



Town of Cobourg

Integrated Community Sustainability Plan Green Development Standards Green Energy Retrofits

Draft ICSP Direction / July 2022

Agenda

1. Sprint overview
2. Draft plan direction
3. Feedback



A brief overview of the work since we last spoke!



Part 1

Sprint Overview



What is a strategy sprint?

A multi-day, highly collaborative process that was designed to establish the core elements of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.



Why the strategy sprint?

- It brings together Town administration in the process to truly collaborate and co-create. By gathering the key knowledge-holders and decision-makers together, a more actionable plan emerges.



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- It's actually a lot of fun (we think, anyway).



The sprint process



DAY 1

The Big Picture

Establish vision and goals
Understand the locus of control
Introduce actions



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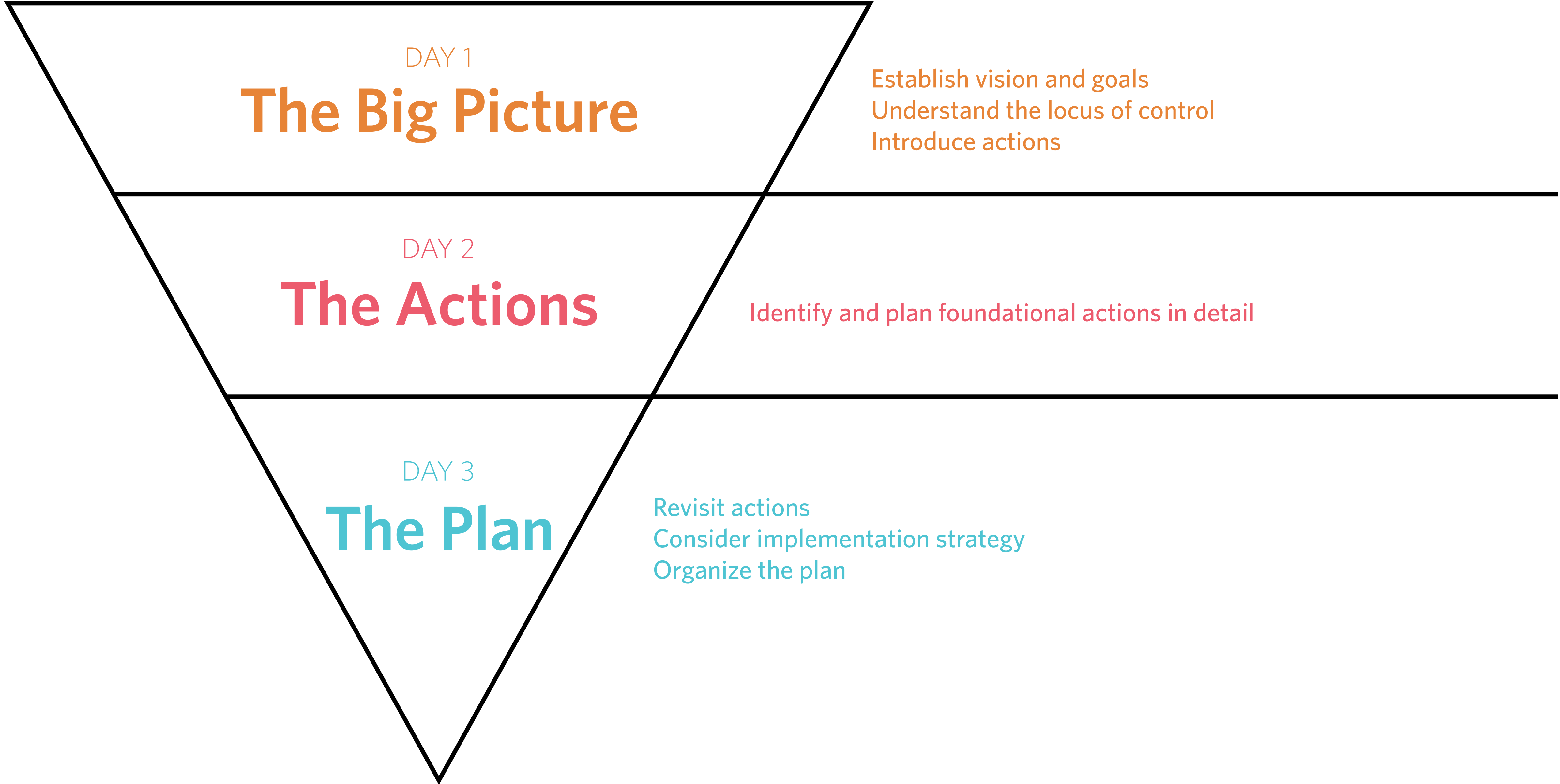
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DAY 2

