

A Community Report Card

Sustainable North Grenville was created by a group of concerned citizens over 10 years ago to help raise awareness about sustainability issues in North Grenville. Looking back from where we are now, it might be said, "Wow! Look at how far the community has come." SNG is proud to have played a small role in helping some of these come to life.

The following is a high level overview of how North Grenville is doing – a list of events, programs and achievements within the framework of the values of sustainability. While progress has been made in many areas, there's still room for improvement. It's a snapshot of some (not all) progress measures that demonstrates how far the community's come – and where there's still work to be done by all of us.

1. Community (Culture/Social)

Excellent!

- Sustainability Fair & Market, including largest Electric Vehicle show in eastern Ontario
- Kemptville Live Music Festival
- Kemptville Campus acquired from the Province in a joint partnership. Master Plan completed. New board being created.
- Active transportation: improved walkability in urban area, more sidewalks and safer pedestrian crossings
- Citizen engagement via Advisory Committees, including, Accessibility, Active Transportation, Ag & Rural Affairs, Arts & Culture, Community and Economic Development, Environmental Action, Health, Wellness and Fitness, plus Heritage.
- Expanding Trails system: NG Trails, including Rail Trail, Ferguson Forest, Kemptville Campus & more
- Thriving Hamlets (Municipal support for Community Associations)

Good

- Affordable housing initiative underway.
- Tourism strategy underway

Needs Work

- New Community Strategic Plan to come in 2021
- Better land use policies
- Public transportation options

2. The Environment

Excellent!

- No tar sands pipeline flowing through North Grenville!
- NG Recycles waste reduction program, including recent launch of Green bin program diverting 3 tonnes daily.
- Ferguson Forest Centre saved from closure - now thriving
- Giving Garden and Kemptville Campus Greenhouses as community spaces run by volunteers
- Agroforestry Centre – Sugar bush being restored and Maple Syrup production underway
- Environmental Action Advisory Committee – work plan being developed and implemented
- Pitch in Week clean up program throughout Municipality

Good

- LED lighting in Municipal buildings
- EV chargers in 3 locations in Kemptville
- Arboretum in development at Ferguson

Needs Work

- Climate action / mitigation and sustainability strategy
- Blue Community / Water Protection initiatives
- Green space protection; No more clearing wetlands
- Solar energy projects on Municipal buildings where feasible
- Bike lanes on major thoroughfares, including CR 43

3. The Economy

Excellent!

- Support for local food (B&H, Catered Affairs, others)
- Thriving Farmers' Market
- 'Love NG' Municipal business support / Shop local campaign
- Municipal support to businesses affected by COVID-19
- Trades training programs at Kemptville Campus

Good

- Active Downtown BIA and Chamber of Commerce
- Municipality created a Downtown Kemptville Community Action Plan (DKCAP) to address present and future opportunities

Needs Work

- Residential and commercial development needs to be properly managed
- Investment attraction strategy to include diversity of small/medium sized businesses
- Continue to support existing business
- Many planning and development initiatives are underway which could be shared with the public

These changes didn't happen by themselves – it takes people speaking up and being involved. And there are more things unfolding regularly. Whether you're new to the area or have lived in North Grenville forever, there's a lot going on and a lot to find out.

If you've got an idea, or see something that will lead to a more sustainable community, reach out. Call a member of Council, talk to someone on one of the Advisory Committees.

Contact SNG via
info.sustainablenorthgrenville@gmail.com
 Or check us out on Facebook.

Stay tuned next week
 as we look at 'Where to Next?'
 ...mapping next steps to ensure a more
 sustainable future for North Grenville.