

Stakeholder Engagement Summary Report for the City of Sault Ste. Marie GHG Reduction Plan

Prepared by: FutureSSM

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Engagement Overview	4
Engagement Process.....	5
1. Algoma District School Board Speakers Bureau	5
2. GHG Inventory Presentation to Council	6
3. Webpage	6
4. Online Survey	6
5. GHG Open House.....	7
6. Community Consultations	8
7. Direct Stakeholder Outreach.....	10
8. Green Committee Meeting	14
Next Steps	15
Appendix A: Sault Ste. Marie Youth Climate Change Survey	16
Appendix B: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Reduction Plan Survey	19
Appendix C: Results of the GHG Reduction Plan Survey	23
Appendix D: City of Sault Ste. Marie GHG Reduction Plan Stakeholder Consultation Questions	30
Appendix E: Green Committee Meeting GHG Reduction Plan Questionnaire	32

List of Figures

Figure 1: GHG Reduction Plan Feedback Displays	8
Figure 2: FutureSSM at Sault College Pop-Up Consultation on March 10, 2020	9

Executive Summary

This document reports on the findings from the stakeholder consultation stage of the City of Sault Ste. Marie (the City) greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction plan. Stage one of this project was completed in February 2020 and resulted in a baseline emissions inventory that can be measured to monitor GHG reduction progress in the future. The second stage of the project involved engaging with the public and key stakeholders to obtain their perspectives and input on actions to be included in the plan. The final phase is the drafting of the GHG reduction plan which will incorporate the findings from the GHG emissions inventory and community feedback. The plan will identify specific actions, task timelines and policy recommendations as well as the implementation strategy.

The majority of stakeholder consultations for the project took place over the course of four months from February to May 2020. Four types of consultations were conducted including: Youth, In-Person, Online and Direct Outreach. Primary stakeholders were identified as key players with regards to energy consumption and change including: Energy Suppliers, Large Business Energy Users, the City, Health / Public Services, Business Owners, Community Groups, and Academic Institutions. They were consulted with on a one-to-one basis either by phone or with an online questionnaire. Online outreach was conducted through a survey where citizens could provide insight regarding opportunities, barriers and priorities with regards to the GHG reduction plan.

The goals of the stakeholder consultation phase were to:

1. Inform stakeholders about the community GHG inventory and reduction plan; and,
2. Obtain GHG reduction actions, benefits and opportunities from the community to be used in the creation of the plan.

The consultation team received 25 responses from the Youth Awareness survey, had over 200 attendees at a series of 5 in-person consultations, received 167 responses to the online survey and received feedback from 17 key stakeholders that were contacted directly.

The stakeholder feedback received during the stakeholder engagement process identified benefits, opportunities, barriers and priorities associated to community GHG reduction. A summary of these insights is listed below:

Benefits

- Increased community awareness about climate change mitigation;
- Reduce GHG emissions and save money on energy;
- Support local businesses and food production; and,
- Reduce waste through increased waste diversion.

Opportunities

- Encourage further transit use through increased education about routes and use (e.g. promotion of on demand transit App);
- Increase the adoption of electric vehicles;
- Develop a resource on energy conservation incentives and funding for residents and businesses; and,
- Increase and maintain green space and urban forest canopy,

Barriers

- Lack of a dedicated staff person or department to focus on energy and sustainability task implementation at the City;
- High capital costs of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects; and,
- Long distances, need for infill and density to decrease vehicle centered culture.

Priorities

- Develop and encourage green economy opportunities as a sustainable and job sector;
- Design future assets and infrastructure that encourage GHG mitigation (at the business and citizen level (e.g. free parking for EVs, bike racks and shelters);
- Prioritize energy management and energy efficiency in existing assets and new builds;
- Consult with local industrial facilities to continue to understand and work with them on their current and planned GHG reduction efforts (e.g. consortium hydrogen energy and/or transit pilot); and,
- Review strategies and policies that support ways to divert waste.

Key reoccurring priorities identified in community input were:

- A sincere interest in a community organics diversion program or increased waste diversion opportunities;
- A barrier to energy efficiency is that it can be expensive to upgrade homes;
- A need for education and awareness about climate change (need to understand relationship between energy use and GHGs);
- Difficult to change – renewable energy is expensive and the payback to long;
- Need for youth to stay – engage youth to create new leaders;

Next steps in the project include the development of the GHG reduction plan which will incorporate findings from both the GHG emissions inventory and the stakeholder consultations. The following section of this report provides further specifics associated to the types of stakeholder consultations and the insights obtained from them.

Engagement Overview

Between February 10 and May 15, 2020, FutureSSM undertook a series of community stakeholder engagement activities as part of the consultation process of the GHG reduction plan. The activities are listed and summarized below:

1. February 10, 2020: Algoma District School Board Speakers Bureau, 25 Participants
2. February 24, 2020: GHG Emissions Inventory presentation to Council
3. February 25, 2020: A designated [webpage](#) was created on the City of Sault Ste. Marie's website
4. February 26, 2020 - May 15, 2020: Online Survey, 167 participants
5. March 4, 2020: A GHG Emissions Inventory Open House, 50+ attendees
6. March 9, 2020: Community Consultation #1 (Northern Community Centre, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM), 20+ attendees
7. March 10, 2020: Community Consultation #2 (Sault College, 11:30 PM – 2:30 PM), 80+ attendees
8. March 11, 2020: Community Consultation #3 (Algoma University, 11:30 PM – 2:30 PM), 20 + attendees

9. March 12, 2020: Community Consultation #4 (John Rhodes Community Centre, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM), 15+ attendees
10. March 13, 2020: Community Consultation #5 (Outspoken Brewing Company, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM) (CANCELLED due to COVID-19)
11. April 7 – August 6, 2020: Direct feedback received from 17 community groups and stakeholders

Public and key stakeholder input is now being incorporated into actions to establish a GHG reduction target and plan. A draft plan is expected for September 2020. A virtual open house to review the draft GHG plan will be coordinated in the late fall of 2020. The following section of this report will highlight in more detail key findings from the stakeholder engagement activities of the project.

Engagement Process

The City is creating a local action plan to reduce GHG emissions to guide activities towards meeting a community and a corporate reduction target in order to align with international, Federal and Provincial commitments. Throughout this process, the City engaged with the public and key stakeholders to get their perspectives and input on the GHG reduction actions to be considered in the plan.

The following section of this report outlines the activities and key details of the GHG reduction plan projects stakeholder consultation process.

1. Algoma District School Board Speakers Bureau

On February 10th 2020, FutureSSM had the opportunity to discuss the GHG emissions inventory project with approximately 25 high school students from the Algoma District School Board (ADSB) at the ADSB Speakers Bureau. The presentation provided an overview of the project, data requirements and insight about GHG mitigation best practices. After the presentation, students were asked to brainstorm ideas about GHG reduction action items and answer some questions about what we can do as a community to fight climate change. A group discussion followed where further ideas were shared. In addition, students were asked to complete a survey (see Appendix A). Key results are highlighted below:

- 58% of students were not familiar with the *Paris Agreement*.¹
- 71% of students selected climate change as the most critical issue facing our society at present.
- 64% of students get to school by car.
- 76% would be interested in participating in an Environmental Stewardship Activity, with a focus on nature preservation (e.g. building a butterfly garden or hosting a community tree plant).
- The majority of students were interested in lowering their carbon footprint conserving energy and supporting renewable energy.

