

## About the Organization

The Regional Municipality of York is located in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The Region is comprised of 9 local municipalities covering 1,776 km<sup>2</sup> and is currently home to over 1.2 million people. Regional services include water and wastewater treatment, ambulance, police and transit services, social housing, and long-term care. Sustainability, both environmental and financial, are key drivers of Regional Plans and Strategies.

York Region Paramedic Services provides emergency response and community care to nine lower-tier municipalities. The Paramedic Services fleet consists of 62 ambulances, 22 Paramedic Response Units (single units) and 25 support vehicles. The fleet travels over 3.8 million kilometres to respond to more than 77,000 calls annually.

The anti-idle program was a passion project of dedicated paramedics working for the Municipality of York, where sustainability is part of the everyday work culture.

## Sustainability Journey

Sustainability ensures that present and future generations of York Region will enjoy the benefits of a healthy and affordable community to live in. Sustainable living saves money and maintains a clean and healthy environment; it just makes sense!

The Region's largest single source of emissions comes from vehicles, which include ambulances, police cars, and transit buses.



In 2016, the Paramedic Services fleet consisted of 109 vehicles and emitted over 3,300 tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

The Municipality of York's Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (ECDM Plan) describes the actions that the Region will take over the next 35 years to reduce its 2051 corporate emissions by 47 per cent below 2014 levels.

Interim GHG emissions targets have been set for 2021, 2031 and 2041.

## The Project

A challenge to reduce emissions for ambulance services is maintaining internal temperature for both patient and medicines, and power to equipment. Conventionally the ambulances idle when not parked inside the ambulance bay. Idling consumes fuel, emits greenhouse gas, and significantly increases the wear and tear on the engine

Idle reduction technology has been installed in ambulances and emergency response vehicles to control and monitor engine idling. It allows ambulances to maintain the interior temperature and battery charge required for patient care while saving fuel, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resale value of the fleet.

- \$100,000 has been invested in this project
- \$53,000 fuel savings projected per year
- GHG emissions reductions of 102 tonnes per year

This project is one of many York Region initiatives to reduce GHG's in 2051 by 47% over 2014.



**ClimateWise Business Network** is a program for local organizations where all participants receive one-on-one support and guidance in setting environmental targets and seeing the returns of investing in sustainability. ClimateWise is a program of Windfall Ecology Centre. Windfall ecology centre is a non-profit social enterprise dedicated to building sustainable communities. We have served the York Region community for 20 years.

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**Green Economy Canada** is scaling a ground-breaking, community-led social innovation that engages businesses in reducing their environmental impact while increasing their profitability.

<https://greeneconomy.ca>

**ClimateWise Business Network** is one of 7 Green Economy Hubs across Ontario supporting networks of businesses to set and achieve sustainability targets. Together we're demonstrating that a more sustainable economy is possible.

