



City of Charlottetown
**ENVIRONMENT &
SUSTAINABILITY**
REPORT

2022



CHARLOTTETOWN
Great things happen here.



the
inspired
city





2022 was a year of change and growth for the Environment and Sustainability (E&S) Department. New staff were welcomed to the team, helping us to tackle new challenges and respond to Hurricane Fiona bringing a dramatic close to the year.

The pressing issues faced both globally and locally - climate change related natural events, systemic inequities, the COVID-19 pandemic - are not isolated from one another and, throughout 2022, the E&S Department worked to take a holistic approach to our initiatives. Staff worked on a sustainable procurement project that will leverage City spending power to contribute to our social and environmental sustainability goals. We continued our successful Switch Charlottetown program, which makes home energy efficiency upgrades more accessible by providing


0% interest financing to residents. Simultaneously, we conducted extensive energy saving upgrades to City facilities. The importance of Charlottetown's urban forest was also an essential theme with staff rapidly working on tree damage in parks and on streets, in addition to receiving over 1,600 request to assist residents with storm-related tree cleanup. Public concern and interest in the city's urban forest was exemplified in the Tree Reclamation Open House held following Hurricane Fiona.


Looking forward to 2023, we know there is work to be done to better prepare for the effects of a changing climate and restore our natural environment. Staff are working on the creation of a new Climate Action Plan that will take shape throughout the coming year and will set a clear, actionable path through which the City can adapt to and mitigate climate change.


This year, residents have once again demonstrated their willingness to support one another in times of need and the overall resilience of this community. The effects of climate change are daunting and uncertain, but I am inspired by the care that residents show for the natural environment and each other and know that, together, we can tackle the many challenges we face.

kindest regards,
Councillor Terry Bernard, Chair- Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE


Trevor MacKinnon
 Member at Large


Bob Doiron
 Member at Large


Mayor Philip Brown
 Member at Large

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT STAFF



Jessika Corkum-Gorrill
 Acting Manager of Environment and Sustainability



Katrina Cristall
 Climate Action Officer



Alistair Ozon
 Water Coordinator



Nick Walker
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Sydney Gillis
 Program Administrative Assistant



Morgan Laverty
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 Program Coordinator (Residential Property Clean Up Program)



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 Office Assistant (Residential Property Clean Up Program)



Tristan Atkins
 Program Assistant (Residential Property Clean Up Program)



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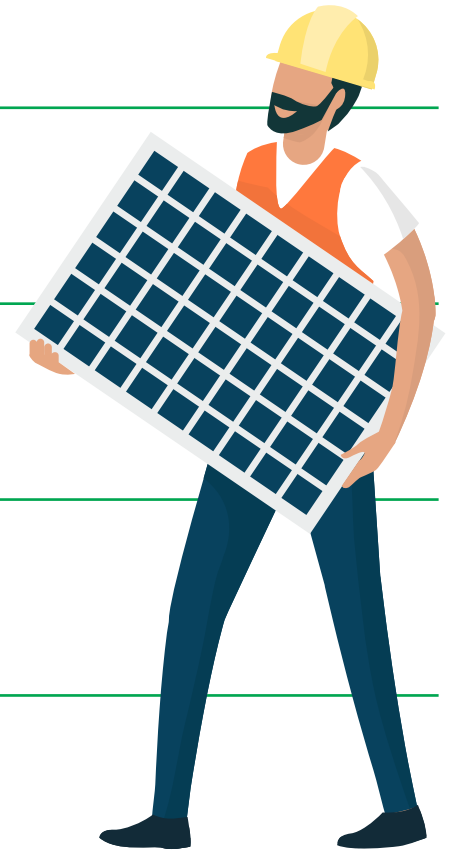
FOOD

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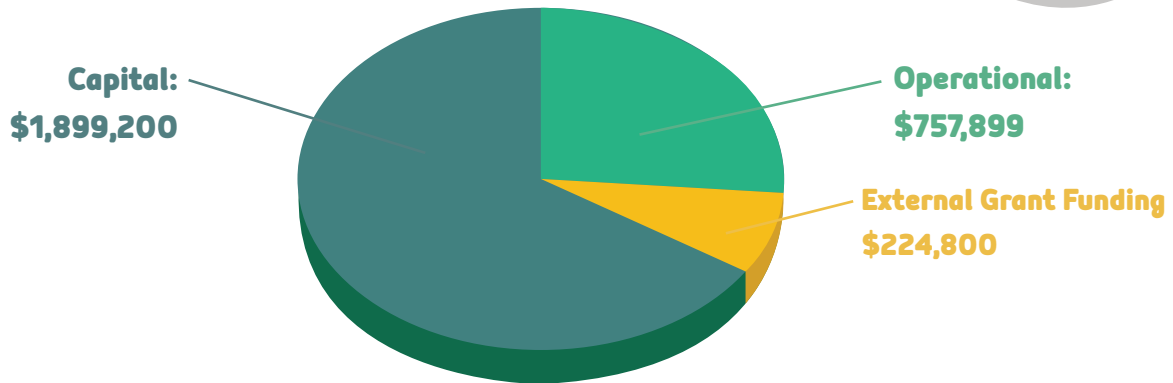
WASTE