The Actions

Identify and plan foundational actions in detail





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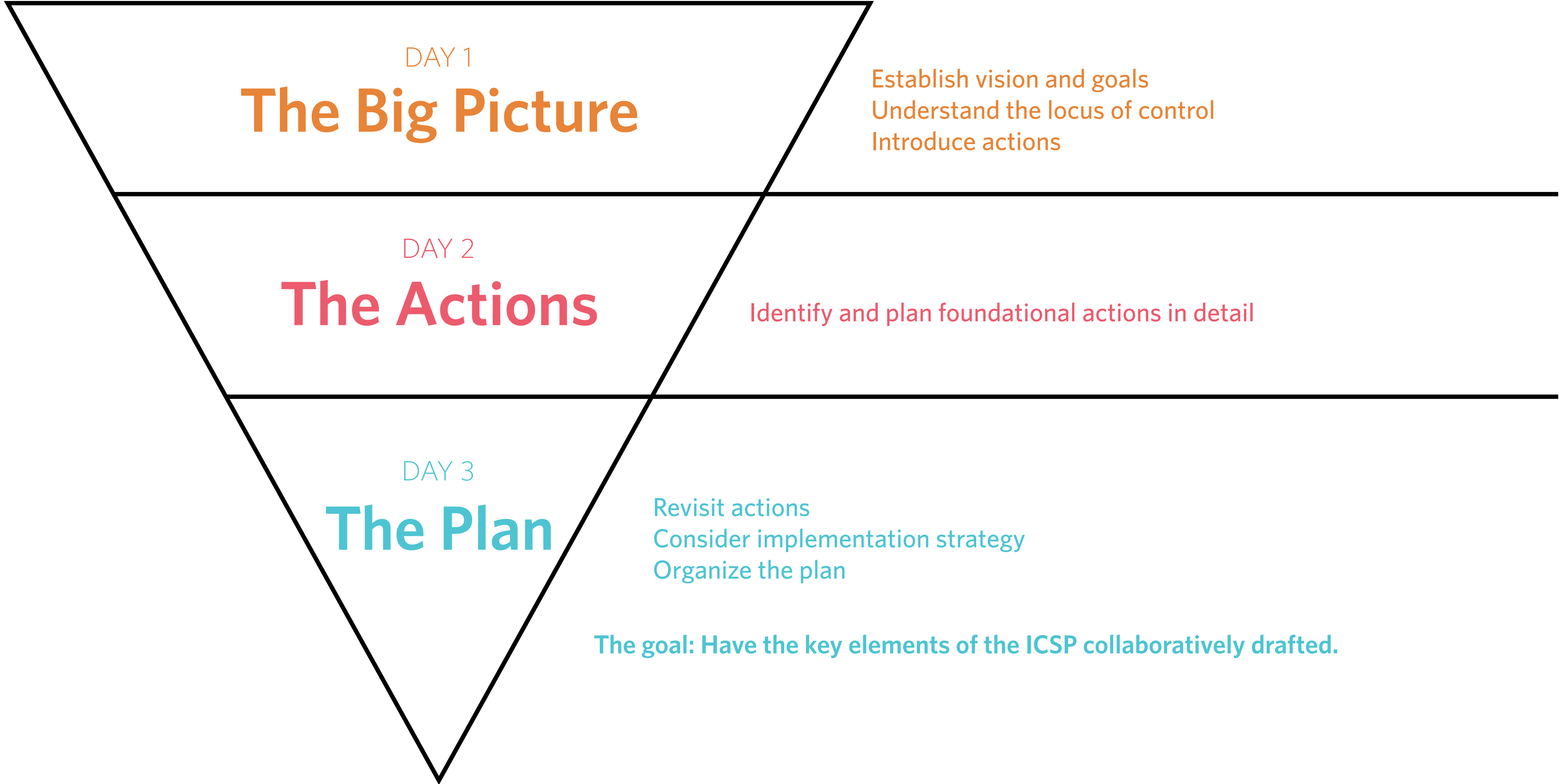
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DAY 3

The Plan

Revisit actions
Consider implementation strategy
Organize the plan





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The goal: Have the key elements of the ICSP collaboratively drafted.

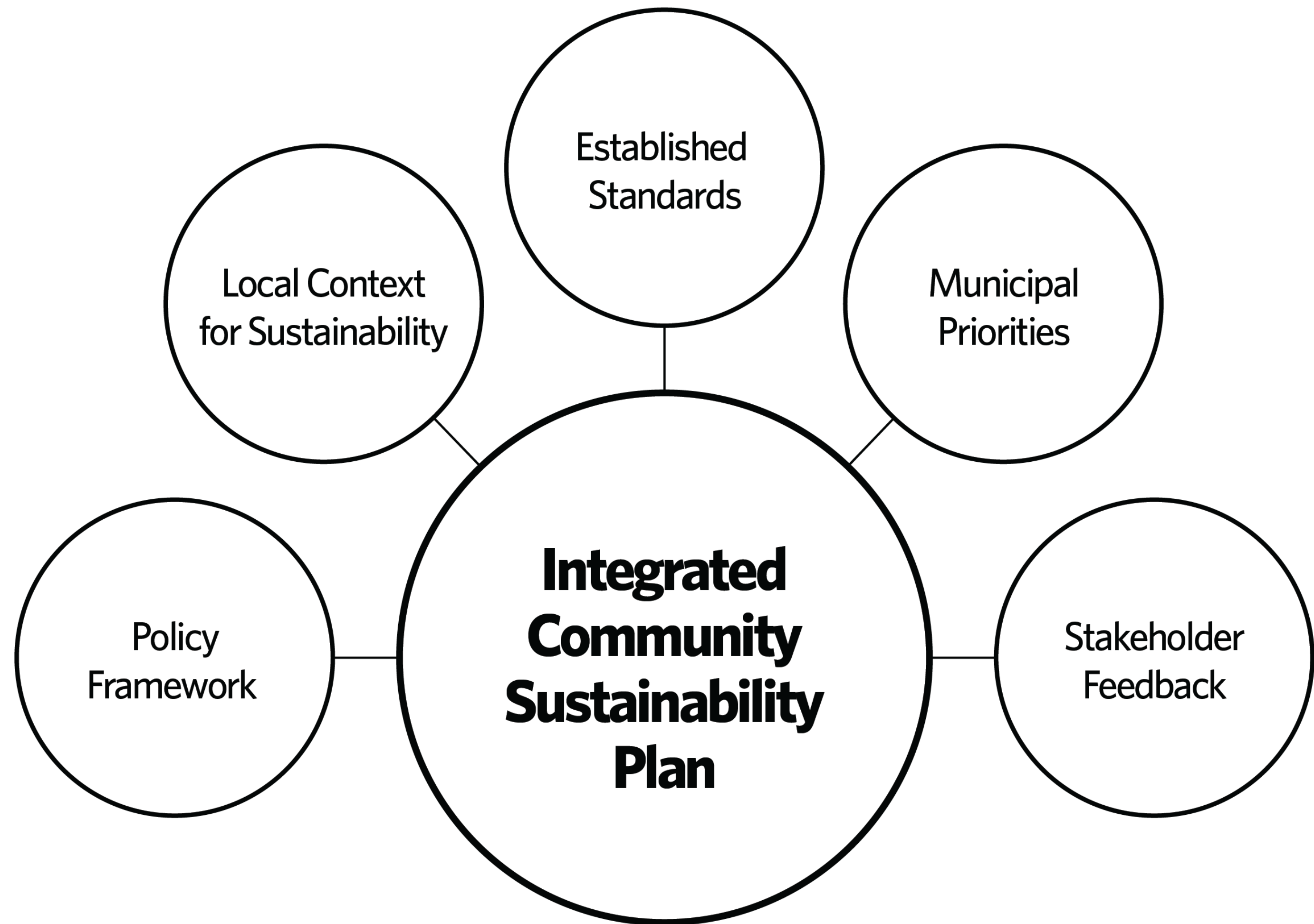


Part 2

Draft plan direction



What informs the planning process?