¹ The Paris Agreement of COP21, is an international treaty named for the city of Paris France, where it was adopted in December 2016 aimed to reduce the emission of gases that contribute to global warming (Source: Encyclopedia Britannica. (2020). *Paris Agreement*. Retrieved from: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Paris-Agreement-2015>

- 88% were interested in shopping and/or visiting somewhere that is committed to being more sustainable.
- 71% of students would like to see local businesses reduce waste and sell local goods to empower citizens, business owners and tourists to make more sustainable choices.
- 64% of students would like to see tree planting and preservation of natural areas as part of our community's sustainability efforts.

The Climate Change Coordinator will incorporate these findings in the development of the community GHG reduction plan.

2. GHG Inventory Presentation to Council

In January 2020, FutureSSM successfully completed a community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory. This included an update to the Corporate GHG emissions inventory, which represents approximately 1% of community emissions. The results were presented to Council on February 24, 2020. For more information, please view the full City of Sault Ste. Marie 2017 Community & Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory report [online](#).

Following the presentation of the community GHG emissions inventory to Council on February 24, 2020, a series of community consultations took place to share the data as well as collect insights from residents and businesses regarding GHG reduction actions. The events were advertised through traditional and social media channels to encourage residents and businesses to attend.

3. Webpage

A designated webpage on the City of Sault Ste. Marie website provided an online space for information about the GHG emissions inventory, project, and engagement opportunities. [Click here](#) to visit the webpage.

4. Online Survey

A 14-question online survey was released on February 26, 2020 and ran until May 15, 2020 with a purpose of gauging citizens perspectives on the benefits and preferred GHG reduction plan actions. The survey received a total of 167 responses with some key findings highlighted below.

The top five actions for residents and businesses include:

- Make homes and business more energy efficient (e.g. new furnaces, weather stripping, efficient lighting, etc.) (93%);
- Reduce waste put into the landfill by using recyclables and reusable products (93%);
- Recycle and compost more to put less in the landfill which emits GHGs (89%);
- Use more renewable energy (E.g. solar, wind, biomass, geothermal) (81%);
- Increase and maintain the community tree canopy and walking or biking more often (78%).

The top 5 Actions the City should explore were:

- Support local food production and consumption (79%);
- Explore organic waste diversion from the landfill (71%);
- Reduce the environmental impacts of City operations to demonstrate commitment and spur innovation (e.g. reducing or eliminating single use plastic products at facilities and events, choosing low-carbon vehicles and retrofitting city buildings (68%);

- Leverage climate investment opportunities from all levels of government and the private sector (66%); and,
- Encourage education and awareness about GHG reduction best practices (64%).

A potential residential program identified in the survey encouraged the use of energy reduction devices such as thermal imaging camera which could be rented out to residents, as 84% of survey respondents said that they would conduct a free do-it yourself home energy consumption audit to help understand their energy consumption and implement energy saving strategies at home.

Core action items from the online survey fell into the following categories:

- Energy & Buildings (Energy Efficiency, Renewables and Clean Technology)
- Transportation (provide more power centres for charging electric vehicle, electrify transit)
- Waste (organic waste diversion, ban single use plastics)
- Land Use (increase green space and tree cover, green rooftops)
- Industry (work with local industry to understand their current and planned GHG reduction efforts).

Further insights were focused on:

- Affordability (e.g. reduced energy costs, housing affordability)
- Accountability (e.g. sustainable development for future generations, system and industry level change)
- Education and Awareness (e.g. promotion and fostering alternative energy, education on climate change in schools, community education)
- Community Pride (increase community pride and change perception as an industrial town)
- Economic Development (enhancing tourism by protecting ecosystems at risk due to climate change)
- Environment / Habitat Protection (protecting species at risk and forest from climate change impacts)
- Health (reduce health risks associated with climate change like asthma and Lyme disease)
- Food Security (Mitigation and adaptation for climate crisis and disruption, increased food sovereignty and security)

The survey was promoted through emails to specific stakeholders, social media posts, social media advertisement, a press release and hand-outs and the pop-up consultation events. A \$25 gift certificate to Shabby Motley (a local restaurant) was offered as a prize for responding to the survey. Please see Appendix B for the survey questions.

5. GHG Open House

On March 4, 2020, FutureSSM held an open house at City hall from 4-7 PM and allowed residents and business to stop by to learn about the community GHG emissions inventory and provide feedback on the GHG reduction plan. Outreach for the event included a direct invitation to over 150 different community organizations to encourage further attendance. FutureSSM staff were present to answer questions and accept feedback on GHG reduction action items. The PUC also was in attendance at the Open House to inform attendees about the Affordability Fund (AFT), a residential energy efficiency incentive program.

Over 50 Attendees attended the event, including residents, Algoma Steel, Arauco, the PUC, Clean North, Sault Climate Hub, and Algoma Public Health. There were three feedback display

panels available for attendees to provide GHG reduction actions on. The following figure illustrates what the feedback panels looked like.

Figure 1: GHG Reduction Plan Feedback Displays



Attendees were invited to provide feedback on the benefits of GHG reduction and action opportunities to be taken by residents and businesses as well as the City. Key findings from the Open House included:

- The majority of participants felt that the net benefit most felt by lowering our GHGs would be to improve health and wellbeing, followed by a more walkable and bike friendly City and more Climate Action by City Leadership.
- Interest in residents to see more reduction of GHGs by industry.
- Organic diversion from landfill.
- Energy efficiency to reduce both energy costs and emissions.
- Diversify economy away from fossil fuel reliant sectors.
- Responses for local GHG reduction goal setting were highest for the target of net zero emissions by 2050 (align with Federal Government Target and the IPCC).

Attendees of the Open House were also encouraged to complete the GHG Reduction Plan survey online.

6. Community Consultations

A series of community consultations were held between March 9 and 12, 2020 to ensure those unable to attend the Open House had the opportunity to learn about and provide feedback on the GHG reduction plan. Over 100 individuals dropped by the FutureSSM booth throughout these consultations. The following summarizes the community consultation events:

1. March 9: Northern Community Centre (20 attendees)
2. March 10: Sault College (60 attendees)
3. March 11: Algoma University (20 attendees)
4. March 12: John Rhodes Community Centre (15 attendees)
5. March 13: Outspoken Brewing (Postponed due to COVID-19)

Figure 2: FutureSSM at Sault College Pop-Up Consultation on March 10, 2020



Key insights from these consultations that were collected regarding what the City, and residents and business can do are highlighted below:

How should the City reduce GHGs?

- Energy efficiency through building retrofits and incentive programs
- Electrify Transportation and Fleet
- Explore renewable energy opportunities
- Encourage active transportation
- Manage and maintain urban tree canopy
- Increase recycling opportunities
- Organics diversion

How can residents and businesses reduce GHGs?

