



Staff Report

Operations – Sustainability & Solid Waste

Report To: COW - Operations, Planning and Building Services
Meeting Date: April 28, 2026
Report Number: OPS.26.025
Title: 2025 Future Story Report Card
Prepared by: Nicholas Cloet, Sustainability Coordinator

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report OPS.26.025, entitled “2025 Future Story Report Card”;

AND THAT Council direct staff to finalize the 2025 Future Story Report Card with any minor updates requested by Council as well as necessary design work, and publish to the Town’s website and communications channels to circulate with the public.

B. Overview

The Blue Mountains Future Story is the Town’s Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (Plan), completed in late 2022. Action 20 of the Plan includes the review of Future Story implementation through the release of an annual report card. This is the third Future Story Report Card to be released, including activities undertaken in the year of 2025. The Report Card also refers to planned activities for 2026 to further implement The Blue Mountains Future Story.

C. Background

[The Blue Mountains Future Story](#) provides a detailed description of four overarching ‘Big Moves’ and the underlying Bold Actions that aim to move the community toward a more sustainable future. The Big Moves include:

1. Create Climate Solutions;
2. Build Sustainable Neighbourhoods;
3. Grow an Innovative and Thriving Community; and
4. Collaborate and Take Action.

The plan consists of an implementation framework that is built upon the following three principles: collaboration, progress, and reflection. Reflecting on the third full year of implementation allows staff and the community to consider progress made on the anticipated actions and next steps to implement the Town’s Future Story.

TBM Future Story includes a five-year implementation plan, with 20 Bold Actions and 137 Key Steps. The Key Steps are important guiding actions that were identified in 2022, but as circumstances, community focus, and/or external funding opportunities change, flexibility to implement the plan's Key Steps is necessary. The 2025 Report Card in Attachment 2 includes the current status of each Key Step, as well as commentary on any changes in direction or challenges faced for specific Key Steps as originally written. Staff will also consider feedback on priorities that Council may provide upon periodic review of the annual Report Cards.

A fulsome update to TBM Future Story will occur closer to the plan's 5-year anniversary in 2027 to define a subsequent 5-year action plan and implementation period that will build upon and learn from experiences gained from the first period.

The 2025 Future Story Report Card builds upon the same templates from the 2024 Future Story Report Card, and is accompanied by an updated Future Story Strategic Alignment Summary (Attachment 1). For the 2025 Future Story Report Card, the Summary has been adjusted to align with the new Corporate Strategic Plan for 2026-2027 approved by Council in early 2026.

This staff report also includes the updated 2025 Future Story Report Card in Attachment 2, following the same template as was used for the first two Report Cards in 2023 and 2024.

D. Analysis

The Future Story Report Card covers the one-year period of Future Story implementation from January to December 2025, and includes some commentary on actions taken in early 2026 prior to writing this report. This progress adds to the work between July 2022 and December 2023, covered in [CSOPS.24.020 Future Story Implementation Report Card Follow-Up](#), and between January 2024 and December 2024 as covered in [CSOPS.25.008 2024 Future Story Report Card](#).

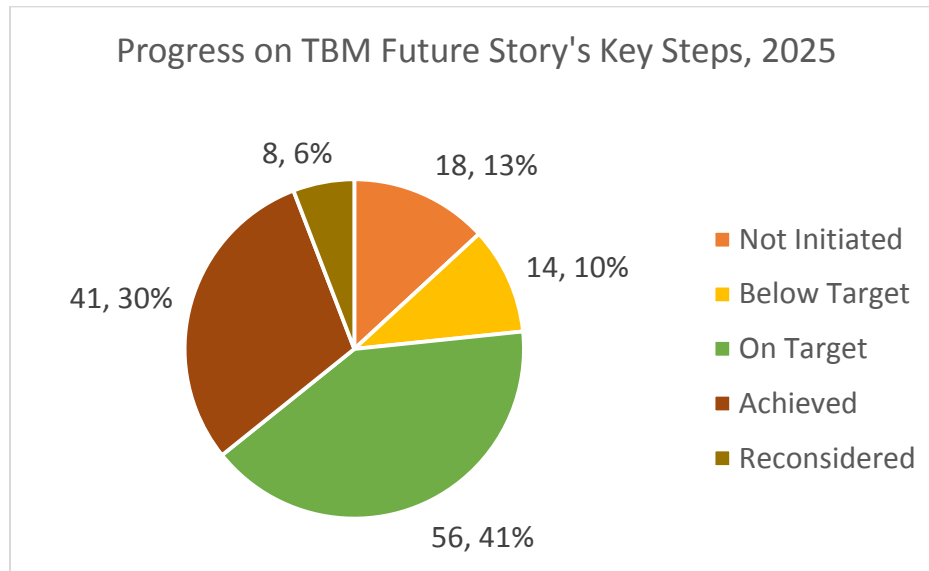
The 2025 Future Story Report Card is included in Attachment 2. The Report Card begins with some opening remarks and figures describing progress made, then provides a summary table of the 20 Bold Actions – a new addition building on the first Report Card, to add more context and description for readers, and then provides progress indicators for 'Achieved', 'In Progress', 'Below Target', 'Not Initiated' or 'Reconsidered' for each of the Key Steps under each Bold Action.

