

Best Practice

Hafford Community Sustainability Plan

CONTACT

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THE PRACTICE

The development of the Hafford Community Sustainability Plan (HCSP) is to provide a comprehensive policy framework to guide the physical, environmental, economic, social and cultural development of the community of Hafford. What makes the HCSP unique is that it serves two functions. First, it fulfills the requirements for an OCP under the *Planning and Development Act 2007*. Second, the HCSP integrates community planning with sustainability. The plan focuses on a number of key areas such as: water and waste management, land use development and overall growth strategies, aging infrastructure, energy efficient and affordable housing, alternative energies, economic development, eco-tourism, cultural and artistic development, social development, green space, and fostering and nurturing innovative partnerships.

THE PROCESS

The planning process took approximately 38 months to complete from initial planning to adoption of the final plan. A comprehensive community engagement process was undertaken. This included meetings with the community, Council members, neighboring communities, government agencies, consultants, and participating in related planning activities necessary to ensure the successful development and implementation of the HCSP. Through this process core planning principle, a community vision, general sustainability goals and specific policies were developed.

This process included the development of a future land use concept plan, a concept plan for a new ecologically, sustainable subdivision, and the Town of Hafford's first zoning bylaw.

THE RESULTS

The HCSP provides that strategic framework that will guide more detailed plans and policies. This framework will ensure that development takes place in a sustainable, orderly and rational manner. The HCSP also covers matters related to the health of the environment, the vitality of the economy and the social well being of the residents of the Town of Hafford.

LESSONS LEARNED

The Plan itself will not "fix" community problems, but instead is an important catalyst in providing a means of positive change in the community. Consultations are also extremely important when developing a project of this nature.