

Richmond Hill Environmental Scorecard

2015-2019

What's Inside



**Greening our
Consumption**



**Greening our
Natural Spaces**



**Greening
our Growth**

Look For



Good Progress



Stable Progress



Needs Improvement



STATUS

Progress from 2015-2019



NEXT STEPS

What we're doing in
the coming years

In 2014, Richmond Hill released its first Environment Strategy, *Greening the Hill: Our Community, Our Future*.

This scorecard provides a snapshot of the City's environmental progress and achievements from the first five years of Environment Strategy implementation.

Achieving a more sustainable environment in Richmond Hill continues to be a community effort. We hope this scorecard inspires you to participate in the City's environmental initiatives and to reduce your own environmental footprint!



Greening our Consumption



The way our community consumes energy, water, food and material goods will impact our environment for generations to come. By minimizing our consumption, Richmond Hill can continue to reduce our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, mitigate climate change, improve air quality, reduce waste, preserve our water resources, and reduce costs.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Use

PROGRESS



Community energy use, per person (ekWh)
↑4.2% 2016-2018



Community GHG emissions, per person (tCO₂e)
↑3.2% 2016-2018



Corporate energy use, per ft² of City building space (ekWh)
↓7.3% since 2015



Corporate GHG emissions, per ft² of City building space (tCO₂e)
↓21.6% since 2014



STATUS

Although community emissions and energy use remain stable, corporately the City has made great strides in reducing energy use, emissions, and costs through the implementation of its Corporate Energy Plan.²



NEXT STEPS

To address community impacts, the City is developing a Community Energy and Emissions Plan, anticipated in 2021, that will introduce actions to further reduce emissions.



Did you know?

By using LED street, park, and parking lot lights, the City saves **\$650,000** annually and reduces GHG emissions equivalent to taking 25-35 cars off Ontario roads every year!



Population data for "per person" indicators based on York Region Long Range Planning end-of-year estimates and census data.

Water Use

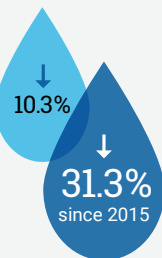
PROGRESS



COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE WATER USE

Average daily community water use per person ³

Community facility water use per ft² of City building space ⁴



226 L

Richmond Hill's daily community water use per person in 2019.

✓ STATUS

Corporate and community water consumption is trending downward. This is in part due to:

- better education and awareness
- policy measures such as the City's Water Use Conservation By-law
- continued maintenance and improvements to infrastructure
- pool filtration upgrades and low-flow fixtures

💡 NEXT STEPS

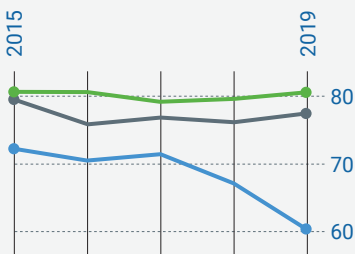
The City will continue to seek opportunities to reduce corporate water use and encourage community water conservation.

Waste Generation and Diversion

PROGRESS



ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL WASTE GENERATION, PER PERSON (KG)



🍏 Organics

🗑️ Garbage

♻️ Recycling



✓ STATUS

Residential waste generation and diversion rates remain stable. ^{5, 6, 7}

💡 NEXT STEPS

Further improvements can be achieved by:

- increasing waste diversion and expanding organics collection in multi-residential buildings
- transitioning responsibility for the Blue Box recycling program from municipalities to producers by the Province of Ontario

69%

At 69%, Richmond Hill's waste diversion rate remains one of the highest in Canada!

Did you know?



- Approx. 70% of waste is diverted through organics and recycling programs
- 25% goes to energy-from-waste facilities
- Only 5% goes to landfill

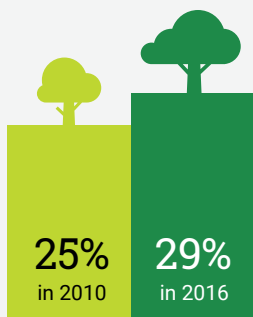
Greening our Natural Spaces



Our natural spaces - such as forests, wetlands, lakes, streams, meadows and gardens - provide many valuable social, economic, and environmental services for our community. Protecting and enhancing these spaces helps clean our air, promotes biodiversity, and provides wildlife habitat. Other co-benefits include increased resilience to climate change, improved health, and greater access to local food.

