

A large, cylindrical water tower with a white top section and a grey lower section. The word "Guelph" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font across the white top section. The tower is set against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, a Guelph Transit bus is parked on a grassy area. The bus is white with blue and green accents and has the number "268" on its side. The bus's destination sign reads "SOUTHGATE RD" and "71 AVE STATION". The bus also features the "Guelph Transit" logo and the slogan "Guelph's Best Ride".

Guelph

Supporting growth with green municipal infrastructure

City of Guelph meeting with
Ministry of Infrastructure

AMO 2023

We call on the Ministry of Infrastructure to continue the flow of dedicated funds and invest in Ontario's municipalities to build green municipal infrastructure, and support the reduction of municipal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net zero by 2050.

The benefits



Future-ready infrastructure to support growing municipalities



Reduced air pollution and GHG emissions



Net zero municipal and community buildings

Why we're here

Guelph is growing rapidly – we're committed to meeting the provincial target of 18,000 new homes by 2031. As we collectively work towards Net Zero 2050, this is a perfect time to invest in green municipal infrastructure to reduce municipal GHG emissions, and sustainably support growth in our city.

As we navigate the rising cost and volume of infrastructure projects, and work towards achieving net zero GHG emissions by 2050, provincial funding will be essential to support green municipal infrastructure.

There is a wide range of opportunities to build green municipal infrastructure. In Guelph, this includes energy-efficient community buildings, net zero public transportation, and natural infrastructure like trees to increase our urban tree canopy.

As of 2023, Guelph is facing an infrastructure backlog of at least \$350 million. This number will grow as the infrastructure needs for new growth continue to compete with existing infrastructure renewal needs. Rising construction costs place additional pressure on our ability to fulfill our City's infrastructure needs.

The details

The City is aiming to be fully reliable on renewable energy, and be a net zero city by 2050 with the interim target of a 63 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. From community buildings to transportation infrastructure, we're making investments and leveraging provincial and federal funding towards green municipal infrastructure to support growth.

Major green infrastructure projects underway in Guelph

Project name	Description	Cost	Provincial contribution
South End Community Center	With construction starting in Fall 2023, the 160,000-square-foot South End Community Center will be a key hub for Guelph's rapidly growing South End, with large sports and recreation facilities. The buildings green design is expected to achieve 62 per cent energy saving and 85 per cent greenhouse gas savings compared to conventional construction.	\$115.5M	-
Baker District	The Baker District will be a large multi-use development on the former Baker Street parking lot in Guelph's Downtown. The Baker District will include a new, net zero carbon public library, underground parking, and public green squares managed by the City, as well as privately owned residential and commercial spaces.	\$104M	-
Guelph Central Station Terminal Upgrades	The project will upgrade and expand the Guelph Central Station terminal and consists of the construction of a fully accessible, net zero, three-floor building that will provide a sheltered waiting area for public transit users, as well as public washrooms. It will also provide a lunchroom, washrooms and office space for transit system staff.	\$7.95M	\$2.25M (Through ICIP)
New Guelph Transit Storage Facility	The project consists of the construction of a new bus storage facility estimated to be approximately 191,000 square feet, with storage for up to 200 vehicles and electric charging infrastructure to support Guelph's transition to a zero-emission battery-electric bus fleet.	\$86.79M	\$15.76M (Through ICIP)
Guelph Cycling Network Expansion and Enhancements	The project consists of the construction of 13 km of on-road cycling lanes in strategic locations to connect major destinations and transit hubs, as well as cycling intersection improvements at six major intersections.	\$11.46M	\$1.55M (Through ICIP)

Funding opportunities such as the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program have proven very effective in enabling us to realize ambitious green infrastructure projects which would not have been possible otherwise. There are also significant opportunities to invest directly in GHG reduction – the now cancelled Municipal Greenhouse Gas Challenge provided us with funding to optimize how we managed GHG emissions at our wastewater treatment center.

As we navigate rising construction costs and work towards Net Zero 2050, we would welcome the continued flow of funds from the province to help us support our growing population with vital green infrastructure.



1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

519-822-1260
TTY 519-826-9771

intergovernmental.relations@guelph.ca
guelph.ca

Accessible formats available upon request.