

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

FUTURE
STORY



OVERVIEW

2022 | OUR INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

A Story of Action

How We Will Implement This Plan

Why Sustainability Matters

Sustainability is the practice of ensuring that the resources that we have now are both thoughtfully used for the populations of today, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. By recognizing and planning for the betterment of current and future generations, we are able to create more resilient, vibrant and liveable communities for all, for generations to come.

There are three unavoidable truths with long term implications that this sustainability plan is being developed alongside, which are:

1. "Council Agenda October 21, 2019 Revised - Archive. [thebluemountains.ca.](https://archive.thebluemountains.ca/)" Archive: *The Blue Mountains, Council Meeting. The Blue Mountains, October 21, 2019. https://archive.thebluemountains.ca/document_viewer.cfm?event_doc=2627.*

2. Pörtner, Hans-O, Debra C Roberts, Helen Adams, et.al. "Climate Change 2022: Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability Summary for Policy Makers." IPCC. IPCC, February 27, 2022. <https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/>.

- The Blue Mountains is in a state of climate change emergency. On October 21, 2019, the Town of The Blue Mountains declared a Climate Change Emergency to enhance and accelerate action on their commitment to protecting their community, economy, and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change.¹ The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] has released a 2022 Climate Change Report stating, "Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all."²
- The Blue Mountains is the second-fastest growing municipality in Canada. In the 2021 Census Canada Update, The Blue Mountains was reported to have increased by 33.5% over 2016's population.³ The Blue Mountains will need to consider how to balance current demands and future growth to ensure long term sustainability of the Town.

3. Charbonneau, Patrick, Laurent Martel, and Ruffteen Shumanty. "Canada's Fastest Growing and Decreasing Municipalities from 2016 to 2021." *Government of Canada, Statistics Canada. Government of Canada, Statistics Canada, February 9, 2022. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/98-200-x/2021001/98-200-x2021001-eng.cfm>.*

4. *Town of The Blue Mountains Economic Development Strategy. The Town of The Blue Mountains, 2021. Town of The Blue Mountains Economic Development Strategy.*

- Housing is increasingly unattainable in The Blue Mountains. The average purchase cost of a home in The Blue Mountains increased from \$637,047 in 2016 to \$913,577 in December 2020.⁴ This equates to the average household needing to earn \$169,354 annually based on standard mortgage calculations and rates. In 2020, the average rent for a 2-bedroom unit in The Blue Mountains was \$1,825, which would require \$73,000 annual household income to be defined as 'affordable.' Only 20% of households in the community make more than \$150,000 annually, and 50% of households earn an annual income of less than \$70,000, leaving few households able to afford to own or rent in The Blue Mountains.

With the current climate crisis, ongoing growth, and unattainable housing prices, sustainability planning is necessary to ensure the Town is harnessing the community's power to propel The Blue Mountains into a liveable future.

There are six primary systems to make systemic sustainable change in The Blue Mountains, including:

1. **The natural environment** (how we protect our natural resources and manage climate change)
2. **The built environment** (how our neighbourhoods can be built to improve all life)
3. **The economy** (how the community can remain vibrant and successful for decades to come)
4. **Community & culture** (how our human and natural heritage can be preserved and enhanced)
5. **Social well-being** (how we can all live our best lives)
6. **Governance** (how we can work together better)

These six interconnected systems represent how sustainability is understood in The Blue Mountains. Solutions for the community should be considered holistically, working to simultaneously enhance these systems. In this way, the community can move towards a more sustainable future.

How Will This Plan Be Used?

