



Integrated Sustainable Design Standards (ISDS)

Resident Education Information Package Resource Guide

Performance Measure: E1

Version August 2024

Background Information for Applicant

In September 2022, City Council adopted new Integrated Sustainable Design Standards (ISDS) for all new developments in the City, replacing the 2007 Sustainable Development Guidelines. The ISDS defines a set of performance criteria for all new development in the City of Pickering. Effective January 1, 2023, these standards apply to all new Draft Plan of Subdivision and Site Plan applications submitted to the City under the *Planning Act*. Subsequently, in November 2023, Council passed By-law No. 8054/23 to adopt Amendment 50 of the Pickering Official Plan. This By-law recognizes and reinforces the ISDS policies within the Pickering Official Plan.

Pickering's ISDS is based on a tiered approach, with a series of progressive green development measures. Tier 1 contains the mandatory performance measures, and Tier 2 presents options for voluntary, enhanced performance measures. City staff prepared this resource guide to assist the applicant with the Resident Education Information Package submission (performance measure E1). The applicant is encouraged to integrate applicable content in this resource guide into their package submission to the City. Where necessary, amend messaging as appropriate to align with the planning application proposal/project, include attractive photos and/or other graphic design elements, and incorporate company/builder branding (colours, fonts, logos) to ensure the reader understands the package is from your company/builder.

To satisfy the ISDS performance criteria E1 Tier 1, the following information should be part of the Resident Education Information Package submission to the City:

1. Waste collection and disposal services;
2. Resident role as a steward to the natural environment including, natural landscaping, litter and illegal dumping, and responsible pet ownership;
3. Access to sustainable transportation options; and
4. Energy and water conservation measures and other sustainable features specific to the project that impact, or could be of interest, to the resident as deemed by the applicant.

The content in this resource guide may assist the applicant to complete items 1-3. Although not required, the applicant may wish to include information pertaining to nearby parks, greenspaces, and trails, and contact information for key agencies such as the City of Pickering, Region of Durham, and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

If seeking to satisfy the ISDS optional performance criteria E1 Tier 2, in addition to the above E1 Tier requirements, the applicant can post signage and other educational materials onsite to educate residents and visitors about sustainability features. For example, a small educational pollinator garden sign for residents along a naturalized area.

The City of Pickering has many initiatives and programs to help create a more sustainable community. The City's website provides a wealth of information with links to a wide variety of sustainability projects, plans, and events. To learn how to get involved, visit the [Sustainability Section](#) of the City's website.

For more information, contact the City Development Department's Sustainability staff at [Pickering Standards](#) or email citydev@pickering.ca.

1. Waste collection and disposal services

Note to Applicant: Please contact the Region of Durham to confirm if curbside waste collection services will be provided for the proposed development. Non-residential properties and, in some cases, multi-residential buildings fronting a private roadway, may require private waste collection services.

If a development is not an eligible property for waste collection under the Region of Durham Waste By-law, and waste collection and disposal services are provided through a private waste hauler/company, the applicant should provide a commitment letter on how waste will be collected, in accordance with good practice with all applicable statutes, by-laws and regulations respecting the environment and health and safety.

If the Region of Durham will be providing waste collection and disposal services for the proposed development, the following could be incorporated into the Resident Education Information Package.

Curbside Collection of Garbage/Yard Waste & Green Bin

The Region of Durham is responsible for collection and disposal of residential waste in Pickering. This includes garbage, yard waste, green bin, and large items. Visit <https://www.durham.ca> or download their app to find your pickup schedule, and seasonal collection dates. Follow the links below for more information on waste diversion, collection dates and disposal facilities.

- [Know Before You Throw](#)
- [General Waste Information](#)
- [Residential Waste Collection Calendar](#)
- [Waste Management Facilities](#)

Curbside Collection of Blue Box Recycling

Ontario's Blue Box Recycling Program has transitioned to a new model where it is 100% funded and operated by producers – those that sell packaging and paper products to residents.

Recycling in Durham Region is now managed by Circular Materials, the administrator of the common collection system and a national organization that supports producers to meet their obligations under extended producer responsibility regulations, like Ontario's Blue Box Regulation. Click [here](#) to visit Circular Materials' website.

