



## County of Brant Council Report

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**To:** The Mayor and Members of County of Brant Council  
**From:** Adam Crozier, Director of Corporate Strategy  
**Date:** December 17, 2024  
**Report #:** RPT-539-24  
**Subject:** Final 2024-2027 Strategic Plan  
**Purpose:** For Approval

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### Recommendation

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That the refreshed County of Brant Strategic Plan “Our Future Brant” attached as Appendix 1 be approved.

### Executive Summary

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This report provides an update to RPT-422-24 presented at the November 5, 2024, meeting of the Policy Development Committee following consultation with members of Council regarding the final draft of the revised County of Brant Strategic Plan. This Strategic Plan updates the original version of “Our Future Brant” approved by Council in September 2019 with revised Strategic Priorities, Goals, and Actions, while retaining the same focus of the current Strategic Plan, and with a time horizon just beyond the term of the current Council. This report outlines minor modifications made to the original draft update.

### Strategic Plan Priority

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Strategic Priority 6 - Stable and Responsive Governance

### Impacts and Mitigation

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#### Social Impacts

The social impacts of the draft Strategic Plan are intended to be positive owing to the focused governance of the County towards the continued success of the County of Brant.

#### Environmental Impacts

The draft Strategic Plan proposes to include elements associated with the upcoming Climate Action Plan which intends to develop corporate and community-based priorities and actions to respond to County’s declaration of a climate emergency, and the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

#### Economic Impacts

The draft Strategic Plan intends to foster an environment of fiscal sustainability, economic development and economic competitiveness as these remain significant priorities to ensure the continued viability of the County of Brant as a whole.

# Report

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## Background

On November 5, 2024, Council through the Policy Development Committee received a draft of the refreshed Strategic Plan, updating the existing “Our Future Brant” that was approved by Council in September 2019. This draft intended to refocus, but not dramatically alter, the priorities and directions of “Our Future Brant” to implement many of the actions that have been undertaken over the past 5 years. This refreshed Strategic Plan is attached as Appendix 2 and intends to focus the efforts of the County until early 2027.

## Analysis

### Changes from Original Draft (Modifications in *Italics*):

**Modification:** Action 2.1.1. Advance the implementation of the Official Plan to support focused growth directed to urban settlements to protect farmland, ensure the financial sustainability of new development, *and that new development incorporate market trends in land use.*

During follow up discussions, concerns were noted with the construction of new residential developments not meeting current market trends by balancing the need to create efficient use of land for development while recognizing that parking remains a consistent issue with new developments. The addition to this specific action highlights the need to be mindful of issues associated with land development, specifically residential development, as market trends in the construction of fewer but larger single detached units, and increased development of medium and high-density residential housing units continues to occur in communities that have been traditionally focused for the development of single detached housing.

**Modifications:** Actions 2.1.1.1. & 2.3.3. These modifications recognize the Council resolution of November 12, 2024, by substituting Actions related to implementing the new County Official Plan through the development of a Community Planning Permit System instead of a traditional Zoning By-law.

**Addition:** Action 3.3.7 - Complete new Community Safety & Well-Being Plan by July 2025.

Following the presentation of the initial draft staff noted that the new Community Safety & Well-Being Plan, which provides focus to much of the County’s strategies towards social issues and policing related matters, will be updated by July 2025.

**Modification:** Action 5.3.1. Adopt an environmental mindset when developing plans, strategies, and processes *by applying a climate lens from source to usage for County operations and capital projects.*

During the presentation of the draft Strategic Plan, discussion was held regarding how the Strategic Plan and the County’s recently adopted Climate Action Plan contemplate and evaluate how new initiatives and capital projects contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. This addition intends to strengthen the County’s evaluation of new greenhouse gas emissions and monitors the impact the County’s operations have on greenhouse gas emissions.

## Summary and Recommendations

The attached final version of the refreshed Strategic Plan intends to focus the efforts of the County and implement many of the actions that have been completed as outlined in “Our Future Brant,” approved in 2019, during the remainder of the 2022-2026 term of County

Council. Following a period of review, public engagement, Council engagement, the refreshed Plan is presented for Council’s consideration and approval.

**Attachments**

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- 1. Final Strategic Plan
- 2. RPT-422-24 - Draft Strategic Plan Update (Presented at November 5, 2024 meeting of the Policy Development Committee)

**Reviewed By**

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Alison Newton, Chief Administrative Officer

**Copied To**

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Senior Management Team  
Halie Gilmore, Project Manager, Corporate Strategy

**By-law and/or Agreement**

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By-law Required	No
Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and /or Clerk	No