TBM Future Story has a 5-year implementation horizon. The following is a high-level summary of progress made since implementation of TBM Future Story began in July 2022 until the end of the reporting period in December 2025 for all of the plan's 137 Key Steps:

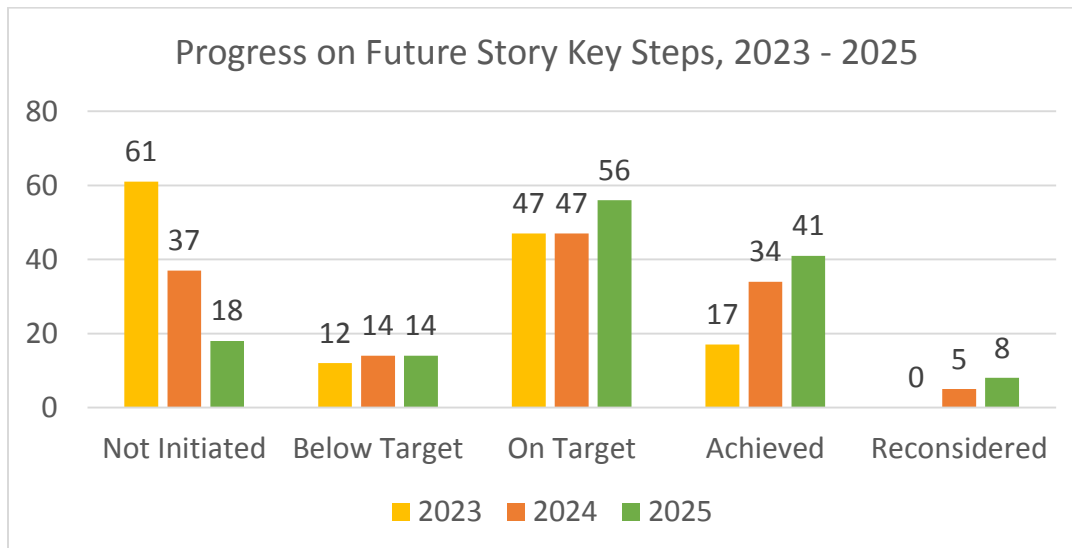
- 30% (41) were Achieved, up from 25% in 2024
- 71% (97 of 137) were On Target or Achieved, up from 47% in 2024
- 23% (32 of 137) were Below Target or Not Initiated (including Reconsidered), down from 41% in 2024.
- 6% (8 of 137) were Reconsidered, up from 4% in 2024

Not all Key Steps require the same level of effort or resourcing, but these figures are a high-level indication of progress made in 2025. There has been a continued progression from 'Not

Initiated' and 'Below Target' categories into the 'On Target' and 'Achieved' categories. The following pie chart illustrates the current state of progress on all 137 Key Steps across these categories.



The following figure shows a continuing trend with fewer Key Steps in the 'Not Initiated' category, and more in the 'On Target' and 'Achieved' categories.



The 'Reconsidered' category has grown slightly to capture additional Key Steps that are obsolete and as a result will not be accomplished within the 5-year plan period. Per the 2024 Report Card, most of the Key Steps under Bold Action 18, Establish a community sustainability organization/network to champion sustainability efforts in the community, were identified as 'Reconsidered'. In the current Report Card, the following Key Steps have been identified as 'Reconsidered':

Bold Action	Key Steps	Comments
6	Remove limitations on and add requirements for biodiversity in Town bylaws	Provisions to allow for some naturalization of urban yards in a proposed update to the Town's Property Standards Bylaw were recommended in early 2025. Ultimately, the updated bylaw was rejected by Council for reasons unrelated to the proposed naturalization provisions. This initiative could be revisited at a later date.
11	<p>2024, Q2: Develop recommendations on the initial steps towards a green retrofit program for Council to consider. Recommendations may include a feasibility study and/or seeking staff time/ resources to collaborate with a larger initiative.</p> <p>2024, Q3: Subject to approval of [preceding], develop budget recommendations for the next budget cycle.</p>	Grey County continues to explore if supplemental residential retrofit programming beyond the Federal and Provincial offerings is warranted. The Town can help promote existing provincial or federal programs. No budget recommendations are currently planned and no new local retrofit program is planned at this time.

