

**London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy
Resident Task Force**

Five Year Strategy and Implementation Plan

**Initiatives in Other Cities
Compendium**

September 2009

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Note:

This list of initiatives was pulled together in August 2009 and is by no means an exhaustive review, nor have they been rated for effectiveness.

VISION & ELEMENTS

Our London is a City of neighbourhoods.

Our London neighbourhoods will be empowered, sustainable, safe and active communities. We will care for and celebrate each other while encouraging diversity and inclusiveness.

Our neighbourhoods will be environmentally and socially responsible and will have available green space, vibrant local economies and accessible amenities of daily life.

	Elements	Definitions
Neighbourhoods have people that:	Diverse	❖ diverse (including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs and other ideologies)
	Connected	❖ care about their neighbours, support each other (are socially conscious; celebrate each other) and an overall feeling of “neighbourliness”
	Active	❖ participate in their neighbourhood;
	Pride	❖ care about, respect and are proud of where they live (environmentally conscious)
	Empowered	❖ are engaged and know how to effect change and are supported by City government.
	Engaged	❖ are community leaders, change neighbourhoods in positive ways, committed, sustainable/resilient, enduring, dynamic, focused on continuous change
	Quality of Life	❖ physical, emotional and spiritual well-being that a person enjoys; the range of opportunities, the richness of experience and the meaningful relationships that exist in a person’s life
Neighbourhoods are places where:	Sustainable	❖ there is a vibrant local economy, sustainable environment, sustainable planning and design is practiced and heritage buildings are protected; the historic “fabric”/identity of the neighbourhood is maintained; enduring over time, balanced
	Safe	❖ it is safe to live, work and play; neighbourhoods are clean and cared for
	Parks	❖ parks and open space are available and accessible; available garden space
	Amenities	❖ gathering places such as churches, community centres, health care centres, grocery stores, libraries, schools, etc are available and accessible; identifiable neighbourhood meeting places
	Services / Activities	❖ activities and services are available and accessible; walkability (able to move across community)
	Connectivity	❖ there is connection within neighbourhoods, to adjacent neighbourhoods and to the rest of the City (roads, walkways, transportation); and,
	Responsive City	❖ City government is responsive to community needs.

PEOPLE - ENGAGED

Neighbourhoods have people that are engaged community leaders changing neighbourhoods in positive ways, committed, resilient, dynamic, focused on continuous change.
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- 1. Support existing, and support development of new, community/neighbourhood associations**
- 2. Develop Neighbourhood Action Planning Process and Neighbourhood Action Plans**
- 3. Develop a Neighbourhood Resource Centre/Neighbourhood Hub Model for London**

- 1. Support existing, and support development of new, community/ neighbourhood associations**

Web sites devoted to starting a *neighbourhood association*:

- Brantford, ON Neighbourhood Associations. City Parks and Recreation department provides support to residents who wish to start a neighbourhood association in their area.
<http://www.brantford.ca/content/publishing.nsf/Content/PF-Facility-Neighbourhood>
- Halifax, NS Regional Municipality – Good Neighbours/Great Neighbourhoods Web site:
<http://myhrm.ca/>
- Kitchener, ON Community Associations – web page devoted to neighbourhood associations and links to information on each one.
http://www.kitchener.ca/city_hall/departments/community_services/community_program/neighbourhood_assoc.htm
- City of Saanich, BC - Community Association Operating Grant - Community groups that represent a particular geographic region and have been recognized by Council either through the local area planning process, through historical precedent or through special resolution of Council are eligible to apply for a Community Association Operating Grant. Community Associations are eligible for up to a maximum of \$1,000 annually. A supplemental grant of \$500 is available for those Associations whose geographic population is greater than 10,000.
www.gov.saanich.bc.ca/resident/community/funding/opgrant.html
- Tallahassee, Florida - How to Establish a Neighbourhood Association
<http://www.talgov.com/parks/neighborhood/h2guide2.cfm>
- City of Phoenix, Arizona - Neighbourhood Association Tool Kit describes how best to establish and maintain a community association. <http://www.phoenix.gov/NBHDPGMS/toolkit.html>
- Battle Creek, Michigan publishes many documents that provide advice on establishing and maintaining a neighbourhood association.
- City of Sacramento, California - publishes a package on “how to establish a neighbourhood association” that includes detailed sample bylaws, membership applications, forms, sample meeting agendas, etc.
- Municipalities or other organizations which host a website to support community and *neighbourhood associations*:
- City of Vancouver, Washington
<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/nhoods.asp?menuid=10461&submenuid=10467>
- City of Bend, Oregon - links to neighbourhood groups from the City web site. Community groups can post links to their own pages and can stay connected to City Hall <http://www.bendneighborhoods.com/>
- City of Riverside, California - Neighbourhood Partnership facilitates and encourages the formation of neighbourhood associations city-wide and acts as a clearing-house for concerns. The board approaches City Hall on behalf of the neighbourhood associations.
<http://www.riversideca.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhoods-partnership.asp>

PEOPLE - ENGAGED

- City of Portland, Oregon Neighbourhood Program Neighborhood Resource Center includes coordination of Portland's "neighborhood network." This nationally recognized neighborhood system is made up of 95 recognized neighborhood associations and seven neighborhood district coalition offices located throughout the city. These district coalitions and offices provide support and technical assistance to the volunteer-based neighborhood associations, community groups and individual citizen-activists <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=28989>
- City of Bellevue, Washington [Neighborhood Outreach - Crossroads Mini City Hall \(Official City of Bellevue Website\)](#)
- City of Detroit, Michigan [About Neighborhood City Halls | City of Detroit | www.detroitmi.gov](#)
- City of Boston, Massachusetts [Office of Neighborhood Services - City of Boston](#)
- City of Seattle, Washington [Neighborhood Service Centers | Department of Neighborhoods](#)
- [Our Community, Building Stronger Communities through Stronger Community Organizations - ourcommunity.com.au](#)
- Louisville, Ky, Dept. of Neighborhoods and Community Outreach provides many community outreach initiatives including: The Mayor's Neighborhood Toolbox – provides training opportunities and resources to community members, roundtable discussions, leadership training, Mayor's Neighbourhood Summit (a full day neighborhood leadership training conference consisting of workshops led by neighborhood leaders for peer-to-peer learning. They have also developed an Initiative to connect citizens to government, called "Community Outreach Liaisons". This team works to empower neighborhoods with an array of community-building skills. Each outreach liaison will cover one Louisville Metro area which includes both urban and suburban areas. The Community Outreach Liaisons' primary purpose is to connect the community with government and make government more accessible. <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/Neighborhoods/>