**What informs the
planning process?**

Clarity

Focus

Priority



A primer on terms

- **Vision:** This statement describes the state of sustainability in Cobourg at a point in the future where a stable state is reached.
- **Dimension of sustainability:** A set of categories that allows the organization of goals, targets and/or indicators, and actions by their relevance to a specific dimension of sustainability.
- **Goals:** These elements – defined as ideal states for different focus areas of sustainability – drive overall progress towards the vision through specific achievement within each of the plan’s focus areas.
- **Actions:** These are the plans, policies, initiatives, infrastructure, and projects that Cobourg will take to realize progress towards the strategic vision; actions are the most tangible and visible results of plan implementation).



A working definition

Sustainability is the process of meeting the needs that we have today, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



trees, greenhouse gases,
water, air

**NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT**

decision-making,
coordination, and
collaboration

GOVERNANCE

buildings, land use,
roads & trails,
waste, energy

**BUILT
ENVIRONMENT**

health, safety, arts, equity,
diversity and inclusion

**SOCIETY &
CULTURE**

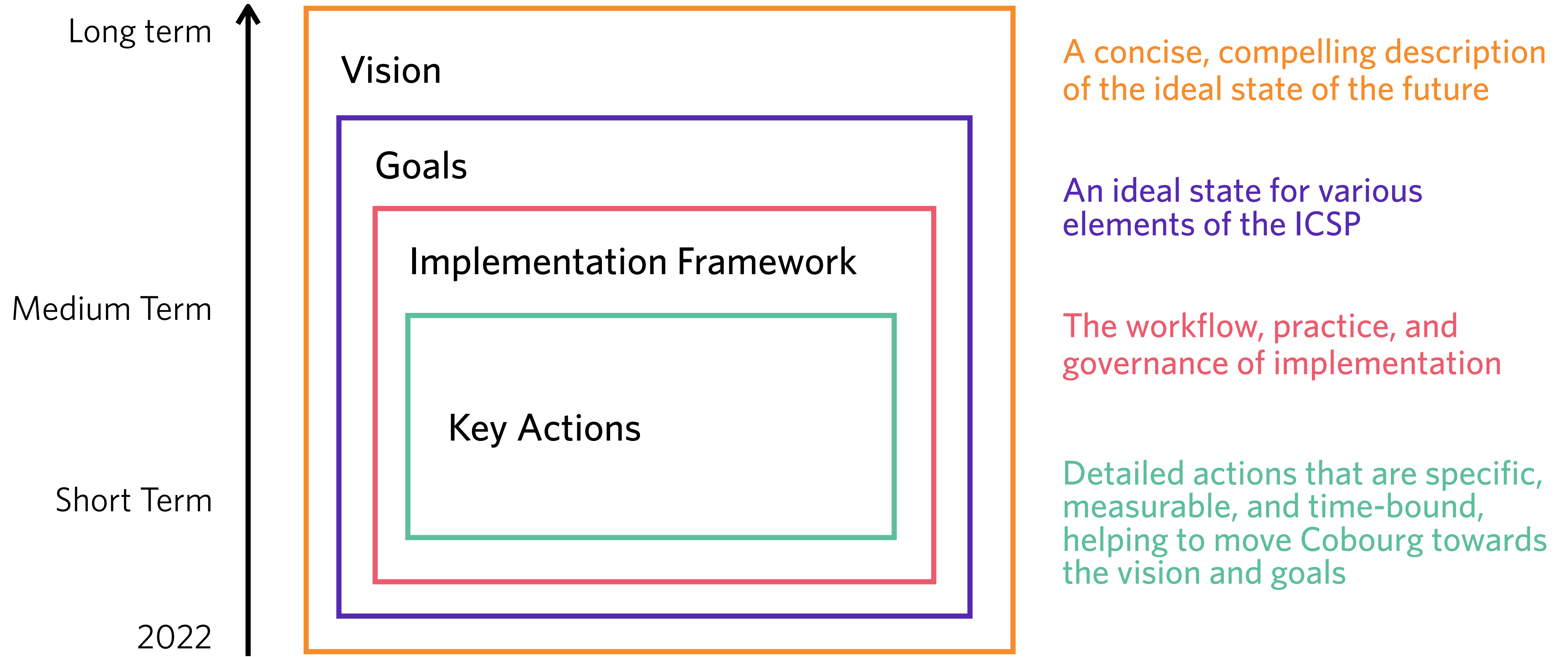
jobs, commerce, cost-of-
living, employment sectors

ECONOMY

DIMENSIONS
OF
SUSTAINABILITY



Time Horizon



A concise, compelling description of the ideal state of the future

An ideal state for various elements of the ICSP

The workflow, practice, and governance of implementation

Detailed actions that are specific, measurable, and time-bound, helping to move Cobourg towards the vision and goals



Vision



Engagement and research input

- Everyone in Cobourg, from resident to municipal employee, has a role to play in living sustainably though no one pillar or action will meet the needs or demand attention from all Cobourgiens
- Sustainable outcomes will be realized through an array of different actions meant to “meet people where they are” in their understanding of sustainability
- Sustainability is a group effort but must be coordinated, managed, and iterated by champions within the community and Town of Cobourg
- Cobourg can and should become a living laboratory for explorations into different sustainable actions, technologies, practices, and programs.



