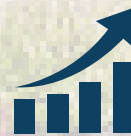


~ 2024 UPDATE ~



2023-2026

STRATEGIC PLAN



A note from our Warden



The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry is advancing its strategic priorities through an array of collaborative advocacy efforts that focus on improving the quality of life for our residents.

As part of its 2024 engagement SDG Counties held one-on-one meetings with local stakeholders, as well as senior government officials, to communicate our strategic goals.

These sessions were both enlightening, and beneficial.

Most recently the Hon. Lisa Thompson - Minister of Rural Affairs and SDG Counties enjoyed a meeting facilitated through the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus that highlighted priorities small communities have set in the face of a changing rural landscape.

This session complements a lengthy docket of 2024 meetings with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Transportation the Ontario Medical Association and partners as we implement priorities identified in SDG Counties Council's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

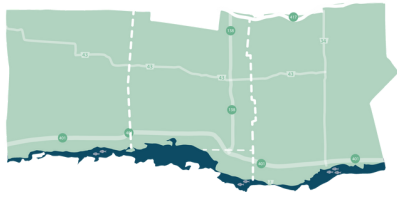
These touchpoints are important, as SDG Counties' stewardship over files that govern access to quality education for rural students, safe transit of Highway 138, augmented affordable housing and improved health-care linkages continues to grow.

By working with neighboring municipalities and organizations, we can pool resources, reduce duplication, and enhance the effectiveness of the services we provide.

Collaboration with our municipal partners, at both the local level and among our neighbours, is a fixture of our work. This extends beyond administrative links to include specific infrastructure projects that benefit all our residents. We have added important human resources protocols to our repertoire of expertise, not to mention ensuring our branding and environmental stewardship remains consistent.

This update provides an excellent example of SDG Counties' ability to increase accountability, while staying true to council priorities.

Warden Jamie MacDonald
SDG Counties



Delivering results in SDG Counties

In 2023 SDG Counties Council approved the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. The plan identifies key priorities that SDG Counties will advance during this term of council to ensure residents, visitors and business owners have access to programming and services that are second to none.

Areas of focus include:

- Partnerships and collaboration
- Advocacy and governance
- Branding
- Green living

A hallmark of our work is the **measuring and reporting** of specific milestones outlined in the strategic plan, in order to augment engagement between residents and SDG Counties.

This document contains updates on SDG Counties progress as staff implement the priorities outlined in the strategic plan. Since its inception staff have provided regular strategic plan updates to council via official reports, budget presentations and forecasts.

This document fulfills one of the key components of the strategic plan - that being an annual report that reflects key accomplishments and progress made on council's priorities.





Partnerships and Collaboration

Successes to date

Collaboration with local municipalities

- On July 15, 2024 SDG Counties Council received a comprehensive update concerning the ongoing collaborative efforts underway between local municipalities and the upper-tier. Please consult the link below for a video of the proceedings.

LINK: www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYW6j_ypanU

Infrastructure

- SDG Counties has helped to facilitate the creation and work undertaken by the Regional Waste Management Group (RWMG) - which includes representatives from all local municipalities and the City of Cornwall. As a result of partnerships created by the RWMG the Township of North Glengarry and Municipality of South Dundas are **enjoying a lower price** for landfill services from GFL Environmental.
- SDG Counties is partnering with local municipalities to **create a communications campaign** related to changing recycling pick-up protocols in our region.
- SDG Counties assists in the tendering process for large-scale road resurfacing projects among local municipalities, and the City of Cornwall. As an example, SDG Counties has been a **partner with the City of Cornwall** with respect to road resurfacing on Vincent Massey Drive (where it meets County Road 2) and Cornwall Centre Road (on the border with the Township of South Stormont).





Partnerships and Collaboration

Continued

Successes to date

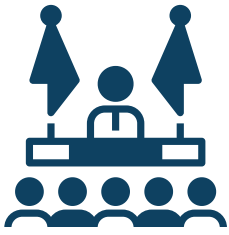
Housing

- Through collaboration with the City of Cornwall, **78 affordable family/seniors units** are being built in our region. This includes 17 additional units for the Morris Glen housing project in South Dundas.
- As a member of the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus (EOWC), SDG Counties will work with the province to set a regional housing target, which would apply across the EOWC's 103 municipalities. The target will establish **housing as a priority** and showcase the EOWC as a leader in addressing the housing crisis, while also helping to leverage partnerships and resources to facilitate an increased number of dwellings across our region.