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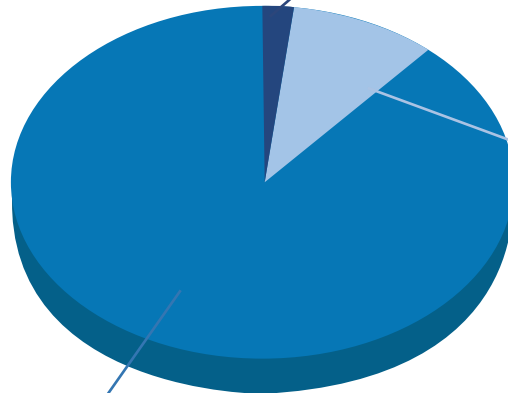
City of Charlottetown Community Sustainability Budget and Funding Totals

Total Community Sustainability Budget:
\$2,881,899



Total Community Sustainability External Funding:
\$11,326,892

\$224,800
 Applied to Community Sustainability budget



\$1,092,092
Transit* Funding
*budgeted separately from overall Community Sustainability budget



\$10,010,000*
*Capital loan at 0% with a grant to cover 43% of total loan amount (FCM Community Efficiency Financing Fund, multi-year funding initiated in 2021)

- Thank you to the following funding partners for their contributions:
- Government of PEI
 - Intact Public Entities & Intact Financial Corporation
 - Federation of Canadian Municipalities
 - PEI Alliance for Mental Wellbeing
 - Canadian Infrastructure
 - PEI Active Transportation



Improving energy efficiency, converting to renewable energy sources and reducing dependency on fossil fuels are key components of community sustainability. Each year, the City of Charlottetown is making progress toward its energy goals and seeking opportunities to enhance our resilience to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

ENERGY BY SOURCE

Electricity - 50%

Diesel - 21%

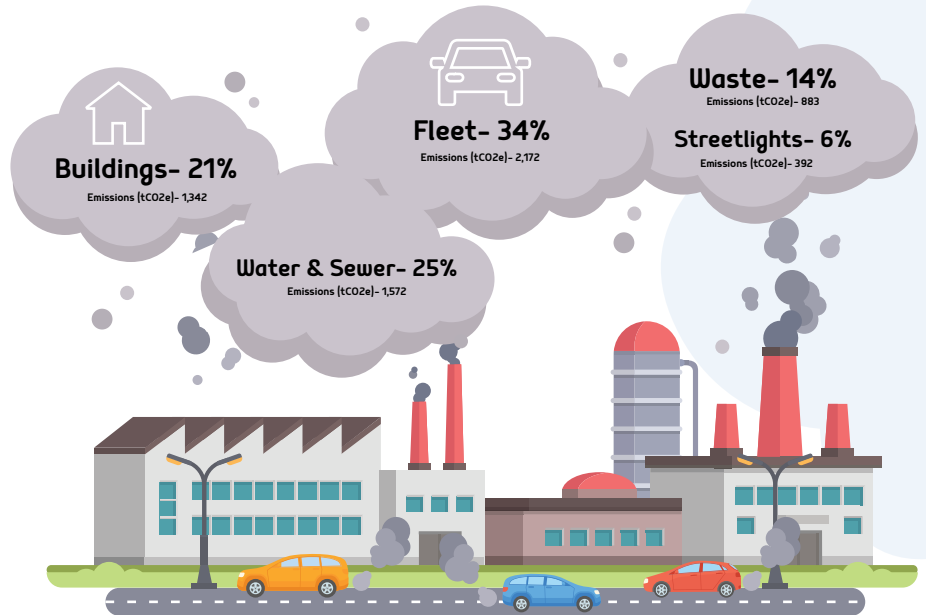
Gasoline - 15%

Fuel Oil - 10%

District Energy - 4%



CORPORATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY SECTOR (tCO2e)



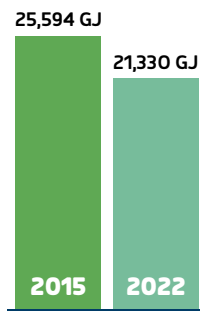
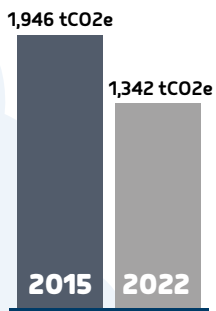
ONE OF THE MAIN OBJECTIVES IN THE CITY'S COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN IS TO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS.