Vision

Sustainability infuses the daily life of Cobourg as a community and the operations of Cobourg as a municipality. Cobourg is a leader in sustainability through its stewardship of a healthy environment for future generations, support for a strong local economy and responsible urban development, and respect for cultural diversity and social and economic equity for all residents.

Sustainability in Cobourg is a consistent practice of adaptation, progress, and collaboration. It is a shared responsibility of all Cobourgians.



Draft goals

By dimension of sustainability



Built environment

Cobourg...

- Supports a connected community using sustainable modes of transport through safe and convenient infrastructure
- Is guided by based on the principles of land conservation, increased community connections, and energy efficiency
- Prioritizes a diverse range of attainable housing forms to support housing equity
- Ensures urban development with environmental and social well-being as a primary focus
- Pursues renewable forms of energy at corporate and community scales to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Ensures the adaptation potential for contemporary builds to support improved energy efficiency in the future
- Ensures universal design is at the forefront of each building design and process
- Integrates low-impact design principles into neighbourhood planning processes
- Supports waste reduction and diversion through circular economic principles



Natural environment

Cobourg...

- Is carbon neutral, and continuously reduces its carbon footprint
- Sustains resilient ecosystems to mitigate the impacts of climate change
- Continuously improves the green space network across the municipality to conserve biodiversity and promote community wellbeing
- Promotes the growth of the local tree canopy
- Protects its unique waterfront environment as an irreplaceable part of its natural heritage
- Supports a network of community-driven urban agriculture projects
- Integrates natural asset management as a fundamental component of its operations and planning



Society and culture

Cobourg...

- Fosters social and cultural resilience against future economic, social, and environmental crises
- Leverages local cultural programs, activities, institutions, and groups to promote all facets of sustainability
- Supports the development of community infrastructure to support accessibility, resilience, and reconciliation
- Promotes and facilitates dialogue and knowledge sharing with the region's Indigenous communities
- Is inclusive of the unique needs and dignity of all genders, races, sexual orientations, abilities, and life stages
- Encourages youth participation and leadership in promoting sustainability



Economy

Cobourg...

- Prioritizes sustainability and local purchasing in the selection of goods and services in private and municipal development
- Promotes local economic development, with emphasis on downtown Cobourg and sustainable business incubation
- Supports a diverse and stable workforce through a range of career opportunities from entry-level to leadership positions
- Mobilizes sustainable development to attract investment opportunities and grow talent as a economic hub within the Greater Golden Horseshoe
- Is an affordable place to people across the income spectrum



Governance

Cobourg...

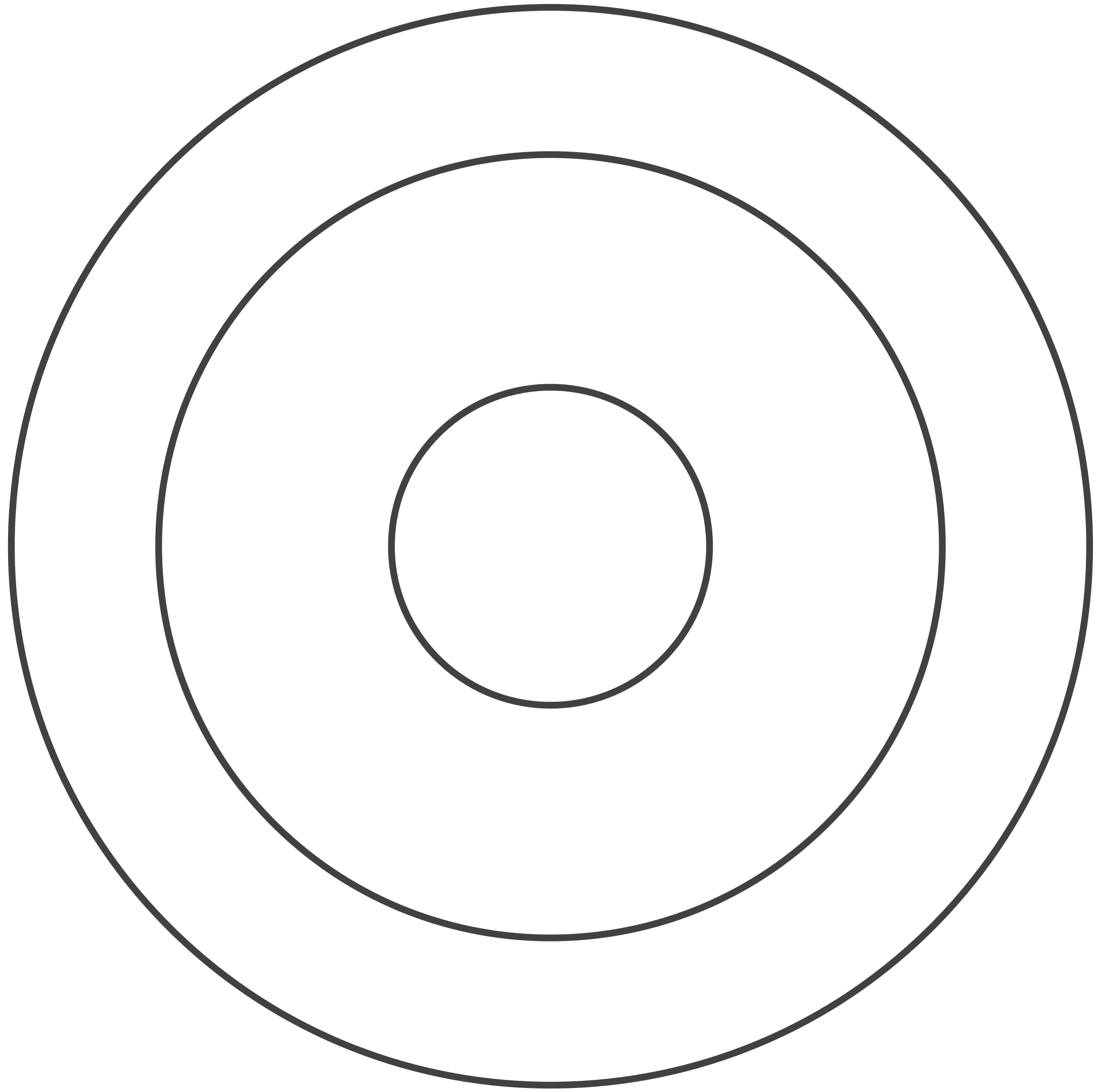
- Coordinates and prioritizes sustainable outcomes through a clear, collaborative, and transparent implementation process
- Is supported by an adaptive and clear framework of policies, programs, and service delivery that advances sustainability at the local level
- Celebrates milestones and highlights local champions to support positive outcomes and community collaboration towards sustainability
- Honours the knowledge, experience, and contributions of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations as traditional stewards of the land in advancing local and regional sustainability
- Promotes partnerships, shared responsibility, and collaboration between the Town, community organizations, neighbours, and local industry
- Provides accessible and collaborative opportunities for the community to participate in engagement processes and support sustainability
- Works with regional partners, industry, educators, and advocates to promote good governance, knowledge-sharing, and broader impact across the dimensions of sustainability in Northumberland County
- Advocates for sustainable corporate and community initiatives through collaboration with other levels of government and sustainability-focused organizations
- Supports Town staff through training and professional development opportunities in sustainability
- Ensures there are adequate financial, time and human resources to support
- Ensures financial decision-making recognize lifecycle costs