2. Develop Neighbourhood Action Planning Process and Neighbourhood Action Plans

- City of Vancouver, Washington has developed a Neighbourhood Action Planning Kit to act as a guide for residents as they prepare their Neighbourhood Action Plan document. The recommended process is not a formula to be rigidly followed, but only a suggested approach that can be adapted to fit the needs and participation in the neighbourhood association. They encourage neighbourhoods to bring their own creativity to the process and to remain flexible. http://www.cityofvancouver.us/nhood_plans.asp?menuid=10461&submenuid=10467&itemID=15208
- Toronto ON Strong Neighbourhoods <http://www.tcdsb.org/trustees/Agendas/Board,%202005-11-17/Board%20Agenda,%202005-11-17,%20Toronto%20Strong%20Neighbourhoods%20Initiative.pdf>
<http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/whatWeDo/neighbourhoods.php>
- Winnipeg North End: Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation is a resident led process facilitated by a consultant (Tamarack) leading to development of a not-for-profit hub-like organization filling the gaps identified by the residents. (http://tamarackcommunity.ca/g3s61_2008c.html)
- Tamarack - Vibrant Communities - Vibrant Communities links communities across Canada, from British Columbia to Newfoundland, in a collective effort to test the most effective ways to reduce poverty at the grassroots level. <http://tamarackcommunity.ca/g2.php>

PEOPLE - ENGAGED

- Baltimore, Maryland City Neighbourhood Strategy – Strategic Neighbourhood Action Plans (SNAP) is a community driven partnership approach to neighbourhood investment. It empowers neighbourhoods to take control of their own future, have a say in resource allocation decisions and set local priorities
<http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/neighborhoods/neighbstrat.php>
- Louisville, Kentucky has developed a neighbourhood Assessment Project where individual neighbourhoods approach the city to conduct assessments which involves review of existing Census data, neighbourhood survey and discussion groups. <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/Neighborhoods/NAP/>
- Tamarack- Action for Neighbourhood Change – A guide for organizations that have decided to use a *Comprehensive Community Initiative (CCI)* approach to renewing community life.
http://www.anccommunity.ca/Res_Tools.html
- Victoria, Australia: a neighbourhood renewal initiative to improve the disadvantaged and build more cohesive communities www.neighbourhoodrenewal.vic.gov.au
- Shephall, UK Neighbourhood Action Plan. Used as example for Kipps Lane Resident Working Group
<http://www.google.ca/search?hl=en&source=hp&q=Shephall+Neighbourhood+Action+Plan&btnG=Google+Search&meta=&aq=null&oq=>
- Minneapolis Minnesota Neighbourhood Revitalization Program – many examples of Neighbourhood Action Plans for many different types of neighbourhoods. <http://www.nrp.org/>
- City of Seattle, Washington Dept. of Neighbourhoods – example of a revitalization effort for Seattle's Central neighbourhoods. Action Plan examples for several neighbourhoods are posted on their web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/npi/plans/central/>

3. Develop a Neighbourhood Resource Centre / Neighbourhood Hub Model for London

- London, UK – “Idea Stores” combine the best of traditional library and information services with first class, lifelong learning opportunities. Learning includes recreational, social and academic classes/courses, similar to those offered at neighbourhood resource centres.
<http://www.ideastore.co.uk/>

PEOPLE - CONNECTED

Neighbourhoods have people that are connected, care about their neighbourhoods, socially conscious, celebrate and support each other, overall feeling of “neighbourliness”.

- 1. Encourage and promote neighbourhood celebrations or events**
 - 2. Develop a Neighbourhood Matching Fund type program for community projects (large and small; this is separate from celebrations and events but could be combined)**
 - 3. Develop a model to guide management, sustainability, expansion and resourcing of community gardens**
 - 4. Promote community gardens and knowledge about the program**
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- 1. Encourage and promote neighbourhood celebrations or events**
 - City of Kitchener, ON in partnership with other community organizations, run and fund the Festival of Neighbourhoods, which encourages neighbourhood groups to plan activities, projects, gatherings or events in their neighbourhoods that bring people together and are open to everyone. Awards are presented at the annual Festival Finale, and Good Neighbour Hampers are distributed to every neighbourhood that participates. One participating neighbourhood receives \$10,000 Capital Improvement Grant from the City of Kitchener. <http://www.waterlooregion.org/neighbourhoods/>
 - City of Moncton, NB (Block Party Program), City of Edmonton Alberta (Block Party Promotion), City of Holland Michigan (Block Party Planning Kit) and many other municipalities across North America promote neighbourhood block/street parties, and provide assistance such as promoting the event, providing police presence and road closures, providing funding, and offering suggestions. http://www.moncton.ca/Residents/Recreation_Parks_and_Culture/Neighbourhoods/Block_Party.htm
http://www.edmonton.ca/for_residents/resident_services_programs/block-parties.aspx
http://www.cityofholland.com/cihollandmuis/assets/OS_NeighborhoodBlockPartyKit.pdf
 - Toronto, ON Community Festivals and Special Events Investment Program is designed to provide developmental and financial support to help festivals and events grow and increase their effectiveness while encouraging organizers to work towards self-sustainability for their community events. <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-21774.pdf>
 - Hamilton, ON Community Partnership Program offers funds each year for events, and offers road closure services for events that fit outlined criteria. <http://www.myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/CityandGovernment/CityDepartments/CorporateServices/Financ eBudgetTaxes/CommunityPartnershipProgram/>
 - National Neighborhood Day occurs annually on the 3rd Sunday in September in the United States. On this day, neighbourhoods are encouraged and supported to hold community events that build relationships between neighbors. http://www.neighborhoodday.org/about_mission.asp
 - Get to Know Your Neighbour Day is declared nationally in Australia each year. <http://www.casey.vic.gov.au/newresidents/article.asp?Item=15492>
 - 2. Develop a Neighbourhood Matching Fund type program for community projects (large and small; this is separate from celebrations and events but could be combined)**
 - City of Saanich, B.C. Community Matching Funds granted to community groups for such projects as: park improvements (equipment, gardens), community celebrations or special events, tree planting projects, improvements to natural environment, art enhancement projects and neighbourhoods features

