



Integrated Community Sustainability Planning

Ontario Eastern Municipal Conference

September 18, 2009

Kingston



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What is sustainable development?

- Over 165 definitions in current circulation
- Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
 - Brundtland Commission, 1987
- Enough for all forever
 - African Delegate to Johannesburg (Rio+10)

Sustainability is Everywhere

- The Provincial Planning Statement
- The OPPI report on Health and Sustainability
- The federal government
- Wal-Mart, Home Depot, General Motors



Sustainable Communities

... are communities that use their resources to meet current needs while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations; they seek a better quality of life for their residents while maintaining nature's ability to function over time. **This involves a reconciliation of ecological, social and economic imperatives.**”

David Bell and Michelle Grinstein, “Sustainable Urban Communities in Canada: From Rio to Johannesburg” (November 2001)



Overview – Integrated Community Sustainability Plans

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What is an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)?

- An ICSP is “a long-term plan, developed in consultation with community members, that provides direction for the community to realize sustainability objectives it has for the environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions of its identity” (Infrastructure Canada, 2007).



Why are communities developing an ICSP?

- To access Federal Gas Tax Funds
- To comply with environmental or planning regulations
- To be ready for opportunities and change (ex. Green Energy Act)
- To align goals, objectives, strategies and Master plans around a shared understanding
- To engage community members and stakeholders in discussion about long-term planning

Municipal Funding Agreement (MFA)

- Negotiated federal - municipal agreement
- Known by most as the Federal Gas Tax (FGT) transfer
- Provide funds for investment in environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure projects

Federal Gas Tax (FGT) Goals

There are four main goals of the FGT:

1. A coordinated approach to community sustainability
2. Integration of social cultural, environmental and economic sustainability objectives
3. Collaboration with other municipalities
4. Engagement of residents

Federal Gas Tax (FGT) Requirements

The FGT requires that Municipalities:

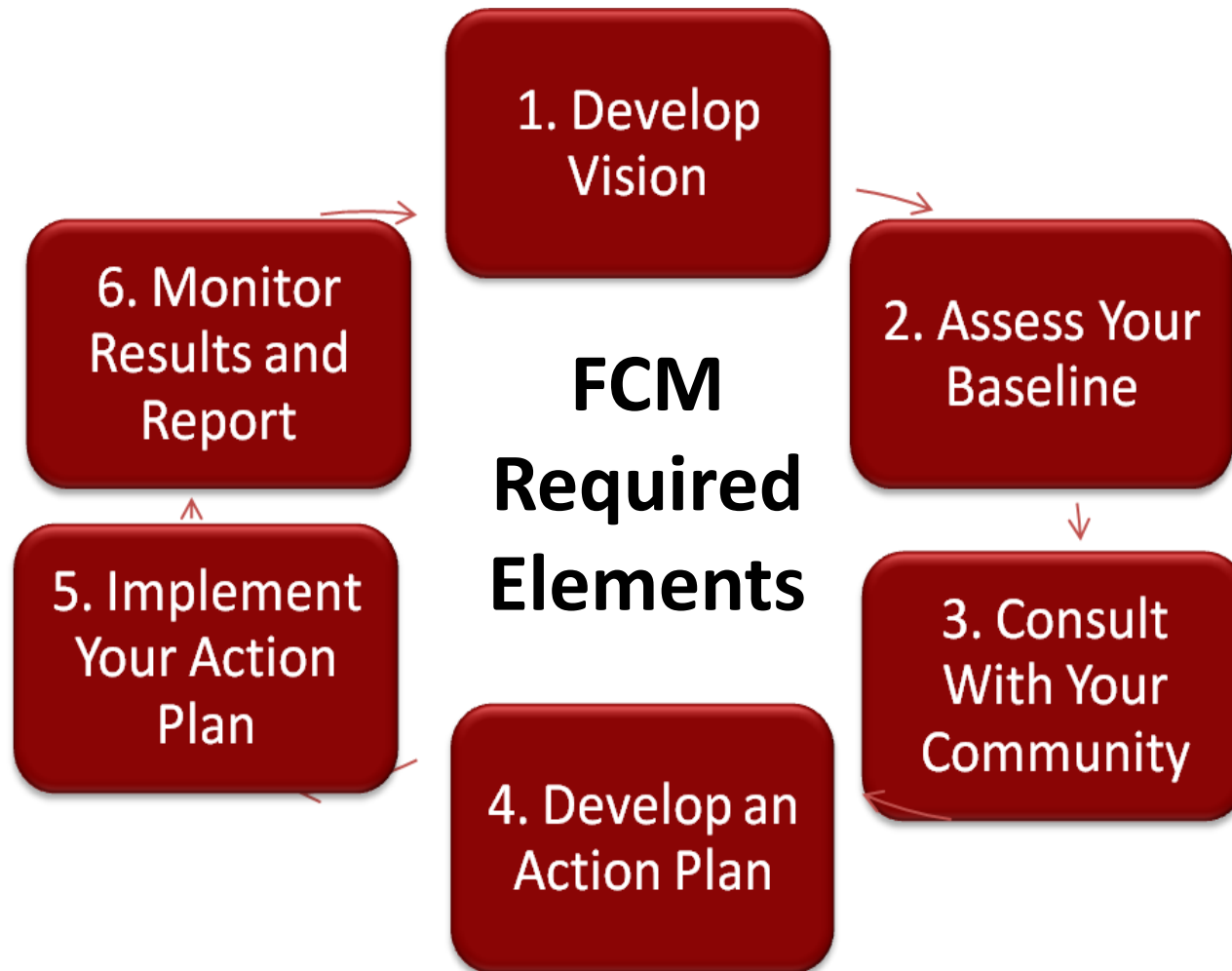
- Demonstrate progress towards enhanced sustainability planning by 2010
- Develop Capital Investment Plans that incorporate the new PSAB requirements
- Measure impact on cleaner air, cleaner water, and lower greenhouse gas emissions