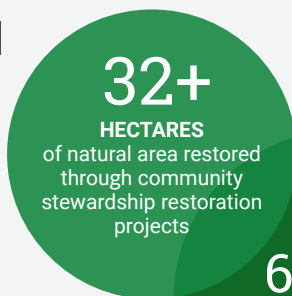
Tree Canopy and Natural Heritage

URBAN FOREST CANOPY



↑4% 

This increase is equal to more than 100,000 trees and shrubs!



NATIVE PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES (#)



Native plant species
↑2.8% since 2014



Native wildlife species
↑7.4% since 2014

✓ STATUS

Between 2010 and 2016, the City's tree canopy coverage significantly increased, making Richmond Hill one of the first municipalities in York Region to surpass its minimum Regional tree canopy target.^{1,2} This progress was achieved through:

- community stewardship and restoration initiatives
- tree planting and preservation policies and guidelines
- invasive species management

⚠️ NEXT STEPS

To protect and maintain our current tree canopy, the City will continue carrying out the actions in its Urban Forest Management Plan.

PROGRESS



Water Quality and Stormwater Management

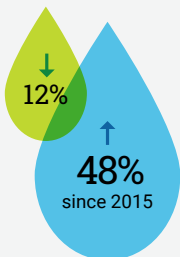
PROGRESS



PHOSPHORUS AND CHLORIDE LEVELS IN LAKE WILCOX³

Phosphorus (milligrams/Litre)

Chloride (salt) (milligrams/Litre)



Did you know?

The City owns and operates **97 stormwater management facilities**. Facilities such as stormwater ponds capture and treat runoff from rain and snow to protect property from flooding, which reduces the impacts of development, and further protects our lakes, rivers, and streams.

In developed areas, **chloride** or “salt” typically enters our waters as road salt runoff and can harm aquatic life when concentrations are high.

Phosphorus enters our waters through fertilizers and other sources, which, at high concentrations, can affect fish populations and lead to algal blooms.

✓ STATUS

Through effective plans and programs, phosphorus levels in Lake Wilcox have gradually declined.

🔧 NEXT STEPS

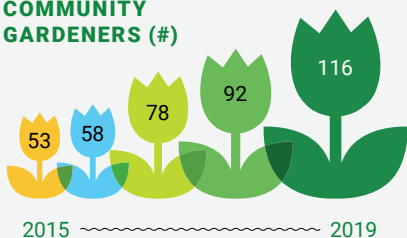
The City recognizes the need to balance environmental protection with public safety and is exploring options to reduce chloride levels through its Salt Management Plan.

Community Gardens

PROGRESS



COMMUNITY GARDENERS (#)



↑119%

The number of community gardeners has more than doubled since 2015.

✓ STATUS

Community garden participation has steadily increased.⁴

🔧 NEXT STEPS

In 2017, Richmond Hill approved a Community Garden Policy, which will continue to promote the creation of more gardens that will help the City:

- improve local food security
- reduce GHG emissions from food transportation
- enhance pollinator habitat

Greening our Growth



As Richmond Hill's population continues to grow, the City recognizes the need to balance growth and development with environmental protection. Through sustainable development practices and green transportation options, Richmond Hill can continue to minimize development impacts to the natural environment while addressing the needs of our growing community.

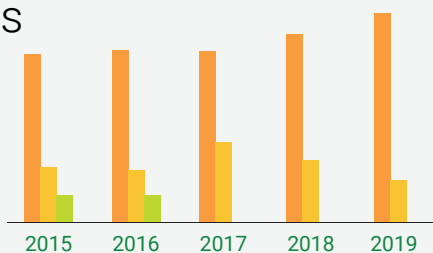
Sustainability Performance Rating for New Developments

PROGRESS



SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE RATINGS (%)

Applications for new developments that have achieved a "good," "very good," or "excellent" rating through the Sustainability Metrics Program



% Good Ratings



% Very Good Ratings



% Excellent Ratings

MOST COMMONLY SELECTED METRICS:

- Reduce light pollution
- Protect trees and soil
- Use energy efficient lights
- Promote walkable streets



Did you know?