PEOPLE - CONNECTED

(benches, murals). A maximum of \$2,000 is awarded per project and the group must provide matching funds or in kind service. www.gov.saanich.bc.ca/resident/community/funding/matchfunds.html

- Halifax Regional Municipality – Good Neighbours/Great Neighbourhoods (<http://myhrm.ca/>) provide one-time grants to community groups to help create or maintain healthy, safe and cultural communities for residents. The focus of the program is to provide support to local volunteers and to help them develop their programs.
- City of Seattle, Washington Department of Neighbourhoods – For twenty years the Neighbourhood Matching Fund has made a significant impact on shaping the face of Seattle by supporting self-help projects and volunteerism in the community. The NMF is a City funding program that provides cash awards to neighborhood and community organizations for a wide variety of neighborhood-based projects. <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/>
- City of Seattle - The Tree Fund, which is part of the Neighborhood Matching Fund, provides trees for neighbors to plant in the planting strip. A neighborhood group of at least five households can apply for ten to forty trees from a list provided by the City Arborist. To match the city's contribution of free trees, the neighbors must organize the planting of the trees. This year you can also get a free fruit tree for your own yard. <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/>

3. Develop a model to guide management, sustainability, expansion and resourcing of community gardens

- Toronto, Ontario has established a community gardening implementation process managed by a Community Gardens Coordinator. http://www.toronto.ca/parks/programs/gardening_implementation.htm
- Calgary, Alberta has initiated a 2009 Community Gardens Pilot Project, in which groups submit an application and are able to receive up to \$10,000 to support the development of a community garden. http://www.calgary.ca/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_395_203_0_47/http%3B/content.calgary.ca/CCA/City+Hall/Business+Units/Parks/Programs+Events+and+Initiatives/Community+Initiatives+and+Events/Community+Gardens/Community+Gardens.htm
- City of Seattle, Washington Department of Neighbourhoods – A Stroll in the Garden: An Evaluation of the P-Patch Program (Aug. 2009) <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/pubs/EEMUBriefing9909.pdf>
- Policy Directions for Kogarah, Australia Municipal Council suggest a policy of support for public housing estate community gardens in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens. This document also reviews a number of other City's community garden initiatives. http://www.communitygarden.org.au/policies/kmc_policy_sept08.pdf
- The City of Sydney (Australia) provides assistance to groups seeking to start a community garden including instructions on how to get funding and how to manage the garden, etc. <http://www.communitygarden.org.au/policies/cityofsydney-cg.pdf>
- Santropol Roulant, QC is an innovative community organization in Montreal that uses its own rooftop gardens, gardened by youth volunteers to fuel its meals-on-wheels programs which provides meals to residents who have lost their autonomy. <http://rooftopgardens.ca/en/about>
- <http://www.santropolroulant.org/2009/E-home.htm>

4. Promote community gardens and knowledge about the program

- See best practices in previous section

PEOPLE - ACTIVE

Neighbourhoods have people that are active and participate in their community.
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- 1. Increase political engagement and voter turnout**
- 2. Engage youth in political processes**
- 3. Better measure of being active in your neighbourhood**

- 1. Increase political engagement and voter turnout**

- 2006 Ontario Municipal Elections AMCTO Post Election Survey: Final Report. This report summarizes the results of the survey that AMCTO carried out early in 2007 to gather information on the administration of the 2006 municipal elections in Ontario. Alternative vote casting methods were reviewed. www.amcto.com
- Minneapolis Minnesota – Getting to BOB. A multi-neighborhood initiative named "Getting to the Bottom of the Ballot." The Goal: identify and test unconventional ways to break down barriers to civic involvement, and, in the process, help residents connect with local issues and local elections. <http://www.tcinternet.net/users/fusili/getbob/>

- 2. Engage youth in political processes**

- Many Municipalities (Windsor, Cambridge, Calgary and Mississauga) have a Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee (or Council) that meets monthly with the mayor to advise him/her on issues in the community that affect youth. <http://www.myac-mississauga.com/>
- City of Vancouver BC's Civic Youth Strategy is committed to actively involve youth and people who work with youth in civic activities. It appoints a Youth Council that meets monthly and holds various events to connect youth to City Hall. <http://www.vancouver youth.ca/who we are/civic youth strategy>
- The Toronto Youth Cabinet advises City Council on behalf of Toronto's youth, works on issues from youth violence to homelessness, celebrates the achievements of youth, etc. <http://thetyc.ca/about-us>
- Growing Up in Cities Canada uses Vancouver, BC as an example to outline key strategies to get youth involved in municipal government and civic matters. This document also includes brief outlines of policies from Gatineau and Halifax. http://vancouver.ca/COMMSVCS/socialplanning/initiatives/cys/PDF/GUIC_Van_view.pdf
- City of Edmonton, Alberta - Go to school at City Hall. This week-long program offers students an exciting opportunity to interact with civic administration and politicians. The program includes: Presentations by civic staff, Visits to City offices, A tour of City Hall, Simulated City Council sessions, A visit to the Mayor's office www.edmonton.ca/for_residents/resident_services_programs/city-hall-school.aspx
- City of Portland, Oregon- Public Involvement Advisory Council – Recruits youth (age 16-22) to serve on the Public Involvement Advisory Council. The PIAC is charged with creating guidelines for how the City of Portland engages and involves the community in official decision making processes. <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=28360>

- 3. Better measure of being active in your neighbourhood**

- Municipal scans identify the same measurements reflected in the LSNS Final Neighbourhood Assessment Report: voter turnout, volunteer participation, association/organized group participation as the measures for 'active' participation.

