Energy and Climate Change

The City is taking an energy conservation and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction approach to reach our goal of having City facilities and operations using 100 per cent renewable energy (100RE) sources by 2050.

2020 Year in review:
The City has made great progress towards our 100RE goal:
• GHG emissions continue to go down—despite the provincial electricity grid GHG emissions factor going up by 50 per cent, City of Guelph GHG emissions have decreased by more than 13 per cent since the 100RE Target was set in 2018.
• Keep on conserving—energy conservation is seeing positive results with facilities reducing annual energy use by 13 million kilowatt-hours equivalent (kWhe) and fleet reducing annual energy use by 7 million kWhe. That’s enough energy to power over 2,200 homes for a year!
• More renewable generation—using corporate facilities for solar photovoltaic (PV) generation has increased by more than 250 per cent, with more on the way!

As part of continuous improvement, Corporate GHG reporting has been updated to follow the Greenhouse Gas Protocol more closely. In past reports, GHG-emissions were reported higher with biogenic CO₂ emissions included. This year and past year GHG emission calculations have been updated accordingly.

*based on 2020 City of Guelph population.
All data and analysis are based on current information at the time this report was prepared. This information is subject to be updated from time to time.

Accessible formats available by calling 519-822-1260 extension 2672 or TTY 519-826-9771.
**What we’ve done**

**2020 key project highlights**

- **More cold water ice flooding**
  - With the cold water flooding system at Victoria Road Recreation Centre working well, more systems were installed at the East End Community Centre, Centennial Arena and Exhibition Centre. Now all of our recreation ice rinks remove air bubbles out of water without burning natural gas. Removing bubbles from flood water is needed for safe smooth sheets of ice. This also lets the ice ring compressors use less electricity to keep the ice frozen.
  - **Energy cost savings/year**: 204,500 kWh/yr
  - **Greenhouse gas emissions reduction**: 72,400 kgCO₂e/yr
  - **Natural gas savings**: 35,090 m³/yr
  - **Natural gas savings**: $113,000
  - **Project status**: Complete

- **River Run Centre chiller and pumping upgrades**
  - Installed a smarter and more energy efficient chiller to cool the River Run and keep humidity in the building under control. This helps keep things comfortable and protects stage equipment. The chiller was right-sized and can turn down to only use as much energy as needed.
  - **Energy cost savings/year**: 139,300 kWh/yr
  - **Greenhouse gas emissions reduction**: 3,800 kgCO₂e/yr
  - **Electricity savings**: $8,000
  - **Project cost**: $20,000
  - **Project status**: Complete

- **Multiple facility lighting upgrades**
  - Lighting at the West Parkade, Sleeman Centre, Evergreen Seniors Community Centre, Wastewater Treatment Plant and Centennial Bowl Sportsfield were upgraded to long-lasting, energy-efficient light emitting diode (LED). This drastically improves lighting conditions, reduces maintenance and saves energy.
  - **Energy cost savings/year**: 683,100 kWh/yr
  - **Greenhouse gas emissions reduction**: 20,500 kgCO₂e/yr
  - **Energy savings**: $682,000
  - **Project status**: Complete

- **Gordon Street Sewage Pumping Station decommissioning**
  - Recent sewer infrastructure upgrades connected sewer networks and allowed for gravity to move sewage instead of using energy for pumping. The Gordon Street sewage pumping station was no longer needed and was removed.
  - **Energy cost savings/year**: 39,100 kWh/yr
  - **Greenhouse gas emissions reduction**: 1,200 kgCO₂e/yr
  - **Energy savings**: $6,000
  - **Project status**: Complete

- **Net-zero energy snow management facility**
  - Guelph’s new snow management facility reduces the impacts of road salts and soil erosion and was constructed with recycled concrete and asphalt. A 15 kilowatt (kW) solar PV system completely offsets the energy use at the snow management facility as well as further offsetting energy use at the nearby wastewater treatment plant.
  - **Energy cost savings/year**: 16,500 kWh/yr
  - **Greenhouse gas emissions reduction**: 3,300 kgCO₂e/yr
  - **Electricity savings**: $3,000
  - **Propane savings**: $45,000
  - **Project status**: Complete

