

# York Environmental Stewardship (YES) Strategic Framework October, 2004. *(as amended March 20, 2008)*

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## **YES Vision Statement**

Landowners and organizations in York Region working together to promote and accomplish the responsible care of land and natural resources for future generations.

## **YES Mission Statement**

York Environmental Stewardship (YES) is committed to the wise use of natural resources and the protection of the environment. YES will work actively with partners and will provide science based support to landowners and to community projects to heighten the awareness of a stewardship ethic and to support sound stewardship practises in York Region. YES will encourage the active participation of area residents and youth.

## **YES Guiding Principles**

The following guiding principles will be considered when planning YES activities:

1. YES will support projects, which are aligned with the Council's vision and mission statements.
2. Projects undertaken will have a positive stewardship impact on land and the environment, will benefit York Region and is compatible with Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Stewardship Priorities/Interests.
3. Projects will be achievable under current legislation and regulations.
4. Project will not duplicate or replace efforts of other community groups, agencies or associations.
5. Completed projects, where appropriate, will display recognition of YES and participating partners either in the form of press release(s), plaques or project material/documentation.
6. Projects will be demonstrative in nature and contribute to educating the public regarding stewardship.
7. Projects will serve as a catalyst for other projects.
8. Projects will have a community involvement component.
9. Projects will encourage and promote participation of students through collaboration with educational institutions and will involve local youth to encourage their role as York Regions citizens and environmental policy makers of the future.
10. Projects will encourage and support agency co-operation and promote partnerships that influence beneficial stewardship practises on private and public lands.
11. Council projects may be initiated and lead by individual members.
12. Projects may involve joint initiatives with neighbouring Stewardship Councils.
13. *Landowner funded projects must be consistent with YES expectations and that participating landowners contribute a cash or in-kind contribution at least equal to the YES financial contribution. (March 20, 2008)*