PEOPLE - PRIDE
Neighbourhoods have people that have pride, respect and care about where they live.

- 1. Provide opportunities for murals, public art, and free art etc. which may reduce graffiti**
- 2. Celebrate gateways to the City**
- 3. Neighbourhood specific signage similar to that in heritage districts**
- 4. Improve and expand Clean and Green initiatives**
- 5. Promote naturalization projects to inspire pride**
- 6. Institute more “adopt-a” programs**
- 7. Promotion of “little gems” in London**

- 1. Provide opportunities for murals, public art, and free art etc. with may reduce graffiti**

- Calgary, Alberta’s public art policy commits to giving 1% of all capital spending over 1 million dollars to public art. http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/bu/recreation/public_art/public_art_policy.pdf
- In Richmond, BC a public art program connects artists with community groups. Artists and community groups apply and are matched to explore an issue in the community through art. Funding may be granted to the artist. http://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/policy/policy_a.htm
- Chemainus Vancouver Island, BC., resources available on mural-making process from artist and administrative points of view. www.chemainus.com
- New Haven, Conn – re PublicArt goal is to expand the nature of art in public places through participatory projects that help build community and public appreciation for the arts as a vehicle for positive social change. <http://www.republicart.org/page2.html>

- 2. Celebrate gateways to the City**

- City of Cincinnati, Ohio Gateway Program - The overall design concept is to provide a series of towers, campaniles, lighthouses, fountains, beacons, gateposts, and/or pylons that become focal points or centers of a network of "green" entryways and special places to Cincinnati. In addition, "green corridor" approaches are being created linking downtown Cincinnati to surrounding neighborhoods. The Downtown Gateway Program encourages public/private partnerships to implement the entryway improvements. The result is a unified effort on design, funding, and maintenance that celebrates Cincinnati’s corporate and civic history. www.cincinnati-oh.gov/transeng/pages/-7056/

- 3. Neighbourhood specific signage similar to that in heritage districts**

- City of Vancouver, BC Street Banner Program - local business associations, non-profit groups, charitable organizations and special events organizations install banners and flags on City streets to promote business area or special events. <http://vancouver.ca/engsvcs/transport/banners/index.htm>
- See Pride Objective #2 re: public art Best Practices

- 4. Improve and expand Clean and Green initiatives**

- City of Bloomington, Indiana - Housing and Neighborhood Development Department (HAND) operate a littler "Pick it up" campaign. HAND furnishes special blue trash bags (they are free!) to neighborhoods and individuals to pick up litter in their neighbourhood. The sanitation crews will pick up the bags with your regular trash - no stickers required! It is a Year round initiative. http://bloomington.in.gov/documents/viewDocument.php?document_id=834

PEOPLE - PRIDE

5. Promote naturalization projects to inspire pride

- City of Toronto Naturalization Program: The Naturalization Program has become the largest municipal naturalization project in Canada. More than 130,000 native trees and shrubs, as well as 120,000 wildflowers, herbaceous and aquatic plants have been planted across sites under City of Toronto jurisdiction. In the Don Valley alone, over 60,000 trees and shrubs and another 20,000 plants and wildflowers have been planted since 1995. The various naturalization projects under the Program increase the diversity of wildlife habitats, improve the aesthetic quality of the region and provide community members and park users with an opportunity to develop a sense of stewardship for these areas. http://www.toronto.ca/environment/land_wildlife.htm#naturalization
- Evergreen: Evergreen is a registered national charity founded in 1991. We are a national non-profit environmental organization with a mandate to bring nature to our cities through naturalization projects. Evergreen motivates people to create and sustain healthy, natural outdoor spaces and gives them the practical tools to be successful through its three core programs:
 - Learning Grounds - transforming school grounds
 - Common Grounds - conserving publicly accessible land
 - Home Grounds - for the home landscape

Community naturalization is a collective effort that includes people from all walks of life in the revitalization of their schools, homes or community and, ultimately, in the environmental, social and economic functioning of their cities. <http://www.evergreen.ca/en/>

6. Institute more “adopt-a” programs

- Adopt-A-Street, Surrey, BC: The Adopt-A-Street program is litter clean-up program designed to encourage businesses, community groups, schools, block clubs and other segments of the community to work in concert with the City of Surrey to help keep our environment clean and beautiful. The program works having participating groups “adopt” a specific site or section of road, pledging to keep it free trash and debris. Participants work under the guidance of the Engineering Operations Division. Program operation, rules & guidelines and supplies & equipment and Adopt-A-Street Registration Kit provided. <http://www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Volunteering/Volunteer+Opportunities/Adopt+A+Street/default.htm>
- Adopt-A-Hydrant: Palmyra Bureau, NJ - Palmyra Bureau of Fire Prevention is asking residents and businesses to adopt their neighborhood fire hydrants. Fire Hydrants need a 3-foot radius from snow in the winter and vegetation overgrowth in the summer. This is usually done by the fire department or the borough's Public Works Department, but especially in the winter storms, hydrants become buried before we can reach them all. <http://www.boroughofpalmyra.com/node/439>

7. Promotion of “little gems” in London

PEOPLE - EMPOWERED	
	Neighbourhoods have people that are empowered, engaged; know how to effect change, supported by City government.