- **Renovation at Water Services Heritage Building**
  - The heritage building at the FM Woods waterworks site was renovated for use as workspace. Significant insulation and building envelope upgrades were done to reduce leaks and protect the heritage building. This also allows for smaller, cost-effective and energy-efficient air source heat pump equipment.
  - **Energy cost savings/year**: 8,600 kWh/yr
  - **Greenhouse gas emissions reduction**: 1,800 kgCO₂e/yr
  - **Electricity savings**: $2,000
  - **Project status**: Complete

- **Building automation systems (BAS) COVID-19 response**
  - COVID-19 work-from-home orders and facility closures significantly reduced the number of people at City facilities. Building automation systems (BAS) throughout many facilities were readjusted to quickly adapt to these new operating conditions to keep safe working conditions, save energy and reduce GHG emissions.
  - **Energy cost savings/year**: 809,200 kWh/yr
  - **Greenhouse gas emissions reduction**: 350,700 kgCO₂e/yr
  - **Energy savings**: $168,000
  - **Project status**: Ongoing

- **West End Community Centre electric ice resurfacing**
  - Building on the success of the previous year’s electric ice resurfacing, a bigger model replaced the old propane ice resurfacer for the twin pad arena at West End Community Centre. This greatly improves indoor air quality for tournaments and skating lessons for years to come.
  - **Energy cost savings/year**: 11,000 kWh/yr
  - **Greenhouse gas emissions reduction**: 3,300 kgCO₂e/yr
  - **Energy savings**: $5,000
  - **Project status**: Complete

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What we’re planning
2021 key prospect highlights

Net-zero energy
Hanlon Splash Pad

The first splash pad in Guelph is due for an update. The new splash pad will be fully accessible for everyone to enjoy. While everyone is having fun in the sun, the splash pad will save energy and generate renewable energy too. The new splash pad will include a high-efficiency re-circulation water system that automatically monitors water quality, requiring fewer chemicals to treat the water. A solar pergola and solar panels on the washroom roof will generate renewable energy to supply 100 per cent of the splash pad’s energy needs.

- 15,400 kWh/yr
- 370 m³/yr
- 500 kgCO₂/yr
- $4,000

West End Community Centre HVAC upgrades to air source heat pump

West End Community Centre is a large facility and has lots of roof top heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment. The City plans to replace this equipment in an energy-efficient way. The new HVAC units will recover waste heat, be better insulated and will use air source heat pump technology instead of natural gas to heat and cool the community centre.

- 1,799,400 kWh/yr
- 74,370 m³/yr
- 194,400 kgCO₂/yr
- $105,000

Pilot electric bus chargers and battery electric buses

Guelph Transit will electrify their buses and significantly reduce GHG emissions. This will change the way we power our buses and how we continue to move people on public mass transit. The City is starting with a pilot-scale installation of electric chargers to fully use the existing transit facility and get us started on our battery electric bus journey!

- 134,200 L/yr diesel
- 363,500 kgCO₂/yr

Ice arena heat exchangers and controls upgrades

Heat exchangers are used to move heat around to make ice. The old heat exchangers at West End Community Centre and Exhibition Arena are coming to their end-of-life and will be replaced. The new units will not only improve energy efficiency but also reduce ammonia refrigerant in the building. In addition, the City will install and update ice plant controls at all recreation ice arenas to improve operations and save energy.

- 380,500 kWh/yr
- 11,400 kgCO₂/yr
- $57,000

Greenhouse controls

Greenhouses at Riverside Park are used to grow and maintain all of the beautiful plants and flowers you see across our vibrant city. Controls will be installed at the greenhouses to reduce energy use and optimize growing conditions to help plants thrive.

- 25,200 kWh/yr
- 4,500 m³/yr
- 9,300 kgCO₂/yr
- $5,000

Public electric vehicle (EV) charging

Twenty electric vehicle charging stations will be installed at several City locations to support the use of low-emission vehicles in the community and those coming to visit Guelph. This initiative is being financially supported by the Federal government.

- 15,700 kWh/yr
- 40,500 m³/yr
- 76,900 kgCO₂/yr
- $13,000

Pool boiler upgrades

Pool boilers and distribution systems at the West End Community Centre, Victoria Road Recreation Centre and Lyons Pool will be upgraded with energy-efficient equipment. This will keep the pools running efficiently for summer camps and swimming lessons.