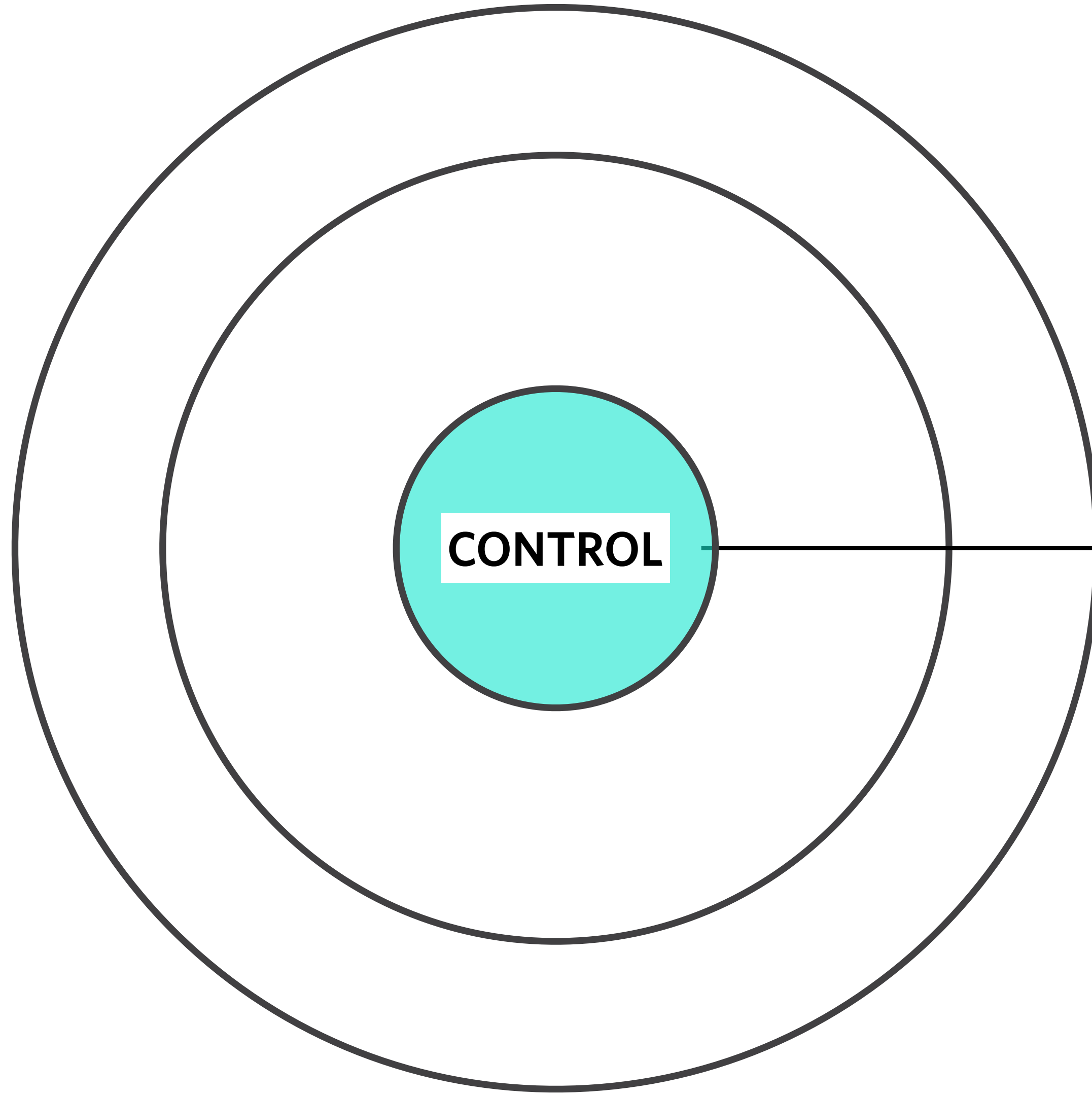


Draft actions

For the first round of implementation, 2023 - 2027



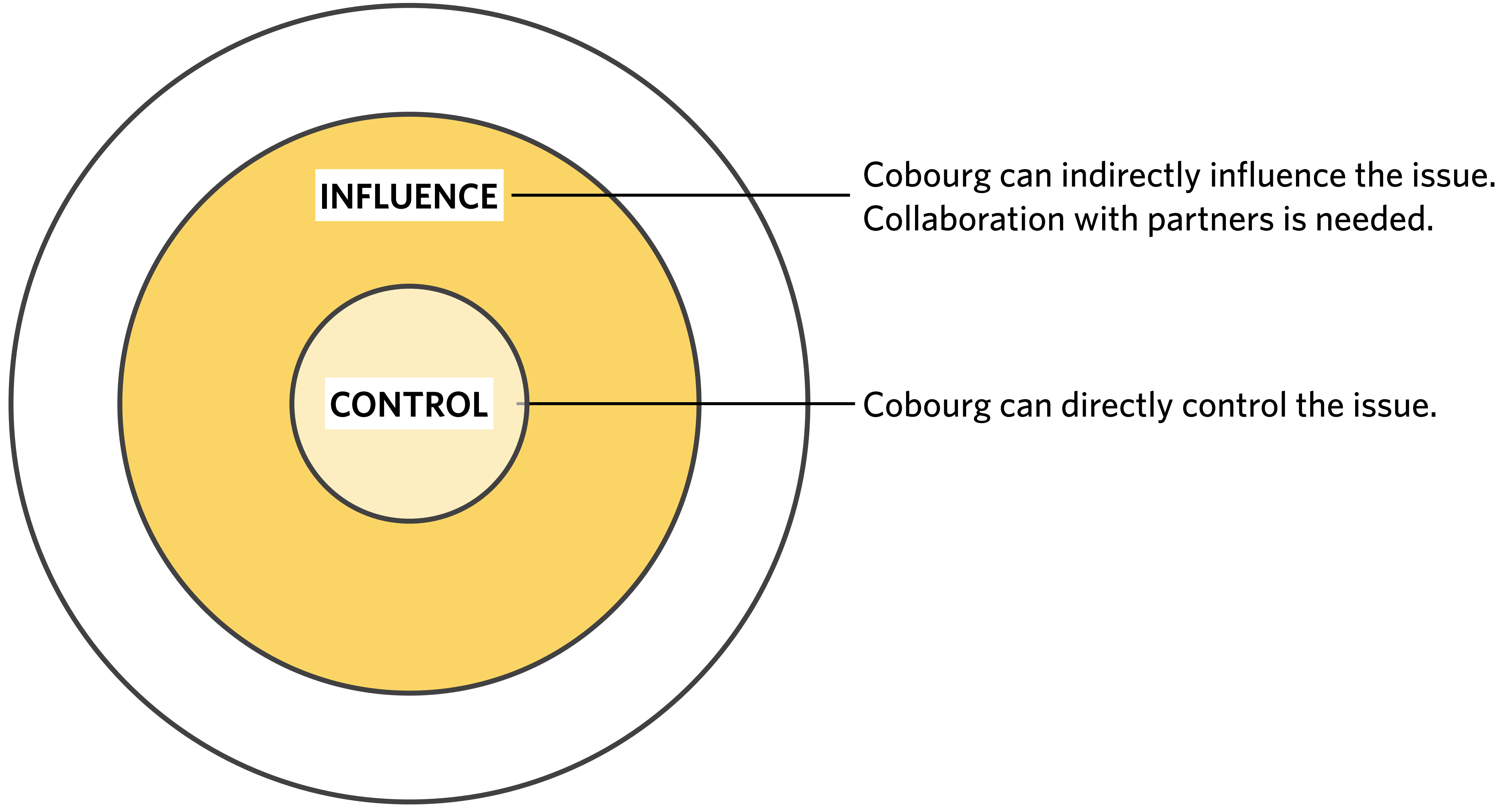


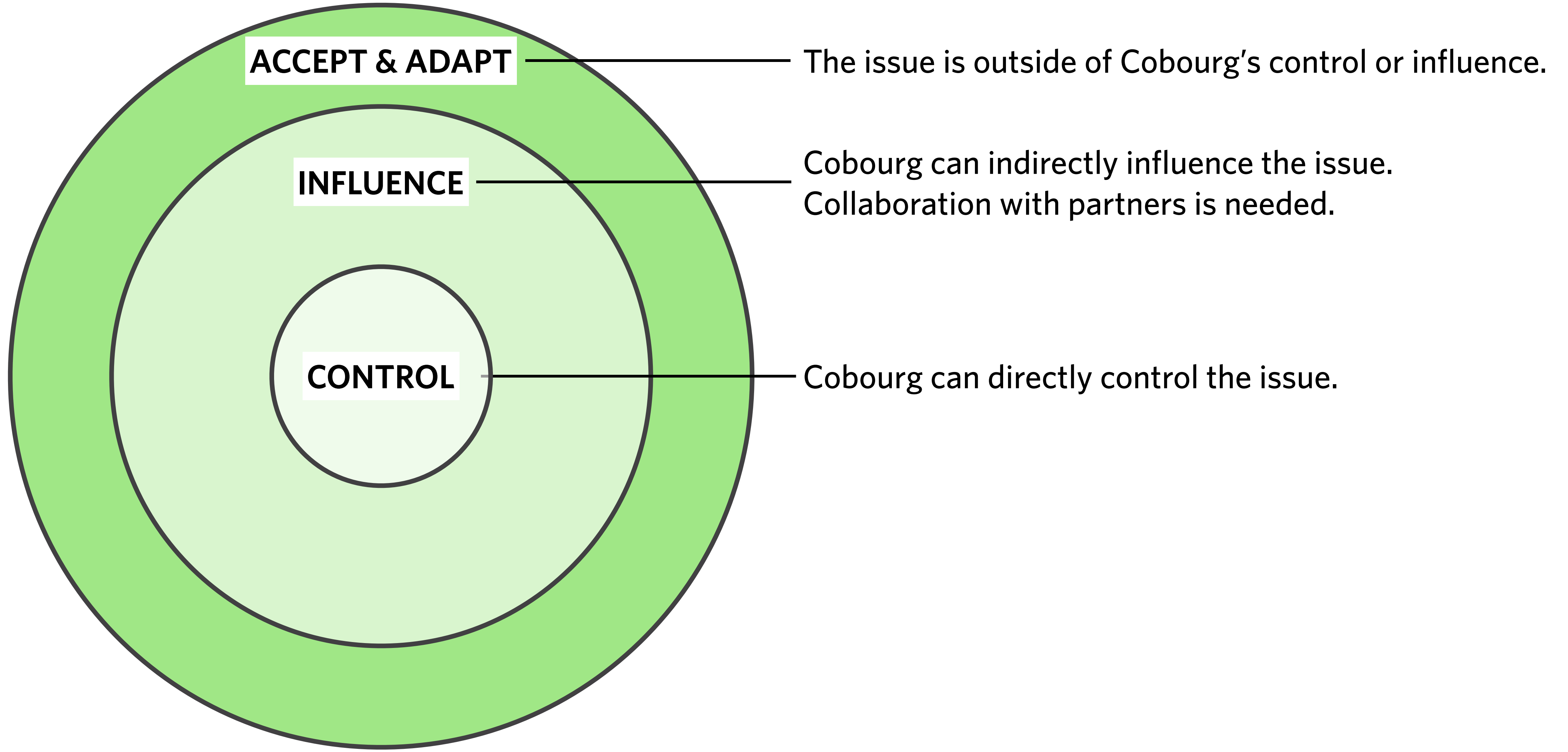


CONTROL

Cobourg can directly control the issue



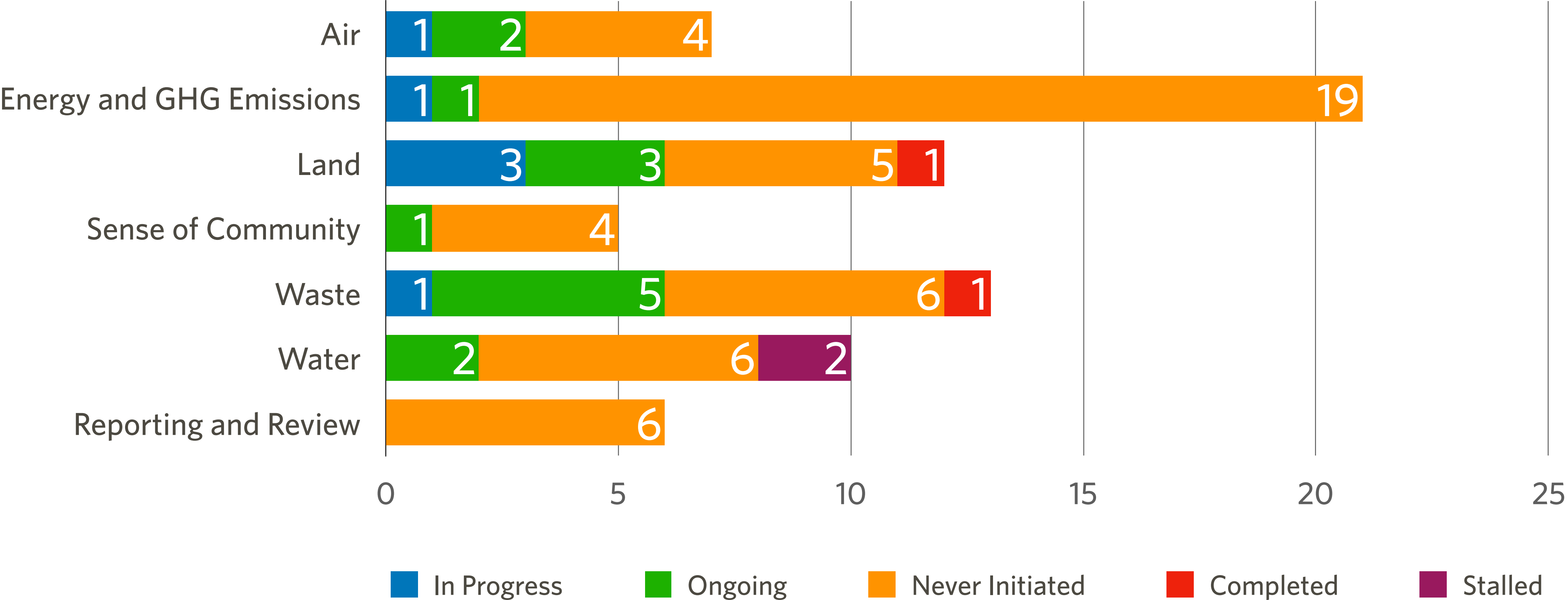




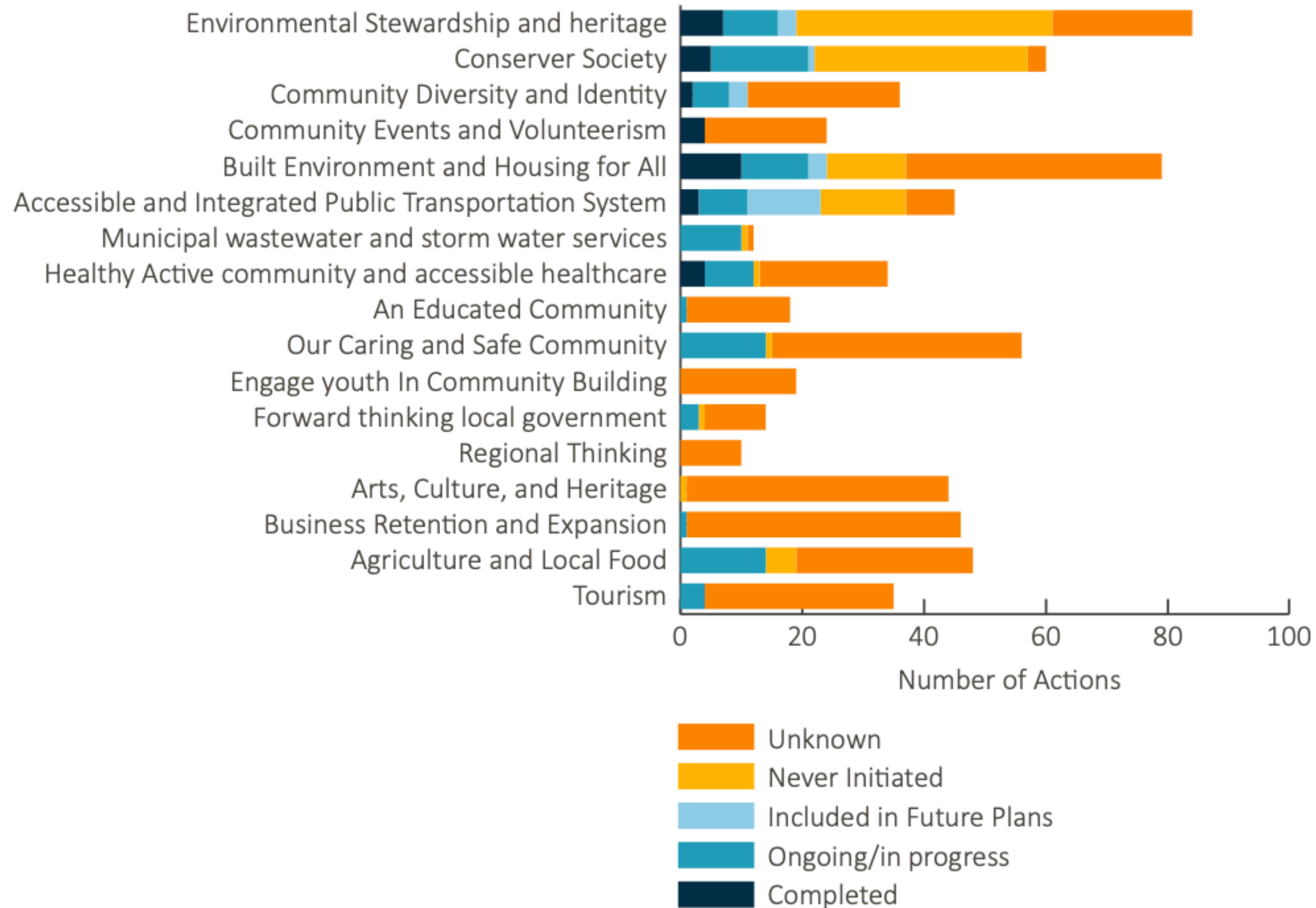
We intend that the actions be focused.



Example: 2013 EMP Implementation (74 actions; 2 completed)



Example: 2009 ICSP Implementation (667 actions; 35 completed)



Action contents

- Description of the action, written in a way clearly understood
- Key steps in the process and timeline
- Estimated resources required
- Role of the municipality
- Action 'owner'
- Supporting actors
- Community involvement
- Measure of success
- Identification of metric(s) that express progress on the action.
- How do we know when this action is done?
- Plans and policies
- Existing direction in plans and policies or connections to emerging plans



A hypothetical example:

Create a monitoring and measurement framework

Action Name

