



**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH  
INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

**COMMUNITY GOALS AND PRIORITIES 2010-2025**

**August 1, 2009; Prepared by K. Malhotra**

	<b>ICSP Topic</b>	<b>Goal / Objective</b>	<b>Proposed Strategy/Action</b>	<b>Pillar</b>	<b>Community identified?</b>	<b>Priority level*</b>
1	Active and Healthy Lifestyles	Promote natural sustainable ways to be active.	1. Develop an Active Living Plan/strategy for the County. 2. Work with the province to widen roads to allow for safe bicycling in County districts. Identify key routes and make room for bicycle use. 3. Consider the development of additional trails. 4. Explore current by-laws and amend as feasible.	Social, Environmental	Yes	1
2	Renewable Energy Initiative	Renewable Energy is needed for the community to stay economically viable.	1. Create a community energy group to work with the municipality. 2. Feasibility of options for impementation. for renewable energy with the Town, StFX, the Hospital and county-wide area. 3. Provide opportunities for new wind and other alternative energy sources to develop in Antigonish via apporprate by-laws and policies. Lobby Provincial Govt. to stop NS Power monopoly.	Enviromental, Economic	Yes	1
3	Municipal Services and Planning Strategy	Provide readily available and easily accesible information regarding permits, regulation, zoning processes, and general information for land owner and developers.	1. Conduct analysis to measure current affectiveness in provision on municipal services, identify shortfalls and correct them. 2. Enhance the County's website to provide additional services. 3. Consideration for services based on zones.	Economy, Social	Yes	1
4	Protection of Watersheds and water sources	Protect watersheds and source water from contamintation and overuse.	Continue to ensure County-wide watersheds are protected by completing the current watershed source protection plans for St. Andrews, Rights River and Lower South Lake watersheds.	Enviromental	Yes	1
5	Public Safety	Improved accessibility and safety.	1. Investigate aging population and current accessibility provisions. 2. Increase lighting in urban areas where needed. 3. Improve accessibility to County facilities.	Environment	Yes	1
6	Shoreline Erosion	Protection from eroding shorelines.	1. Need to see more maintenance from the province. Work with the Dept. of Natural Resources as they have an obligation to take a stronger lead in managing this issue. 2. Look at exisiting terms and by-laws for development close to shorelines and implement changes as needed.	Environment	Yes	1
7	Municipal Energy planning (conservation and greenhouse gas reduction)	Encourage energy conservation; annual reduction in municipal energy expenditures	Conduct municipal energy audit; retrofit older buildings for energy efficiency; develop staff awareness program and community awareness program; investigate feasibility of alternative energy sources in municipal buildings	Environmental	Yes	1
8	Sustainable Procurement (municipal)	Purchase of sustainable products and services.	Develop and implement a sustainable procurement plan for the municipality.	Environmental	No	1

