Waterloo Region
HIGH-PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

PILOT PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The municipalities of Waterloo region, in partnership with WR Community Energy, Kitchener Utilities, and Enova Power, invite the development community to participate in the High-Performance Development Standards (HPDS) Pilot Program. The goal is to test practical approaches to creating healthier and more resilient communities that can respond to climate change while supporting vibrant neighbourhoods and reducing costs for families, owners, renters, occupants, and businesses.

This program, embedded into the standard Planning Application processes, is a collaborative dialogue to test what is achievable, identify opportunities for improvement, and refine the standards to help achieve shared community goals. It is a **voluntary opt-in pilot program**.

How do I participate?

This program is open to all developers and builders in Waterloo region. All interested parties are asked to complete the "Statement of Interest" (SOI) form, which will be reviewed by WRCE.

The program will begin with a small cohort of participants to support exploration, learning, and refinement as high-performance expectations continue to evolve. HPDS Pilot Program participants will follow the HPDS process without obligation to meet the performance targets from three categories, as outlined below:

Built Environment

B1. EV Parking and Charging Infrastructure
B2. Active and Public Transportation
B3. Exterior Lighting
B4. Sustainable Roofing

Natural Environment

N1. Vegetation and Landscaping
N2. Waste
N3. Water Efficiency
N4. Bird Friendly Design
N5. Stormwater
N6. Building Resilience and Adaptability

Energy Efficiency

E1. Embodied Carbon
E2. GHG Emissions Reduction
E3. Airtightness
E4. Local Energy Generation and Solar Readiness

What projects should this apply to?

Developments of all scales and uses are encouraged to integrate the HPDS measures and may participate in the Pilot Program. The program is designed for projects that go through Site Plan Approval or Draft Plan of Subdivision, although projects with less than 10 dwelling units are also welcome to participate.

WR Community Energy · Cambridge · Kitchener · The City of Waterloo · Region of Waterloo · The Township of North Dumfries · Wellesley · Wilmot · Woolwich Township

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Collaborate With Us

By participating in the first-ever cohort, participants will have the opportunity to:

Shape Planning Processes

- Influence the development of high-performance building practices and provide feedback on an evolving program
- Gain practical experience with emerging standards, practices, and technologies

Access Supports

- Receive one-on-one support from WRCE through the application process
- Have the opportunity to join a Community of Practice with other HPDS Pilot Program participants

✓ Showcase Leadership

- Demonstrate leadership as a high-performance developer
- Access to recognition, award programs, and marketing opportunities through the municipalities, WRCE, and the Region of Waterloo

★ Plan for the Future

- Learn how designing high-performance from the start reduces the need for costly retrofits later on and helps future-proof your projects

Stay Connected

For any questions, please contact Natasha at ning@wrcommunityenergy.ca or visit the project website for more information.

https://wrcommunityenergy.ca/high-performance-development-standards/

By participating in the program, will it delay my approval?

No, participating in the HPDS Pilot Program will not delay approvals as it is embedded into existing processes.

It will not affect whether an application is deemed complete or not. Staff will review the applicant's HPDS materials for alignment with the HPDS and discuss how measures were addressed (or not). Applicants continue to be responsible to meet municipal by-laws and standards of the municipality.

If my development is under construction, can I still participate?

Yes, although the intent of the HPDS Pilot Program is to work through the process with applicants, developments under construction that align with HPDS targets are eligible for recognition.

Please contact WRCE for more information.



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SITE PLAN & DRAFT PLAN OF SUBDIVISION PROCESS

The HPDS is embedded into existing planning approvals process. Staff will review the HPDS checklist for completeness and assign appropriate HPDS related recognition.

1. Submission of Statement of Interest (SOI)

- Applicant shall complete and submit the SOI form to WR Community Energy

2. Application Submission to the Municipality

- Applicant will indicate on their cover letter that they are participating in the Pilot Program
- Applicant will submit the HPDS Checklist and Reporting Commitment Form

3. Review

- Staff will review the materials for completeness
- HPDS materials will be reviewed as part of the typical planning application review and approval process

4. Applicant Feedback

- Applicant shall provide feedback on the HPDS process and metrics to support continued improvement

5. Post-Occupancy Reporting and Recognition

- For the relevant metrics, the applicant will submit post-occupancy information to staff, in accordance with the Reporting Commitment Form
- Reflect on successes, challenges and opportunities with metrics, project design, and construction

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RECOGNITION FOR BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Although the intent of the pilot is to work through the development approvals processes with applicants, developments that are under construction (but not completed) and align with HPDS targets are eligible for recognition.

1. Submission of Checklist

- Applicant shall contact WR Community Energy to ensure project applicability
- Upon confirmation, the applicant shall submit the completed HPDS Checklist

2. Review

- Staff will review the materials for completeness
- HPDS materials will be reviewed as part of the typical planning application review and approval process

3. Applicant Feedback

- Applicant can provide feedback on the HPDS process and metrics to support continued improvement

4. Post-Occupancy Reporting and Recognition

- For the relevant metrics, the applicant will submit post-occupancy information to staff, in accordance with the Reporting Commitment Form
- Reflect on successes, challenges and opportunities with metrics, project design, and construction

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