1. Better connection between voters and elected officials

See Best Practices outlined in engaged, connected, responsive city

PLACES - SUSTAINABLE

Neighbourhoods are places where there is a sustainable, balanced community with a vibrant local economy, sustainable environment, sustainable planning and design is practiced, heritage buildings are protected, the historic fabric/identity of the neighbourhood is maintained.
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1. **Increase support of local businesses. Investigate how to support small pockets of businesses as opposed to the big box and drive-to commercial**
2. **Increase number of Londoners who car pool on a regular basis**
3. **Investigate potential for use of green roof technology in London building projects (including planning and environmental implications)**
4. **Increase opportunities for biking and encourage as a means of transportation**
5. **Increase opportunities for walking and encourage as a means of transportation**
6. **More incentives/rewards for those doing the “right” thing environmentally**
7. **Promote use of public transit**
8. **Promote corporate responsibility for things like the environment, active healthy lifestyles etc.**

1. **Increase support of local businesses. Investigate how to support small pockets of businesses as opposed to the big box and drive-to commercial**

- St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce launched an EU funded initiative called Competitiveness through linkages which their Business Development Unit (BDU) will support local businesses by providing assistance enabling them to increase their sales. <http://stluciastar.com/content/archives/6819>

2. **Increase number of Londoners who car pool on a regular basis**

- The Co-operative Auto Network in B.C. is a local, not-for-profit co-operative incorporated to foster car sharing. Working like a library, members may sign out a car for use and then return it for another user. This reduces personal car-ownership costs and has a good environmental impact. <http://www.cooperativeauto.net/>

3. **Investigate potential for use of green roof technology in London building projects (including planning and environmental implications)**

- City of Toronto, ON supports “green roofs,” that is a system where a vegetated area becomes part of a building’s roof. The City commissioned a study to be done on potential environmental benefits of green roofs, and has since developed a green roof strategy. There is even a green roof on Toronto’s City Hall. <http://www.toronto.ca/greenroofs/index.htm>
- Trent University, Peterborough ON - grows a rooftop garden and has done research on benefits and strategies for rooftop gardening. This article mentions the possibility of municipalities offering incentives to builders who build rooftop gardens as they can help relieve storm water peaks and prevent flooding. http://www.trentu.ca/admin/eab/files/Rooftop_Gardens-Zipple.pdf

4. **Increase opportunities for biking and encourage as a means of transportation**

- BikeShare is a community bike-lending program run by the Community Bicycle Network in Toronto, ON. For a fee of \$25 a year, or 4 hours of volunteer service, members are allowed to sign out bikes that are located at various hubs around the city for three days. <http://communitybicyclenetwork.org/?q=bikeshare>

PLACES - SUSTAINABLE

- The Vancouver, BC Area Cycling Coalition offers a Cycling Training for the School Community program that includes free bicycle commuting training for local teachers, school staff, and school administrators in hopes to generate sustainable role models for students. <http://www.vacc.bc.ca/>
- Wheel 2 Work Whitehorse, Yukon Territories, offers incentive prizes to residents who log the most kilometers ridden during the summer season to encourage biking as a means of transportation. <http://www.tc.gc.ca/programs/environment/utsp/wheel2work.htm>
- National Complete Streets Coalition (USA)- helping jurisdictions learn how to meet the challenge of balancing all user needs. Develop best practices guides, model resolutions, and other materials to help policy makers, planners, engineers, and transportation agencies implement complete streets policies, which will meet the challenge of providing for all road users. <http://www.completestreets.org/>

5. Increase opportunities for walking and encourage as a means of transportation

- Business owners in downtown Halifax, NS lease portions of sidewalks and incur related expenses and offer creative designs to the operation of boardwalk cafes on Argyle Street. The unique layout of this street has significantly increased pedestrian traffic. <http://www.tc.gc.ca/programs/environment/utsp/sidewalkcafes.htm>
- City of Toronto, ON narrowed a 4-lane road near University of Toronto, ON to become a 2-lane road with wider sidewalks to promote walking and biking. Greenery was also added to the sidewalks, and the change has resulted in increased pedestrian and biker traffic, calming of traffic speed, a decrease in car accidents, and the street is now used for many community celebrations. <http://www.tc.gc.ca/programs/environment/utsp/st.georgestretevitalization.htm>
- “In Town Without My Car” is an event held in Montreal, QC intended to educate citizens about the negative impact of cars on quality of life and the environment. The festival occurs in the downtown core and is closed off to all motor traffic in order to encourage alternative methods of transportation. <http://www.tc.gc.ca/programs/environment/utsp/intownwithoutmycar.htm>
- Many municipalities across Ontario are becoming involved with Active and Safe Routes to School, an organization that provides resources to schools and neighbourhoods about how to make their neighbourhood more walkable for children and how to organize walking events. <http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/aboutus.asp>
- Canada Walks is an organization that brings “Walkability Roadshows” to municipalities to allow them to showcase their walkability. Quite a few municipalities have participated (including Brantford, which proclaimed itself the walking capital of Canada). <http://canadawalks.ca/aboutus.asp>
- The American Academy of Pediatrics did a study that finds that “built environment” (i.e. deliberate constructs in a neighbourhood like buildings and roads) have an impact on the amount of physical activity a child participates in. Road design, number of parks, esthetic streetscapes and low traffic-volume all contribute to “incidental” physical activity. <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/pediatrics;123/6/1591>

6. More incentives/rewards for those doing the “right” thing environmentally

7. Promote use of public transit

- When smog advisory is issued in Windsor, ON, Transit Windsor will announce a fare-free day the following day. Transit Windsor has reported a 50% increase of riders on fare-free days, and positive feedback and media attention. <http://www.tc.gc.ca/programs/environment/utsp/freetransitonsmogdays.htm>

PLACES - SUSTAINABLE

- York Region, ON offers regional employees the opportunity to buy transit passes for half price to discourage single-occupancy car commuting.
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/programs/environment/utsp/employeetransitdiscountprogram.htm>
- Winnipeg, MB- EcoPass program enlists employers as sales agents for regular monthly transit passes. Employers are encouraged to offer their employees a discount of 30% or more, up to one-third of which is rebated to the employer by Winnipeg Transit. This program has increased use of public transit by 45% and has increased transit net revenue by 30%.
http://www.tc.gc.ca/programs/environment/utsp/docs/casestudiespdf/cs17e_ecopass.pdf
- Brampton, ON introduces transit services into new subdivisions as quickly as possible in order to avoid new residents getting into the habit of driving before transit is available. The result of this policy has been 40% increased ridership.
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/programs/environment/utsp/earlytransitphaseinpolicy.htm>
- The Lunch Express is a free service offered in Richmond Hill (Markham, Ontario) that carries office workers to near-by restaurants and cafes during lunch hour on Fridays. The service is coordinated by Smart Commute 404-7, a transportation management association that promotes commuting alternatives to the single occupant vehicle.
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/programs/environment/utsp/lunchexpress.htm>
- <http://www.cutaactu.ca/en/home> for the Canada Urban Transportation Association's Vision 2040 for public transit.