CORPORATE BUILDINGS

31% REDUCTION

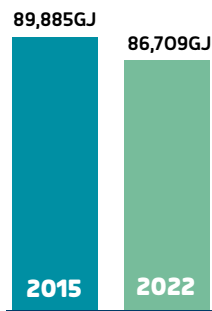
17% REDUCTION



Emissions (tCO2e)

Energy (GJ)

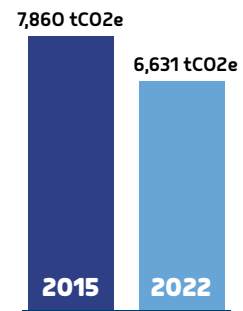
CORPORATE ENERGY CONSUMPTION



4% REDUCTION

Energy (GJ)

CORPORATE EMISSIONS



19% REDUCTION

Emissions (tCO2e)

Overall, despite acquisition of additional City facilities and fleet to accommodate expanded municipal services associated with a growing population, the City is seeing decreases in both energy use and emissions. Based on trends, it is anticipated that we are on target to meet the goals of the Community Energy Plan.

A new GHG inventory methodology was used in 2022 which makes numbers incomparable to 2021 data. Reanalysis has been completed on 2015 data to examine trends over a longer period of time.

IWMC manages all waste on PEI and there is no municipal waste management. The waste data doesn't reflect true value of waste produced and is a best estimate that is increased each year to account for population increase.



\$323,727

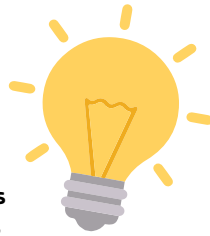
Guaranteed cost savings

526 Tonnes CO₂e

Guaranteed energy savings

ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACT

An Energy Performance Contract was signed with Honeywell Energy Solutions Group in 2021 to implement energy efficiency upgrades in nine city owned facilities as well as the Bell Aliant Centre and the Eastlink Centre. The project structure guarantees energy savings and resulting cost offsets for the City. All projects are scheduled to be completed in early 2023.



HOME FLOOD PROTECTION REBATES

The City of Charlottetown has launched a rebate program that helps Charlottetown residents protect their homes against damage in the event of flooding through upgrades such as sump pump installation. The rebate program was developed to address the impact of severe weather events such as heavy rainfall on housing infrastructure and to help alleviate the financial implications. This program was funded by a donation from Intact Public Entities and Intact Financial Corporation through their Municipal Climate Resiliency Grant program.



Switch
CHARLOTTETOWN

\$3,455,000

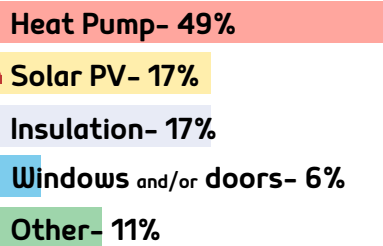


For more information click here!

FINANCED IN ENERGY UPGRADES

Switch Charlottetown, which launched in 2021, is a home energy upgrade program administered by PACE Atlantic CIC that offers 0% interest loans for home energy upgrades. By the end of 2022:

- 432 residents were signed up for the program
- 270 home energy projects were completed



A breakdown of the type of home energy upgrades completed by Charlottetown residents who have accessed the Switch Program

BETTER HOMES NEIGHBORHOOD ENERGY PROJECT

Following the success of the first round of the Better Homes Neighbourhood Energy Project in the Sherwood neighbourhood, a second round of the project was conducted within a subsection of the 500 lot. 22 households participated, including nine small multi-unit residential buildings and eight heritage homes. As with the first round of the project, participants received a free energy audit, a one-on-one consultation to discuss energy efficiency upgrade recommendations, as well as a set of small home energy upgrades, including air sealing and weather stripping. Analysis of the project results will be possible in the coming year as residents have the opportunity to take action on the recommendations of the project.



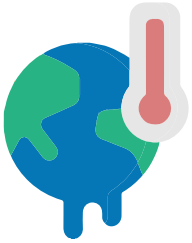
For more information click here!





NET-ZERO CITY WORKS FACILITY

In 2021, work began on a new 2,300 square foot Net-Zero City Works Garage facility that will include service bays, offices, and workshops for the Parks and Recreation and Water and Sewer Utility Departments. The entire building's heating and electrical consumption will be minimized and offset using ground-source (geothermal) heat pumps and on-site solar energy. This building will be the first of its kind in Charlottetown and is in keeping with municipal and provincial targets for overall carbon neutrality. The building is scheduled to be complete by June 2023.



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PANEL

In October 2022, the City hosted a Climate Change Adaptation Panel with four speakers from the Province of PEI, UPEI's Climate Lab, the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation, and Haute Nature. The speakers presented on various topics relating to post-tropical storm Fiona, climate change monitoring and adaptation, flood preparedness, and nature-based landscaping. After the presentations the approximately 50 attendees had a chance to ask questions during a Q&A and an informal meet and greet.