Federal Gas Tax (FGT) Access

To meet obligations under the FGT municipalities have two choices:

1. Develop an Official Plan (OP) which includes policies on sustainability and must meet the conditions of Appendix G of FGT Agreement
2. Develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)

How are communities developing an ICSP?



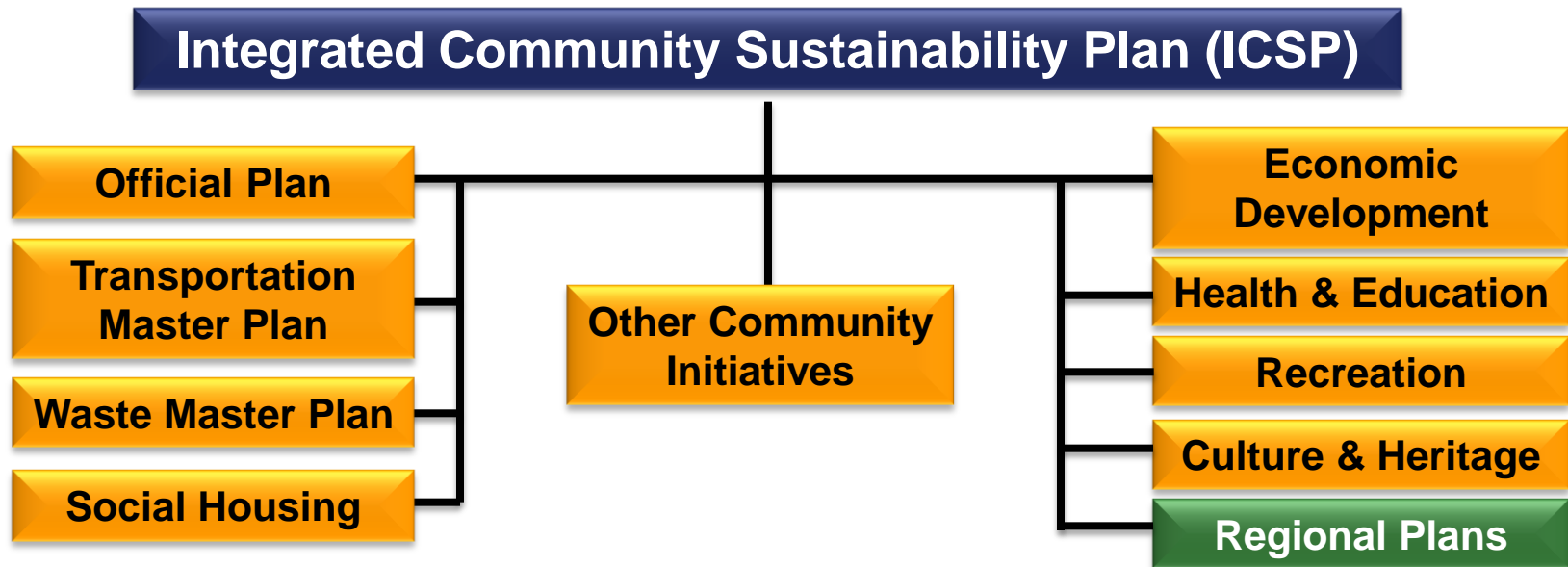
ICSP Approach

- Approach varies considerably from municipality to municipality and from province to province.
- Focus may be corporate vs. community or strategic vs. tactical
- ICSPs have different development models including:
 - The Natural Step
 - Smart Growth
 - Agenda 21
 - Adaptive Management Framework