8. Promote corporate responsibility for things like the environment, active healthy lifestyles etc.

- International Scan Summary Report (USA) on Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety and Mobility recommendations include: Employer sponsored programs i.e.: bike to work incentives
<http://drusilla.hsrrc.unc.edu/cms/downloads/Pedestrian%20Bicycle%20Scan%20Summary%20Report.pdf>
- The Canadian Urban Transit Association represents the public transit community in Canada and engages in a multitude of activities in support of its mission and goals. These include conferences, training, public affairs, awards, exhibitions, technical services, research, statistics and government relations. http://www.cutaactu.ca/en/the_canadian_urban_transit_association

PLACES - SAFE

Neighbourhoods are places where it is safe to live work and play, neighbourhoods are clean and cared for.

1. **Increase the number of homes participating in, and activity of, Neighbourhood Watch and Block Parent programs**
2. **Reporting of crime statistics by neighbourhood**
3. **Improve safety of cyclists and pedestrians on London streets by developing a Pedestrian/Cycling Safety Strategy**
4. **Improve safety and improve walkability around schools**
5. **Improve safety in the downtown**
6. **Identify and improve lighting in neighbourhoods**

1. **Increase the number of homes participating in and activity of Neighbourhood Watch and Block Parent programs**

- South East Ottawa Community Health Centre - *No Community Left Behind* – A social development initiative with the objective to prevent crime and address social determinants of health through a collaborative approach and integration of services at the neighbourhood level.
http://www.nocommunityleftbehind.ca/main_e.htm

2. **Reporting of crime statistics by neighbourhood**

- Edmonton AB, Police Service's Neighbourhood Crime Mapping Website allows you to select a neighbourhood of interest, a date range and then some or all of 8 crime types groups to plot on the map. <http://crimemapping.edmontonpolice.ca/>
- Neighbourhood Characteristics and the Distribution of Crime. Statistics Canada research papers exploring the spatial distribution of crime and various social, economic and physical neighbourhood characteristics. Edmonton, Halifax and Thunder Bay (2001). Toronto report just released for 2006. www.statcan.ca

3. **Improve safety of cyclists and pedestrians on London streets by developing a Pedestrian/Cycling Safety Strategy**

- Best Practices in Road Safety – Handbook for Measures at the Country Level – European document analyzing best practices in road safety
http://ec.europa.eu/transport/roadsafety_library/publications/supreme_c_handbook_for_measures_at_the_country_level.pdf
- International Scan Summary Report on Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety and Mobility: In May 2009, a team of 12 transportation professionals with expertise in bicycling and walking from the United States, visited five countries in Europe to identify and assess effective approaches to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety and mobility. Results include; Convex mirrors to improve Bicyclist Visibility for Drivers, Bike rental or sharing programs, channels/ramps on stairways that make it easier to use steps while pushing a bike, shared bike programs, employer sponsored programs (bike to work incentives), low speed street designs conducive to walking and bicycling.
<http://drusilla.hsrb.unc.edu/cms/downloads/Pedestrian%20Bicycle%20Scan%20Summary%20Report.pdf>

PLACES - SAFE

- The Partnership for a Walkable America (PWA) is a national coalition working to improve the conditions for walking in America and to increase the number of Americans who walk regularly. Resources include a Walkability Checklist and ITE Pedestrian Project Award <http://www.walkableamerica.org/>

4. Improve safety and improve walkability around schools

- Green Communities Canada, Active & Safe Routes to School is a comprehensive community-based initiative that taps into the increasingly urgent demand for safe, walkable neighbourhoods. Web site provides resources, tools, information and links for schools and communities to create their own unique Active & Safe Routes to School program. <http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/>

5. Improve safety in the downtown

- Winnipeg, MB: Safety has remained the number one issue for downtown businesses, and the Winnipeg BIZ works hard to establish new programs to respond to the concern. The Downtown Watch ambassadors, who patrol downtown dressed in red and black, offer SafeWalks to help people who live, work and visit downtown Winnipeg feel more comfortable. The BIZ is also puts Watch patrols on downtown streets overnight. The patrols, trained by the Winnipeg Police Service, deter property vandalism, theft and break-ins in the city centre. <http://www.downtownwinnipegbiz.com/home/safety/>

6. Identify and improve lighting in neighbourhoods

- City of Waterloo, ON – neighbourhood associations take it on as their job to encourage the whole community to do their part around the school. For example <http://www.columbia-forest.ca/Newsletters.htm>
- Walking school bus <http://www.walkingschoolbus.org/> this site explains what a walking school bus is and how to start one. There are many sties about walking school buses.

PLACES – SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Neighbourhoods are places where services and activities are available and accessible, able to move across the community (walkable).

- 1. Develop more informal programs at community centres and elsewhere in the City**
- 2. Increase awareness of programs and services available in each neighbourhood**
- 3. Increase usability of City of London Spectrum Program Guide**
- 4. Increase services and activities for youth in neighbourhoods**

- 1. Develop more informal programs at community centres and elsewhere in the City**

- 2. Increase awareness of programs and services available in each neighbourhood**

- Welcome Wagon Canada is a free service available in cities across the country that welcomes new members of the neighbourhood, or greets new mothers, etc with a basket of goods and coupons to local businesses.
- City of Waterloo, ON has a Neighbourhood Associations page which links you to a website for each Neighbourhood Association. <http://www.city.waterloo.on.ca/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=1506> . These websites update you on what is happening in the neighbourhood and you can sign up to be notified of updates. <http://www.beechwoodwest1.ca/>.
- Indianapolis, Indiana provides a neighbourhood resource guide to answer frequently asked questions about programs and services in each neighbourhood. <http://www.greatindyneighborhoods.org/documents/resourceguide.html>
- Boston, Mass – Mayor’s Office of New Bostonians - to meet the needs of the growing and changing immigrant and newcomer communities in Boston. The ONB’s mission and objectives were formed through a democratic process that included dialogues across immigrant groups in Boston. <http://www.cityofboston.gov/newbostonians/>

- 3. Increase usability of City of London Spectrum Program Guide**

- 4. Increase services and activities for youth in neighbourhoods**

- The City of Calgary, AB published “A Guide to Youth Friendly Practices: Youth Engagement,” a document that defines youth engagement, identifies barriers and benefits to youth engagement, outlines degrees and measurements of youth engagement, outlines best practices, and maps youth advisories in Canada and the US. http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/bu/cns/cys_guide.pdf

PLACES - CONNECTED

Neighbourhoods are places where there is connection within neighbourhoods, to adjacent neighbourhoods and the rest of the city.