- Increase use of public transit
 - Promote the on demand transit app via Instagram
 - More frequent transit – support local businesses
 - Reduced price for bus passes \$125 - \$150 / month
 - Improve bus services – have routes planned by people who use the bus
 - Ensure bus route information online is correct – and make sure the stops are properly marked
 - Education on active transportation
 - Educate the public on how to use bus routes – they will be more inclined to use them if they know how (e.g. create 'How to Videos')
 - More regular transit – need to update our fleet – very old
 - Need more buses for the college route – Sault College Bus is always over crowded
- Become more energy independent by utilizing more clean energy – solar, wind, etc.
- Promote electric cars – need incentive – have the City lead by example
- Public education about climate change

- Reducing plastic packaging (refill, glass etc.)
- Would like to see more regulated recycling in the commercial and institutional organizations (like nursing homes)
- Education on fuel switching / incentives
- Promoting car sharing programs (URIDE is not enough)

7. Direct Stakeholder Outreach

A series of key community stakeholders from the industrial, government, public health, non-profit, advocacy and First Nations were contacted directly to provide feedback on the GHG reduction plan. Due to COVID-19, consultations took place electronically where participants were asked a series of 9 questions to obtain their insight for the GHG reduction plan. Ideas generated will feed directly into the development of initial action options. See Appendix B for the questionnaire. Responses were received from the following organizations:

1. Algoma Public Health
2. Sault Cycling Club / Sault Trails Advocacy Group (STAC)
3. Sault Climate Hub
4. Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre
5. Clean North
6. Heliene Canada
7. Tenaris
8. Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains
9. Missanabie Cree First Nation
10. Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
11. Habitat for Humanity
12. District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board
13. Enbridge Gas Inc.
14. Sault Ste. Marie Conservation Authority
15. Algoma Steel Inc
16. Sault Ste. Marie Construction Association
17. Garden River First Nation

A summary of some of the key findings from the direct stakeholder outreach are highlighted below:

In your opinion, what should the City of Sault Ste. Marie's role be in reducing community GHG emissions in the energy/building, transportation and waste sectors?

- Develop green incentives for new buildings/or building updates, basic green standards for building permits.
- Support businesses with information, grant opportunities, best practices, etc. to better enable them to reduce GHG emissions.
- Actively promote public transit and reducing/eliminating "free" parking. Promoting "reduction" rather than recycling.
- Energy/building - work with other levels of government to develop incentives for improving home heating and energy conservation.
- Transportation - look toward greening the public transportation fleet and city vehicles, assisting with electric charge stations etc., planting and maintaining an urban forest for carbon capture. Waste - work with other levels of government to improve recycling

initiatives and develop incentives for landfill gas capture systems and power generation, CCS, CCU.

- The city should also be advocates for public rail transportation as this is a large factor in reducing a carbon footprint in Southern Ontario.
- Look toward EV and Hydrogen in transit and municipal services and pressure energy conservation projects/emission reductions from our big emitters, Algoma Steel and other major industrials. If all street lights are not LED then finish conversion to LED. Incent businesses to convert to LED with maybe a cost share on taxes, i.e. if business switches to LED discount property taxes on a ratio with the cost to reduce payback period for the business.
- It's proven that transportation choices are dictated by infrastructure. There needs to be a shift in transportation infrastructure investments towards active transportation and away from private motorized transport.
- The City should reduce its own buildings carbon-footprint by become net-zero energy consumers, by integrating solar power generation within its buildings and parking lots +moving its vehicle fleet to EV that would also be charged with pure renewable energy (Renewable electric mobility).

Name one challenge that climate change mitigation action is being impeded by (in your opinion) in Sault Ste. Marie?

- Though Sault Transit was recently revised, it is worrisome that the routes became longer, there are transfers to get places that are otherwise a quick drive, and the state of the bus station. Perhaps more an issue of shifting public perception.
- Construction is often based on the low bid, and many climate change mitigation strategies have a cost. So it can be challenging when trying to be the low bidder to make these considerations.
- Costs related to GHG reductions.
- Technology readiness. Available funding.
- We are not a traditional urban area like Toronto therefore it's difficult for people to get behind the mindset of climate change when we are living in the north.
- NO EV charging infrastructure and no hydrogen infrastructure.
- We are totally into the car and truck culture and we subsidize private motorized transportation in our policies and official plans. This is where the change needs to occur first before we pick away at the little details.
- The lobby and influence of the fuel (Oil Products) related companies.

In addition to the above, several stakeholders provided some specific context and details about their organizations and related climate change scope and interest. Key insights from a few of them are highlighted below:

a. Algoma Public Health

Algoma Public Health (APH) is one of the seven health units in Northern Ontario that are working on a Northern Ontario Health Unit Climate Risk Assessment. The project will look at Ontario climate data, health impacts, and key exposures to vulnerable populations. There will be one report that will produce recommendations on how to address climate change for Northern

Ontario as well as each individual health unit that will take into consideration local specifics and context.

b. Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority

The Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority advised FutureSSM that although many of the activities of conservation authority's (CAs) address some aspect of climate change (such as forestry related activities on CA lands and protection of vulnerable areas), and that some of their programs deal with floods / forecasting and erosion control which are directly affected by climate change, they do not currently have a specific plan to address climate change in place.

This is something that they are currently working on with Conservation Ontario (a non-profit association that represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities) and other CAs to address, as much of the work they do is directly affected by climate change. They are also actively involved with the Lake Superior Partnership Working Group, which is one of the groups that helps prepare the Lake Superior LAMP (Lakewide Action and Management Plan), a plan in which Climate Change has recently become an action category for addressing threats to water quality across Lake Superior.

c. District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board

The Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation have an energy reduction program and work with other housing service corporations in Toronto. They recently completed a new energy efficient build and continue to improve existing assets through energy efficient upgrades. They do not have a specific policy with regards to energy efficiency or GHG reduction; however, they pursue energy efficiency from a cost savings perspective. In addition, new builds are often built in a much more energy efficient capacity which also encourages energy reduction on part of their portfolio. Housing Services Corporation of Ontario has a utility management program that helps with energy management. There are also specific funding programs that upgrade roofs and other energy efficiency upgrades.

d. Enbridge

Recently Enbridge created a brand new Energy Solutions Group in response to so many municipalities declaring climate emergencies and creating energy plans. Their mission is to help municipalities with data needs, demand side management (DSM) data and also joining community energy and GHG reduction committees. Their DSM group is trying to reduce GHGS and provide homeowners and business access to various rebates. There are a series of commercial, industrial, residential, construction, affordable housing programs (housing and geared to income) programs. Enbridge also has groups that are working with municipalities on compressed natural gas (CNG) as well as renewable natural gas (RNG) (e.g. organics program, setting up digesters to set up off gases for that), geothermal, district systems. Hydrogen is something that they are also looking at, in particular with regards to blending hydrogen into the natural gas pipeline. Enbridge is a key player when it comes to reducing community GHG emissions through both energy efficiency programs as well as their pursuit of alternative and renewable energy.

e. Sault Climate Hub

The Sault Climate Hub (the hub) is a non-partisan grass roots group of concerned citizens in Sault Ste. Marie that is part of a larger organization called Climate Reality Canada. They advocate for action on meeting GHG reductions required as assess by international consensus of the best available science.