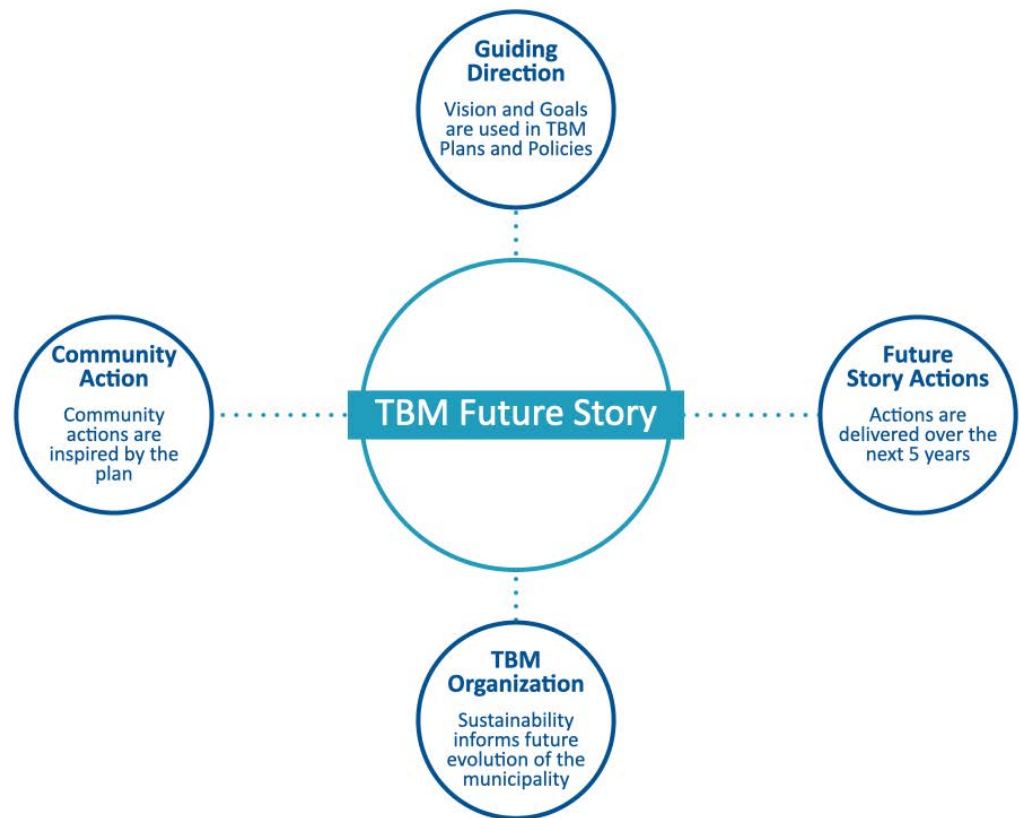
As a foundational plan for The Blue Mountains, TBM Future Story will serve a number of purposes in moving the community forward towards the Vision and Goals found in this plan. There are several ways that this sustainability plan will be used to create a sustainable community.

Actions in this Plan: Section 3 outlines the 20 Bold Actions that have been prioritized for the first five years of implementation.

Guiding direction for other initiatives in the Town of The Blue Mountains: As a foundational plan, the Vision and Goals represent the shared direction for our community. Plans and policies that follow will use this desired future as the ‘north star’ for the respective focus of key documents. The Town’s Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan are two such examples with strong sustainability overlap. TBM Future Story will help to inform the development and implementation of these plans, alongside the community engagement and planning processes necessary for each of these vital initiatives.

Informing the organization of the Town of The Blue Mountains: As local government evolves its organizational structures to best serve citizens, sustainability represents an opportunity for departments to organize and collaborate in new ways. Using the Vision and Goals of this plan in future corporate alignment exercises will ensure that The Blue Mountains accelerates its path to sustainability.

