



MUNICIPALITY *of the*  
COUNTY *of* KINGS

## Earth Overshoot Day Marks Important Climate Change Milestone

July 29, 2021

Hi everyone! I'm Emily Kennedy, the Climate Change Coordinator for the Municipality of the County of Kings.

Today is an important day on the climate change front, as it marks Earth Overshoot Day for 2021. Earth Overshoot Day is the day of the year in which all resources used after this date are beyond what can naturally be replenished in a given year. In other words, the resources we use from today until the end of the year are borrowed from generations to come.

Earth Overshoot Day was also on this day in 2019, but in 2020 it was August 22. The last time Earth Overshoot Day took place as late as the end of August was in 2005. This is a direct result of the abrupt stop in our routine way of life due to the global pandemic. This year, Canada reached its Overshoot Day on March 14. This tells us that we still have plenty of work to do – locally and globally.

The Municipality of the County of Kings recognizes the importance of environmental stewardship, both on large and smaller scales. In addition to continually working toward creating more clean energy and Active Transportation options within the Kings Region, the Municipality has an internal Green Team committee working to identify ways in which we, as staff, can reduce our environmental footprint, raise awareness and take meaningful action on a regular basis.

**We recognize that this is just the beginning of an ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, but these are some examples of how the Green Team is making a difference:**

### **Single Use Plastics:**

The first initiative of the Green Team (or perhaps, what prompted the creation of the Green Team), was a ban of all single use plastics on all Municipal properties. The Single Use Plastics Ban is a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that was approved in January 2019. The purpose of this SOP is to reduce our waste, and includes all single use items, such as bottles and coffee cups, cutlery and food containers. Staff are encouraged to consider this ban when packing lunches for work, and hosting meetings at the Municipal Complex.

**Anti-Idling Policy:**

The Green Team started 2021 off by successfully advocating for Council to pass the Anti-Idling Policy. This policy applies to all staff when on Municipal property, or when conducting business off-site in an official capacity. The policy also applies to Council, contractors, and anyone visiting a Municipal property. The purpose of the Anti-Idling Policy is to reduce our preventable Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

**Municipality of the County of Kings Earth Week Clean Up:**

During Earth Week (the week of Earth Day – April 22), staff were invited to spend a few minutes when they were in the office to go out and clean up the roadside. It didn't take long to fill multiple bags!

**Planting Trees:**

The Municipality of the County of Kings was also the recipient of a Trees Canada *Edible Trees* grant. This grant provides us with 40 fruit trees, which are to be planted near the public entrance of the Municipal Complex. The idea behind the orchard space is to have a seating area in the middle, with access to fresh fruit for staff, trail users, and the public.

We'd love to hear how fellow stewards of the environment are making a difference at home and work. To learn more about Earth Overshoot Day, visit <https://www.overshootday.org/>.

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