PROSPECTS FOR 2023

- Climate Action Plan:** At the close of 2022, the City of Charlottetown kicked off work towards a new Climate Action Plan for the City of Charlottetown. The Climate Action Plan will be the central document, which will lead the City in reaching climate change goals and preparing for the future. Phase One - Discovery began in early January 2023 and will include research, risk assessment, analysis and modeling, along with pre-engagement. This data collection phase is intended to consolidate the necessary data as well as community and stakeholder perspectives needed to establish the current state of climate work, capacity, plans, and approaches in PEI and identify gaps in knowledge needed to inform future phases. Phase Two - Development is anticipated to begin in spring 2023 and will include extensive community, stakeholder, and rightsholder engagement. A finalized plan is anticipated to be launched in early 2024.
- Shoreline Protection Project:** With the 2021 living shoreline installation near the Queen Elizabeth Hospital off Murchison Lane holding up well after Hurricane Fiona, the City is continuing to look into additional opportunities to implement more green infrastructure to protect Charlottetown's shorelines. Design work is in progress for another shoreline project for 2023.



Greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector are a major contributor to climate change. In 2022, we saw more residents than ever opting to take public transit. The City also invested in new active transportation infrastructure, working to expand and connect existing routes, making it easier than ever to choose sustainable transportation options in Charlottetown.

TOTAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SPENDING

\$4,200,900



7 NEW BIKE RACKS

were installed in Charlottetown. Three through the Bike Rack Cost Sharing Initiative, through which businesses and organizations are able to split the cost of a bike rack with the City, and four at City facilities.



3km OF ADDITIONAL PAVED MULTI-USE PATHS



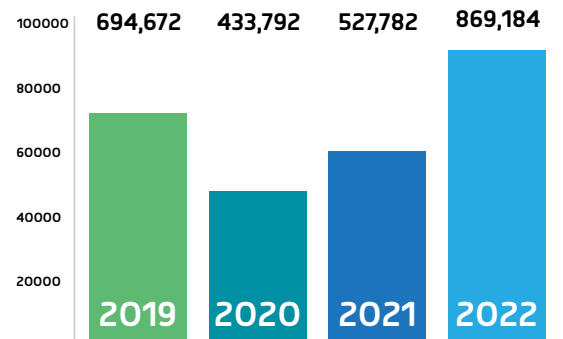
Phase 2 of the Bypass Highway Active Transportation Lane was completed from St. Peters Road, along the highway and up Brackley Point Rd towards the airport.

E-BIKES

In 2022, the City purchased two electric bicycles for staff to sign-out and share their use. The e-bikes are kept at City Hall and staff are encouraged to use them to get to meetings or do site visits, instead of defaulting to getting in a car.

TRANSIT RIDERSHIP

2022 saw the highest ridership numbers since public transit was established in Charlottetown in 2005. On average, 72,432 riders used capital area transit each month. October 2022 saw the highest number of riders on record with 106,452 people using transit in Charlottetown.



SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION - 2022 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



BIKE WEEK

Bike Week once again took place to celebrate cycling in Charlottetown. This year, Bike Week included a group mountain bike ride in the Acadian Forest Trails, Bike to Work and School Day, a Bike Friendly Block Party in partnership with Bike Friendly Communities, and a cycling heritage exhibit in Victoria Park.



PROSPECTS FOR 2023

- **Hybrid Urban Forestry Truck** The City's truck for urban forestry staff has reached its end of life. It is proposed to replace it with one of the most fuel-efficient, hybrid trucks on the market.
- **Transit Electrification:** In 2023, construction of a new transit facility on Mount Edward Road is anticipated to begin to allow for transit electrification to roll out. Capital Area Transit will begin a phased approach towards transit electrification. Existing buses will be refurbished and used and new diesel buses will be purchased to bridge the gap until the electric infrastructure is complete.
- **Bike Lockers:** Next year, the City plans to install bike lockers in two locations in Charlottetown's downtown core with enough parking space for eight bikes. These lockers will provide residents and tourists with a more secure option for bicycle parking whether commuting to work or touring around Charlottetown for the weekend.



Urban forests provide residents with many benefits. Aside from their sheer beauty, trees are essential for moderating air temperatures, absorbing pollution, creating oxygen, supporting local wildlife and pollinators, and much more. Each year, the City completes its urban forestry programs to protect, maintain and enhance the tree canopy and natural areas. Unfortunately, in 2022, post-tropical storm Fiona resulted in substantial damage to Charlottetown’s urban forest and the loss of many trees. Work to assess and clean up this damage continues. It is estimated that over 600 City-owned or jointly owned trees have been lost. The replanting and maintenance of the urban forest will be a major theme in the Environment & Sustainability Department’s work throughout 2023.



Check out the public tree inventory for more information!

