

# 10 Accelerate innovation



To address the urgent and complex growth and sustainability challenges of the region, TRCA must accelerate the pace of innovation. TRCA must purposefully create the conditions for innovation and continuous improvement and share these innovations with its member municipalities throughout the region to advance shared objectives in sustainability.

## DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Recognition for TRCA and its member municipalities as leaders in sustainability innovation.
2. Staff are supported in piloting innovative ideas to address sustainability challenges, and to help generate optimal results from finite resources.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS ACHIEVED (2013 – 2017)

- Implemented green infrastructure and other innovative techniques across the region to restore waterfronts, valleys, forests and wetlands to protect water resources and ecosystem health.
- Developed advanced models to ensure restoration activities are targeted in the most cost efficient and ecologically important way.
- Implemented new approaches to plant propagation to ensure there are enough trees, shrubs and wetland plants available for TRCA and partner ecological restoration projects.
- Demonstrated innovative partnerships and business models for accelerating sustainability progress in the region, including the Living City Campus, the Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Program and Partners in Project Green.

### PROJECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2018 – 2022)

- Open TRCA's head office by 2022, which will demonstrate innovative green building practices.
- Expand TRCA's fee-for-service consulting work to help address member municipality and partner objectives in a financially sustainable way.
- Continue to host knowledge sharing events such as the TRCA and International Erosion Control Association (TRIECA) Conference.
- Develop user-friendly planning tools that identify how flood risks can be reduced and how ecosystems can be protected and restored, recognizing urban growth and climate change.
- Work closely with member municipalities, academic institutions and private industry to monitor, evaluate, and pilot new innovative technologies in TRCA's work.
- Seek input from TRCA staff and support their efforts to develop innovations that improve program delivery.
- Conduct a staff survey on a regular basis to highlight progress on staff related initiatives and to determine opportunities for continuous improvement.

## MEASURING PERFORMANCE

TRCA will measure its performance internally by tracking new program adoption and expansion, as well as surveying staff to ensure they feel supported in taking innovative approaches to achieve program goals. TRCA will track attendance at forums and symposiums on innovative practices along with the number of TRCA-led and partnership innovations recognized in journals and publications. TRCA will assess its progress using leading innovation indices and environmental performance indicators.