

## The Blue Mountains Future Story 2024 Report Card – Strategic Alignment Summary

**Purpose:** This Strategic Alignment Summary for The Blue Mountains Future Story 2024 Report Card provides Council and residents with a high-level update on progress made and next steps to take for each of the Town’s 20 Bold Actions in The Blue Mountains Future Story, the Town’s community sustainability plan.

**Organization:** The hierarchy of the Future Story includes four Big Moves with 20 Bold Actions, followed by 137 key steps. Progress made in 2024 is outlined for each Key Step in the 2024 Future Story Report Card.

### Reference Information:

The following reference information can be used when reviewing the progress charts.

- Level of Importance
  - High: significant staff time/resourcing is being applied to make progress on this Bold Action in 2025
  - Medium: some staff time/resourcing is being applied to make progress on this Bold Action in 2025
  - Low: little staff time/resourcing is being applied to make progress on this Bold Action in 2025
- Responsible (R) and Accountable (A)
  - Responsible (R): The person or role responsible for doing the work to complete the task.
  - Accountable (A): The person or role who is ultimately answerable for the correct and thorough completion of the task.
- Status
  - Green Circle: The action has been completed or is on track and is progressing well.
  - Yellow Circle: The action has faced challenges, but there is a clear path forward to completion.
  - Red Circle: The action is facing significant challenges and requires either a strong effort in 2025 (e.g. Bold Action 17), a review of next steps (e.g. Bold Action 7), or needs to be reconsidered as a priority for the Town (e.g. Bold Action 18).

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# Big Move #1: Create Climate Solutions

➤ **Connection to the Corporate Strategic Plan:** Deliver an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan / Integrate the three pillars of sustainability

Bold Actions	Action Steps	Level of Importance	Status & Percentage Completed	Due Date	Accountable & Responsible	Expected Outcomes	Related Information
1	Achieve Milestone 5 in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program	High	30% 	2027	A: Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste  R: Sustainability Coordinator	Progression through all 5 milestones of the PCP program  Periodic GHG inventory updates	<p>The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program provides municipalities across Canada with a free GHG accounting tool and a 5-Milestone process for both the Town's corporate-scope and community-wide emissions. The Town has achieved Milestones 1, 2 and 3 in both corporate and community PCP programs by identifying baseline GHG inventories, establishing GHG reduction targets, and developing a plan (The Blue Mountains Future Story). Milestone 4 is to implement the plan, and Milestone 5 is to Monitor progress. The completion of the Future Story's 5-year implementation period in 2027/28 will be the Town's opportunity to apply for Milestones 4 and 5 simultaneously. Due to workplan changes in 2024, a comprehensive update to the Town's GHG inventory was delayed until Q2/Q3 2025. This update will examine targets and pathways to achieve them in more detail in a staff report, but progress will ultimately stem from implementing the Future Story and through support of Grey County's Going Green in Grey community-scope climate action plan.</p> <p>Community GHG reduction targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 6% below 2005 levels by 2016</li><li>- 30% below 2005 levels by 2025</li><li>- 80% below 2005 levels by 2050</li></ul> <p>Corporate GHG reduction targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 40% below 2005 levels by 2025</li><li>- Net zero energy emissions for buildings by 2040</li><li>- Net zero GHG emissions by 2050</li></ul>