TREE INVENTORY:

11,373

- 8,955 City owned trees
- 1,559 private trees
- 859 trees jointly owned with the City (on property lines)

TREE INSPECTIONS:



1,851

to assess tree health and safety. Completed by City staff in 2022

TREE PLANTING:

556

total # of trees planted in 2022

MONITORING FOR EMERALD ASH BORER

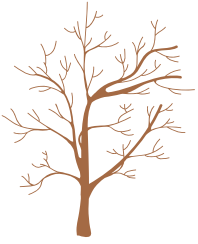


The City continues to collaborate with CFIA to monitor closely for the harmful Emerald Ash Borer. In 2022, 10 EAB monitoring traps were installed throughout the 611 ash trees on City property. Thankfully, once again, no EAB were found in Charlottetown in 2022.

POND STUDY

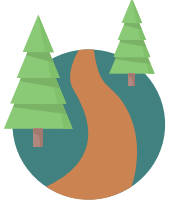


11 ponds within the City of Charlottetown are monitored by Holland College’s EAST Program and the local watershed groups as part of the Ecological Pond Study. In 2022, eight of the ponds scored ‘fairly poor’ on the number and species of macro-invertebrates present and only two scored ‘fair.’ Ten of the ponds received ratings of ‘medium or average’ water quality while one scored ‘fair.’



DUTCH ELM DISEASE (DED) PROGRAM

- Currently monitoring 533 elms in Charlottetown every year (239 on City property)
- 561 elms removed due to DED since 2015
- 2 elms with DED removed in 2022



VICTORIA PARK TRAILS

After post-tropical storm Fiona decimated the trails in Victoria Park, Parks & Recreation staff have been hard at work restoring the main paths throughout the park. However, some secondary paths will not be rebuilt, as a way to allow for forest and habitat restoration to take place in these areas, while still maintaining visitors' ability to enjoy this valued natural space.



NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAM

633 total number of participants.

Throughout the summer, Nature Education staff at Victoria Park held free educational programs for park-goers as well as school and daycare groups. Tour guides took groups of participants through the forest trails of Victoria Park, introducing them to native amphibians, birds, trees, and vegetation. In addition, new educational self-led activities were created and left on the Victoria Park Ballfield Club House veranda each week for park-goers to pick up at their leisure.



URBAN FOREST REPORT CARD

Staff recently worked with a consultant on the creation of an urban forest report card. The purpose of this report card was to look into the City of Charlottetown's urban forestry operations and identify areas of strength and areas needing improvement. Charlottetown's municipal Urban Forestry operations scored "good" in 31 areas, "fair" in 70 areas and "opportunity for improvement" in 64 areas. Strengths included the City's Street and Park Tree Inventory and Tree Protection Bylaw. Some areas for improvement included a lack of adequate resources and staff as well as the implementation of planting requirements for new developments.



CANADIAN URBAN FOREST CONFERENCE

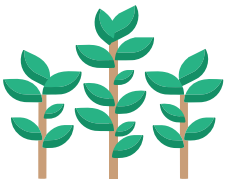
The City of Charlottetown hosted the Canadian Urban Forest Conference, a national Tree Canada conference that attracted participants from all over Canada. This year's theme was Urban Forests and the Challenge of Climate Change: Building Resilience.



RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CLEAN-UP PROGRAM

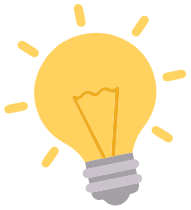
Following the devastation caused by post-tropical storm Fiona, the City of Charlottetown has been working in partnership with the Provincial Department of Fisheries and Communities to support residents with damage to trees across the City. This unique program has offered relief to hundreds of residents with downed and damaged trees from Fiona that required cleanup that would not be covered by insurance policies. Registration for this disaster relief program closed in December 2022 and assessments have been completed for all of the 1680 properties that applied. Cleanup work is ongoing and will continue throughout the winter.





INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Urban areas are one of the most likely pathways for the introduction of invasive species. Many goods and people move in and out of a city, making it more likely that an invasive will be introduced. In 2022, invasive species management was carried out in eight areas of Charlottetown – Victoria Park, Desbrisay Park, Orlebar Park, Evergreen Park, Westcombe Crescent, the Acadian Forest Trail, the Beach Grove Nature Trail, and the Confederation Trail in Winsloe.



TREE RECLAMATION COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

The tree reclamation project was developed to help tell the story of what can be created from what was lost by salvaging and repurposing local trees damaged by post-tropical storm Fiona. To collect community ideas, the City hosted a Community Open House where approximately 60 residents had the opportunity to submit their suggestions on how the legacy of these trees can be preserved through efforts such as commemorative projects, creative artworks and educational programs. The Open House featured art installations from the Rooted in Art project and an East Coast Art Party painting session depicting one of Charlottetown's generation elm trees.