- 1. Develop a Walkability Master Plan (also under safety – ensuring sidewalks and lighting are available to residents)**
- 2. Improve connectivity between neighbourhoods and to other parts of the City**
- 3. Increase connectivity of bus routes**

- 1. Develop a Walkability Master Plan** (also under safety – ensuring sidewalks and lighting are available to residents)

- walkON is a partnership of Central West Ontario Heart Health Networks including: Choices 4 Health in Halton Region, Brant Healthy Living in Brant County, Health Action in Haldimand and Norfolk Counties, Together 4 Health in the Region of Waterloo, Healthy Living Niagara in the Niagara Region, the Community Heart Health Network in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph work together to support the development of walkable communities. <http://www.walkon.ca>
- Smart Growth (US) is an organization dedicated to increasing walkable neighbourhoods. Full tools and resources are found on: <http://www.smartgrowth.org/about/principles/principles.asp?prin=4&res=1280>

- 2. Improve connectivity between neighbourhoods and to other parts of the City**

- 3. Increase connectivity of bus routes**

- The Victoria, BC Transport Policy Institute is an independent research organization dedicated to developing innovative and practical solutions to transportation problems. The institute identifies better solutions to transportation problems, including some approaches that are frequently overlooked or misunderstood; identifies the full benefits, costs and equity impacts of alternative transportation policies and programs; compares and evaluates alternatives; and creates a bridge between theory and practice. www.vtppi.org/

PLACES - PARKS

Neighbourhoods are places where parks and open space are available and accessible; available garden space.

1. Increase the amount of park space

1. Increase amount of park space

Strategies related to public notification and engagement related to parks plans and projects are found in Responsive City.

PLACES – AMENITIES
Neighbourhoods are places where gathering places such as churches, community centres, health care centres, grocery stores, libraries, schools, etc. are available and accessible; identifiable neighbourhood meeting places.

- 1. Create more informal gathering places within neighbourhoods**
- 2. Increase opportunities in parks and along trails for gathering. Increase use of parks and trails**
- 3. Create more partnership opportunities to build amenities in parks and along trails**
- 4. Ensure schools are open to the community. Overcome institutional barriers to share facilities**
- 5. Develop more informal programs at community centres and elsewhere in the City**
- 6. Create, gain access and promote community spaces within neighbourhoods**
- 7. Increase use of libraries**

- 1. Create more informal gathering places within neighbourhoods**

- World wide “PARK(ing) Day” is a one-day, global event where citizens, artists and activists collaborate to temporarily transform metered parking spaces into “PARK(ing)” spaces: temporary public places. The mission of Park(ing) Day is to call attention to the need for more urban open space, generate critical debate regarding how public space is created and allocated, and improve the quality of urban human habitat ... at least until the meter runs out! Over its four year history, PARK(ing) Day has expanded to include a broad range of interventions ranging from free health clinics, urban farming and ecology demonstrations, art installations, free bike repair shops etc. <http://my.parkingday.org/>
- New York City, NY Streets Renaissance - coalition of community groups, elected officials, business leaders and concerned citizens working together to bring long-overdue, common sense improvements to neighborhood streets, including streets as gathering places. <http://www.nycsr.org/who/mission.php>
- City of Philadelphia, PA has brought together city agencies and partner organizations to prepare GreenPlan Philadelphia, a comprehensive open space plan for the city. <http://www.greenplanphiladelphia.com/node/56>
- New York, NY - Project for Public Spaces (PPS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people create and sustain public places that build communities <http://www.pps.org/>

- 2. Increase opportunities in parks and along trails for gathering. Increase use of parks and trails**

- 3. Create more partnership opportunities to build amenities in parks and along trails**

- 4. Ensure schools are open to the community. Overcome institutional barriers to share facilities**

- The Ontario Ministry of Education mandates that not-for-profit organizations should be charged affordable rates to use schools after-hours. It agrees that schools should act as community hubs, and provide fair and equal access to everyone. Community Use of Schools Provincial Policy <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/community/program.html>
- The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (as well as many other Ontario school-boards) created a policy and application package for non-profit groups in the area in response to the Ontario Ministry of Education mandate. Ottawa-Carleton District School Board Community Use of Schools Policy http://www.ocdsb.edu.on.ca/cc_community_use_schools.asp

PLACES - AMENITIES

5. Develop more informal programs at community centres and elsewhere in the city

See Services/Activities # 1

6. Create, gain access and promote community spaces within neighbourhoods

- City of Toronto, ON in partnership with the Toronto Star are offering free newspapers at community and recreation centres to increase the use of these spaces for informal gathering, advertise programs and increase readership of the paper.
- Project for Public Spaces, an organization based in New York, is undertaking a major initiative called “Streets as Places.” This initiative seeks to engage citizens, policymakers and the transportation industry at-large to reshape the design of streets to promote civic engagement (along with other things). http://www.pps.org/info/streets_as_places/
- The Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group (BC) is an active and innovative community group that runs a variety of programs. One project called the Cornerstone Café, acts as an informal gathering place for neighbourhood residents, a place to share information about community events, and a place of employment for neighbourhood residents. Revenue earned funds events and programs. <http://www.fernwoodneighbourhood.ca/cornerstone-cafe>

Creating more community space in neighbourhoods:

