

Clean Economy Initiatives for Arnprior

To thrive in a changing world, it's crucial to build adaptable communities that embrace opportunities for improvement.

Planning plays a vital role in managing the risks associated with change.

When we talk about adapting to our future, it involves investing in rural economies to create reliable jobs and enhance livability. Imagine vibrant local communities with secure food sources and a robust water supply. A healthy environment is an investment that benefits all generations.

A **clean economy means** a shift toward actions and technologies that protect people and the environment. It means a new, more sustainable way of living and doing business. Businesses can adopt clean technologies that improve energy efficiency and resource use.

Clean technology is a broad term for any good or service designed to remedy or prevent environmental damage. These could range from a car-sharing program to developing new recycling processes or creating compostable products to replace single-use plastics.

Clean technologies primarily focus on how industries address climate action, while **nature-based solutions** represent the public sector's approach to climate action. These involve actions that contribute to the well-being of ecosystems, such as protecting, restoring, and expanding natural assets or implementing green infrastructure. Examples include safeguarding grasslands and wetlands, installing green roofs, or developing green building codes.

In the following sections, we will outline potential initiatives which could be implemented in the Town of Arnprior. We would like to hear your thoughts on whether they are projects you want to see in your community!

The results of this survey will be integrated into a Community Action Plan, which will be presented to the Town of Arnprior municipal government.

Climate Action Strategy

As our town grows, addressing climate change impacts locally is vital. The Arnprior 2024-2027 strategic plan highlights the need for a climate action strategy and leveraging regional economic opportunities to attract new industries and younger generations through job opportunities.

The following initiatives are related to climate action strategies.

1. Develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan with Renfrew County
 - In collaboration with Renfrew County and its member municipalities, Arnprior aims to contribute to the County's climate leadership.
 - Actions involve actively participating in developing a Climate Adaptation Plan, ensuring that the plan aligns with Arnprior's context and enabling effective implementation of climate actions.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how important this initiative is to you.

1- Not important, 5-Very Important

2. Please share any comments about your choice.
3. Develop a Natural Asset Inventory for more informed asset management planning
 - Creating a natural asset inventory involves identifying and assessing ecological features like trees, soil, and wetlands. These natural elements offer essential

services such as water and carbon storage, quality improvement, and microclimate regulation. Arnprior's Growth and Asset Management strategy currently needs more consideration for natural infrastructure assets.

- Actions involve building a natural asset inventory, assessing climate vulnerabilities, and incorporating this information into asset management planning.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how important this initiative is to you.

1- Not important, 5-Very Important

4. Please share any comments about your choice.
5. Explore investment opportunities in renewable energy systems in employment areas
 - Actions involve investigating ways to bring renewable energy systems, such as geothermal and district energy, into employment areas to promote sustainability.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how important this initiative is to you.

1- Not important, 5-Very Important

6. Please share any comments about your choice.
7. Establish a Residential Green Retrofit Program
 - With this program, the Town would support residents through retrofit incentives and community education initiatives, promoting upgrades like air sealing, energy-efficient lighting, building envelope improvements, and alternative energy options for residential HVAC systems.
 - Actions involve developing a program to encourage homeowners to renovate their properties to reduce carbon emissions and environmental impacts. On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how important this initiative is to you.

1- Not important, 5-Very Important

8. Please share any comments about your choice.

Green Growth Strategy

In 2022, the Town commissioned a Growth Management Study highlighting that industrial and commercial sectors are projected to drive growth on employment lands over the next 20 years.

The macro-economy in the region is changing to facilitate more advanced manufacturing and clean technology businesses. The Town can remain competitive in their region by developing innovation centres which will draw new businesses and create new job opportunities for residents.

The following initiatives, aimed at green growth, will enable the Town to capitalize on regional economic opportunities.

9. Explore opportunities for intensification of employment lands through innovation centres.
 - Many of the growing sub-sectors in advanced manufacturing such as energy, automotive, technology and clean tech require integrated operations on larger sites in a “campus-style” setting. These integrated facilities often accommodate a combination of office, research and development, warehousing and logistics, and on-site manufacturing.

- Actions involve promoting and facilitating development of innovation centres where green businesses can be co-located, this will fulfil the need for higher intensification of employment areas.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how important this initiative is to you.

1- Not important, 5-Very Important

10. Please share any comments about your choice.

11. Creation of eco-business zones

- Eco-business zones are areas of employment and/or industrial activity that promote environmental quality, economic vitality and social benefits through the continuum of planning, design, construction, long-term operations and deconstruction.
- Actions involve updating policies in the Town's official plan to update to include eco-business zones.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how important this initiative is to you.

