

CASE STUDY: NEWMARKET COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN

Client: Town of Newmarket, Ontario, Canada

OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Energy launched the Municipal Energy Plan program in 2013 in order to support local energy planning efforts in Ontario. The Town of Newmarket was one of the first municipalities to receive funding to develop a Community Energy Plan (CEP) which takes a holistic approach to energy planning by identifying local priorities and determining how energy should be generated, delivered, and used now and into the future. In 2014, the Town retained Lura Consulting to assist with the development of the CEP.

SERVICES

Our team worked with Town staff, Council, stakeholders and the community to develop a CEP that acts as a catalyst for new economic development, behaviour change and sustainable and efficient growth in Newmarket. Lura led a collaborative planning process which included:

- Leading the Stakeholder Advisory Group;
- Identifying and analyzing opportunities for energy reduction/conservation initiatives through baseline energy studies and energy mapping;
- Designing and facilitating community engagement activities, including pop-up events and meetings with business leaders and utilities; and
- Writing the Community Energy Plan.

RESULTS

The CEP includes a shared vision, goals, targets and strategies for moving towards a transformative sustainable energy system. The Plan provides Newmarket with economic, energy security and environmental benefits, and includes specific recommendations with timelines and budgetary considerations.

The CEP calls for action from multiple stakeholders to ensure that Newmarket is at or near current (2014) global best practice by 2031, by:

- Reducing per capita primary energy use by 40% from the 2013 baseline; and
- Reducing per capita greenhouse gas emissions by 40% from the 2013 baseline.