PROSPECTS FOR 2022

- **Private Lands Planting Program:** The City anticipates funding support through the federal government's Two Billion Trees Program. With increased support and in light of urban forest impacts from post-tropical storm Fiona, the City hopes to be able to support plantings on private lands. With the City owning a small percentage of lands in Charlottetown, engaging private landowners in tree planting is crucial to the restoration of the urban forest.
- **Tree Canopy Assessment:** A tree canopy cover assessment of Charlottetown was completed in 2021, using 2020 aerial imagery. Due to impacts to the urban forest caused by post-tropical storm Fiona, an update is needed. The timeline of this endeavour will be dependant upon availability of updated aerial imagery.
- **Victoria Park Shoreline Protection:** The City has received funding from the Canada Community Building Fund to armor 800 feet of the Victoria Park Shoreline from the end of Brighton Road to the first bend in the boardwalk. This project is intended to prevent erosion and protect the surrounding infrastructure, including the boardwalk, playground, pool, roadway, and nearby residences, from storm surges. Work is anticipated to take place in 2023.
- **Municipal Natural Assets Inventory & UPEI Partnership:** The City is working with the UPEI Climate Lab to capture aerial photographs of important ecological areas within Charlottetown. This data will be compared to pre-Fiona imagery to assess the damage done by the post-tropical storm and to help plan for replanting and adaptation. In total, four forested areas and two coastal areas will be surveyed, totaling approximately 59 hectares.



The City works to support the arts and strives to provide year-round cultural activities and experiences for residents. Charlottetown operates as an open and transparent government and encourages community engagement in government operations and policy.



MICRO-GRANT PROGRAM

This year, the City of Charlottetown Community Sustainability Microgrant Program funded ten projects that contributed to the City's sustainability goals with a combined total of \$21,000. This diverse group of projects ranged from the creation of a new Little Free Art Gallery, featuring artwork that is free for the taking, to a research project at UPEI focused on improving the wastewater system through sustainable urban drainage strategies.



PUBLIC ART PLAN

In January 2022, Charlottetown endorsed in principle a new Public Art Plan, which includes recommendations for actions that celebrate our community's cultural diversity and creativity.



RECONCILIATION

The City continues applying a Reconciliation lens in activities and civic events. In May 2022, the City of Charlottetown passed a resolution to include a land acknowledgment at the beginning of all Council meetings. During Capital City Canada Day, the City organized a conversational interview during its primary programming, entitled "Understanding our Past, Reconciling our Future: Fireside Chats with Sean Doke." The City has also painted two crosswalks orange to honour the survivors of the residential school system.



ROOTED IN ART

Set to be installed only days after post-tropical storm Fiona devastated the city's urban forest, Rooted in Art required some quick thinking and pivoting this year. Instead of installing art in trees, four local artists worked with the City to adapt their creations for installation at the Charlottetown Library Learning Centre. The artwork was on display at the library for two weeks in November 2022 and aimed to help viewers appreciate and interact with the urban forest in the wake of Fiona.





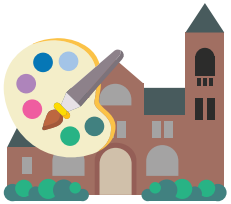
CHARLOTTETOWN LEARNING LIBRARY

2022 saw the opening of the Charlottetown Library Learning Centre. The 42,000 sq ft modern community hub was made possible through financial contributions from Federal, Provincial, and Municipal governments, as well as major fundraising efforts by Charlottetown Library Learning Centre Inc.



STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2022, the City of Charlottetown developed and launched Charlottetown's Strategic Plan (2022 to 2026) - *a community for everyone*. This plan was developed through extensive community engagement and serves as the roadmap that will get the City from where it is today to where we want to be in the days and years ahead. The Strategic Plan rests upon four pillars, one of which is Infrastructure and the Environment, and sets a commitment to climate change management and mitigation as well as reconciliation with the province's First Peoples, amongst other priorities.



CULTURE & ECONOMIC OFFICER

Aligning with one of the key recommendations of the Public Art Plan, a new full-time cultural position was created at the City. The Culture and Economic Coordinator will focus on the City's arts and culture file, the integration of public art in City projects and plans, as well as adding more public art to Charlottetown.



CANADA GAMES

In preparation for hosting the 2023 Canada Winter Games, significant infrastructure enhancements were conducted at the Eastlink and Bell Aliant Centres. These upgrades, which included projects to enhance safety, sustainability, accessibility, technology, and public spaces, are sure to contribute to an enhanced experience for both user groups and spectators in the years to come.



COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

Charlottetown received a rating of 5 Blooms - Silver (with the best possible being 5 Blooms - Gold) during the 2022 National/International Communities in Bloom Symposium and Awards Ceremonies in Victoria, British Columbia. Charlottetown also received a special mention for its Active Transportation Trails.



#1 SPORT EVENT HOSTING

The City continues to hold its national ranking on the Canadian Sport Hosting Index as the top sport hosting destination in Canada for cities with populations under 50,000. Charlottetown roared back post-pandemic in 2022, hosting 10 national, 2 international, and a multitude of Eastern Canadian and regional sport championships.