- 6,750,000 kWh/yr
- 202,500 kgCO₂/yr
- $1,013,000

Wastewater treatment plant aeration upgrades

After planning and design, construction will begin on aeration plant upgrades at the City’s wastewater treatment plant. The upgrade includes replacing 2,050 horsepower of fixed speed blower equipment with dissolved oxygen controlled modulating blowers to optimize the treatment process and significantly reduce energy use. Electrical infrastructure and control systems are also being upgraded and will greatly strengthen the reliability of this critical infrastructure.

- 194,400 L/yr diesel
- 363,500 kgCO₂/yr

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**Sustainable Transportation**

Sustainable Transportation supports the development and implementation of programs, policies and infrastructure to support walking, cycling, carpooling, car-sharing and transit-use within Guelph.

The goal of the Sustainable Transportation program is to increase the daily trips made by non-auto modes of transportation.

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**On-road cycling network progress**

(newly built between 2019-2020 and total existing)

- **On-road bike lanes**
  - 2 km new
  - 114 km total

- **Signed routes**
  - 13 km new
  - 14 km total
  - 114 km total

- **Multi-use paths**
  - 3.5 km new
  - 14 km total
  - 150 m new

- **Cycletracks**
  - 150 m new
  - 1.3 km total

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**Bike Month**

Bike Month went virtual in 2020!

City pivoted to offer individualized competitions and support key community events such as Tour de Guelph and the Love Your Bike Festival.

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**Active transportation counts at the Speedvale Avenue bridge in Guelph**

- Walking and wheeling increased 175% at this location in 2020 compared to 2018 (last time data was collected)

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Based on 2020 City of Guelph population. All data and analysis are based on current information at the time this report was prepared. This information is subject to be updated from time to time.
### What we've done

#### 2020 key project highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Walking School Bus pilot completed</th>
<th>Active transportation in industrial areas</th>
<th>Transportation Master Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed a 3-year Walking School Bus pilot in partnership with both regional school boards, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health and Student Transportation Services, resulting in about 1,700 students walking to school daily.</td>
<td>Completed an additional 2.3 km of multi-use pathways in Guelph’s northwest neighbourhood, to safely connect active transportation users to industrial and employment hubs throughout the city. Initiated design of Speedvale Avenue multi-use path to facilitate walking and cycling to destinations west of Imperial Road.</td>
<td>In 2020, the City completed modeling analysis for existing conditions to scope the issues and opportunities at a technical level for transportation in Guelph. The City also developed four (4) alternative options in addition to the standard “do nothing” alternative. The remaining alternatives featured sustainable transportation (public transit and active transportation) prominently in the proposed network improvements. All alternatives advocate for interregional transit and continue to support electrification of transportation vehicles in an effort to address our GHG targets. COVID meant that community engagement throughout 2020 was done virtually as online public open houses using StoryMaps and by hosting online conference calls with interested stakeholders and groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected cycling infrastructure study</td>
<td>Cycling end-of-trip amenities</td>
<td>Expanded space for Active Transportation during COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secured $3.39 million in funding from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. Funds will be used on a conceptual study, followed by design and construction of up to 13 km of protected cycling infrastructure in Guelph.</td>
<td>The City installed a multi-tool self-serve bicycle repair station outside Guelph City Hall and increased bicycle parking in the downtown core.</td>
<td>Installation of about 600 metres (m) of temporary multi-use pathways to support physical activity and distancing during COVID-19.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### What we’re planning

#### 2021 key prospect highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transportation Master Plan: Moving Guelph Forward</th>
<th>ICIP Cycling Expansion —Conceptual Design Study</th>
<th>Safety improvements at key locations</th>
<th>Bike lane construction: York Road, Starwood Drive and Hanlon Creek Boulevard.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In 2021 Council selected the “Sustainability and Resiliency” focus as the preferred option for future transportation in Guelph. This option features expansion of protected cycling and quality transit networks, and a prioritized pedestrian network. The implementation plan will be presented to Council in December 2021.</td>
<td>In 2021, the City is launching the ICIP Cycling Network Expansion Study to design and build up to 13 km of protected cycling infrastructure across Guelph by 2028.</td>
<td>Implementing on-road improvements to address safety challenges for active transportation users at key locations in Guelph, including Gordon Street between Surrey Street and Wellington Street and College Avenue at Vanier Drive.</td>
<td>Adding on-road cycling infrastructure on York Road and Starwood Drive and an in-boulevard multi-use pathway on Hanlon Creek Boulevard to create better connections throughout Guelph.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accessible formats available by calling 519-822-1260 extension 2672 or TTY 519-826-9771.
Solid Waste Resources

In 2020, the City continued to build on Guelph’s leadership in sustainable waste management.