Learn more about recycling collection in Pickering and view the new collection calendar [here](#). For concerns regarding missed collection contact Miller Waste at 1.888.852.4723 or by email area8@millerwaste.ca.

Helpful Tips:

- Residents are encouraged to use the Region of Durham's 'Know Before You Throw' tool/app <https://www.durham.ca/en/living-here/know-before-you-throw.aspx> to search for disposal information for every day items.
- Do not put household hazardous waste (HHW) in your garbage. Drop off HHW at a waste management facility for free. Visit the Region of Durham's [website](#) for a list of locations.
- Help keep your textiles out of the garbage by recycling your used clothing at various collection locations across Pickering. Visit the City's [website](#) for additional information and locations.

2. Resident role as steward of the natural environment

Environmental conservation and stewardship is a cooperative effort involving landowners and residents. Below are suggestions and tips on how to be a good neighbour to the natural environment.

Natural landscaping

- Consider planting native trees, shrubs, and plants in your yard. Native plants can help save water, are hardier and require less maintenance while supporting pollinators (bees, birds, and butterflies). For a list of native plants that support pollinators, click [here](#).
- Avoid planting invasive species that can degrade local natural habitats. For a list of invasive species to avoid, please visit [Ontario Invasive Plants](#).
- Be strategic when planting trees, shrubs, and other plants. Planting specific species in certain locations can help reduce energy consumption and result in cost savings by modifying the microclimate around your home.
- Certain garden plants like goutweed and periwinkle can spread into natural areas, outcompeting native vegetation and reducing biodiversity. If your property backs onto a natural area, be mindful of what you are planting in your garden.
- Reduce water consumption by limiting the amount of conventional turf for a more natural home landscape. This can include natural groundcovers, drought tolerant plants, and rainwater harvesting with barrels for use in the garden.
- Consider using environmentally friendly products when caring for your lawn and garden.
- Do not mow, prune, remove, or add plants to existing naturalized areas such as open space corridors, forests, or stormwater ponds, since it can disturb natural vegetation and wildlife habitat. Direct outdoor lights on your property away from natural areas. Use motion-detecting lights to minimize constant lighting in your yard.

Visiting public park areas, public open spaces, and trails

- Residents are encouraged to visit [Parks, Trails and Open Space](#) for more information.
- Residents looking for an extensive trail system can visit [Durham Trails](#); an interactive online map that offers views of trails and open spaces within all eight area municipalities.
- Residents looking for designated leash free areas and Durham Region's only Canine Activity Area, can visit the City's [website](#).
- Residents living near a natural area can learn how to live next to nature by downloading the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's [Guide for Homeowners Living Next to Woodlands, Wetlands and Natural Areas](#); this document explains the activities to do and avoid, to help protect the environment.

Helpful Tips:

- Littering, vandalism, and graffiti is illegal.
- Residents are reminded to obey park signage and follow the rules posted in parks and recreational trails.

-
- Take pictures, not items. Removal of plants, wood, or rocks can alter the habitat for animals, aquatic life, and insects who depend on the area to thrive.
 - Residents walking their pets are reminded to stay on the designated trail and keep them on a leash, so vegetation is not trampled or damaged.
 - [Pickering's Responsible Pet Ownership By-law](#) states that owners must immediately remove excrement left by their animal within the city. When finished, place the bag in an appropriate garbage receptacle. Pickering's [Dog Waste Diversion program](#) ensures dog waste collected from each of the City's dog waste bins, is taken to a specialized facility to be converted into electricity.

Living with wildlife in your community

- Wild animals are part of our urban landscape; residents are encouraged to learn about the wildlife in their neighbourhood so that sharing space with them is safe and enjoyable.
- Unless they are sick or injured, wild animals do not require any help or food from people, and in fact, intervention by humans is often harmful. Visit the [City's Wildlife webpage](#) for more information.