CHARLOTTETOWN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

The Charlottetown Christmas Festival is a product of Discover Charlottetown in partnership with the City of Charlottetown. The festival received two significant acknowledgments in 2022 on the Big 7 travel rankings, including 2nd Best Christmas Market in Canada and Top 50 Best Christmas Markets in the World.



PROSPECTS FOR 2023

- **Official Plan:** The City of Charlottetown has begun work on a new Official Plan, the City's long-term plan for how land is used in the city. The new Official Plan will serve as a roadmap for how Charlottetown will grow and develop over the next 20 years and has many implications for environmental and community sustainability as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation. A draft plan is currently being created based on community engagement conducted in fall 2022. Stay tuned for opportunities to provide input on the draft plan in March and the release of a completed plan in spring 2023.
- **Sustainable Events:** Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City was doing some exciting work to make City and City-affiliated events more sustainable. We created a Sustainable Events Manual that is supplied to every City-affiliated event happening in Charlottetown and have a number of sustainable event rentals available to event organizers. With the return of events, we have plans to expand these supports in 2023.
- **Sport Tourism Strategy:** The municipality has begun the process of charting a path forward through the renewal of a multi-year sport tourism strategy and development of a new sport tourism promotional video.
- **Reconciliation Roadmap:** The City plans to continue work with community partners to develop a Reconciliation Roadmap, with the goal of providing the municipality with a local framework for advancing Reconciliation. Once established, the roadmap will serve as a guide for implementing Reconciliation in all City operations.
- **Economic Development Strategy:** In 2023, City staff will work to create an economic development strategy. This strategy will strengthen the newly restructured Economic Development, Tourism, and Events Department's ability to support key economic development partners and strategically approach cultural advancement as well as event hosting as an economic driver.



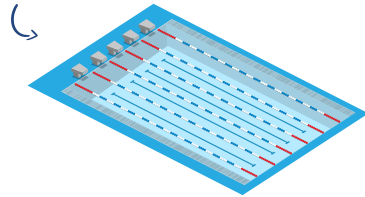
The City's sustainable future hinges on our ability to conserve and enhance the ecological health of watersheds which are paramount for stormwater management and climate change resilience. Conserving our precious water resources and ensuring access to clean, quality drinking water for all residents for generations to come is of the utmost importance to the City of Charlottetown.

5,921,465.88 LITRES OF WATER EXTRACTED

and pumped to Charlottetown residents and businesses by the Water & Sewer Utility. That is the equivalent to 2,368.6 Olympic swimming pools!

↑ 0.23% INCREASE IN WATER EXTRACTION FROM 2021

↓ 14.26% DECREASE IN WATER EXTRACTION IN LAST 10 YEARS



WATER SCHOOL



After pausing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Water School returned in 2022. This multi-day program targeted at Grade 5 students teaches participants about water conservation and local watersheds.

3 NEW WATER BOTTLE REFILL STATIONS

were installed in municipal facilities in 2022. There are a total of eight water bottle refill stations in City facilities.



The wastewater treatment plant treated **7,408,298 m³** of wastewater in 2022

The plant produced approximately 609,119 m³ of biogas from anaerobic digestion of biosolids. This renewable energy source is used to provide power to the wastewater treatment plant.

↑ 3.22% INCREASE COMPARED TO 2021

4,054 TONNES

of biosolids produced annually at a 20% dry solid concentration. These biosolids are used for agriculture purposes (non-food crops) to improve soil quality in the fields.



WATER & WASTEWATER- 2022 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



FIX-A-LEAK WEEK

During Fix a Leak Week, resources were shared on the City's social media platforms encouraging residents to conserve water and check for water leaks as well as providing information on the assistance programs available. A contest was also offered which included a grand prize of a low-flow toilet.



PAPERLESS BILLING

The City of Charlottetown now offers paperless water billing. Currently, nearly 25% of customers are signed up, saving over 25,000 sheets of paper every year, equivalent to approximately three trees. The City encourages customers to [visit charlottetown.ca](http://www.charlottetown.ca) and sign up for paperless billing to help us further reduce paper use.



PROSPECTS FOR 2023

- **Water bottle refill station at J. Frank MacAulay Park:** An outdoor water bottle refill station and fountain will be installed near the new community garden within J. Frank MacAulay Park near the tennis courts.



The City of Charlottetown aims to promote local food production and procurement, improve food security, reduce food waste and use the culinary assets of the community to connect locals and visitors with food.

COMMUNITY GARDEN FRAMEWORK

A framework is being prepared that will guide how the City collaborates with community groups around the creation of and support for community gardens. This framework will include a Community Garden Policy, application form, and handbook. The intent of this work is to streamline the process for community groups looking to start a new community garden on City land and to outline the support offered by the City to community gardens operating both on and off City land. The new framework is anticipated to be released in early spring 2023.

