

Ladysmith residents have a shared vision for a sustainable future and a commitment to continually working to make that vision a reality. The new Zoning Bylaw helps to implement this vision with initiatives to support complete community land use, green buildings, local food production, innovative infrastructure and a local diverse economy.

This guide focuses on key initiatives in Zoning Bylaw 2014, No. 1860 and associated Development Permit Area Design Guidelines that support the Town’s plans to become more sustainable. These initiatives include supporting alternative energy devices, transportation choice, local food production, greener landscapes and conservation measures. Read further to learn about specific opportunities.

Alternative Energy Devices

The Zoning Bylaw recognizes alternative energy devices, including solar, wind, and geothermal devices. The intent is to support the use of these devices, but minimize their visibility from neighbours and fronting streets by establishing siting and height parameters.

Urban Agriculture & Produce Stands

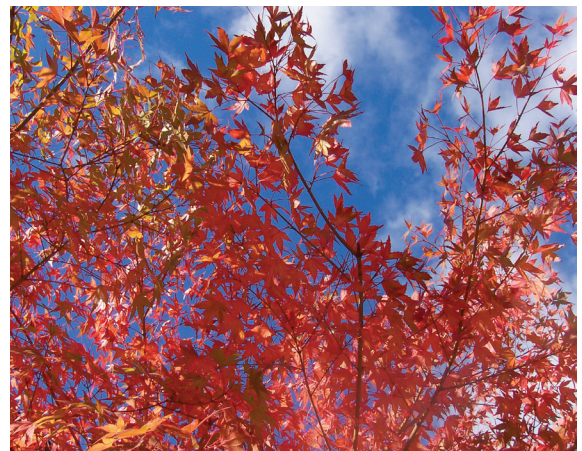
The Sustainability Action Plan places a priority on a local and sustainable food system. The Town is actively advancing local production through a number of policies and programs, including facilitating opportunities to grow, process, and sell food. Urban Agriculture is the growing or producing of flowers, native and ornamental plants, edible berries, fruit, nuts and vegetables, as well as the keeping of honey bees. Zoning Bylaw 2014, No. 1860 permits Urban Agriculture and Produce Stands in most single family residential zones, allowing you to sell produce grown on your property. Consult the Zoning Bylaw for full details.



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Landscape Buffers & Shade Trees

In addition to landscape buffers, the Zoning Bylaw introduces the requirement for shade trees in parking lots for commercial, industrial, institutional, and multiple unit residential zones. A shade tree is a deciduous tree that provides seasonal screening to reduce surface air temperature, and the heat island effect of hard surfaces.



Parking Options

The Sustainability Action Plan calls for increasing rates of walking, bicycle riding, and transit use. Careful consideration was given to these items during the Zoning Bylaw review, resulting in changes, such as:

- Allowing for more flexibility in parking lot design to accommodate shared parking, small cars, motorcycles, and scooters;
- Requiring a minimum number of bicycle parking spaces in multi-unit residential and non-residential developments, and;
- Encouraging provision of electric vehicle recharging stations in strategic locations.

New Zones

Two new zones were introduced in Zoning Bylaw 2014, No. 1860:

- Nature Park (P-3) reflects the natural forest setting of these areas, and distinguishes them from active park areas; and
- Marine Conservation (W-5) identifies estuaries and sensitive wetland ecosystems for protection and conservation.

WATER CONSERVATION

Measures to conserve water in the OCP's Development Permit Area Guidelines include:

- High-efficiency, water saving, automatic irrigation systems are encouraged; and
- Innovative wastewater management systems, such as greywater capture and reuse, should be considered.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

The Development Permit Area Guidelines in the OCP include the following measures to conserve energy:

- Buildings are encouraged to meet the EnerGuide 80 standard for higher energy efficiency;
- In some areas, new buildings are encouraged to target a minimum LEED® Silver standard, or equivalent; and
- In industrial areas, on-site energy production (or cogeneration) from renewable sources, such as solar, geothermal, wind and biomass, is encouraged.

Recycling, Organics & Solid Waste Management

Measures to enhance recycling, while minimizing visual intrusion, are included in the OCP's Development Permit Area Guidelines:

- Recycling, composting, and solid waste storage should be inside buildings;
- Wherever located outside, they should be enclosed and located away from public view; a permeable roof, such as a pergola or arbour, should be used to screen the contents from overhead views.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Visit www.ladysmith.ca/business-development to download a copy of the Zoning Bylaw or the Development Permit Area Guidelines.