The Town’s sustainability staff regularly undertake some initiatives that are not explicitly identified in TBM Future Story, but which align closely with the Goals and overarching objectives of the Future Story plan, including: running the annual Environmental Sustainability Fund, and two years of the Youth Climate Action Fund; promoting and supporting Pitch-In Week community-led litter cleanups; and fulfilling bi-annual Federal reporting requirements for landfill GHG emissions and new annual waste operations emissions reporting for Circular Materials.

Staff regularly seek external funding opportunities, training, or recognition; for example, in early 2025, the Town was accepted into a free 1-year training program called AssetAdapt+, run as a joint initiative of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineering and the Climate Risk Institute. This program was designed around five training ‘charettes’ to familiarize participating staff at several Ontario municipalities with Envision (a sustainability protocol for infrastructure projects), and PIEVC (an engineering protocol to assess climate risks for municipal infrastructure). AssetAdapt+ ultimately aims to help participants explore how future capital projects might incorporate climate resilience and sustainability considerations. While this initiative is not explicitly mentioned in TBM Future Story, it was a zero-cost opportunity to make progress on Bold Actions 3, 4, and 17.

Staff also continue to explore a floating solar photovoltaic installation at the Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant. A feasibility study (budgeted in 2024) was completed in 2025 and

the next step will be an application for pilot project funding with the Green Municipal Fund. A separate staff report outlining progress and next steps on this project will be forthcoming.

Notable in 2025 was the Town’s participation in Round 2 of the Youth Climate Action Fund, which supported 13 youth-led projects taking action on climate change and broader sustainability issues. All projects supported by the YCAF program needed to align with the Town’s sustainability plan, TBM Future Story, and/or with Grey County’s Going Green in Grey climate action plan. An April 2026 staff report [OPS.26.016 Youth Climate Action Fund Completion of Round 2](#) summarized the supported project activities. Several Future Story Goals, such as “The Blue Mountains... Includes diverse opportunities for youth to connect to the broader community and engage in civic life”, were supported by the YCAF program itself, while individual projects aligned with specific Future Story elements.

The following table identifies some of the ways each YCAF Round 2 project aligned with the Goals and Bold Actions in TBM Future Story, grouped where these alignments are similar.

YCAF Project Title	Future Story Goals and/or Bold Action Alignment
1. Bird Habitat Project (formerly the Living Snow Fence project) 8. Backyard Bird House project 9. Butterfly Garden and Insect Hotels 10. Endangered Species Mural 11. Pollinator Engagement and Education / “Creating a BUZZ around climate change”	Goal: Is adaptive and resilient to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather Goal: Is celebrated for its healthy biodiversity as a key feature of the community Bold Action (BA) 6. Develop a Biodiversity Strategy
6. EcoFlow 7. Get Our Festivals Clean	Goal: Goal: Ensures transit, cycling, walking and other options for low-carbon transportation are diverse, accessible and balanced... Goal: Collaboratively supports a circular economy that aims to eliminate waste, circulate resources and restore nature
4. Water & Woods: Reviving Nature Through Cleanup & Reforestation	Goal: Has healthy soils, wildlife, and vegetation within all of its watersheds BA 6. Develop a Biodiversity Strategy

2. Warton Bike Bus	Goal: Ensures transit, cycling, walking and other options for low-carbon transportation are diverse, accessible and balanced...
3. Community Gardens & Urban Farming 12. Community Gardens Food Security Service and Education	Goal: Is celebrated for the prevalence of regenerative land relationships in food production and other sectors BA 7. Expand production of sustainable local food

As always, staff encourage anyone with questions about specific Bold Actions or Key Steps, or with questions or ideas pertaining generally to sustainability in The Blue Mountains, to reach out to sustainability@thebluemountains.ca.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

F. Environmental Impacts

The vision of the Future Story is: “The Blue Mountains’ communities are world-renowned as stewards of a healthy environment and as champions of well-being, sociocultural diversity, innovation, and regeneration to become the best place to live, work, and play for future generations.” Continued implementation and review of the Plan will work towards achieving the goals under natural environment, built environment, economy, community and culture, social well-being, and governance.

G. Financial Impacts

Implementation is supported primarily by staff effort and the approved annual sustainability operational budget. Funding requests have so far occurred through the annual budget process. In 2025, 85% of the sustainability operational budget was spent to implement The Blue Mountains Future Story, not including the separate Youth Climate Action Fund grant.

H. In Consultation With

N/A

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Nicholas Cloet, Sustainability Coordinator sustainability@thebluemountains.ca .

J. Attached

1. Future Story Strategic Alignment Summary 2025
2. The Blue Mountains Future Story 2025 Report Card

Respectfully submitted,

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	OPS.26.025 2025 Future Story Report Card.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 Future Story Strategic Alignment Summary 2025.pdf - Attachment 2 The Blue Mountains Future Story 2025 Report Card.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Apr 16, 2026

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jeff Fletcher - Apr 15, 2026 - 1:41 PM

Alan Pacheco - Apr 16, 2026 - 10:27 AM