The hub builds awareness and encourage action regarding the implications and importance of Climate Change threats. The hub supports and aligns with the planned Canadian Government and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change GHG emissions reduction target of 50% (below 2010 levels) by 2030 and 70-90% by 2050. The Hub's aim is to work collaboratively with the City and community partners as part of the promotion aspect of the Hub mandate. Their goal is to be a stakeholder aimed at developing actions that the City will undertake to reduce local GHG emissions. Some of their responses from their consultation are listed below:

Challenges for GHG Action in Sault Ste. Marie

- Lack of clarity of direction and the extent of commitment to action on the part of the City.
- A key challenge is to engage the community so that quality of life (e.g. noise reduction, better air quality, wildlife enjoyment, overall better health) is associated with GHG emission reductions and a strong green economy.
- Shift in attitude needed towards looking at green economy as an inexpensive and strong sector.
- Lack of funding at all levels of government to address climate change.

How our community can contribute to reducing GHGs

- Staff dedicated to pursuing federal and provincial dollars, inclusion in regional, provincial and national projects, and advocacy for our community to be a test site for GHG reduction strategies.
- Drafting by laws and designing infrastructure that encourage GHG mitigation at the citizen-level (e.g. free parking for electric vehicles (hospital, OLG); city staff and participating businesses offering slightly shorter workdays to facilitate bike commutes, bike donation to municipal bike-share, etc.
- Creating public forums (in-person and virtual) to engage citizenry in brainstorming, and participation in GHG-reduction activity.
- Electric scooter share/bike share as part of public transit mix.

f. Sault Cycling Club

The Sault Cycling Club (SCC) has been around for 42 years and involves many aspects of cycling including advocating for infrastructure and encouraging active transportation. Key recommendations

- Encourage local companies to reward cyclists (e.g. develop reward program for those who are bike friendly, such as a parking spot by the door covered from the rain – the City could encourage this in new builds
- Improve level of service for active transportation (E.g. sweep bike lanes as soon as the snow melts, educate people)
- Create an inventory of bike trails, including shortcut trails. Get community involved – invited them to submit a trail online

g. Tenaris

As a larger manufacturer Tenaris has mandatory environmental regulation requirements that we follow with both the Federal and Provincial Governments including mandatory participation in GHG Pricing levy programs. As part of their larger corporation and the local direction for the plant in Sault Ste. Marie they are committed to continuously reducing our environmental footprint through improvement actions. In fact, according to their 2019 sustainability report “today, Tenaris uses the least CO2 intensive steel production route for its steelmaking

operations and is evaluating technologies and strategies that could potentially reduce its carbon emissions to meet global goals, including the Paris Agreement”². (p.7).

h. Garden River First Nation

Garden River First Nation is in the process of updating their Community Energy Plan with an estimated completion date of August 2021. Consultations with their Energy Advisor, and team determined that they key priorities of the existing plan highlighted future investments in renewable energy generation and multiple opportunities for significant energy conservation. Additional priorities include waste management including exploring the possibility of a waste transfer station. Garden River is interested in continuing dialogue with the City of Sault Ste. Marie on their community energy planning efforts. A future consultation with additional members of their building management team is anticipated in September 2020.

8. Green Committee Meeting

The Municipal Environmental Initiatives (Green Committee) is a City of Sault Ste. Marie committee of council comprised of 3 councillors, municipal staff and the PUC. A meeting was held on June 17, 2020 where the Climate Change Coordinator presented information regarding opportunities for community and corporate GHG reduction targets. To presentation can be viewed [online](#). The meeting ended with the participants asked to complete a short 6 question survey about targets at the municipality. Responses were received from: Police Services, Public Works, Community Development and Enterprise Services, Transit & Parking, Waste Management, Engineering, Fire, Purchasing – Finance, the PUC, as well as representatives from City Council.

Highlights from the responses include:

- Currently, the majority of energy efficiency/sustainability capital projects (current and/or planned) are limited to those identified in the 2019 City of Sault Ste. Marie Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (based on the 2010 IB Story Audits and outstanding projects from the Asset Management Plan, 2013). A few others have been identified including an LED Lighting retrofit at the John Rhodes and the GFL Memorial Gardens.
- The City’s role should be to act on Federal and Provincial direction, addressing a 5 year plan, encouragement and incentives and that they should play a leadership role in corporate reductions and collaborate/coordinate with the community to put focus and effort on this issue. The City should also demonstrate leadership through identifying municipal projects and facilitating discussions community wide leading to external project identification across the community.
- The majority of responses said that the GHG reduction target should be a 10% corporate reduction and 5% community reduction from 2017 emissions by 2027
- A gradual approach with education is key
- This is an important issue and the City should be aggressive in setting a target and achieving that target. If Algoma Steel is aiming for net zero by 2050 we should at least be there.

² Tenaris. (2019. Sustainability Report. Retrieved from:
file:///C:/Users/Emily%20PC/AppData/Local/Packages/Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge_8wekyb3d8bbwe/Templates/Downloads/sustainability-report-2019.pdf

This data will be used to help with the establishment of GHG reduction targets. Please see Appendix D for the questionnaire.

Next Steps

The community engagement and outreach phase of the GHG Reduction plan provided multiple opportunities and methods for the public to share their ideas on how to achieve a low-emission future in Sault Ste. Marie. As a part of all engagement activities, residents identified actions and solutions that would help decrease greenhouse gas emissions in Sault Ste. Marie.

Appendix A: Sault Ste. Marie Youth Climate Change Survey

The City of Sault Ste. Marie received funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to increase capacity regarding climate mitigation efforts. This began with the creation of a community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory. With this complete, the City is now working on developing a Local Plan for community GHG Reduction.

Please note that all information you provide will be kept in strictest confidence and will be used only for the purpose of this study. It is important to note that all analysis and reporting of the survey findings will be provided in aggregate only - no individual responses will be shared.

1. I agree with the terms and conditions of data collection and data use, as detailed above.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2. Are you familiar with the Paris Agreement?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

3. Please list anything that comes to mind that you do every day that can lessen your personal impact on the environment (e.g. Turn off the lights, walk / bike to school)?

4. What in your opinion is the most important reason why the City should develop a community GHG reduction plan (Please select only one)?

- ☐ Lower GHG emissions
- ☐ Improve your health (e.g. more biking)
- ☐ Decrease your energy consumption
- ☐ Create a more bike friendly and walkable city
- ☐ Improve air quality (e.g. less car exhaust)
- ☐ Show local climate action leadership
- ☐ Other:

5. Of the following topics, which do you feel is the most critical issue facing our society at present (Please select only one)?

- ☐ Climate Change
- ☐ Poverty
- ☐ Disease
- ☐ Terrorism
- ☐ Conflicts / War
- ☐ Inequality
- ☐ Cyber-attacks
- ☐ Other:

6. How do you get to school?

- ☐ Car
- ☐ City Bus
- ☐ School Bus
- ☐ Bike
- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Other:

7. Does your school participate in any environmental activities during the school year?

- ☐ Yes (If yes, please give an example):
- ☐ No

8. Would you be interested in participating in an Environmental Stewardship activity in the community this spring/summer?

- ☐ Yes (if yes, please go to question 9)
- ☐ No (if no, skip to question 10)

9. What kind of Environmental Stewardship activities would you like to participate in (Please select only one)?

- ☐ Energy conservation project (e.g. Turn the Lights Off Campaign)
- ☐ Water protection project (e.g. storm water pollution campaign)
- ☐ Nature preservation project (e.g. build a butterfly garden or host a community tree plant)
- ☐ Waste reduction project (e.g. community clean up)
- ☐ School community garden and composting project (e.g. build a community garden at your school)
- ☐ Other:

10. What are some ways that you would be interested in lowering your carbon footprint at school and at home?

- ☐ Conserving Energy
- ☐ Eating local
- ☐ Hosting an environmental educational program
- ☐ Promoting sustainable lifestyles
- ☐ Nature conservation project
- ☐ Hosting a clothing swap
- ☐ Supporting renewable energy
- ☐ Implementing GHG reduction projects
- ☐ Other:

11. Would you prefer to shop and/or visit somewhere that is committed to being more sustainable?

- ☐ Yes (If so, please say why in a few words):
- ☐ No

12. What are some actions that you would like to see local businesses do to empower citizens, businesses and tourists to make more sustainable choices?

- ☐ Reduce waste (e.g. use recyclable products such as paper straws)
- ☐ Ensure takeaway containers are recyclable and/or reusable
- ☐ Purchases and/or uses renewable energy
- ☐ Improves their energy efficiency (e.g. LED Lighting)
- ☐ Use local produce and food as part of their menu
- ☐ Sells local goods (e.g. local artwork and/or clothing)
- ☐ Other:

13. What would you like to see more of from a sustainability perspective in our community?

- ☐ More community gardens
- ☐ More green spaces
- ☐ GHG Reduction Targets

- ☐ More bike lanes
- ☐ More walking and biking paths
- ☐ Better transit
- ☐ More electric vehicle charging stations
- ☐ Planting trees and preserving natural areas
- ☐ Composting and recycling
- ☐ Other:

14. Please write down any other ideas you feel are important for reducing GHGs in our community.

Appendix B: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Reduction Plan Survey

The City of Sault Ste. Marie received funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to increase capacity regarding climate mitigation efforts (the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions) in Sault Ste. Marie. This began with the creation of a community GHG emissions inventory. With this complete, the City is now working on developing a Local Plan for community GHG Reduction.

Have your say in shaping the development of the community GHG reduction plan, by taking 5 to 10-minutes to complete this survey. As a thank you for completing the survey, you may enter into a draw to win a **\$25 gift certificate to Shabby Motley**.

Please note that all information you provide will be kept in strictest confidence and will be used only for the purpose of this study. It is important to note that all analysis and reporting of the survey findings will be provided in aggregate only - no individual responses will be shared.

1. I agree with the terms and conditions of data collection and data use, as detailed above

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. What best describes you?

- ☐ I am a resident of Sault Ste. Marie ☐ I am both a resident and a business owner in Sault Ste. Marie
☐ I am a business owner in Sault Ste. Marie ☐ Other (please specify): _____

3. If you are a resident, do you :

- ☐ Rent your home ☐ Own your home ☐ Other: _____

4. What is your age?

- ☐ Under 18
☐ 18-25
☐ 26-35
☐ 36-45
☐ 46-55
☐ 56-64
☐ 65+

5. Are there any other behavioural and/or technological changes that you have participated in to reduce your environmental impact?

Action	Yes	No	N/A
Home energy efficiency upgrades (e.g. weather-stripping, LED Lighting, new windows, etc.)			
Workplace energy efficiency changes (e.g. building retrofits, behavior changes (e.g. turning off lights)			
Decision to own a vehicle			
Kilometres travelled in vehicle			
Decision to live closer to work to decrease your commute travel and costs.			

6. Are there any other behavioural and/or technological changes that you have participated in to reduce your environmental impact?

7. Would you conduct a free do-it yourself home energy consumption audit to help understand your energy consumption and implement energy saving strategies at home?

Yes

No (if no, why not?): _____

8. What are the most important results of a community GHG reduction plan? Please rank between 1 and 8, 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important. ____

Lower GHG emissions

___ Improved health and well-being (e.g. more biking)

___ Decrease your energy consumption (save energy and money)

___ Create a more bike friendly and walkable City

___ Better air quality (e.g. less car exhaust)

___ More community pride from City Climate Change Leadership

___ More partnerships between the City and other local businesses, organizations and municipalities through shared GHG reduction action

9. Are there any other results not included above that you believe are important to the development of the GHG reduction plan?

10. Sault Ste. Marie's GHG Reduction Plan will guide community efforts to lower GHGs. Identify your thoughts on whether the Plan should include the following actions? (Please check one box per action).

Action	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Buildings					
Reduce the use of fossil fuels (e.g. natural gas, propane and fuel oil) by exploring opportunities to switch to					

renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, biomass, or geothermal energy)					
Encourage new builds to be more energy efficient (e.g. insulation, LED lighting, high quality windows, etc.)					
Continue implementing energy efficiency retrofits for existing community buildings					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Transportation					
Drive cleaner vehicles (e.g. hybrid or electric vehicles)					
Develop more electric vehicle charging stations					
Increase ridership in public transit					
Encourage active transportation by planning for more walking paths and bike lanes					
Improve alternative transportation infrastructure such as public transit shelters, sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.					
Land Use					
Plant a variety of native, and non-native non-invasive tree species, and vegetation that provide high levels of carbon sequestration.					
Encourage urban design to promote population density					
Foster development that encourages mix use living.					
Waste					
Increase community recycling opportunities					
Encourage composting to divert organic waste from the landfill.					

11. From the following list, please check all actions that you feel residents and businesses in Sault Ste. Marie should do:

- ☐ Use more renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, biomass, geothermal)
- ☐ Drive cleaner vehicles (e.g. electric vehicles, hybrids)
- ☐ Take public transit more often
- ☐ Carpool more often
- ☐ Walk or bike more often
- ☐ Make homes and businesses more energy efficient (e.g. newer furnaces, weather stripping, efficient lighting, etc.)
- ☐ Increase and maintain the community tree canopy
- ☐ Recycle and compost more to put less in the landfill which emits GHGs.
- ☐ Reduce waste put into the landfill by using recyclable and reusable products

12. From the following list, identify your view on whether the City as a corporation should explore the following initiatives:

Action	Strongly disagree	Disagree	I don't know	Agree	Strongly Agree
Introduce a 'Climate Lens' policy (evaluate and consider the climate impacts of all major City of Sault Ste. Marie decisions, including financial decisions), to ensure City investments, policies and programs are supporting climate change goals.					
Explore organic waste diversion from the landfill					
Encourage education and awareness about GHG reduction best practices					
Support for local food production and consumption.					
Explore a Green Procurement Policy					
Develop an Anti-idling By-law					
Maintain and improve Sault Ste. Marie's Urban Forest					
Leverage climate investment opportunities from all levels of government and private sector					
Reduce the environmental impacts of City operations to demonstrate commitment and spur innovation (e.g. reducing or eliminating single-use plastic products at facilities and events, choosing low-carbon vehicles and retrofitting City buildings.)					

13. Please provide any other comments you feel are important about a Local Action Plan for GHG Emission Reduction.

14. If you would like to be entered into a draw to win an a \$25 Gift Certificate to Shabby Motley, please leave your contact information below:

Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Appendix C: Results of the GHG Reduction Plan Survey

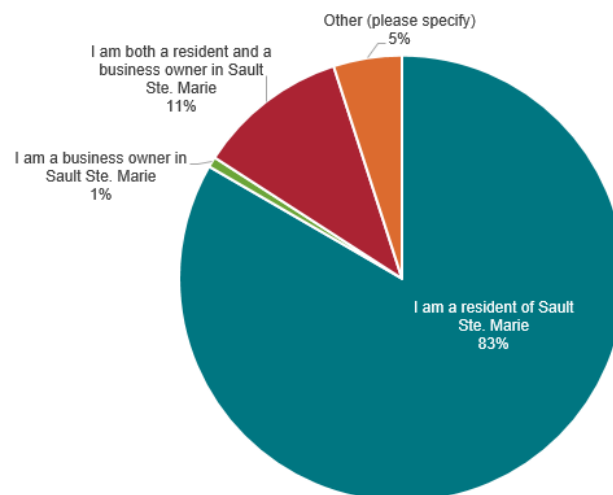
Survey Highlights:

167 responses received between February 26 – May 15, 2020

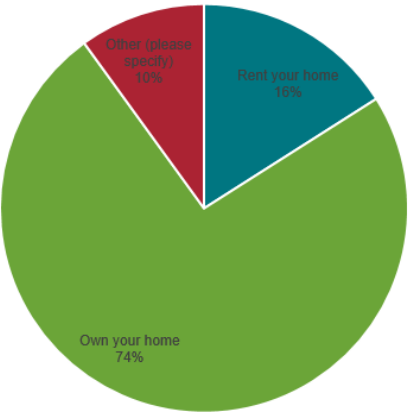
- 83% were residents of Sault Ste. Marie
- 74% are homeowners
- 25% were between 25-34 years old
- 87% have installed home energy efficiency upgrades to reduce energy costs and their carbon footprint
- 84% would conduct a free do-it yourself home energy consumption audit to help understand their energy consumption and implement energy saving strategies at home
- Over half of respondents (52%) agreed that lowering GHG emissions was the most important part of reducing the plan, followed by better air quality
- 86% of respondents would like to see new builds to be more energy efficient (e.g. insulation, LED lighting, high quality windows, etc.)
- 65% of respondents agree that we should encourage active transportation by planning for more walking paths and bike lanes
- 74% of respondents feel that we should plant a variety of native and non-native non-invasive tree species, and vegetation that provide high levels of carbon sequestration
- 77% of responders agree that increasing community recycling opportunities and composting to divert organic waste from the landfill is important



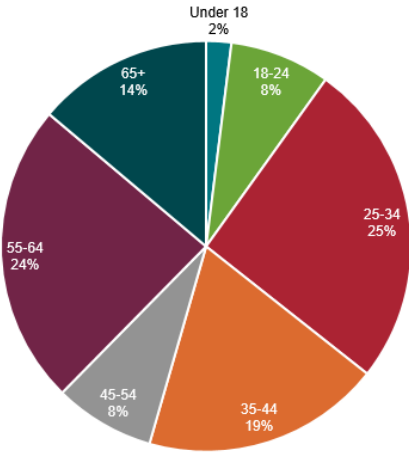
2. What best describes you?



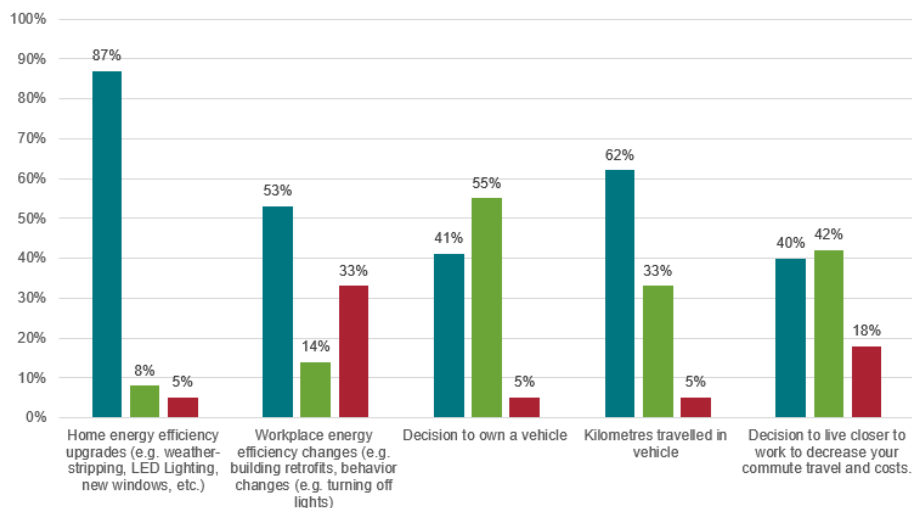
3. If you are a resident, do you:



4. What is your age?



5. Have energy costs and a desire to reduce your carbon footprint changed your behavior in any of the areas listed below?



6. Are there any behavioural and/or technological changes that you have participated in to reduce your environmental impact?

116 responses. Some key themes and ideas include:

Waste Reduction

- Recycling
- Compose organics
- Ban single use plastics

Energy Efficiency

- Energy conservation (air dry laundry, heat pumps, insulation, LED)

Renewable Energy

- Solar energy, off grid energy systems

Transportation

- Cycling more, reduced air travel, carpooling,

Economic Development

- Shop local, support environmentally friendly businesses

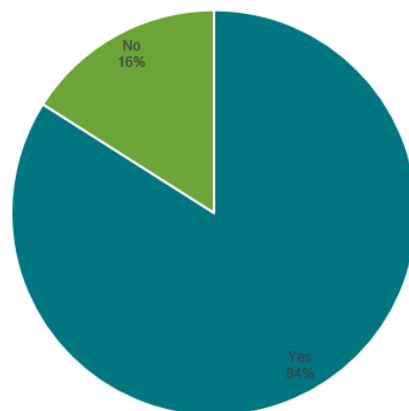
Land

- Plant trees, community gardens, grow your own food

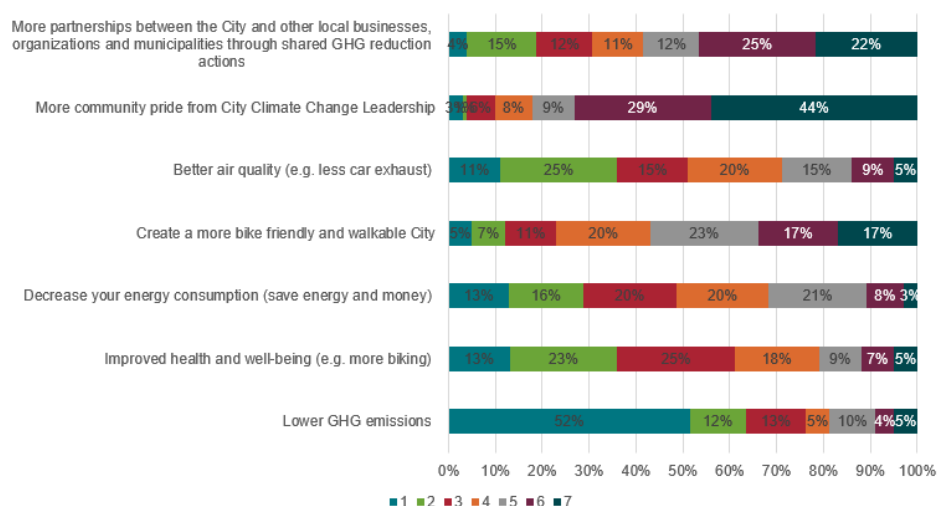
Behavior

- Work from home, shop local, change diet, grow your own food

7. Would you conduct a free do-it yourself home energy consumption audit to help understand your energy consumption and implement energy saving strategies at home?



8. What are the most important results of a community GHG reduction plan? Please rank between 1 and 7, 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important.



9. Are there any other results not included above that you believe are important to the development of the GHG reduction plan? (100+ responses)

100+ responses in the areas:

- Energy (Energy efficiency & Renewable, Clean Technology)
- Transportation
- Waste
- Industry
- Land Use

Specific focus on:

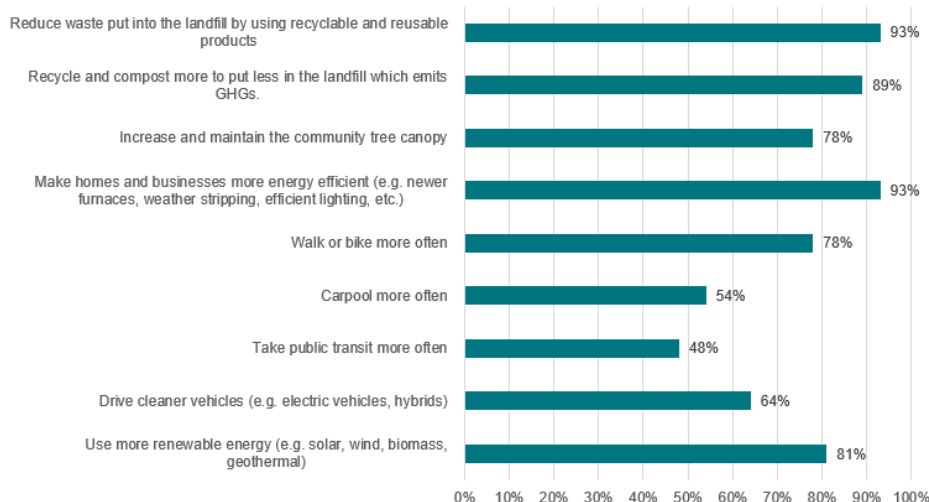
- Affordability
- Accountability
- Education and Awareness
- Community Pride
- Economic Development
- Environment / Habitat Protection
- Health
- Food Security

10-13. Sault Ste. Marie's GHG reduction plan will guide community efforts to lower GHGs. Identify your thoughts on whether the plan should include the following actions for buildings, transportation, land use and waste.

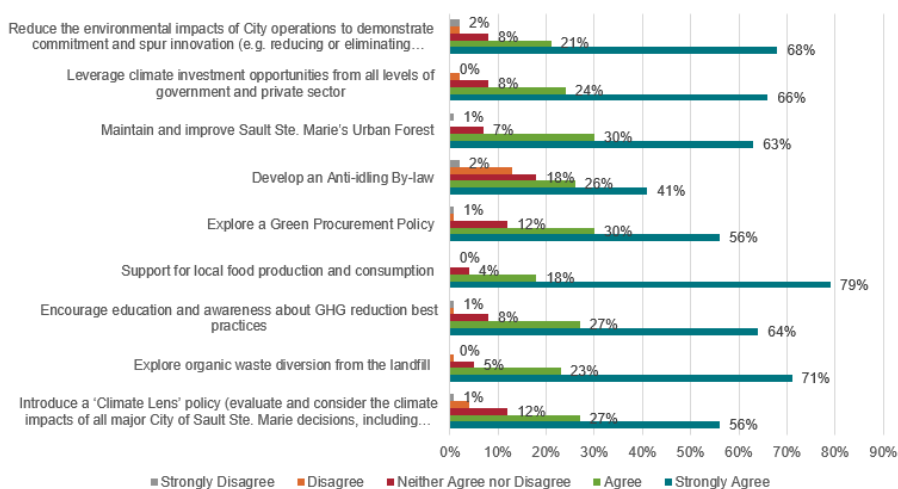
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Buildings					
Reduce the use of fossil fuels (e.g. natural gas, propane and fuel oil) by exploring opportunities to switch to renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, biomass or geothermal energy)	58%	27%	9%	4%	2%
Encourage new builds to be more energy efficient (e.g. insulation, LED lighting, high quality windows, etc.)	86%	11%	2%	1%	1%
Implement energy efficiency retrofit projects for existing community buildings					
Transportation					
Drive cleaner vehicles (e.g. hybrid or electric vehicles)	45%	30%	15%	6%	3%
Develop more electric vehicle charging stations	40%	39%	14%	5%	2%
Increase ridership in public transit	40%	39%	16%	3%	2%
Encourage active transportation by planning for more walking paths and bike lanes	65%	25%	8%	2%	1%
Improve alternative transportation infrastructure such as public transit shelters, sidewalks and crosswalks	67%	32%	9%	2%	1%
Land Use					
Plant a variety of native and non-native non-invasive tree species, and vegetation that provide high levels of carbon sequestration.	74%	17%	8%	0%	0%
Encourage urban design to promote population density.	36%	31%	21%	0%	9%
Foster development that encourages mix use living.	48%	31%	18%	2%	2%
Waste					
Increase community recycling opportunities	77%	18%	2%	2%	1%
Encourage composting to divert organic waste from the landfill	77%	19%	2%	2%	1%



14. From the following list, please check all actions that you feel residents and businesses in Sault Ste. Marie should do.



15. From the following list, identify your view on whether the City as a corporation should explore the following initiatives:



16. Please provide any other comments you feel are important about a Local Action Plan for GHG Emission Reduction

Waste	Industry	Transportation	Energy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement composting ban single use plastics in stores, restaurants, public and city venues. Expanded household recycling , better waste recycling /diversion at landfill, A good composting program. reduce the expansion of our land fill through recycling and composting Municipal composting, the ability to recycle more plastics than bottles of #1 and #2. Developing shops and facilities to refill food in reusable containers should be looked at due to the upcoming end of our landfill's life. practice of people bringing their own containers to the grocery store to replenish. Ban all single use non recyclable forms of packaging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure industries adhere to regulations Daily air quality reports. Ensure industries adhere to regulations. This plan is moot if it does not reflect the enormous impact of a ferrochrome smelter on the city's carbon footprint. Ensuring Businesses follow GHG Emission Reduction plans. as important as it is for individuals to participate, it feels pointless when large companies undo all individual efforts. Stronger accountability for Algoma Steel to control emissions. Scrap the ferrochrome smelter plans. This must first and foremost engage the biggest contributors to pollution - industry. They need to be constrained and meet green targets ASAP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking, biking, encourage more use of public transit Stop road and transportation infrastructure expansion Logistics/planning of heavy vehicles I think is key for City to use what we have as efficiently as possible rather than spending large \$\$ on electric vehicles Time the City lights to create less traffic idling; encourage cars to have emissions testing (as per Southern Ontario) Reduce the number of yellow buses. Get kids to walk or use public transit. We need a passenger train to provide another option for safe travel. We need to figure out creative ways to encourage people to buy more fuel-efficient vehicle Public transit needs to be more accessible and be a more efficient mode of transportation if you want to encourage people to use it Hybrid buses are important. They are always stopping and starting and with a hybrid the energy can be recovered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> installing LED lights in city hall and municipal arenas, pools, senior centers , changing windows and adding insulation may save the city some dollars Larger retrofits such as geothermal heating, solar power on homes are expensive and are largely accepted when rebates and funding are available. I feel strongly that these are great initiatives but need strong financial backing for home and business owners to adopt. Any new buildings being built should have to be LEED certified. Green roofs and other green spaces should be considered in urban planning.

16. Please provide any other comments you feel are important about a Local Action Plan for GHG Emission Reduction (Continued)

Land Use	Community Partners	Leadership	Incentive Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed use living Look into alternative paving substances to reduce need to repave frequently and pothole issues. i.e. recycled tires Ontario has a 15million m³/year sustainable harvest on Crown lands that is not being used since 2008 and is mostly old and low quality trees with no markets that are suitable through pyrolysis to produce biochar and biofuels. A biorefinery in SSM could convert this wood that is turning back to atmospheric carbon into biochar for Algoma steel reducing their coke consumption and biofuels for the mill's & City's commercial fleets and encourage natural regen of harvested areas to sequester more GHGs. Develop an urban forest plan or tree cutting by-law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve the university and colleges. Use local vendors, trades, consultants, and firms more often Enlist school boards to increase knowledge and participation about GHG reduction by students. definitely more access to local foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community leaders need to make greening this community a top priority if they hope to have land and space left for future generations to prosper. This should be integrated into all decisions of City initiatives (e.g. GHG on every project checklist) A while ago we had positioned ourselves to be the green energy capital of North America. I would like to see more attraction and retention of businesses that are able to make that a reality. I would like to see some cutting edge approaches to this problem. 1) Since GHGs impact health, partner with Algoma Public Health to promote awareness. 2) Educate and engage students of all ages (elementary, secondary and post secondary) re GHG issues. They will be living with and will continue to solve GHG emission problems into the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There needs to be incentive for the public to act. Those of us who already do our best for GHG reduction need more people on board to make it happen. personalized carbon footprint assessment apps

Appendix D: City of Sault Ste. Marie GHG Reduction Plan Stakeholder Consultation Questions

The City of Sault Ste. Marie received funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to increase capacity regarding climate change mitigation efforts (the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Sault Ste. Marie. This began with the creation of a community GHG emissions inventory. With this complete, the City is now working on developing a community GHG reduction plan.

Information collected in this questionnaire falls under the direct stakeholder outreach component of this project. The purpose of this is to reach out to key stakeholders within the community to understand their efforts to reduce GHGs and collect their feedback on climate change action in Sault Ste. Marie.

All questions are voluntary and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Emily Cormier, Climate Change Coordinator at e.cormier2@cityssm.on.ca or 705-971-3366.

- 1. Please state the name of the organization that you represent.**
- 2. What does your organization do and/or how does your organization contribute to the community of Sault Ste. Marie?**
- 3. Would you be interested in sharing your GHG reduction efforts in the community GHG reduction plan?**
☐ Yes
☐ No
- 4. Does your organization have any formal sustainability and/or climate change policies or mandate? If yes, please elaborate on what their purpose and goals are and if you would be willing to share any public documentation. If no, please explain (if possible) what (if any) obstacles there have been in developing a policy like this.**
- 5. How does your organization currently and/or plan to support reducing GHGs in the community of Sault Ste. Marie?**
- 6. Does your organization have any projects (e.g. capital) planned that address energy efficiency or environmental sustainability? If yes, please respond to question 7. If no, skip to question 8.** ☐Yes
☐No
- 7. Please elaborate on any energy efficiency and/or environmental sustainability projects and estimate GHG saving information that you have planned (this will help us determine the reduction target potential for Sault Ste. Marie).**
- 8. Does your organization have a GHG reduction target (e.g. Net zero by 2050, 30% by 2030)? If so, please discuss your target and how you plan to achieve it. If not, please discuss what you think our community GHG reduction should be and how we could get there.**

9. In your opinion, what should the City of Sault Ste. Marie's role be in reducing community GHG emissions in the energy/building, building, transportation, land use and waste sectors?
10. Name one challenge that climate change mitigation is being impeded by in Sault Ste. Marie.
11. Do you have any other thoughts about how our community can contribute to reducing our GHGS?
12. Would you be interested in joining a Climate Change Advisory Committee? This group would be made up of individuals from a range of backgrounds to advise the City on the Community GHG Reduction Plan and implementation. If yes, please leave your contact information below.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Appendix E: Green Committee Meeting GHG Reduction Plan Questionnaire

Please take a few minutes to provide some feedback as part of the development of the City of Sault Ste. Marie GHG Reduction Plan.

- 1. Please state your Department.**
- 2. Does your department have any capital projects (current and/or planned) other than those identified in the 2019 City of Sault Ste. Marie Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (based on the 2010 IB Story Audits and outstanding projects from the Asset Management Plan, 2013), that address energy efficiency and/or environmental sustainability? If yes, please list the projects and provide as many project specifics that you can (e.g. project description, energy savings, and GHG savings).**
- 3. In your opinion what should the City of Sault Ste. Marie's role be in reducing GHG emissions corporately and in the community?**
- 4. A greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target is a voluntary recommendation for the development of a GHG reduction plan under the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program. Below are examples of what the PCP recommends, other governments and municipalities have done. Please select the target that you feel is most attainable for the City of Sault Ste. Marie.**
 - PCP Recommendation: 20% corporate reduction and 6% community reduction in 10 years (2027)
 - Align with Federal Government Target: 30% reduction in emissions below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050.
 - Align with Ontario Provincial Government Target: 30% reduction below 2005 levels by 2030
 - Align with United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Net zero community and corporate emissions by 2050
 - 10% corporate reduction and 5% community reduction from 2017 emissions by 2027
 - Other
- 5. Please provide any other feedback you might have with regards to the development of the GHG reduction plan.**
- 6. If you would like to provide further insights in more detail, please leave your email for the Climate Change Coordinator to contact you directly.**