Human resources

- SDG Counties created a regional staff retention/succession apparatus that includes equal parts training, succession planning and well-being.
- A new Strategic Human Resources Plan has been designed to provide a **better understanding of organizational and employee needs**, and utilize this information for decision making, employee development and succession planning.
- The Human Resources Manager has provided support to local municipalities on an as-needed basis. Some of the notable support activities includes CAO recruitment, labour relations, training and development opportunities.





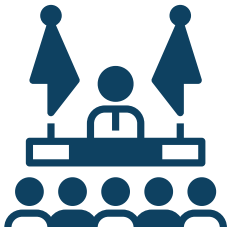
Advocacy and Governance

Successes to date

Advocacy

- SDG Counties continues to advocate key priorities with the Province of Ontario. Two ongoing priorities are long overdue **improvements to Highway 138** and the **importance of quality education** and access to programs for better outcomes for our rural students.
- The SDG Counties Rural Education Committee has successfully completed two delegations with senior provincial officials, including **former Education Minister Stephen Lecce**, at the most recent Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO) conferences.
- SDG Counties continues to speak with a consistent voice on matters when working with municipal partners. **SDG Counties is an active participant** with the City of Cornwall and the EOWC to advance priorities including cell-tower gaps, housing construction and infrastructure improvements.
- SDG Counties and members of local councils completed a day-long learning session, facilitated by StrategyCorp, to address specific instruction opportunities. Local officials have a better understanding of how to **advance SDG Counties priorities** with senior government officials.





Advocacy and Governance

Continued

Successes to date

Education

- SDG Counties continues to **advocate for policies that support rural education**. The Rural Education Committee promotes and advances educational equity for students throughout our region. The committee chair has engaged with three of the four school board chairs in our region and the committee continues its work to build a more collaborative working relationship with our region's school boards.
- The Warden and members of the Rural Education Committee have participated in **two successful delegations** with representatives from the Ministry of Education.



Governance review

- SDG Counties Council reviewed the term of office for the position of Warden. Council decided a one-year term remains appropriate. However, council agreed to **amend the Procedure By-Law** to conduct the election of Warden in August. This allows the incoming Warden to shadow their counterpart for an extended period of time - augmenting consistency and uniformity.





Branding

Successes to date

'SDG Counties'



- While 'The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry' remains our official name, communications staff have consistently employed **the use of 'SDG Counties'** in materials, both internal and external, in an effort to standardize our moniker in official documentation and polite conversation.



Explaining our role

- SDG Counties produces daily engagement via its social media channels (Facebook, X) and regular updates on its website (sdgcounties.ca) with respect to specific programming and services.
- The continued use of SDG Counties' social media channels, our website and media engagement will feature heavily in ongoing efforts to maximize our connection with residents and visitors.



Diversity and inclusivity

- Through its social media footprint and communications efforts SDG Counties **strengthens diversity in our community** by promoting cross-cultural learning that is inclusive of all ages, appearance, ethnicity, and gender identity.
- Regular engagement with accessibility advocates across our region continues, to ensure SDG Counties communications efforts reach a broad spectrum of residents, regardless of their needs.



Strategic priority

Green Living

Successes to date

Natural assets

- In concert with the local chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association SDG Counties has created a new 650-metre trail in South Stormont. **The new 'George Velema Trail'** will open in September, 2024 and feature a walking path and access to picturesque greenery.



Environmental policy

- SDG Counties hosted a six-month Municipal Climate Internship program. The successful intern candidate completed a municipal climate adaptation literature review and organized a regional survey as the first stage in **developing an Emergency Management Strategy** incorporating preparedness for climate emergencies. The intern also reviewed SDG Counties Salt Management Program and provided recommendations for improvements.



Forestry management

- The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continues to plague forests throughout Ontario. SDG Counties is working to mitigate the impact of this invasive insect at Summerstown Forest through a **selective harvest across 36 hectares**. The intent of the harvest is to improve forest health, salvage infested ash trees and maintain or improve the ecological value of the property.





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