2	Expand low-carbon transportation options to include regional electric vehicle infrastructure and greening the TBM municipal fleet	High	30% 	2027	A: Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste R: Manager of Facilities and Fleet	Appropriate municipal sites and a strategy to install Level 3 EV chargers will be identified and a transition to EV fleet vehicles underway	The purpose of this Bold Action is to develop a long-term strategy to transition Town fleet and equipment to electric, and to expand community electric vehicle charging locations. The Town operates 12 publicly available EV chargers, installed in 2023 and made possible by two sources of external funding, at 5 Town-owned properties. In addition, the Town is collaborating with a tri-County initiative (Rural Recharge) to install several Level 3 (high speed) EV chargers to enhance the region's accessibility to EV owners, which proposes a TBM location. Staff have identified good locations for Level 3 EV chargers that would primarily serve Town fleet vehicles, and will explore any funding opportunities that may arise to make these possible.
3	Develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan with Grey County's Climate Change Action Plan	High	70% 	2027	A: Manager of Climate Change Initiatives, Grey County R: Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste	Community-scope climate adaptation plan completed	Grey County is leading a community-scope climate adaptation plan following Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities framework developed by ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability, which identifies and then prioritizes the anticipated impacts of climate change according to vulnerability and risk ratings, and then identifies actions that community stakeholders should consider to reduce risk and/or improve adaptive capacity. Staff are exploring municipal flood risk resilience tools and funding that the Town may be able to take advantage of in 2025/2026 to build off of the results of the County's adaptation plan and focus in on local risks and resilience.
4	Update engineering standards to incorporate resilience to climate change	Medium	80% 	2027	A: Manager of Capital Projects R: Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste	The most up to date understanding of resilience engineering standards is in place or being updated at any one time.	The Town's engineering standards provide guidance for the design and construction of municipal infrastructure. In 2023, Council approved updated Engineering Standards, which took initial steps to consider climate change projections. Future updates to the Town's Engineering Standards may be able to incorporate learnings from the future climate adaptation plan and incorporate other best practices for sustainable infrastructure. A PIEVC (Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee) training workshop was held with Town staff in late 2024, raising staff's understanding of how climate change risks and adaptation can be considered for both engineered municipal infrastructure and the role of natural assets. Official Plan updates made in 2024 include Environment and Climate Change content.

5	Develop a natural asset inventory to include climate vulnerabilities and inform asset management planning	High	70% 	2027	A: Town Council R: Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste	Natural asset inventory is complete	A natural asset inventory identifies natural features that provide an ecological benefit to the Town, such as trees, soil and wetlands. These features provide a series of services that are vital to citizen health and Town service delivery, including water and carbon storage, water quality improvement, microclimate regulation and urban heat island effect mitigation. The Town's natural assets inventory identifies natural infrastructure assets and includes high level quality and risk ratings. The next step will be to integrate natural asset classes where possible into the Town's Asset Management Plan, which currently focuses primarily on engineered infrastructure assets. Staff are reviewing and processing the information provided by the natural asset inventory and are exploring next steps to incorporate into asset management planning, beginning with street trees.
6	Develop a Biodiversity Strategy	Medium	0% 	2027	A: Town Council R: Urban Forestry Coordinator	Biodiversity Strategy complete and practices being implemented	The purpose of a Biodiversity Strategy is to identify how and where to retain, restore, and manage biodiversity and minimize negative impacts, and utilize the positive impact of community resources on the terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic features in The Blue Mountains. This strategy will set the direction for future Town naturalization and tree-planting efforts to support biodiversity and enhance access to nature. The Natural Assets Inventory (Bold Action 5) has been identified as a prerequisite to this Bold Action. The Latest Council Resolution is to begin work on a Biodiversity Plan in 2026.
7	Expand production of sustainable local food	Low	0% 	2027	A: Not Assigned R: Not Assigned	Increase in community gardens and farmers market attendance/vendors	This action will involve a planning policy review to identify potential barriers to urban agriculture in the Town and identify any potential opportunities to improve planning policies. With limited capacity in the planning department, this item will need to come forward as a special project requiring planning staff capacity. Planning staff will be consulted and a proposal included in the 2026 budget as feasible. Economic development initiatives (e.g. Open Fields) have been successful at supporting and celebrating the Town's significant agricultural and agri-business community.