In 2020…
- Guelph residents disposed of about 78 kg less waste per person compared to the national average but more work is to be done to move Guelph’s disposal rates lower than Ontario’s.
- Guelph residents diverted 59% of their waste away from landfill through proper sorting.
- The City’s organic waste processing facility diverted 31,664 tonnes of organics from landfill, which was converted into 8,315 tonnes of finished compost.

Our Food Future

The Waste as a Resource workstream completed the first stage of a Food Waste Flow Study by collecting available food waste data to identify where food product is being lost throughout Guelph and Wellington County. This will be used to develop actions to reduce food waste.

Total waste per person

Guelph (2019) 204 kg
Ontario (2019) 179 kg
Canada (2016) 282 kg

19,500 tonnes of CO₂e emissions was reduced by organics processing which is equivalent to taking 6,434 cars off the road for a year.

Total residential waste collected at the curb (tonnes)

Guelph 14,339
Ontario 11,093
Canada 9,366

59% of Guelph's curbside waste was diverted from landfill.

23,600 tonnes of CO₂e emissions was reduced by capturing landfill gas used to generate electricity and is equivalent to taking 10,723 cars off the road for a year.

Our Food Future

This information is subject to be updated from time to time. Accessible formats available by calling 519-767-0598 or TTY 519-826-9771.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we’ve done</th>
<th>2020 key project highlights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sharps Kiosks</strong></td>
<td>The City collaborated with Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health and ARCH to install seven outdoor sharps containers throughout the downtown area. In 2020, about 6,000 sharps were returned through the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carbon credit reduction</strong></td>
<td>The City sold $298,000 worth of carbon credits carbon credits generated from the capture of CO₂ from landfill and organics processing and converting it into electricity. Funds will be used to help achieve the City’s 100 per cent renewable energy by 2050 goal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Material recovery facility (MRF)</strong></td>
<td>The City, with help from the Guelph community, diverted over 2,800 tonnes of paper and 1,500 tonnes of containers (cans, glass, plastic bottles, etc.) from landfill and sold the materials back to market.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Curbside waste audits</strong></td>
<td>Conducted over 700 curbside waste audits to help educate Guelph residents and improve their sorting. 43 per cent of audited households had improved their sorting in at least one waste stream.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Waste Resource Innovation Centre** | The Waste Resource Innovation Centre (WRIC) helped divert 21,850 tonnes of waste away from landfill, which is made up of:  
  - Electronic waste: 130 tonnes  
  - Construction demolition waste: 1,300 tonnes  
  - Scrap metal: 420 tonnes  
  - Yard waste: 7,300 tonnes  
  - Organics: 8,300 tonnes  
  - Recycling: 4,400 tonnes |
| **Reuse programs** | About 400 bikes diverted from landfill through the ReCycle bike reuse program and 2,300 L of paint was diverted from landfill through the Paint+ reuse program. |
| **Household hazardous waste** | We ensured safe disposal of 240 tonnes of hazardous waste, diverting it from landfill while also helping to protect our water supply and environment, preventing fires and keeping our staff and community safe. |
| **Multi-residential waste collection** | The City collects waste from multi-residential buildings with carts and front-end bins, helping ensure more Guelph residents are sorting and diverting their waste. We added 6 properties and 410 units to multi-residential collection. Due to the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, adding new properties was put on hold for most of 2020. |
| **Customer service and public education** | WRIC staff provided customer service assistance to 16,661 customers in person, over the phone and by email. As part of the Solid Waste Management Master Plan, the City engaged with over 2,000 residents through a variety of engagement opportunities including online surveys, in-person engagement (pre-COVID), a virtual open house and virtual meetings. |

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Urban Forest and Natural Heritage

The City maintains, protects and restores Guelph's natural heritage system and urban forest which helps us to:

- reduce pollutants in the water and air
- save energy by cooling our community
- support the health and wellbeing of Guelph residents
- provide recreational spaces and opportunities for outdoor activities
- allow for local plants and wildlife to move throughout their lifecycles safely and healthfully
- support a wide range of native plants and wildlife
- mitigate floods

Guelph's urban forest provides valuable ecological, social and economical benefits to the community.