1- Not important, 5-Very Important

12. Please share any comments about your choice.

Electric Public Transportation

Arnprior currently lacks local transit services that are accessible to the general public. To address this gap, the Town commissioned a Transit Needs Feasibility Study to explore how transit can align with Arnprior's needs and objectives. The study highlighted various groups that require or would benefit from transit services.

Present transportation alternatives are limited; individuals without access to private vehicles must resort to taxis or specialized services, which may not be accessible to all residents. A transit system within Arnprior could cater to diverse demographics and needs.

The following initiatives are related to public transportation needs.

13. Feasibility study on implementing an electric community shuttle

- An electric shuttle could offer flexible routes and schedules to accommodate various demographics and destinations within the town.
- Actions involve exploring implementing an electric community shuttle service in Arnprior.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how important this initiative is to you.

1- Not important, 5-Very Important

14. Please share any comments about your choice.

15. Feasibility study on ride-share and car-share programs for the Town

- Ride-share and car-share programs could provide residents with convenient and cost-effective alternatives to traditional transportation methods, contributing to improved mobility and sustainability within the community.

- Actions involve evaluating the viability and benefits of introducing shared transportation options that promote resource efficiency and reduce individual reliance on private vehicles.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how important this initiative is to you.

1- Not important, 5-Very Important

16. Please share any comments about your choice.

Food Waste Reduction within Businesses

While the Town already collects fall and spring yard waste, there are no provisions for food waste collection. The Town is piloting an electric composter program for residents to address this gap. However, businesses currently lack support in this regard.

Ontario's \$55 million investment through the Surplus Food Redistribution Infrastructure program aims to assist food rescue organizations in diverting high-quality food from going to waste.

The following initiatives are focused on food waste reduction.

17. Building relationships between businesses and food rescue organizations:

- Actions involve establishing connections and collaborations between businesses, such as grocery stores and restaurants, and food rescue organizations to implement effective strategies for redistributing surplus food to those in need.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how important this initiative is to you.

1- Not important, 5-Very Important

18. Please share any comments about your choice.

19. Organics management programs

- Actions involve collaborating with stakeholders to develop and implement practical systems and guidelines for business to separate organic waste.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how important this initiative is to you.

1- Not important, 5-Very Important

20. Please share any comments about your choice.

Circular Economy Programming To Drive Landfill Diversion

Given Arnprior's limited landfill capacity, estimated to last only another 16-17 years, it is crucial to enhance diversion efforts. Unfortunately, there is currently no available waste audit data.

Ontario's Waste Audits and Waste Reduction Work Plans regulation (Ontario Regulation 102/94) mandates businesses and institutions to conduct waste audits and prepare reduction work plans. Similarly, the Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Source Separation Programs regulation (Ontario Regulation 103/94) requires source separation programs for specified wastes, emphasizing the reuse or recycling of separated waste.

Arnprior's Growth Management Strategy anticipates expansion in Employment Areas, particularly within advanced manufacturing, goods movement, and construction sectors. Recycling materials from these sectors minimizes the need for new resources and extends landfill life.

The following circular economy initiatives could help align these sectors with provincial regulations and contribute to sustainable waste management practices.

21. Landfill waste audit for to identify waste diversion programs for businesses

- Actions involve conducting a landfill waste audit to identify opportunities for waste diversion programs within Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) sectors.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how important this initiative is to you.

1- Not important, 5-Very Important

22. Please share any comments about your choice.

23. Feasibility Study on ICI Recycling Centre

- This center could provide facilities for waste recycling, processing, and materials reclamation, focusing on common items like wooden pallets that are often discarded after a single use.
- Actions involve exploring opportunities to establish an Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) recycling center within Employment Areas. The study would assess such a facility's economic, environmental, and logistical aspects.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how important this initiative is to you.

1- Not important, 5-Very Important

24. Please share any comments about your choice.

25. Feasibility Study on Local ReUse Centres and Community Initiatives

- Actions involve:
 - Exploring the feasibility of establishing local ReUse Centres that encourage residents to donate, exchange, or purchase second-hand goods.
 - Collaborating with Renfrew County to support ReUse Centres and Programs.
 - Promoting repair-friendly and rental businesses
 - Working with a non-profit organization that refurbishes and sells second-hand goods.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how important this initiative is to you.

1- Not important, 5-Very Important

26. Please share any comments about your choice.

Thank you for your input!

If you would like to learn more about this project visit: