

Infrastructure Canada | Smart Cities Challenge

Oxford County, Blandford-Blenheim, East Zorra-Tavistock, Ingersoll, Norwich, South-West Oxford, Tillsonburg, Woodstock, Zorra

<p>Question 8</p> <p>Please describe your community's readiness and ability to implement your proposal successfully.</p> <p>This section should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience with implementing complex projects (i.e. multi-stakeholder, multi-dimensional) that span multiple business lines and functional units. • Structures, processes, and practices in place or planned for managing and implementing complex projects that span multiple business lines and functional units. • Organizational strengths and potential weaknesses for managing and implementing a smart city proposal, and plans to address weaknesses to ensure successful proposal 	<p>The Future Oxford Community Sustainability Plan is guiding decisions that will impact quality of life in our community for generations to come. From protecting source water, to reducing waste, to caring for an aging population, the Plan put forward a decision-making framework. The Multi-Criteria Assessment tool that supports action that balances Oxford's unique ECONOMY, COMMUNITY (Health and Wellbeing), and ENVIRONMENT interests of our community.</p> <p>Future Oxford was established in June 2014 when 15 community members were appointed by Oxford County Council to form a steering committee to begin developing Oxford's first Community Sustainability Plan. Taken from Future Oxford Internet site Following a year-long community engagement campaign, County Council approved the Future Oxford Community Sustainability Plan on September 9, 2015. In January 2016, the formation of the Future Oxford Partnership began the transformation from community based plan development to community based plan implementation.</p> <p>Since that time, several task-oriented committees continue to meet monthly to shape the objectives and goals of the plan and to coordinate the 70 actions items that will drive the plan forward.</p> <p>Working under the direction of the community led Future Oxford Partnership are five task oriented action committees known as Community Oxford, Economy Oxford, Reforest Oxford, Zero Waste Oxford, Smart Energy Oxford and Zero Poverty Oxford. These committees are formed by a cross-sector mix of active/passionate professionals and individuals representing the many agencies, NGOs and community groups from across our community.</p> <p>Within this work, not only are we advancing the implementation of the plan, through our Community Wellbeing Survey and other data analysis, the Future Oxford Partnership has established a process to determine our community baseline, our targets and ongoing monitoring program to measure outcomes in our community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the Implementation <p>Future Oxford Partnership is a community based team of 12 citizens from various sectors and geographic centres across Oxford County with a goal of establishing the vision, pace and committee outcomes required to move forward the community sustainability plan then monitoring and reporting outcomes and progress towards the sustainability vision of Future Oxford.</p>
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management and implementation.

Each of the above noted committees are driven by community members who have an interest and level of expertise related to their respective committee outcomes. Having a vision, creating a plan and establishing committees and stakeholders all form a beginning, however our processes and thinking have now evolved to implementation and performance monitoring.

Our greatest asset is the community interest and momentum it can garner. Through the political leadership of County and our eight Area Municipal Councils, Oxford has been able to resource key projects that leverage a community desire to move forward. The commitment and action to date is best demonstrated through our development of advanced buildings. Leveraging public funds to demonstrate how buildings of the future can today deliver the outcomes necessary to achieve sustainability. The Blossom Park project will serve as our flagship project, combining virtually all of the progressive elements found in our plan. However, the County and the Not-for-profit sector alone cannot be expected to innovate across all of the necessary sectors of our community. To meet the expected challenges of the next phase of this journey, Oxford County is actively working to combine the concepts of advanced building science by creating an operational venue for a Sustainability Cluster concept.

In 2018, Oxford County and Future Oxford, working out of the 75 Graham Street Passivehouse building location, will create a social and technology innovation hub.

Progress to date includes the securing of a building, funding and architectural design. Combined with a business case for the creation of a Living Lab for the applied research and development necessary to implement and commercialize sustainability technologies, practices and innovations along with the supports to foster social enterprise that will benefit the wellbeing of our community. We anticipate an operational facility by early 2019.

Oxford County is widely recognized as an innovative municipality with experience implementing significant capital and operational projects that cross multiple public services. County council has put in place a leadership team that drives innovation in these critical services, while aligning with and supporting the sustainability aspirations of the community Future Oxford Partnership.

In 2017, the Oxford County team implemented an operating budget of \$184 million and a capital investment of \$73 million. By our own estimation, innovation accounted for 16% and 25% respectively of our overall investments into the Oxford community.

- Organizational strengths and potential weaknesses

Fortunately, our community has an established, multi-faceted and multi-dimensional nucleus of active citizen leaders. It has taken

several years and a significant amount of effort to create the vision and committee processes required to move our community forward and we expect our participation in the Smart Cities Challenge will help us catalyse and bond our various initiatives. The Future Oxford Partnership includes many leading innovators in our community who in turn, are supported by the political and municipal leadership that spans eight area municipalities, each with unique strengths and challenges.

Our application seeks to connect every facet of our community sustainability plan by starting from the place that our residents invest 90% of their time, and that cross every sector in our community. It will be a challenge to identify the most effective application of connected technology and data from the perspective of buildings, however we believe our approach will cross multiple services and create opportunities for every community and sector across Oxford County, extendable to all communities in Canada.