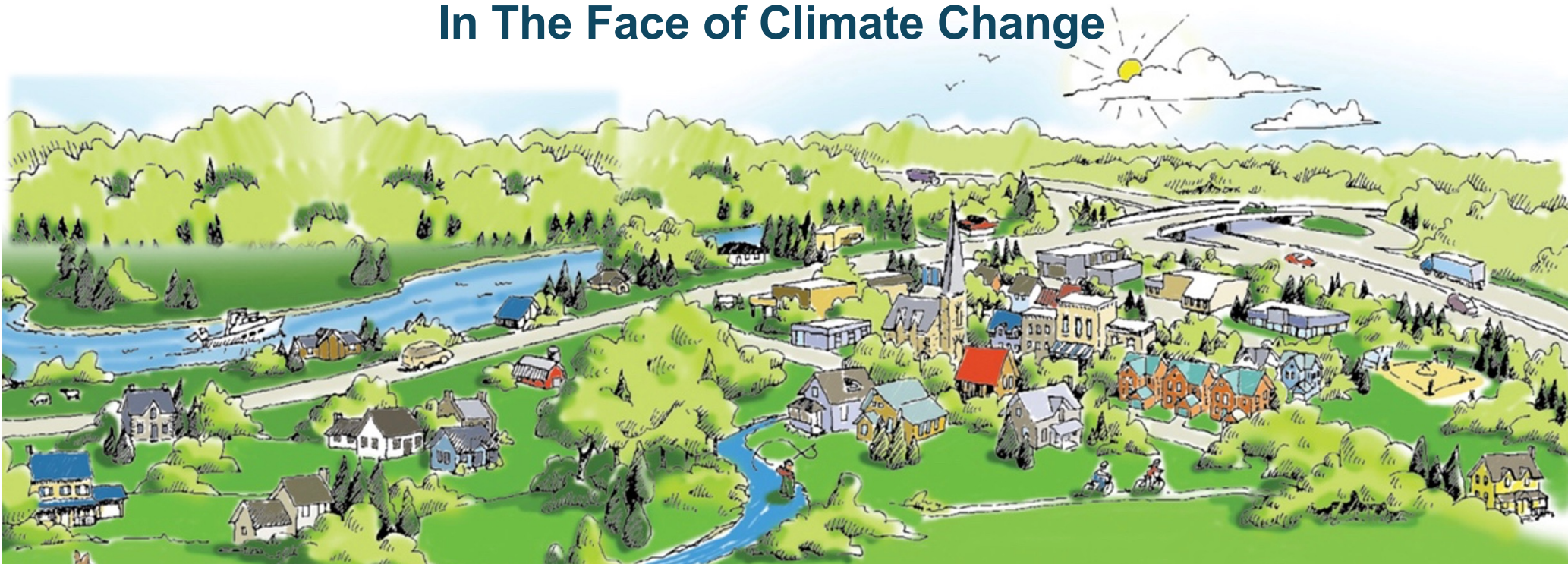


North Grenville Climate Action Plan

Creating Community Resiliency In The Face of Climate Change



A Submission by
 **Sustainable**
NORTH GRENVILLE

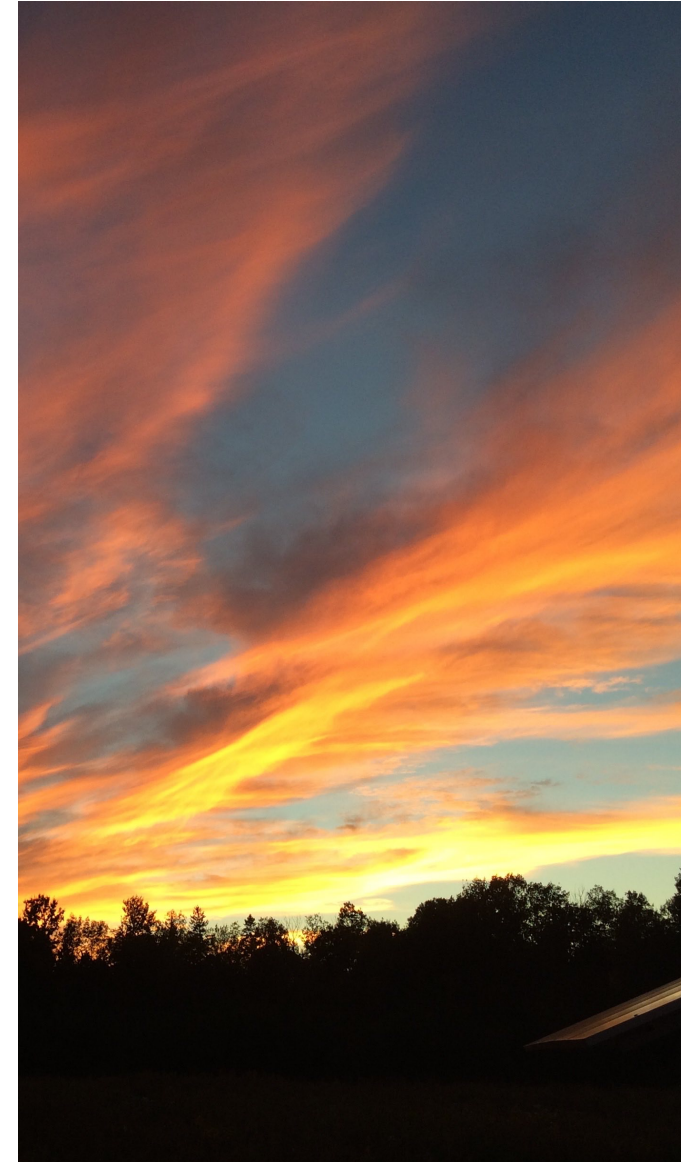
January 28, 2025

Introduction

SNG:

- A group of **local citizens** concerned about climate change, pollution and waste, and maintaining a **healthy environment**.
- Formed in 2008 to raise awareness about these issues in North Grenville, and to share information with those who would like to see our community become more **sustainable – and resilient**.

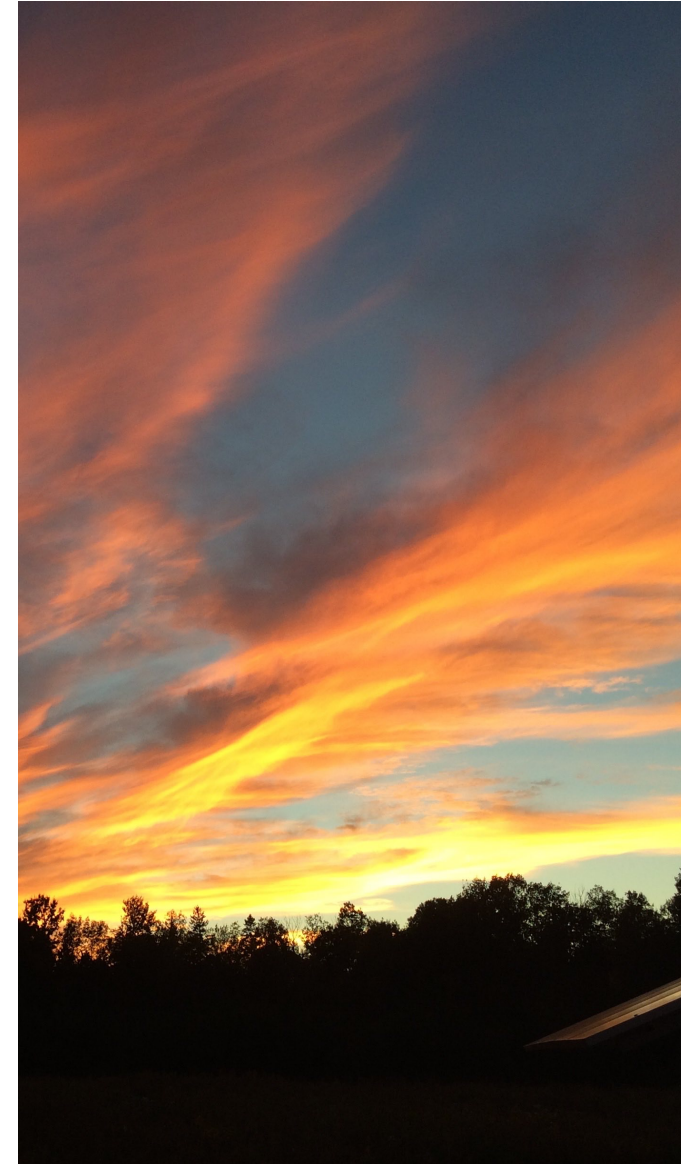
**Note: this is an abridged PowerPoint version of written submissions made to NG in October and December, 2024.*



Introduction

We are in the midst of a climate-ecosystem-biodiversity **catastrophe**.

- Global temperature has hit **1.5 degrees** Celsius above pre-industrial averages.
- Our community needs to prepare for many changes, adapting to a warmer world and a **disrupted ecosystem**.



Introduction

The present NG Official Plan says the Municipality's goal is:

- “to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and **improve climate change adaptation** of human-made and natural systems in order to **increase resiliency...**”

Now is the time to create a **Climate Action Plan**. Seven recommendations follow.



1. Enhance Green Transportation Infrastructure

- Enhance walking & cycling **connectivity** throughout the community.
- Focus on downtown businesses and **urban infill** rather than car-access-only new business.
- Create viable **transit connections** between local access points and major city centres
- Retain/reclaim the **rail right-of-way** between Kemptville and Ottawa.