Natural heritage system
Guelph’s natural heritage makes up 1/5 of Guelph’s land area.

Urban forest
Guelph’s urban forest provides valuable ecological, social and economical benefits to the community.

Canopy target
40%

Canopy cover is
23% of the City’s total land area

Planteable space on private and public lands
17%

Cover on private property
13%

Cover on public property
10%

Most canopy cover is in woodlands, natural areas and mature neighbourhoods.

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What we’ve done
2020 key project highlights

Going digital with guelph.ca/environment
As part of the Natural Heritage Action Plan, the City’s printed EnviroGuide shifted to a web-based format, available at guelph.ca/environment, to raise awareness about natural spaces and programs.

Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP)
The City reported progress on the UFMP and identified gaps and challenges in working toward our goals, recommended opportunities for improvement and suggested approaches to achieving those goals. Moving into the second phase of the plan requires prioritizing the next set of recommendations based on available resources, aligning with other City plans and strategies, community priorities, continuing efforts on ongoing projects, and developing comprehensive management strategies.

Invasive species management
The City removes invasive species throughout the year to maintain and improve Guelph’s ecological health in our parks and natural areas
- Removed 43 hectares of invasive species (species like buckthorn and dog strangling vine)
- Removed 400 ash trees killed by emerald ash borer
- Treated 365 healthy ash trees with TreeAzin™ (insecticide)
- Monitored for Lymantria dispar dispar (L.D.D.) moth

Subwatershed study and prioritization
As part of the Natural Heritage Action Plan, the City did a background review and gap analysis of existing subwatershed studies. This work fed into the development of a framework to prioritize Guelph’s subwatersheds for future study.

Tree planting
As part of the City’s efforts to grow our forest canopy, 200 trees replaced ash trees removed because of emerald ash borer and an additional 1,300 trees and shrubs were planted in parks and natural areas

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Environmental stewardship drives all of the City's Wastewater Services programs. Whether it be reusing digester gas (methane) and biosolids (organic solids removed from sewage) recovered from the treatment process to power our wastewater treatment plant, or developing new educational programs to engage with our community, we're continually finding new ways to improve our processes to reduce our environmental footprint.

2,300,000 m\(^3\) of reused digester gas powered the wastewater treatment plant. That's enough to power 1,725 houses.

19.5 billion litres of wastewater was treated to the highest quality before being released to the Speed River.

3,684 tonnes of biosolids were reused by farmers as fertilizer.

100% of biosolids from the wastewater treatment plant were diverted from landfills.

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What we’ve done
2020 key project highlights

Sanitary system flushing program
The maintenance flushing program ensured that 130 km of the sanitary system was flushed to prevent sewer backups and keep our environment and wildlife safe. That’s enough distance to cover a drive from Guelph all the way to Owen Sound!

Environmental protection
The Environmental Protection Officers conducted over 633 industrial inspections to ensure businesses are taking appropriate measures in reducing their environmental impact, like disposing of oils and grease properly. In addition, they responded to 455 calls to mitigate spills and to support Guelph Police Services, Guelph Fire Services and other City departments.

Education and outreach program
To protect Guelph’s infrastructure and local waterways, Wastewater Services completed a direct-to-residents communication campaign to help pool and hot tub owners properly drain their pool water. This wastewater must be put into a household drain or onto their lawn, not directly to the storm drains in the street. Further, Wastewater Services started the development of a Public Education and Communications Strategy, to be unveiled in 2021 #WhatGoesDownComesAround.

Planning for our Future
In 2020, efforts continued to focus on opportunities for reusing water and developing a reclaimed water program. A feasibility study to use treated wastewater for sanitary sewer flushing, instead of treated drinking water had positive results. Further opportunities for additional water reuse will be part of the Wastewater Treatment and Biosolids Master Plan—the City’s long-term plan for managing wastewater in Guelph. These findings will be instrumental in supporting a broader integrated water management strategy for the City.

Sample collection and analysis
It is with great pride that wastewater services incorporates a rigorous sampling program to support overall responsible environmental stewardship. Samples are collected and analyzed for process control, compliance reporting and river quality monitoring. The wastewater treatment operations team, environmental protection officers and accredited lab technicians collected and analyzed over 22,000 samples in 2020.

