



Burlington's Horizon 2050 Draft January 2026

Written Comments from the Burlington Sustainable Development Committee

Submitted: February 27, 2026

The Burlington Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the City of Burlington's Horizon 2050 Community Strategic Plan.

Based on a review of Burlington's "Horizon 2050 Strategic Plan: Strategic Direction and Objective (Final Draft)", the SDC supports the proposed Plan and offers the following comments and recommendations for consideration:

1. A consistent, integrated consideration of the environmental, social, and economic pillars of sustainability should be applied across all strategic directions and objectives to support comprehensive and effective implementation of the Plan.
2. The document is silent on Burlington's agricultural farmland and its capacity to contribute to regional food security and rural economic development, while delivering critical ecosystem services. With growing pressures on prime farmland from urban development across Ontario, the City should maintain a strong commitment to the surrounding Greenbelt and the long-term protection of agricultural land.
3. There are a number of occasions where terms are ambiguous or unclear. We recommend qualifying these terms or finding alternative wording to reduce confusion.

Thank you for considering our feedback. Detailed comments follow on the pages below that we hope will be useful in finalizing the Plan.

Sincerely,

Members of the Burlington Sustainable Development Committee

Detailed Comments

Objectives

Objectives Specific Comments	
<p>Quality services for engaged communities</p>	<p>Some suggested wording changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster inclusive civic engagement and participation • Enhance customer community/citizen/etc. experience through customer people-first approach <p><i>“Customer” may not be the best fit here—community members interact with the city as residents or citizens, not customers.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Foster an ethical and collaborative organizational culture” <p><i>The term “ethical” is not clearly defined, and the intended organizational context is unclear. While the type of “organizational context” can be inferred in outcomes, we recommend being clear in the objective.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should include efforts to bring diverse communities together through urban design, transportation upgrades, and promotion of festivals
<p>Communities designed for well-being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Enable safe, inclusive, and green neighbourhoods” <p><i>Should aim to enhance neighbourhood sustainability and livability through increased green space</i></p>
<p>Preserving nature and promoting natural legacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Expand and innovate urban green spaces to support climate adaptation, biodiversity, and other environmental priorities to improve community and ecosystem well-being” • Should include clearer efforts addressing climate change both to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to upgrade infrastructure coping with severe weather events.
<p>Enabled and purposeful growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Deliver purposeful housing and community development to support diverse and changing needs.” <p><i>Should also be thinking about developing complete communities with appropriate amenities (especially grocery stores, connecting communities and greenspaces, etc.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should address affordability by encouraging reduced housing costs and attracting industry with higher paying jobs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is unclear what is meant by “priority sectors” in this context, as no examples are provided. Consider identifying current priority sectors and incorporating forward-looking analysis on sectors the City may wish to attract or grow in the future. For example, Mississauga’s deliberate development of its pharmaceutical cluster has supported high-quality employment.
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Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles Specific Comments	
Sustainable and future-ready	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “We protect and enhance our natural environment, act on climate change, biodiversity and other environmental priorities, and plan with long-term responsibility”
Communities built on fostering respect and belonging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “We ensure equitable access to services, safe and healthy environments, and opportunities for all community members.” <p><i>The term “opportunities” is unclear in this context.</i></p>
Economic vitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City should prioritize a balanced approach that supports both complete communities and access to local, quality, and high paying employment for residents.
Modern, transparent & data-driven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern digital tools should be user-friendly and inclusive.