



# Town of East Gwillimbury

## **CAMA Best Green Policy Submission**

The Town of East Gwillimbury is a growing municipality in northern York Region with a total land area mass of 1700 hectares, with a current population of approximately 22,000 people and 7,000 jobs. The Town is comprised of a mix of urban areas, historical villages and settlements and a vibrant agricultural/rural community. The municipality also features a number of emerging urban centres with considerable population growth forecast for the next several years.

With the Province's *Places to Grow* document, East Gwillimbury's is projected to surpass a population of 150,000 with 75,000 jobs as it builds out over the next 20-30 years. The municipality became cognizant of the impact that growth will have on East Gwillimbury and surrounding areas.

In November 2005, East Gwillimbury adopted its Strategic Plan, with a focus on five pillars of sustainability. Environmental stewardship was strategically placed as the first pillar, setting a focus for the municipality to ensure that as growth occurs, it does so in a sustainable manner.

The following year the municipality began its environmental program, using its in-house brand entitled "Thinking Green." East Gwillimbury became the first municipality in Canada to mandate that all new residential home construction meet Energy Star® standards. This was the municipality's first step in ensure sustainability throughout the growth.

Enforced through servicing allocation, East Gwillimbury undertook significant stakeholder engagement before implementing the policy. Both the residents and the industry were consulted prior to implementation to garner buy-in. Since Council adopted the Energy Star® for new homes policy, East Gwillimbury has received national recognition, including an FCM CH2M Hill sustainability award.

*"Our town, Our future"*

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The Energy Star® policy was simply the beginning for sustainable development. Following its success, East Gwillimbury adopted a policy mandating a minimum of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver standards for the Industrial-Commercial-Institutional (ICI) sector. LEED, similar to Energy Star®, will ensure that as new buildings are constructed, it is done so in the most environmentally conscious manner possible. The Town has also been recognized at the national level for its LEED policy, winning an award for Outstanding Leadership in Increasing Energy Efficiency of New Construction from Clean Air Day (shared with Toyota for its hybrid vehicle technology).

The Town of East Gwillimbury has compiled a comprehensive set of progressive sustainability focused policies under its Thinking Green umbrella. Recently its Community Energy Plan (CEP) initiative was undertaken under the leadership of Peter Garforth International. This aggressive plan aims to minimize East Gwillimbury's green house gas emissions to approximately 6 tonnes per capita. A modification to procurement procedures has also been made to ensure that future light duty vehicles will be of hybrid or better technology where available.

East Gwillimbury continues to be at the forefront of progressive environmental stewardship. It is imperative that growth municipalities like East Gwillimbury have the vision and fortitude to take a leadership role in ensuring sustainability is a key priority in laying out plans for the future. Many municipalities have used East Gwillimbury's accomplishments as a case for best-practice approach, and that is a true testament to the success of its policies.