (Burnside) has been transformed over the last decade into an Eco-Industrial Park by facilitating material exchange programs to circulate resources and wastes between participants.*

## Action 9 Create a City of Mississauga “living green” award program.

We will create a City of Mississauga “living green” award program to celebrate individuals and organizations who are significantly improving our city’s environment and quality of life.

To celebrate individuals and organizations who are significantly improving the environment and the quality of life in our city, this program will bring attention and recognition to initiatives around the city. Through this program, we will award “living green” initiatives within the city to support a more responsible and sustainable approach to the environment. The awards may be presented as part of the Mississauga Urban Design Awards ceremony.

## Action 10 Implement an educational program that promotes “living green.”

We will partner with school boards, UTM and other educational institutions to implement an educational program that promotes “living green” in all City facilities, schools and businesses.

Public education and awareness is a key component of “living green.” A far-reaching program that engages Mississauga’s students and businesses will help spread knowledge around local environmental issues, and create necessary community partnerships to realize meaningful change.

*Precedent: In Chicago, the City has established the “Chicago Center for Green Technology (CCGT)” and has housed it in the third building in the United States to be designed according to the LEED rating system. CCGT is home to organizations and businesses that provide environmental products and services. The building and campus are open for visitors to explore and learn about green buildings, and how to incorporate environmentally-friendly, cost-saving features into their homes or businesses.*