Typical Community Sustainability Issues

- Land Use Planning and Management
- Protection of Natural Areas
- Economic Development
- Transportation and Communications Technology
- Infrastructure
- Water
- Energy
- Solid Waste Management
- Recreation and Leisure
- Health
- Housing
- Capacity Building and Governance
- Culture and Heritage

What is the relationship between the ICSP and other planning documents?



What is the relationship between the ICSP and OPs

- There are similarities and differences in the:
 - Role and goals
 - Range of issues
 - Planning horizons
 - Requirements (federally and provincially)
 - Requirements (municipally)
 - Review timelines
 - Opportunities for funding



National Perspective

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Examples of Sustainability Plans

- Inuvik, NWT
- Vancouver, BC
- Victoria, BC
- Rossland, BC
- Calgary, AB
- Olds, AB
- Winnipeg, MB
- Pickering, ON
- Kingston, ON
- County of Frontenac, ON
- Halton Region, ON
- Collingwood, ON
- Montreal, QB
- Saint John, NB
- Charlottetown, PEI
- Annapolis Valley, NS
- Cornerbrook, NL

Victoria, BC

Sustainability Framework

- Provincial capital with a population of 78,057
- Corporate Sustainability Framework for the future of the community, and for the City as a corporate leader
- Defines a long term sustainability destination for Victoria



www.victoria.ca/cityhall/sstnbl.shtml

Whistler, B.C

Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)

- Resort town of 10,000 people
- Comprehensive sustainability plan called Whistler 2020
- Widely respected as one of the best examples of community sustainability planning



www.whistler2020.ca

Pickering, ON

Learning by
Doing (LBD)

- GTA community of 95,000 moving to 170,000 by 2023
- Created “Sustainable Pickering”
- Emphasis on learning by doing not by planning
- Building local understanding and capacity
- Developing a solid foundation and framework (including an Office of Sustainability)



www.sustainablepickering.com

Sudbury, ON

LBD

- City of 158,000
- Developed “Earth Care”, a Local Action Plan
- Established partnerships with more than 150 organizations a non-profit organization
- Adopted an “at arms length” governance model
- Emphasis on enhancing the environment, creating a healthier community, and strengthening the local economy.



www.greatersudbury.ca



Regional Perspective

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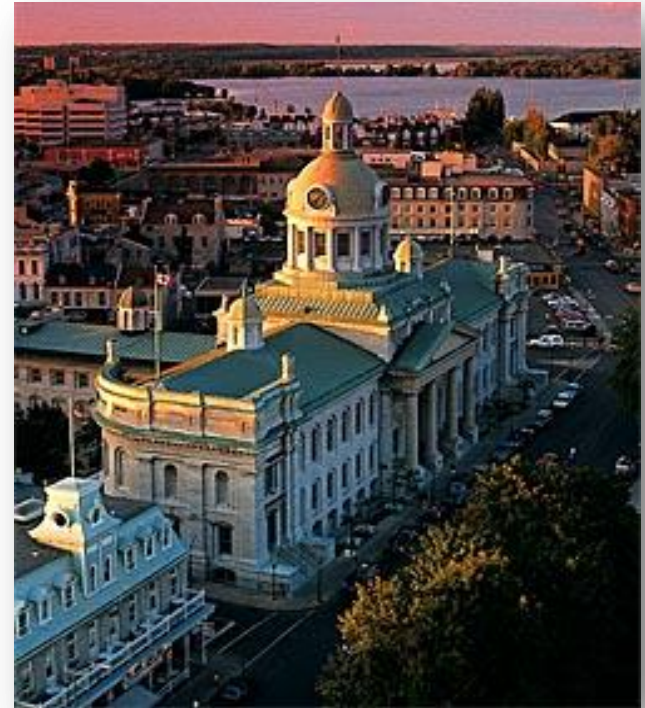


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ICSP

- Lake Ontario city of 117,000
- Vision: “Kingston - Canada’s most sustainable city”
- City-led, community owned
- The ICSP will consist of a vision, guiding principles, themes, theme statements, goals, targets, priorities, actions, indicators, and a governance model to support implementation



www.cityofkingston.ca

Decision Points

- Leadership Team
- Shared Understanding
- Complexity
- Methodology
- Engagement
- Governance
- Indicators