The City's award-winning **Sustainability Metrics** program requires new developments to incorporate sustainable design features based on a menu of options provided by the City. Applications must achieve at least a "good" rating to be considered for approval.



STATUS

Sustainability performance ratings for new Richmond Hill developments remain stable.¹



NEXT STEPS

To further encourage sustainable development, an updated Sustainability Metrics program will launch in 2021 to:

- accommodate new policy changes and trends
- increase performance ratings
- further incentivize developers to incorporate more innovative sustainable design features into new developments

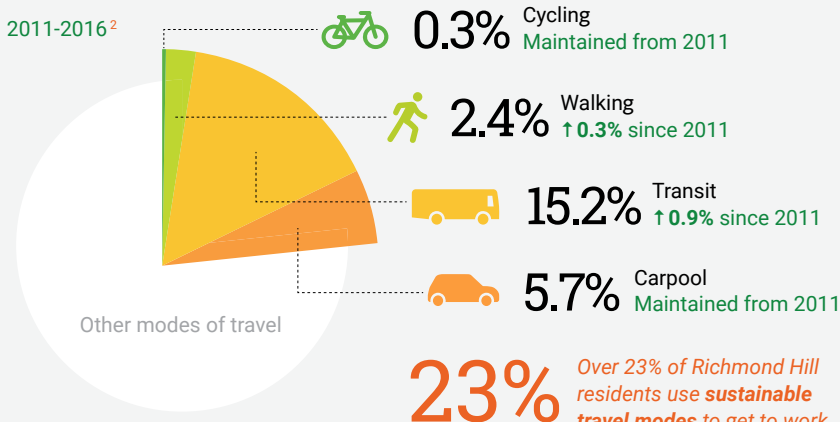
Sustainable Transportation Options

PROGRESS



PRIMARY MODE OF TRAVEL TO WORK (%)

2011-2016²



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ROUTES



Did you know?

The **Lake-to-Lake Cycling Route and Walking Trail** is a 121 km multi-use trail that will connect Lake Simcoe to Lake Ontario. Richmond Hill's portion of the route will span 18 km from Bloomington Road to Highway 7. From 2015-2019, the City completed more than half of its portion of the route, with additional expansions coming soon!



STATUS

Through infrastructure improvements, education and engagement, and increased access to transit and bike lanes, Richmond Hill has encouraged more residents to use sustainable modes of travel to reach their destination.



NEXT STEPS

As Richmond Hill updates its Transportation Master Plan, the City will take additional action to improve sustainable transportation options, access, and infrastructure.

Thank You

For more information on Richmond Hill's environmental initiatives and opportunities for community involvement, or to access the electronic version of this scorecard, visit RichmondHill.ca/Environment.

Notes:

Greening our Consumption

¹ Due to data limitations, community energy/GHG data only available for 2016-17; 2018 data has been estimated.

² GHG emission sources include electricity, natural gas, transportation fuels, other fuels, and waste.

³ Community water use includes residential, commercial, institutional, and community uses.

⁴ Due to data limitations, corporate water use does not include most parks and splash pads.

⁵ Waste data includes garbage, recycling (including appliances), and organics collected curbside, in multi-residential buildings, and at community facilities.

⁶ Waste generation data based on York Region methodology.

⁷ Recycling generation has declined due to lighter weight products and packaging.

Greening our Natural Spaces

¹ Tree canopy includes all trees and shrubs in woodlands and natural spaces, trees on private property, and street trees.

² Tree canopy data only available every 5 years.

³ Lake Wilcox is the largest kettle lake on the Oak Ridges Moraine and is actively managed by the City. It is well used by the public, contains a variety of aquatic life, and is surrounded by local development.

⁴ Data based on allotment/collective gardens approved through the Community Garden Policy.

Greening our Growth

¹ Final 2018-2019 Metrics data may differ once all approvals are completed.

² Mode share data only available every 5 years through the Census.

Sustainable printing practices have been used wherever possible to reduce the environmental footprint of this publication.