# Big Move #2: Build Sustainable Neighbourhoods

➤ **Connection to the Corporate Strategic Plan:** Deliver an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan / Integrate the three pillars of sustainability

Bold Actions	Indicated Action Steps	Level of Importance	Status & Percentage Completed	Due Date	Accountable & Responsible	Expected Outcomes	Related Information
8	Develop a net zero municipal building policy	High	100% <div></div>	2027	A: Town Council R: All Departments	Net zero building policy is adopted	The Town's Municipal Net Zero Emissions Buildings policy was adopted in 2023. Several projects are now seeking to achieve net zero energy emissions or net zero emissions ready performance, including: the new Craigleith Firehall (Firehall #2) and the Operations Depot. Highly energy efficient municipal buildings may have small up front cost premiums but will return more significant cost savings over time and are currently eligible for financial incentives through the Green Municipal Fund. The 2024 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan, which focuses on energy performance for the Town's portfolio of buildings, has been completed and will be presented to Council in 2025.
9	Develop and implement Green Development Standards	Medium	80% <div></div>	2026	A: Manager of Climate Change Initiatives, Grey County R: Operations and Planning Departments	Green development standards are in place	The Future Ready Grey Metrics project (initially called the Tri-Country Green Development Standards (GDS) project) is a collaborative initiative between Grey, Dufferin, and Wellington Counties. Future Ready Grey Metrics will establish a consistent framework across the Counties making it easier for the development industry to meet and incorporate the metrics into their projects. The final document will include metrics and guidelines that can be applied through all phases of development planning applications right through to construction. Town staff are being consulted on the development of the Future Ready Grey Metrics.
10	Monitor and estimate increases in active transportation uptake as supported by the Transportation Master Plan	Low	25% <div></div>	2027	A: Operations Department R: Not Assigned	A set of active transportation measures are established	Use of the Georgian Trail remains the best available comparable year-by-year indicator of active transportation usage in the Town. Annual Georgian Trail staff reports had previously been performed by Parks & Trails staff. Sustainability staff will adopt responsibility for analyzing data from Georgian Trail activity counters.

11	Establish a residential green retrofit program	Low	25% 	2027	A: Manager of Climate Change Initiatives, Grey County R: Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste	A program in place to guide green retrofit initiatives, information and support are available on an on-going basis.	Residential green retrofit programs typically become available at the national or provincial level, but a local or regional program may help to focus in on the highest priority opportunities for The Blue Mountains, which may include lower income residents or older, rural dwellings. Grey County is conducting a feasibility study to better understand opportunities for a local retrofit program, and Town staff provided input early in this process.
12	Establish litter and construction waste management plans	High	30% 	2027	A: Solid Waste Division R: Solid Waste and Building/Development Division	Policy Implemented	Implementing litter control and construction waste diversion plans will help to develop better practices and diversion rates. The Town's Municipal Construction Waste and Deconstruction Policy is in place and will help reduce waste and promote circularity in the event any Town buildings are removed or require significant retrofits. The new Waste Management and Litter Control By-law 2023-69 provides clear rules and monetary penalties for litter of all types. Next steps with local development industry will include raising awareness of the by-law's expectations of litter reduction and encouraging construction waste management plans to better control waste onsite.

# Big Move #3: Grow an Innovative and Thriving Community

➤ **Connection to the Corporate Strategic Plan:** Deliver an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan / Integrate the three pillars of sustainability


Bold Actions	Indicated Action Steps	Level of Importance	Status & Percentage Completed	Due Date	Accountable & Responsible	Expected Outcomes	Related Information
13	Establish/support a green economy task force to identify economic opportunities in the community	High	80% <div></div>	2027	A: Communications and Economic Development  R: Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste	Task Force (Green Hub) recommendations are provided to Council	In late 2024, Council approved a financial contribution to a Green Economy Hub pilot project led by Collingwood Climate Action Team with the support of local partners for the Southern Georgian Bay community. A Green Economy Hub will help businesses and other organizations in the area understand and reduce their GHG emissions and other environmental impacts, share best practices, recognize successes and build a community of practice. Town staff participate on an Advisory Committee to support the Green Economy Hub initiative and will provide quarterly progress updates to Council.
14	Develop a Circular Economy Recommendations Report and expand circular economy programming	High	100% <div></div>	2024	A: Town Council  R: Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste	Circular Economy Strategies Report	A circular economy seeks to separate economic activity from the consumption of non-renewable resources, and can also include a transition to renewable energy and materials. A Circular Opportunities Report was completed in 2024 with Council direction to publish the report to the Town's website and to organize a task force on the topic of a local circular economy in 2025. This task force may take the form of a working group with facilitation, meeting space and administration provided by the Town, with an anticipated launch in Q3 2025.
15	Develop a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy	Medium	60% <div></div>	2027	A: Senior Management Team  R: Manager of Human Resources	A Strategy is embedded within current organizational policies.	An inclusive community is built upon acceptance and understanding, making it a more welcoming place for everyone. A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Strategy will be essential to incorporating an inclusive lens into plans, policies and services, and will create an environment of acceptance and understanding within the TBM organization and throughout the community. The Town joined the UNESCO Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities in late 2023 and formed a committee of staff (IDEA Committee) to identify workable steps for DEI Strategy development, including staff training, recognition of events, and more. Opportunities for new training in 2025 was deferred by Council until 2026.