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9	Climate Change adaptation and pollution prevention	Identify potential impacts from sea-level rise and temperature fluctuations including impacts on flood-prone areas.	Work with the Province and local stakeholders to: 1. Conduct storm surge/sea level rise risk assessment and coastal zone mapping/modeling; prepare action plan; map areas, assess risk using precipitation records, develop an applicable strategy for protection. 2. Explore means by which to limit pollution.	Environmental	No	1
10	Affordable and Seniors Housing	Encourage a variety of housing types including seniors housing and affordable housing. Create affordable housing solution for all districts.	In working with local stakeholders: 1. Review housing needs and identify new options for Senior and Affordable housing. Investigate the model used in St. Andrew's and elsewhere. Explore feasibility for a central seniors housing complex with a service centre incorporated. 2. Develop a strategy for provision in MPS, if appropriate. 3. Implement a systemic solution.	Social	Yes	1
11	Tourism Planning and Development	Work with local organizations, the region and the Province to increase tourism to Antigonish Area.	1. Develop a Tourism Plan and gateway strategy. 2. Inventory currently hosted events and activities on an annual basis. 3. Identify new events and festivals and spread across four seasons. 4. Increase the number of tourist attractions in rural communities e.g. Keppoch Beaver Mountain Project. 5. Create a promotional directory of attractions, events and festivals in Antigonish County. 6. Establish a new location for a VIC. 7. Develop a signage project for Post Road in cooperation with provincial tourism -TIANS, utilizing the new provincial "trail" system. Wish list: bring Winter Carnival back, public washrooms at beaches, sport facilities - tennis court, baseball field, summer school for the arts at Crystal Cliffs, world music festival with Coady participants, language institute - summer school for french and/or gaelic, guided tours of the area, interactive trails with signage.	Cultural, Economic	Yes	1
12	Population Retention & Attraction	1. Retain youth in area. 2. Encourage newcomers/immigrants to community. 3. Strengthen sense of community so people will stay.	Work with local organizations to: 1. Identify programs to provide job opportunities to youth. 2. Create a "welcome wagon" for newcomers/immigrants. 3. Enhance programs in schools to show youth that business development is an option - encourage entrepreneurship. 4. Study and implement a plan to attract people to live in Antigonish.	Culture	Yes	1
13	Agriculture, Food Safety and Food Security - Local Procurement	Lower dependence on food imports and increase the availability of local foods in local stores.	1. Develop and publish contact information on local food producers and suppliers (ARDA's Food Finder Brochure & VOICES). 2. Publish local product availability based on seasons. Promote "Home grown". 3. Establish local co-op. 4. Lobby for a Standardized meat inspection system and supporting local inspection. 5. Lobby Province and work with National chains in local area to sell more local products.	Environmental	Yes	1
14	Crisis management planning (municipal)	Ensure that essential services provided by the municipality can continue during time of crisis with utmost safety of municipal staff.	1. Develop municipal Pandemic and Crisis Plans. 2. Prepare a Business Continuity Plan.	Environmental	No	1
15	Community, Organizational and Government Partnerships	1. Improve collaboration in planning initiatives of County and Town. 2. Full engagement by all 3 levels of government in initiatives. 3. Investigate solutions on a regional level as opposed to individual municipalities.	1. Work with local development agencies to become more engaged in planning. 2. Share inventory and progress of all projects e.g. ARDA projects.	Social	Yes	2

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16	Preservation and promotion of Heritage and Culture	1. Preserve and promote local heritage (buildings and culture) - develop a Heritage Protection and Enhancement Plan. 2. Recognition of French as one of the ancestral language of the area. 3. Preservation of traditional recipes and foods.	Through the Heritage Committee and engage youth in the committee. : 1. Utilize an existing heritage buildings like the Glebe house by create a tourist destination and access funding from the 3 levels of govt. 2. Provide language education in French for Adults. 3. Document of culture and oral traditions. Utilize 4-H groups and make use of a genealogist. 4. Create a Gaelic interpretive centre. 5. Recognize old barns as heritage buildings / part of landscape therefore need to support the maintenance of barns.	Cultural	Yes	2
17	Youth Empowerment and Engagement	1. Engage youth as volunteers in the community. 2. Increase youth activities in the community.	1. Provide youth the opportunity to join councils and committees. Encourage and invite youth to meetings. 2. Create individual community focal points where youth can gather. 3. Work with the schools to make community involvement a requirement for graduation. 4. Youth Centre and Skateboard park.	Cultural	Yes	2
18	Volunteerism	Increase engagement of citizens as volunteers.	Work with districts to: 1. Create a volunteer database by district. Volunteers should be recruited and broken into groups with specific responsibilities. 3. Look into govt. incentives for volunteers including awards.	Social	Yes	2
19	Fisheries	Market local Fisheries and create a broader knowledge of the fisheries in the area.	Work with local organizations and the province to obtain funding to assist in the promotion of the local fisheries.	Economic	Yes	2
20	Highway 104 twinning in Antigonish	Prepare for anticipated changes to local economy and services due to impact of highway 104 twinning in Antigonish.	Investigate the impact of the new twinned highway. Work with the Highway Liaison Committee to identify proper signage.	Economic	Yes	2
21	Sustainable Transportation Options	Accessible transportation for all in Antigonish as alternative to driving	Work with community and organizations to identify best option for public transportation. Some examples include: school buses for public transportation in rural areas, pilot bus program, car-pooling database, community parking spaces at district entrances. Explore options for implementing low-cost, accessible, environmentally-friendly, public transportation from town centre to county outreach areas.	Economic	Yes	2
22	Greater engagement with First Nations Communities	Enhance access to Native Communities and create more interaction between First nations Communities and County District residents.	Feasibility to showcase First Nations culture with a restaurant / gift shop / etc.	Economic	Yes	2
23	Water & Sewer	District-based municipal water and sewer	Based on assessment, consider upgrading existing municipal-based water and sewer systems and consider installing in areas where needed.	Environmental	Yes	2
24	Land-Use Planning	Better plans and restrictions need to be in place to protect access to water, shorelines, etc.	Establish and engage advisory committees in affected districts and identify policies to protect sensitive habitat. This will include an active strategy to deal with shoreline Erosion.	Environment	Yes	2
25	Recreational programming and participation.	Bring recreation facilities up to provincial standards. Increase public participation in physical activity.	1. Develop a County-wide strategic plan for department of recreation. It should include a Green Space plan. 2. Consider options for replacing the Antigonish Arena, introducing a skateboard park and encouraging policy for allowing the use of community centres for youth use.	Social	Yes	2

