



WHERE WILL THIS STRATEGIC PLAN TAKE US?



In 2003, the Board of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) endorsed The Living City, a vision based on our conviction that the future of the planet will be determined in rapidly expanding city regions.

Our vision is for a new kind of community, The Living City, where human settlement can flourish forever as part of nature's beauty and diversity.

The future health and well-being of the residents of the Toronto region depend on clean air, pure water and wholesome local food supplies, on the integrity of natural systems, on access to greenspaces and green jobs, and on vibrant sustainable neighbourhoods that meet the needs and support the aspirations of their residents.

Over the next 10 years, TRCA and our partners in the community will continue the work of transforming the Toronto region into a Living City. By working to create a healthy and resilient landscape, we will ensure the health and well-being of all residents of The Living City. But what will the Toronto region look like 10, 20 or 100 years in the future? And how will it function?

In the year 2113, The Living City flourishes on the shores of Lake Ontario. Although the climate has grown warmer, it is surprisingly pleasant in The Living City. Shade trees cover more than 30 per cent of the area, while gardens in backyards, community parks and on green rooftops supply tasty local produce to residents. Greenspaces and agricultural lands have been expanded, protected and integrated into the community. Wildlife is diverse and native species thrive.

The air is clean and fresh – smog days are a thing of the past. The homes, businesses and public buildings of The Living City are powered by solar, wind, biogas and other renewable sources. People live in well-planned, human-scaled communities where they can walk or bike to work, school and nearby greenspaces. Buildings are constructed of natural materials, designed in

harmony with the environment and the landscape. An efficient public transit system has replaced traffic gridlock, and trains, buses and cars run clean and emission-free. All residents share the benefits of The Living City, play an active role in its governance and feel responsible for its future.

The water is clean and delicious. The lakes and rivers are swimmable, fishable and their waters are easily treatable for drinking. Although intense storms have become more common, runoff is returned to the soil or treated in constructed wetlands. Flooding is no longer a threat. Recycling and reuse has replaced waste disposal. Organics are composted or digested. The Living City is a part of nature and, like every natural organism, uses local energy sources wisely and efficiently and returns them to the ecosystem when finished.

This vision of The Living City is firmly based on the four pillars of TRCA's ongoing commitment to healthy rivers and shorelines, greenspace and biodiversity, sustainable communities, and business excellence.



Water is used thoughtfully and efficiently, and the water in our rivers, streams and waterfront is swimmable, fishable and easily treatable for drinking, even in the most highly populated areas.

Despite our abundant supply of freshwater, we are a global leader in water efficiency and innovation. Water from the potable distribution system will be used almost exclusively for drinking and bathing.

Wastewater is minimized and stormwater is managed at source through low impact development, on-site wastewater treatment technologies and green infrastructure.



A robust, resilient and equitably distributed system of green infrastructure provides ecological services to all residents of The Living City.

Large and interconnected greenspaces offer a wide range of active and passive recreational opportunities, while safeguarding their natural environmental functions and providing suitable habitats for plant and animal species.

Land suitable for growing food is recognized and protected as a vital and irreplaceable resource, providing locally sourced, affordable and healthy foods to The Living City.

These remain relevant and have been updated to address changes including the transitioning Ontario economy.



Well planned neighbourhoods provide easy access to employment, school, recreation and amenities – on foot or by bicycle – and support a variety of careers, lifestyles and income levels.

An interconnected, multi-modal transit system provides all residents, regardless of income, with access to clean, fast and convenient transportation. Multi-use transit corridors unite communities, eliminate gridlock and support a diverse mix of transportation needs, including the need to move goods efficiently.

Governments, residents and businesses take responsibility for developing renewable, locally sourced energy, and for reusing and recycling materials. Per capita energy use and waste generation totals are among the lowest in the world.



Residents are actively engaged in community life and empowered to make meaningful contributions to long-term ecological stability, improved human health and well-being, and prosperity. They are able to connect easily and mobilize quickly to address challenges and opportunities.

The region is viewed as a centre of innovation with a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit and a responsive and adaptive regional economy, attracting skilled workers from across the globe.

The economy will function at a more localized scale, with more goods and services produced locally – even within neighbourhoods.

Education will expand beyond traditional academic subjects and reflect local and global sustainability issues.