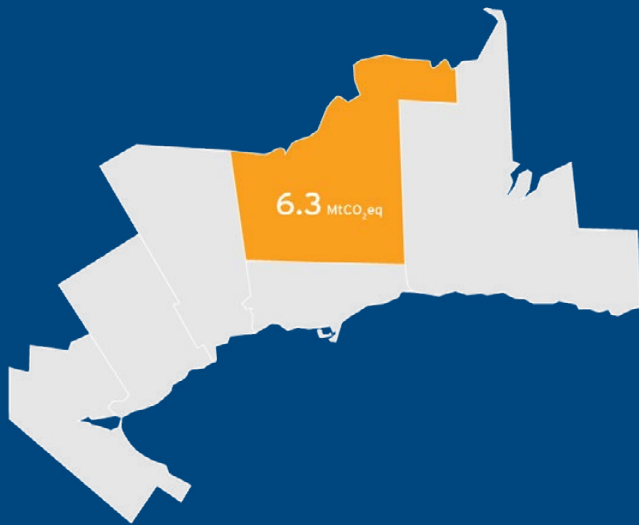


REGIONAL PROFILE

York

The Regional Municipality of York is home to the towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Newmarket, and Whitchurch-Stouffville, as well as the Township of King and the cities of Markham, Richmond Hill, and Vaughan.



Population (2017): 1,124,748

Land area: 1,762 km²

Population Density: 638 people per km²

GTHA emissions: 13 per cent

GTHA population: 16 per cent



York's transportation emissions are among the GTHA's highest

York's emissions from buildings, industry, and waste are among the lowest in the GTHA on a per capita basis. Industry emissions for York are low enough that they do not appear in the region's sectoral breakdown (Figure 13).

In contrast, York's transportation emissions are the highest per capita in the GTHA, tied with Peel. Transportation emissions in York have climbed from 2015 to 2017 and the share of York's overall emissions that come from transportation have also increased from 46 per cent to 50 per cent.

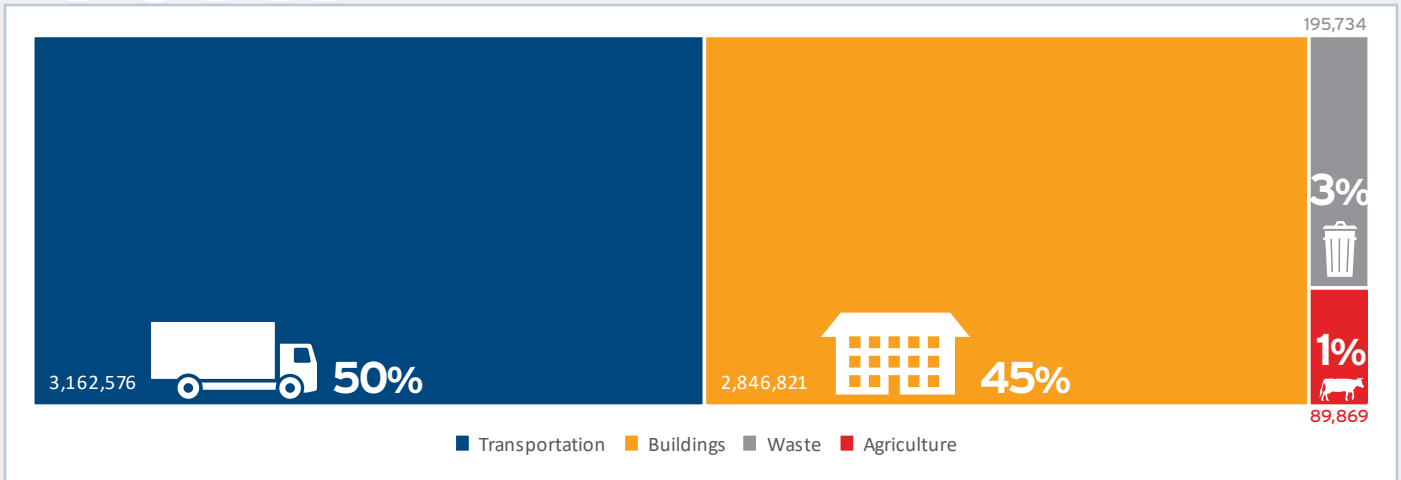


Figure 13: York's 2017 carbon emissions by sector, in tCO₂eq

York's Pathway to Carbon Neutrality

York's population density is below the GTHA average, and only 18 per cent of homes are multi-unit residential buildings. This low density makes the region's high transportation emissions unsurprising. Improving urban planning to reduce commutes and travel times would allow for substantial reductions in transportation emissions.

York has a transportation master plan that seeks to address York's mobility needs through multiple measures. Increasing the connectedness of their public transit system is a priority, ideally including fare integration and improved networking with neighbouring municipalities and regions. Supporting active transportation and non-car options is also a critical part of the plan.

SCALABLE SOLUTION FROM YORK, FOR THE GTHA

Developing Best Practices

The City of Markham is working with Mattamy Homes and Enwave to design the largest net-zero neighbourhood in Ontario. Supported by a TAF grant, the project will create 400 homes that are anchored by a district geothermal heating system.

This Markham neighbourhood will prove the case for geothermal community energy systems across the GTHA. The lessons learned from the project in Markham can be applied elsewhere in the region and beyond to accelerate the uptake of this low-carbon solution.