- Guelph, ON - beside City Hall, 10 Carden is a new not-for-profit enterprise. It's a shared office space and a great presentation venue. It's a small business incubator serving for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. It's an innovative community hub. <http://www.10carden.ca/enews/1-intro/index.html>
- Vancouver, BC - the Association of Neighbourhood Houses connects 7 neighbourhood houses that act as a central hub for social programs and services and for community development and activities that strengthen neighbourhoods. These “houses” are often in unconventional buildings that promote warmth and togetherness. <http://www.anhgv.org/index.php>
- Project for Public Spaces also does research and is involved in many initiatives that have to do with creating good community space, and making use of existing community space. Their website is full of resources. <http://www.pps.org/info/aboutpps/about>
- The Pomegranate Centre, based in Issaquah Washington, works with communities to development meaningful and unique gathering places by integrating social, artistic and environmental perspectives into what they do. <http://www.pomegranate.org/who-we-are/>

7. Increase use of libraries

- Great Libraries Become Public Gathering Places: The spaces inside and outside libraries are perfect for public proclamations, celebrations, fairs, and festivals—as well as smaller but no less important events that occur on a regular basis, like brown bag lectures or midday concerts. These activities reinforce the library's role as a community anchor, and leading libraries are jumping at the chance to attract people by expanding their programs. To succeed as lively gathering places, a library can offer an eclectic mix that may include outdoor exhibits on science or history, temporary public art installations, games and chess tables, or outdoor play areas linked to the children's reading room. The Public Library in Mississauga, Ontario plays a central role in revitalizing public space in this city near Toronto. By participating in activities like "Ribfest", Mississauga's library has become a center of public community life. http://www.pps.org/info/newsletter/april2007/library_attributes
- London, UK— “Idea Stores” combine the best of traditional library and information services with first class lifelong learning opportunities. <http://www.ideastore.co.uk/>

PLACES – RESPONSIVE CITY
Neighbourhoods are places where City government is responsive to community needs.

1. **Improve public access to the City of London**
2. **Increase usability of City of London website**
3. **Develop an absentee landlord licensing strategy**
4. **Better promotion of City of London**
5. **Better urban design of new subdivision**
6. **Evaluation of existing planning processes to ensue residents are engaged and involved in decision making and consideration of neighbourhood character is considered**
7. **Improve resident engagement**

1. **Improve public access to the City of London**

- City of Vancouver, BC - Neighbourhood Integrated Service Teams
http://vancouver.ca/nist/nis_teams.htm
- Boston, Mass - Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) will begin holding offices in their respective neighborhoods. ONS Coordinators work as liaisons between the Mayor and the City's neighborhoods. The overall goal is to have residents feel more comfortable working with the City, more information being shared, and hopefully more issues resolved.
<http://www.cityofboston.gov/news/default.aspx?id=3799>
- Louisville, Ky, Dept. of Neighborhoods & Community Outreach provides many community outreach initiatives including: The Mayor's Neighborhood Toolbox Training (training opportunities, resources for community, roundtable discussions, leadership training etc.) The Mayor's Neighbourhood Summit is a full day neighborhood leadership training conference consisting of workshops led by neighborhood leaders for peer-to-peer learning. <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/Neighborhoods/>
- Louisville, KY has developed an Initiative to connect citizens to government, called "Community Outreach Liaisons". This team works to empower neighborhoods with an array of community-building skills. Each outreach liaison will cover one Louisville Metro area which includes both urban and suburban areas. The Community Outreach Liaisons' primary purpose is to connect the community with government and make government more accessible. <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/Neighborhoods/>
- Portland, Oregon - Public Involvement Advisory Council (PIAC) is the first standing City board on public involvement and its role is to:
 - Review and refine past recommendations regarding citywide public involvement
 - Ensure ongoing collaboration between the community, City bureaus and City Council
 - Present proposed guidelines and policy recommendations for citywide public involvement to City Council for approval
 - Provide ongoing support to city bureaus with implementation of public involvement best practices and guidelines
 - Public Involvement Best Practices Program in the Office of Neighborhood Involvement provides staff support for the PIAC. The PIAC is comprised of 32 members, from both City bureaus and the community. <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=48951&>

PLACES – RESPONSIVE CITY

2. Increase usability of City of London web site

- The Neighbour-to-Neighbour Toolkit is a project created for the Waterloo, ON Region to help citizens access the knowledge they need to build their communities. It contains many helpful tips on hosting community events, etc. The website also acts as a forum to let people know about events happening in their community and in other communities. <http://www.neighbourtoneighbour.ca/how.html#site>
- The City of North Vancouver, BC (and many other municipalities) have a Community Events Calendar on their city website, on which residents can add events to let the community know about upcoming events and keep everyone connected. <http://www.cnv.org/apps/commevent/>
- City of Calgary, AB (in partnership with United Way of Calgary, and Calgary Distress Call Centre) provide a 211 telephone number for residents to access non-emergency information about community programs and services. <http://www.211calgary.ca/about.html>

3. Develop an absentee landlord licensing strategy

- Nashville, Tennessee – ‘NOTICE’ (Neighborhoods Organized To Initiate Code Enforcement) is a new community support program designed to help citizens identify and report code violations in their neighbourhoods. The NOTICE program empowers citizens and allows them to work together with the Codes Enforcement staff. http://www.nashville.org/codes/services_notice.html

4. Better promotion of City of London**5. Better urban design of new subdivisions**

Strategies related to sidewalks and lighting included under Safety. Strategies related to parks and pathways can be found under Parks.

6. Evaluation of existing planning processes to ensue residents are engaged and involved in decision making and consideration of neighbourhood character is considered**7. Improve resident engagement**

- City of Portland, OR- The Public Involvement Advisory Council is charged with creating guidelines for how the City of Portland engages and involves the community in official decision making processes. <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=28360>
- Tamarack - [Strengthening Relationships with Local Government](http://www.anccommunity.ca/Res_Tools.html) is a guide in response to the relationship that community-based projects have with their municipal government. This tool looks at the many different interactions between players that, collectively, determine the nature of the overall relationship between a resident-led, community-based initiative and local government. It also makes practical suggestions for ways to improve those interactions and to strengthen relationships http://www.anccommunity.ca/Res_Tools.html