COMMUNITY GARDEN COLLABORATION

The City of Charlottetown and Immigrant Refugee Services Association PEI received funds from the PEI Alliance for Mental Wellbeing to work with a group of IRSA clients to create a new community garden in Charlottetown. A facilitator was hired to guide



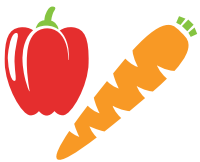
this Community Garden Leadership Team in designing and building a new community garden and set them up for success in future years. In fall 2022, the garden was constructed in J. Frank MacAulay Park. The garden will officially launch in 2023!

FOOD - 2022 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



GARDENING IN SMALL SPACES

The City once again partnered with the Burly Farmer to offer a container gardening workshop for children. This year, the program expanded, with workshops taking place at both Orlebar and Victoria Parks. Participants assisted in planting the City's Community Vegetable Planters and were also able to plant their own container garden to take home and care for throughout the season.



GARDENING AT SUMMER CAMP

A new gardening program was implemented at the Parks & Recreation Department's summer camps this year. Campers at West Royalty and Malcolm Darrach Community Centres assisted in planting two raised, self watering vegetable planters at each site. They helped to care for the planters throughout the season - watering, weeding, and harvesting the produce.



COMMUNITY VEGGIE PLANTERS

Again this year, the City operated its 25 Community Vegetable Planters, growing a wide variety of vegetables and herbs that are free for the taking to all members of the public. These veggie planters are located in seven parks around Charlottetown and are intended to increase access to healthy, local food as well as demonstrate what can be grown in a small space.



PROSPECTS FOR 2023

- **Local Food Procurement Policy:** The Charlottetown Food Council is working on the creation of a Local Food Procurement Policy for the City. This policy will aim to set guidelines and recommendations for how the City can purchase more local food as a way to support the local food system and economy as well as reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with food purchasing.
- **Food Assessment/Strategy:** The City has partnered with the Arrell Food Institute's Food Scholar Program to conduct a preliminary food assessment for Charlottetown. A team of four graduate students are working on benchmarking Charlottetown's food system according to the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Monitoring Framework. This work will primarily analyze existing data and identify where further community efforts are required to get a clear understanding of the state of Charlottetown's food system, paving the way for future strategic work.



All waste on PEI, including municipal waste in Charlottetown, is managed by the Provincial Crown Corporation Island Waste Management Corporation (IWMC). The City of Charlottetown works closely with IWMC to engage residents and businesses on the topic of waste reduction. Single-use plastic waste reduction has been a focus of the E&S Department in recent years and has resulted in a review and update of events guidelines, a public survey, and social marketing campaigns.



WASTE - 2022 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

147,000



Total meals rescued

552,906

pounds of CO₂e
Total GHGs averted



22

Total new donees



81

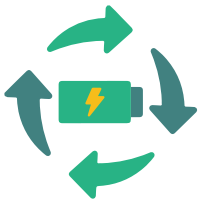
Total new donors



For more information click here!

FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK

In partnership with Farm & Food Care PEI and Second Harvest, the City launched the Food Recovery Network in January 2022. Funded by the Government of Prince Edward Island through the Climate Challenge Fund, this project aimed to reduce the amount of unnecessary food waste from PEI businesses and provide more good food to not-for-profits to use in their programming. The project also aimed to eliminate the greenhouse gas emissions that would result from this food going to landfill.



13.8^{kg}

TOTAL WEIGHT OF BATTERIES RECYCLED

In 2022, 13.8kg of batteries were recycled through the City's participation in the Call2Recycle program. A battery drop-off station is located at City Hall, just inside the main entrance. Members of the public are encouraged to drop off their used batteries in this receptacle.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN

Environment & Sustainability staff are currently working with Reeve Consulting to put the finishing touches on a Sustainable Procurement Action Plan for the City of Charlottetown. This Action Plan will lay out the steps the City will take over the next five years to incorporate sustainable procurement practices into purchasing decisions, leveraging spending power to yield environmental and social benefits alongside fiscal responsibility.



PROSPECTS FOR 2023

- **Sustainable Procurement Implementation:** With the creation of a Sustainable Procurement Action Plan for the City, staff will now turn their sights towards the implementation of the plan. Throughout 2023, staff will work to meaningfully incorporate sustainable procurement practices into City purchasing, creating procedures to guide how this is done and working cross-departmentally to integrate sustainability criteria into purchasing specifications in high impact areas.
- **Fix it Fair:** Stay tuned for the anticipated return of the Fix It Fair! The COVID-19 pandemic has gotten in the way of hosting the Fix It Fair for the last few years but our fingers are crossed that 2023 will be the year for its return. This event features a Repair Café where skilled volunteers work to revive damaged items such as electronics and clothing, giving them a second life and keeping them out of the landfill.





For questions or comments, please contact:

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