16	Improve the conditions for attainable housing	Low	40% 	2027	A: Town Council R: Planning and Development Services	Reduced barriers and streamline applications for attainable developments.	Volunteer BMAHC board recommended dissolution of BMAHC in 2024. Next steps for BMAHC and attainable housing in the Town are an ongoing complex topic of discussion. The Town's Official Plan Update (2024 draft) includes a section on Affordable and Attainable Housing (A3.11). Local stakeholders and regional initiatives continue work to identify affordable and attainable housing solutions.
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## Big Move #4: Implement and Collaborate

- **Connection to the Corporate Strategic Plan:** Deliver an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan / Integrate the three pillars of sustainability

Bold Actions	Indicated Action Steps	Level of Importance	Status & Percentage Completed	Due Date	Accountable & Responsible	Expected Outcomes	Related Information
17	Establish decision-making and reporting structures within The Town of The Blue Mountains to ensure decisions contribute towards the Vision and Goals of this plan	High	0% 	2027	A: CAO R: Town Clerk, Finance and IT Services Department	Council reports and business plans and procurement documents reflect on Vision and Goals.	This is a complex task that many municipalities struggle with and there are several different avenues to explore. A purchasing policy update was originally planned for 2024, but was delayed to early/mid 2025, and sustainability staff will provide input to help inform these updates and embed sustainability considerations into purchasing decisions. Staff will seek to update staff report templates with the Town Clerk in 2025. There is potential to better encourage or engage youth in Council discussions or to inform specific projects and next steps may emerge from the Youth Climate Action Fund program.
18	Establish a community sustainability organization/network to champion sustainability efforts in the community	Low	0% 	2027	A: Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste R: Sustainability Coordinator	Creation of a Blue Mountains Sustainability Network	The Town partnered with the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay on an event in late 2023 to explore local networking and relationship-building. Attendees included local and regional non-profit organizations and community group representatives, which expressed a clear lack of interest in forming a new organization or task force to coordinate local sustainability action, in part as this collaboration already occurs and networking events such as the Sustainability Summit and Institute events already facilitate networking. The Green Economy Hub was identified in this event as a key area of interest for area stakeholders. A youth climate council or other form of youth engagement may align with this action if appropriate opportunities can be identified through the Youth Climate Action Fund.

19	Host an annual Community Sustainability Summit	High	100% 	2027	A: Strategic Initiatives Department R: Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste	Annual Summit being held	The first annual The Blue Mountains and Area Sustainability Summit was held in spring 2024 with more than 120 attendees, with presentations and discussion on circular economy and green economy topics. The Summit events will continue annually, with the second event scheduled for April 24, 2025, on the broad themes of social sustainability in the afternoon (including DEI in GHG emissions accounting, affordable housing, energy retrofits and energy poverty) and continuing green economy themes in the evening.
20	Release an annual report card on sustainability	High	100% 	2027	A: Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste, Strategic Initiatives Department R: Sustainability Coordinator	Annual Report Card released	The first annual Future Story Report Card was released in early 2024, covering progress made from mid-2022 to end of 2023. This document is the 2024 Report Card covering progress made in 2024. The 2024 Report Card was delayed slightly to provide a deeper level of detail and context behind the status of the 20 Bold Actions.