2. Preserve and Protect Green Spaces

- **Preserve existing green spaces** – parks, trails, Ferguson Forest, Kemptville Campus, Limerick Forest, etc. – and plan for more green space.
- Green spaces
 - help to regulate building temperatures
 - help to increase **local carbon sequestration**
 - increase wellbeing and happiness, **reduce mental illness in children**, and improved attention in ADHD.
- Use instruments such as **land trusts** to protect forest lands.



3. Work Towards a Net-Zero Built Environment

- Ensure climate **goals are integrated** into residential and commercial development policy.
- Require environmental building **standards that exceed** Ontario's building code.
- Future-proof new development by requiring **carbon-neutral technologies** as a minimum condition of development.



4. Support Mental Health Resilience

- Recognize that the climate crisis is and will increasingly become a **mental health crisis**.
- Our community must create the capacity for “**Transformational Resilience**”.
- Transformational resilience works on two levels:
 - by allowing people to buffer themselves **against stress**; and,
 - by creating the conditions for people to find **purpose and meaning** in their lives.



5. Support Local Food Production

- Support a **thriving local food system** by adopting planning measures that encourage farm stands, farmers' markets, and small scale food processing.
- The current OP states, "Prior to the next Official Plan update, the Municipality may investigate the adoption of a **backyard agriculture by-law** for areas designated...to determine the feasibility of limited agriculture (such as backyard chickens, community gardens, beekeeping) within these land use designations." **Make this happen.**



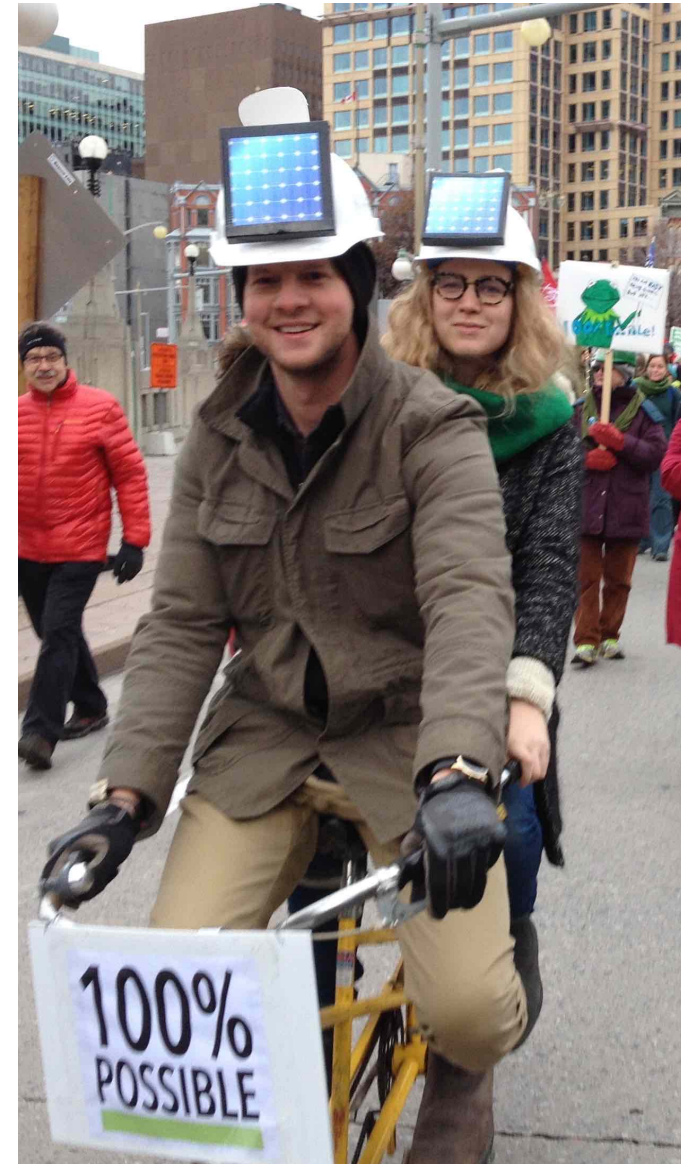
6. Protect Local Water Sources

- **Protect our local water supply.** Water is our most valuable resource. Our local aquifer is identified as being “**highly vulnerable**”.
- North Grenville is now a **Blue Community**. More needs to be done in terms of public education.
- The current OP Schedule A identifies several locations for potential bedrock extraction that were identified **using faulty methods** back in 2009. This must be remedied.
- **Disallow aggregate production** in sensitive areas.



7. Go Further: Plan for the Future

- Create a new Official Plan that is **innovative, bold and visionary**.
- Develop and implement education and **awareness strategies** to ensure the community prepares for climate change.
- Embed **climate change risks** into the inspection, maintenance and design of municipal infrastructure.
- Develop a **Climate Action Plan** to help our community reduce our carbon footprint and increase our resilience.



Thank you

This submission is a collaborative effort by a group of Concerned Citizens.

Sustainable North Grenville

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January 28, 2025

