



Council Highlights are intended to provide a summary of Council proceedings only. The information contained within the Highlights is based on approved material from within the associated agenda packages, linked at the bottom. These reports were part of the agendas from the **Council Meeting on November 14, 2023** and the **Committee of the Whole Meeting on October 24, 2023**. For more information on any item covered in the Highlights, each article is hyperlinked to the appropriate report, which can be accessed by clicking on the title. Images are also linked to relevant resources.

A recording of these sessions is also available for public viewing on the [County's YouTube channel](#).

- Service Simcoe

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## Paramedic Services 2024 Response Time Performance Targets

The Ontario Ambulance Act mandates that all Paramedic Services report on their response times (by specific category) each year and set new response time targets for the following year.

In review of Paramedic calls in 2022, staff observed challenges in meeting anticipated response times related to a significant increase in the overall number of emergency calls, more complex patient conditions, higher overall activity levels, and an extensive increase in hospital offload delay. However, more current response times reported in the first half of 2023 have shown significant improvement and are now trending towards established goals. As a result, staff recommend continuing to work towards the existing goals again for 2024. On November 14, 2023, Council approved 2024 Response Time Performance Targets as recommended by staff.



## County of Simcoe Corporate Climate Action Plan

Sustainable Services and Assets  
for a Net-Zero Future

Click the image above to read the County's new Corporate Climate Action Plan.

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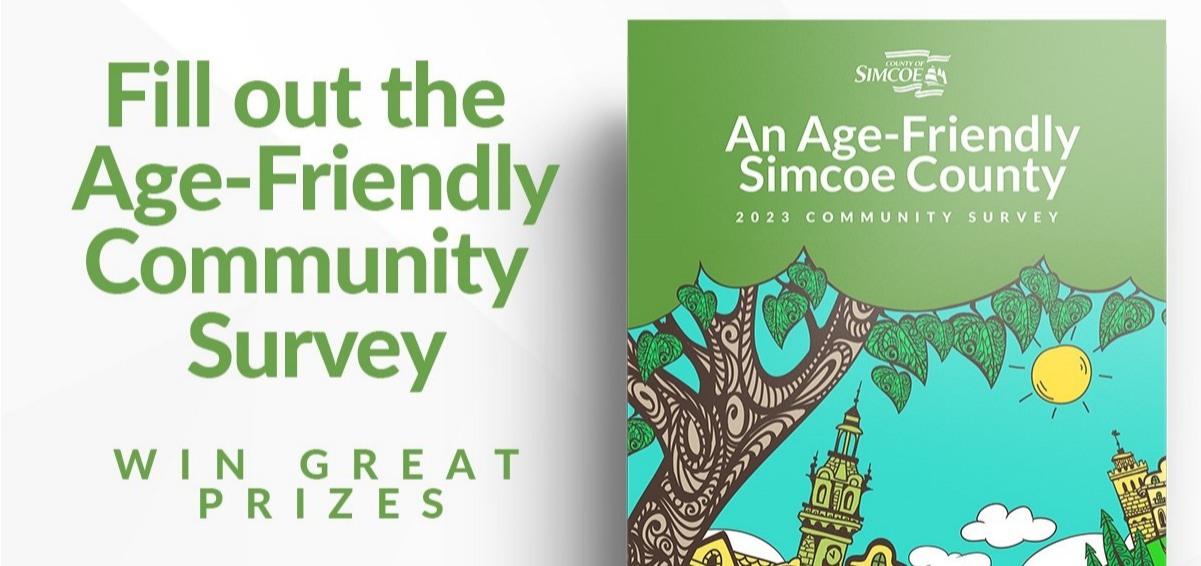
## Sustainable Operations Climate Action Planning Update

In 2018, Council adopted the recommendation for the County of Simcoe to join the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program which consists of a five-step milestone framework. In Fall 2022, Sustainability Solutions Group (SSG) was engaged to assist with Milestone 2 Setting of an Emissions Reduction Target and Milestone 3 the Creation of the Corporate Climate Action Plan.