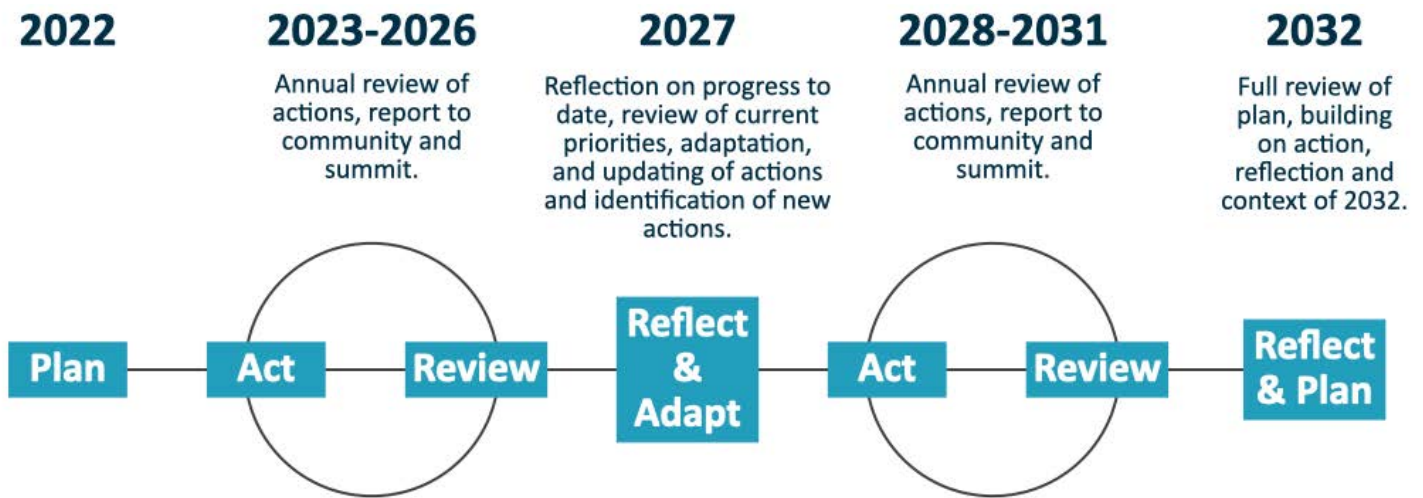
Inspiration and direction for community initiatives: As sustainability requires the efforts of everyone in the community, TBM Future Story can be used by individuals, households, organizations and businesses to contribute toward the Vision and Goals of the plan. In this way, efforts by local government and the community can complement one another to accelerate positive impact.



A Framework for Implementation

This plan is about action. In order to move forward toward the desired future that we want for The Blue Mountains, an implementation framework has been developed that is built upon the following three principles:

- **Collaboration:** No one person or organization is able to create the kind of future that this plan envisions. This framework builds collaboration within local government and with the community in order to achieve holistic change.
- **Progress:** Forward movement towards our desired future requires actions big and small. This framework builds monitoring of progress into the rhythm of implementation.
- **Reflection:** The world is a dynamic place and requires adaptability as new situations emerge. This framework builds points of reflection in order to ensure that the Town and the community are reflecting current needs while moving towards the desired future.



The image above outlines the implementation framework for TBM Future Story.

2022: With the approval of the plan by Town Council, it is time to get to work on the actions identified in Section 3.

2023-2026: As the implementation of the actions continues, a point of review will occur each year at a minimum:

- A review of the actions will occur, identifying the state of completion, accomplishments and challenges experienced.
- A report on the state of the actions will be shared with the community.
- A ‘sustainability summit’ will be held, bringing together TBM staff and community stakeholders to review the actions and discuss how to address challenges and accelerate progress in the coming year.

2027: With five years of implementation achieved, a review and adaptation of the plan will occur. As the Vision and Goals are a 50-year time horizon, the primary focus of the review will be on:

- Reflecting on progress between 2022 and 2027.
- Identifying current priorities for the community.
- Developing a new set of actions for the next five years. These actions can be the next steps of completed actions, a reiteration of actions not yet completed and the addition of new actions to reflect current priorities.

2028-2032: The annual review process continues.