Helpful Tips:

- Feeding wild animals increases their presence and causes them to lose their fear of people. Residents are reminded that feeding and disturbing wild animals in the city is prohibited; please refer to the City's [Animal By-laws](#) for more information. There is an exception to feeding wild birds on private property, so long as the food is appropriate, contained in a bird feeder, and the area is kept clean (see City's By-law 7110/11 for more information).
- Do not approach wild animals or their nesting areas and dens.
- Keep dogs on leash and away from wild animals.
- The [Ministry of Natural Resources](#) (MNR) is responsible for addressing wildlife-related issues within Ontario. The City of Pickering does not respond directly to wildlife concerns but can provide information and reference to external services that would be able to assist, visit [Animal Services](#) for more information.
- The [Durham Regional Health Department](#) is responsible for investigating dog bites to humans for the purpose of rabies control and will quarantine the animal in question. Human contact with any warm-blooded animal whether it is domestic or wild, (fox, raccoon, bat, etc.) should be reported immediately to the Health Department at one of the following numbers: Main Office (Whitby): 905.668.7711 or 1.888.777.9613.

Litter and illegal dumping in your community – take action!

All residents and businesses are responsible for properly disposing of waste. Waste on public or private property that is intentionally abandoned is considered illegal dumping. To reduce and prevent illegal dumping, residents are encouraged to take action to help [keep the community clean and safe](#). Below are a few ways you can make a difference.

-
- Residents are reminded to adhere to the City's [Property Standards By-law](#), which sets out the minimum standards for building and property maintenance. The standards described in these by-laws are intended to outline the reasonable maintenance and upkeep of yards, buildings, and properties.
 - Follow all proper waste collection and diversion practices and use the Region's '[Know Before You Throw](#)' tool/app.
 - Do not dump household waste or construction materials in parks or natural areas; dumping can damage and compromise the health of the plants and animals that live there, as well as degrade the water quality of ravines and streams.
 - Do not dump garden waste and/or grass clippings into natural areas; this can harm natural vegetation and spread invasive seeds throughout the forest and valley system.
 - Do not dump cleansers, chemicals, or prescription drugs down drains; they can eventually make their way into local water systems, endangering wildlife, and contaminating drinking water supplies.
 - Use proper [swimming pool management techniques](#). Do not empty pool water into natural areas, as this can destroy vegetation and contaminate water bodies.
 - Take all household hazardous waste to an approved waste recycling facility. For a list of local facilities, visit the [Region of Durham](#).
 - When hiring a waste disposal company, ensure they are reputable and ask where and how they will dispose of the material. Require that they provide documentation and/or a receipt from an authorized disposal site.
 - If you see litter, debris, or illegal dumping, contact the City's [Customer Care Centre](#) at 905.683.7575 or reporting it online.

The natural environment is an integral part of your community, which provides a wide range of recreational activities and important ecological functions. Together, we can help protect these spaces. Click on the [Natural Environment](#) section of the City's website to learn more about keeping these spaces healthy and beautiful.

Responsible Pet Ownership

The City promotes responsible pet ownership by educating the public on animal-related issues and enforcing related by-laws. Information can be found on the City's [Responsible Pet Ownership](#) webpage, including the [Responsible Pet Ownership By-law](#). Below are a few reminders to new residents.

- License your pet. The City requires that all dogs and cats be licensed on an annual basis. By licensing your pet, you increase their chance of being reunited with you should they ever get lost. Visit the [Animal Services](#) Licensing page for more information.
- Dogs must always be on a leash when on public property and should be contained in a secure yard or building when on your property.
- Dogs are not allowed on school grounds, sports fields, playgrounds, and golf courses.

-
- Pets are an important part of the community, but nuisance behaviours like excessive barking can negatively impact your neighbours (and other dogs). As a pet owner, you are responsible for controlling your dog's barking and preventing it from disturbing others.

3. Access to sustainable transportation options

Residents are encouraged to explore the community! Active transportation such as walking, cycling, and running is a sustainable and healthy option to travel.

Residents can help save money and help the environment by:

- Walking or riding a bike to work or school, for more information visit the [Region of Durham Cycling Plan](#) and the [City's Parks and Trails map](#).
- Carpooling to work, the [Smart Commute Durham](#) program provides employees and employers with resources, events, online tools, and action-planning support to encourage workplace travel behaviour change. Need someone to carpool with? Register for an account on the Smart Commute website and find a carpool partner! For more information, go to www.smartcommute.ca.
- Exploring transit options, visit [GO Transit](#) and the [Region of Durham Transit](#) for information.