Responsible environmental steward projects
Environmental stewardship is important in our planning. Projects such as the aeration blower upgrade program that is at the 90% design stage, will save significant energy and reduce our carbon footprint. The commissioning of a best-in-class chemical delivery system to manage disinfection ensures a high level of process control and treatment. Significant progress has been made with the development of an Environmental Management System to oversee compliance and emergency planning for wastewater services which will further build trust and confidence for all stakeholders.

Accessible formats available by calling 519-837-5629 or TTY 519-826-9771.
Water Services
The City provides Guelph residents with safe, high quality drinking water while meeting or exceeding, and continually improving on legal, operational and quality management system requirements.

2020 Year in Review
During 2020 we treated and pumped 3.7 per cent less water than in 2019 and 4.5 per cent less than in 2018; despite a population growth of 2.5 per cent from 2018.

16.5 billion litres of water was treated and pumped to Guelph residents and businesses. That's the same as 6,613 Olympic-sized swimming pools!

16.5 billion litres of water was treated and pumped to Guelph residents and businesses.

16.5 billion litres of water was treated and pumped to Guelph residents and businesses.

98,180 litres of water is saved per day through water-efficiency programs!

98,180 litres of water is saved per day through water-efficiency programs!

Inspected 342 kilometers of watermain for leakage and reclaimed 550m³ per day from found underground leaks.

Inspected 342 kilometers of watermain for leakage and reclaimed 550m³ per day from found underground leaks.

6,612 water utility locates completed to prevent damage to City water infrastructure and our natural environment.

6,612 water utility locates completed to prevent damage to City water infrastructure and our natural environment.

Due to provincial restrictions related to COVID-19 pandemic, the Guelph Water Wagon service was not offered in 2020.

Due to provincial restrictions related to COVID-19 pandemic, the Guelph Water Wagon service was not offered in 2020.

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What we’ve done
2020 Key Project Highlights

Lead removal
Over 5,000 homes and businesses were sampled for lead. No samples exceeded the Ontario Drinking Quality Standard for lead, since commencing the Lead Reduction Program. Ten Lead Service Lines were totally or partially replaced to a non-lead material.

Healthy Landscapes program
The Healthy Landscapes program helps Guelph residents learn more about outdoor water efficiency, preventative landscape maintenance practices and natural pest control alternatives.
- As per COVID-19 restrictions, Healthy Landscapes property visits were cancelled in 2020.
- To keep up with educating residents (or better wording here), the annual Healthy Landscapes speaker series was done online with an average of 300 participants at each of our four sessions. Topics offered during the series included water efficient landscape design, plant selections and proactive maintenance to manage the impact of drought and pests.

Leak detection
The City tested 342 kilometres of watermains within the City’s distribution system for leaks. 11 leaks were identified and repaired preventing the loss of approximately 50,000 litres of drinking water per day (enough to fill 7 to 8 Olympic-sized pools annually).

Outside Water Use Program
This program continues to be an active and effective program to reduce peak season (summer) water use. The outside water use program monitors local conditions and reminds residents that Guelph uses water wisely. The program ran from May to October. Due to the hot and dry spring paired with the third hottest July in record, the program level escalated from Level 0-Blue to Level 1-Yellow on July 8.

Water efficiency rebates and incentives
Since working to achieve the 2016 Water Efficiency Strategy programs, 1,889 m3 /day of water has been saved. In 2020, 98.18 m3 /day of treated water was saved through efficiency programs, which prevented 12.9 tonnes of green house gas emissions and $5,900 in electric costs to be avoided. These rebates and incentives include:
- 535 rebate applications and audits completed through the City’s residential rebate program.
- Leaks were detected on 67 per cent of buildings audited through the multi-residential water audit program.
- 12 incentives for municipal infrastructure improvements and Water Smart Business upgrades.
- 1 rebate issued for seasonal rainwater harvesting system with a capacity of 1,000 litres.

Youth and public outreach and education programs
- 18 interactive school presentations engaging 405 students.
- 77 students reached through the H2Whoa! Program.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, tours of the Water Services facility were cancelled during 2020.

Raingarden Rebate program
The City’s raingarden rebate for Guelph residents encourages water conservation and reduced stormwater runoff.
- 72 residents participated in the raingarden workshops
- 27 pre-qualified for a raingarden rebate through home-visit consultations
- 12 raingardens were installed and provided a rebate resulting in 28,600 litres of stormwater captured, (an average of 2,384 litres per garden).

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