Support for Municipalities and Partners

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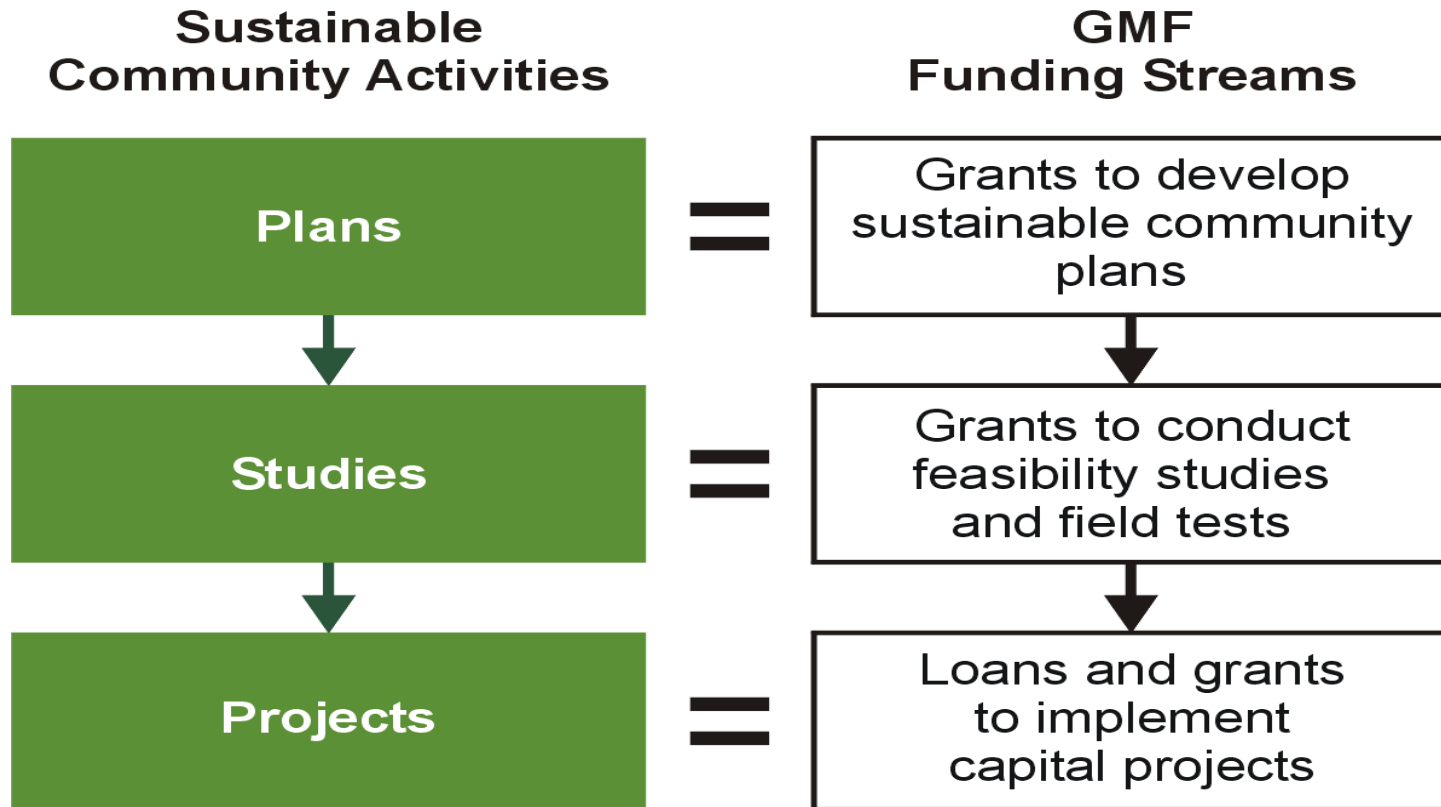
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Green Municipal Funds (GMF)

- Established by the FCM to support municipal initiatives across Canada
- Funding is allocated in five sectors of municipal activity: brownfields, energy, transportation, waste and water.
- Plans must consider environmental, social and economic objectives and include specific targets for environmental performance.



Types of Funding Available





Resources

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Resources

- AMO overview of ICSPs and Sustainability Planning Toolkit
<http://www.amo.on.ca/Content/NavigationMenu/SustainableMunicipalities/FederalGasTax/IntegratedCommunitySustainabilityPlan/default.htm>
- Infrastructure Canada Resource Centre
http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/links-liens/resources-ressources_e.shtml

Questions? Contact us

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