To meet the targets that SSG has created a Corporate Climate Action Plan was created around a Reduce-Improve-Switch-Generate framework. Key actions contained in the Plan include:

- Undertaking retrofits to reduce energy demand in existing buildings and improve energy efficiency;
- Ensuring new buildings achieve high levels of energy performance and do not rely on fossil fuels for energy;
- Promoting sustainable transportation for employee commuting;
- Greening the corporate fleet; and
- Generating renewable and low carbon energy, e.g. solar and geothermal.

On November 14, 2023, Council approved the Corporate Climate Action Plan and the Emission Reduction Targets to be integrated into the County of Simcoe's Strategic Plan within Strategic Direction, the County of Simcoe's Long Term Financial Plan, and Operational Workplans.



Click on the image above to take the Age-Friendly Community Survey.

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## Simcoe County Positive Aging Strategy – Community Survey

In 2015, the County of Simcoe received \$50,000 in funding from the Government of Ontario as part of its Age-Friendly Community Planning Grant Program. This funding was provided to support a comprehensive community needs assessment and a report to outline key areas of focus for future planning needs.

The resulting report took into consideration all information gathered through more than 3,000 age-friendly survey responses, 12 key informant interviews, 15 focus groups, and four public consultations. With this information, staff developed a regional seniors' strategy and planning framework entitled, "County of Simcoe Positive Aging Strategy". This strategy included a framework from 2018-2023 to guide planning for the creation of age-friendly infrastructure programs, services and policies as well as developed tools for municipalities at both the regional and local levels across the County of Simcoe.

On October 28, 2023, Council received a report on the implementation of a new survey to identify the most pressing age-friendly priorities in our communities and evaluate the initiatives completed within the existing planning framework. This process will enable a refresh of the current strategy and set an updated planning framework for the next 5 years beginning in 2024. The survey is available online and at more than 100 locations throughout the County. Community consultations, focus groups and interviews will take place in early 2024. More information is available at [simcoe.ca/age-friendly](https://simcoe.ca/age-friendly).

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## Multi-Residential Organics Pilot Program

In 2018, the Government of Ontario released the Food and Organic Waste Policy statement, which includes targets for Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) and multi-residential properties within the County. Multi-residential properties (6 or more units per property and condominium properties) are identified as having to achieve 50% reduction and recovery of food and organic waste by 2025. While the County of Simcoe is not mandated to provide waste collection services to these properties, without assistance from the County, it may be challenging for multi-residential locations to achieve the organics diversion targets outlined in the policy. Presently, private organics collection options are limited and costly when compared to private garbage servicing.

On November 14, 2023, Council approved the implementation of a 18-month multi-residential organics pilot program commencing spring of 2024 to assist multi-residential properties in achieving these targets, and to promote increased organics diversion within the County. Staff are expecting a total of 8-12 buildings to be selected to participate, for an approximate total of 600 multi-residential units.



The County of Simcoe is adjusting its curbside waste collection zones to accommodate the Province's shift to a new Producer Responsibility recycling model.

Households in Zone 2 will skip a garbage week (December 4-7) and have two consecutive recycling collection weeks (November 27-30 and December 4-7). Notifications have been sent to households in Zone 2 throughout October and November and reminders are scheduled on the Simcoe County Collects App, among other communications. Collection days of the week do NOT change!

Click the image above to learn more, including how to determine your new zone.

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## Special Budget Meeting - Committee of the Whole - Report - November 2, 2023

A special budget meeting was held on November 2 to present the full 2024 County budget. Councillors further reviewed the budget at Committee of the Whole on November 14 and recommended an investment in our residents and programs with a proposed 3.7% tax levy for 2024 (2% towards capital improvements and 1.7% towards operational enhancements). For households, this results in a \$10.69 annual impact per \$100,000 of home assessment (\$42.76 impact annually per average home in Simcoe County). Councillors will consider, and potentially ratify, the 2024 budget recommendation at our next meeting on November 28, 2023.

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[Council Meeting Agenda - November 14, 2023](#)

[Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda - October 24, 2023](#)

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