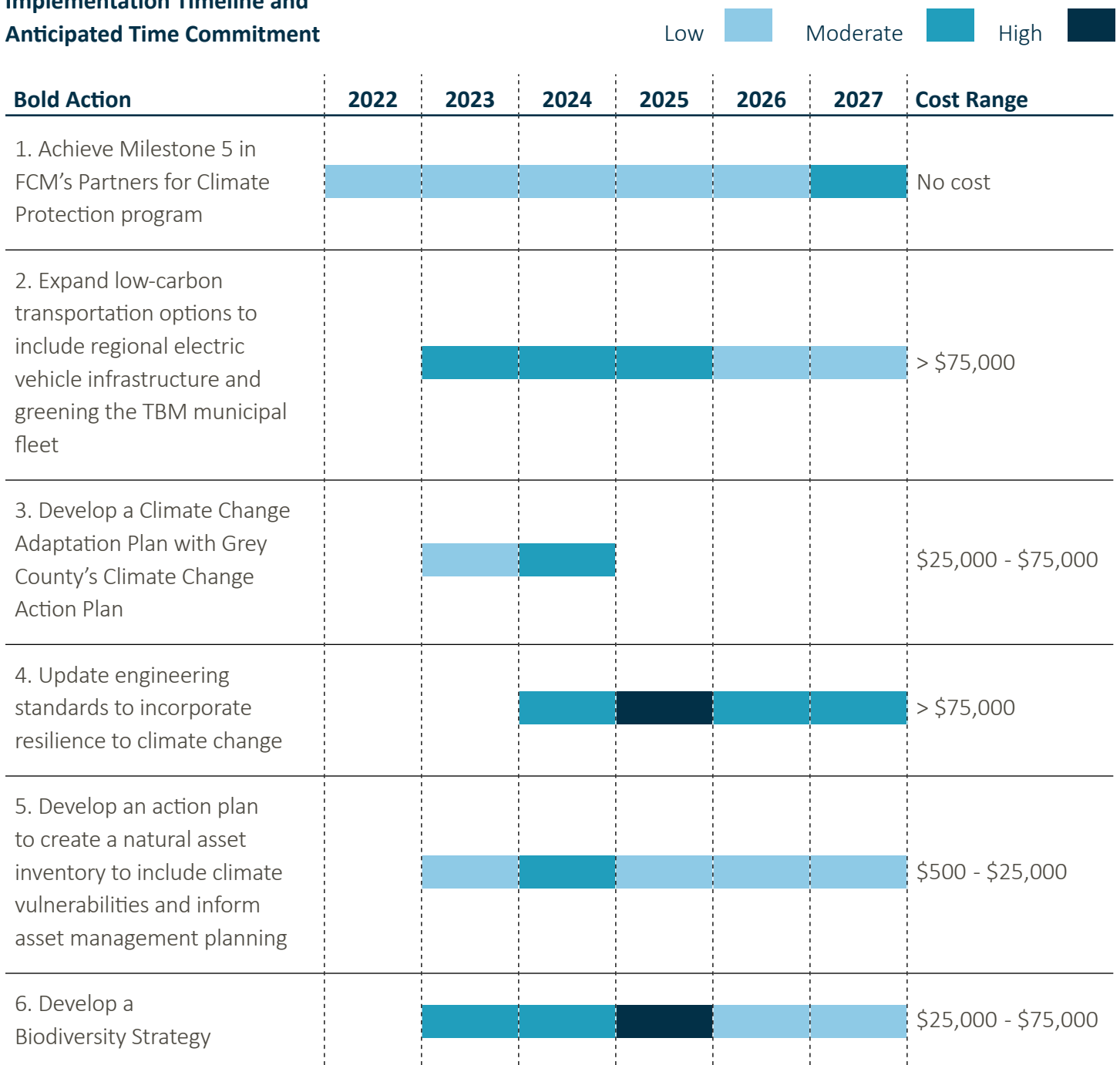
2033: A full review and update of TBM Future Story is delivered, including:

- A review and update of the Vision and Goals as needed
- Reflecting on progress between 2022 and 2033.
- Identifying current priorities for the community.
- Developing a new set of actions for the next five years in alignment with the updated Vision and Goals.

Five Years of Big Moves and Bold Actions

The following chart highlights the anticipated sequencing of the 20 Bold Actions outlined in this plan. As implementation occurs, the timelines and key steps will regularly be reviewed and may be changed to reflect the realities of capacity, resourcing and collaboration across the actions.

Implementation Timeline and Anticipated Time Commitment



Bold Action	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Cost Range
17. Establish decision-making and reporting structures within The Town of The Blue Mountains to ensure decisions contribute towards the Vision and Goals of this plan							No cost
18. Establish a community sustainability organization / network to champion sustainability efforts in the community							\$0 - \$25,000
19. Host an annual Community Sustainability Summit							\$0 - \$25,000
20. Release an annual report card on sustainability							\$0 - \$25,000
Estimated Total Days							
All Staff	225	962	627	681	413	432	\$475k - \$875k
Sustainability Staff	157	546	351	221	117	135	

Time to Get to Work

We have a vision for the future we want for our community. We have a set of actions to set us on a sustainable path. Now, it's time to get to work. Together.