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26	Protection of County land and controlled land development.	Protection of natural habitat and biologically rich land.	1. Work with the Province to increase crown-owned land in the area. Identify what is in municipal jurisdiction. 3. Look at existing zoning by-laws and explore more sustainable and concentrated development options. 4. Consider a policy or a by-law.	Environmental	No	2
27	Septic Sludge management	Prevention of run-offs and protection of natural habitat.	Study the cost/benefits of implementing a county-wide, residential septic sludge management program. If feasible, explore providing septic sludge management as a municipal service through an annual tax.	Environmental	No	2
28	Sustainable Performance Indicators	Enable the Community to measure and benchmark performance in the environmental, economic, social and cultural pillars of sustainability.	Study to conduct analysis and establish baseline indicators as part of a comprehensive database and on-line information system of sustainable performance indicators.	All Pillars	No	2
29	Promotion and Showcase of Local Artisans	Promote the richness and business viability of our artisan resource.	1. Engage artists in our community into a sustainable business and development model. 2. A place to host local art and collections.	Cultural, Economic	Yes	3
30	Forestry	Create spin offs of local forestry industry. Use by-products to build / create craft.	Work with provincial and federal legislations to encourage less restrictive grading system coupled with a better selection / choice. Create policies to allow local woodlot producers to have greater output in a sustainable manner.	Economic	Yes	3
31	Business Retention and Expansion / Green Economy	Promote business attraction and expansion with a focus on sustainable industry	Work with local organizations to develop infrastructure, policy and access to an economy of scale to attract large corporate investment into the community. Increase awareness that Antigonish has the lowest commercial tax base in all Nova Scotia.	Economic	Yes	3
32	Poverty Alleviation	Identify and support programs that lower the financial pressure on low-income individuals and families.	1. Work with churches, teachers social clubs to identify those that need help and support local programs. 2. Lobby the Province to remove VLT's from Town/County.	Economic, Social	Yes	3
33	Waste Management and Reduction	Reduction in volume of waste produced per person based on provincial mandate of 300 kg per person. Promoting the reduction of manufactured waste through packaging. 2. Expolre options to lower household and business waste and for efficient implementation	1. Enhance the solid waste disposal strategy; increase public awareness (reduction, recycle, reuse), encourage provincial standards and ownership. 2. Explore options for reduction of manufactured waste. 3. Lower annual targets for households and business waste. 4. Increase efficiency in waste management solutions.	Environmental	Yes	2
34	Pesticide Reduction	Reduction and eventual ban on the use of cosmetic persticides such as those used to maintain lawns.	1. Study the extent of use of cosmetic pesticides and consider a policy and education on the curtailing use. 2. Provide information to residents on alternative options.	Environmental, Social	Yes	3
35	Community Gardens	Identify ways to support existing and identify new community gardens.	Increase Community Gardens and encourage education for all to use them. Rural communities can use these for networking and learning about agriculture and gardening.	Social	Yes	3
36	Daycare and Homecare	Daycare centres / efficient use of available public infrastructure.	1. Work with schools to better utilize classroom space in the school as a daycare. Look at other daycare options for rural communities.	Social	Yes	3
37	Incentives for local production and procurement	Reduce dependance on imported goods	1. Work with the RDA and Government Departments to encourage local production and procurement of goods. 2. Encourage businesses to buy local products.	Economic, Environmental	Yes	2
38	Beautification	Clean and orderly residential and commercial premises, and natural environment.	1. Engage the business community to take pride in their natural and built properties. 2. Engage with residents to keep premises looking good. 3. Look at existing by-laws and make changes if necessary.	Environmental	Yes	3