



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Mayor and Members General Issues Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: December 5, 2012	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Vision 2020 Sustainability Indicators Report 2012 (CM12019) (City Wide)	
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SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Vision 2020 – the community vision for a sustainable Hamilton was first developed and adopted in 1992 and has been renewed by the community every five years. City Council re-adopted Vision 2020 in 2003.

Information:

This Information Report presents the Vision 2020 Sustainability Indicators Report 2012 and next steps for Vision 2020. The 2012 Vision 2020 Indicators Report is included in Appendix A.

Background

Vision 2020 was adopted by Hamilton City Council in 1992 as a vision of a strong, healthy, sustainable Hamilton that is shared by citizens, City Council, businesses and organizations. Vision 2020 accepts that it is critical to consider all three of the economic, social, and environmental effects our decisions have, because a decision in one area can affect the progress in other areas.

This community vision has served as a foundation for a significant range of community initiatives based on the 14 theme areas of the plan. Significant progress has been made in implementing Vision 2020 since its adoption in 1992, which has been measured through a set of indicators. Progress updates on the indicators were undertaken annually from 1995 to 1999 and again in 2003, 2004 and, most recently, in 2008. In 2012, in collaboration with community partners, the Vision 2020 sustainability indicators were updated and are the subject of this report.

2012 Indicators Report

Several modifications have been made for the 2012 update. The indicators have been reviewed and revised to utilize current data that better reflects the goals and community priorities in each theme area. This process was overseen by the Evaluation and Learning Committee of the Roundtable for Poverty Reduction and the Vital Signs Advisory Committee and compiled and analyzed by Jeff Wingard, McMaster University.

Wherever possible, indicators have been selected to reflect city-wide and neighbourhood trends. As the Hamilton Spectator's *Code Red*, the Hamilton Community Foundation's *Vital Signs* and the Social Planning and Research Council's *Neighbourhood Profiles* have found, quality of life varies a great deal across our neighbourhoods. The Vision 2020 progress update has endeavored to capture that variation.

Overall Findings

Progress for each of the 28 indicators was assessed on progress from the Sustainability Indicators 2008 report, according to one of three statements: making progress, hard to say; or needs improvement and the 2012 results are summarized in Table 1. The progress of the sustainability indicators for each of the 14 theme areas is provided in Table 2 and in full detail in the full report attached as Appendix A.

Table 1: Summary of 2012 Sustainability Indicators

Indicator Status	Number of Indicators	
	2008	2012
👍 Making progress / heading in the right direction	12	13
? Hard to say	9	10
👎 Needs improvements	7	5

Table 2 - Vision 2020 Progress: Summary of Indicators for 2012

VISION2020 REPORT CARD	
AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL ECONOMY 👍 GROSS CASH FARM RECEIPTS ? AGRICULTURAL LAND LOST THROUGH OP AMENDMENTS	IMPROVING AIR QUALITY 👍 AIR QUALITY HEALTH INDEX 👍 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
CHANGING OUR MODE OF TRANSPORTATION ? HSR RIDERSHIP PER CAPITA ? % PEOPLE TAKING ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION	IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF WATER RESOURCES 👍 AMMONIA/PHOSPHORUS ENTERING HAMILTON HARBOUR 👍 % OF DAYS THAT PUBLIC BEACHES ARE OPEN FOR SWIMMING
ARTS AND HERITAGE 👍 NUMBER OF ARTISTS ? NUMBER OF EVENTS HELD ON CITY PROPERTY 👍 NUMBER OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS	LAND USE IN THE URBAN AREA 📉 CHANGES IN POPULATION DENSITY ? NUMBER OF NEW HOUSING STARTS
COMMUNITY WELL BEING AND CAPACITY 📉 RATE OF LOW INCOME 👍 SENSE OF BELONGING	LOCAL ECONOMY ? LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT 👍 CASH VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS
CONSUMING LESS ENERGY ? AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY USAGE 👍 AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL NATURAL GAS USAGE	NATURAL AREAS AND CORRIDORS 👍 AMOUNT OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS PROTECTED ? AMOUNT OF TREE COVER
EDUCATION ? PEOPLE 25-64 WITH AT LEAST A HIGHSCHOOL DIPLOMA 📉 CHILDREN VULNERABLE ON 1+ DOMAINS OF THE EDI	PERSONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING 📉 RATE OF LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES 📉 RATE OF PEOPLE WHO ARE OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE
REDUCING AND MANAGING WASTE 👍 WASTE PRODUCTION AND DIVERSION RATE	SAFETY AND SECURITY 👍 NUMBER OF ROBBERIES ? DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OCCURRENCES REPORTED TO POLICE

The Executive Summary of the report identifies emerging patterns around progress – and lack of it, with respect to the Vision 2020 principles as well as draws the following conclusions from the information:

- Progress on the environmental indicators is “particularly strong” and this sector shows the most consistent progress
- There continues to be tension in balancing social, economic and environmental outcomes in decision-making and planning
- Changing modes of transportation and reducing energy consumption have seen little change over the last 10 years and therefore warrant continued emphasis and attention
- The results confirm there are serious challenges around the social and economic well-being of Hamilton residents.
- Results show that the City’s efforts to make the Hamilton the best place to raise a child are appropriate and necessary.

Next steps

Vision 2020 was created 20 years ago through extensive community consultation. It has provided an overarching policy framework, a goal to strive for over time and process whereby the City and citizens co-operate, which is reflected in the indicator progress results. It has been reviewed and updated through a number of processes over the last 20 years. The last community consultation was in 2003.

The City of Hamilton's 2012-2015 Strategic Plan includes the following objective to develop a new community vision based on the principles of sustainability:

Strategic Objective 1.6 (iii)

A new Community Vision that will form the basis for future strategic plans, re-visiting the role of Vision 2020 and looking toward overall sustainability (financial, economic, social and environmental).

Given the progress that has been made as a result of having Vision 2020, plans are currently being developed for a visioning process in 2013 thru 2014 that will extend the planning horizon beyond 2020 and expand the sustainability framework from three bottom lines (Social, Economic, and Environmental) to include Natural, Physical, Economic, Human, Social and Cultural considerations.

Starting in 2013, the community will be engaged to develop a single plan that captures the vision and means for transformation. The outcome will be a vision that is clear and succinct, expressed in a single sentence capturing the future that the city aspires to. It will be supported by a handful of statements that summarise the desired impact on key aspects of the city. To make the vision deliverable, a set of quantified objectives against which progress can be measured are vital. Together these statements will be something that everyone involved in the city can understand, agree to and promote.

The process will help to bring the community together in a shared vision on "What Hamilton will look like in 2050"? Looking further into the future helps to guide decisions and plans along the way and involving all members of the community allows individuals and organizations to take their own actions toward reaching this shared vision for Hamilton.

The Vision 2020 Sustainable Indicators Report 2012 will help to inform the community discussion and visioning and provide a baseline for future monitoring. However, additional indicators that reflect the objectives of the newly developed community vision and a time frame for regular indicator updates will be developed once the new community vision is adopted.

The public consultation will be launched in Q2 of 2013 and completed within approximately 18 months. Detailed plans for the public process will be provided to Council prior to the launch. The visioning process will be completed prior to the next municipal election. The new community vision can then inform the next Corporate

Strategic Plan under the new council, as well as other City of Hamilton planning processes.