The sustainability monitoring and measurement framework will establish the basis for decision-making rooted in sustainability by ensuring indicator data associated with each of the focus areas are measured, monitored, and collected over time. The framework will resolve gaps in data collection by establishing new measurement programs and will ensure the resulting data is made available to both Town staff and the larger community through an open data-sharing agreement.

Description

Intended outcome: The measurement and monitoring framework established, allowing for more efficient integration of sustainability-related data into municipal decision-making processes and input into performance targets suitable to Cobourg's local context.

1. Identify municipal data availability and gaps
2. Create open sustainability data repository using available data
3. Commission further data collection and integrate into data repository to fill identified gaps

Key Steps



Principles informing the actions

- Focus on the first five years
- Build momentum towards sustainable outcomes that achieve impact across each dimension of sustainability
- Leverage existing or emerging initiatives within the Town and community
- Be realistic about available resourcing



Preliminary actions

#	Action	Engagement	Related to current initiative	Environmental Scan
1	Resource and staff Sustainability Coordinator position	✓		✓
2	Develop urban agriculture strategy	✓		✓
3	Develop networked active transportation infrastructure on key routes (trail and street in Cobourg)	✓	✓	✓
4	Audit municipal infrastructure to identify GHG use and develop retrofit strategies in response	✓	✓	
5	Conduct natural asset management inventory and incorporate into asset management process	✓		✓
6	Develop municipal fleet electrification strategy	✓	✓	✓



Preliminary actions, continued

#	Action	Engagement	Related to current initiative	Environmental Scan
7	Initiate Ontario municipal energy plan process		✓	✓
8	Develop a working group with regional educational institutions, industry groups, and labour unions to support sustainable building practices	✓	✓	✓
9	Develop land acquisition strategy to support the growth and maintenance of a parkland network	✓		✓
10	Work with Northumberland County to support waste diversion in multi-family buildings and municipal facilities	✓		
11	Develop sustainable procurement policy for Town vendors and partners			✓
12	Support naturalization on private lands through public education campaign	✓		✓



Preliminary actions, continued

#	Action	Engagement	Related to current initiative	Environmental Scan
13	Continue “program design” for FCM community energy financing, with goal to develop residential green retrofit program	✓	✓	
14	Require construction waste management plans for development projects	✓		✓
15	Provide “community benefit” provisions for developers maintaining a proportion of dwelling units within a development as affordable or attainable	✓		
16	Develop an Accessibility & EDI strategy	✓	✓	✓
17	Create decision-making and reporting structures to support ICSP implementation	✓		✓
18	Host annual sustainability summit / ideas fair	✓		✓
19	Develop and implement a “Sustainability Ambassadors” public engagement and outreach campaign to support sustainability and partnership development in Cobourg	✓		



Implementation Framework

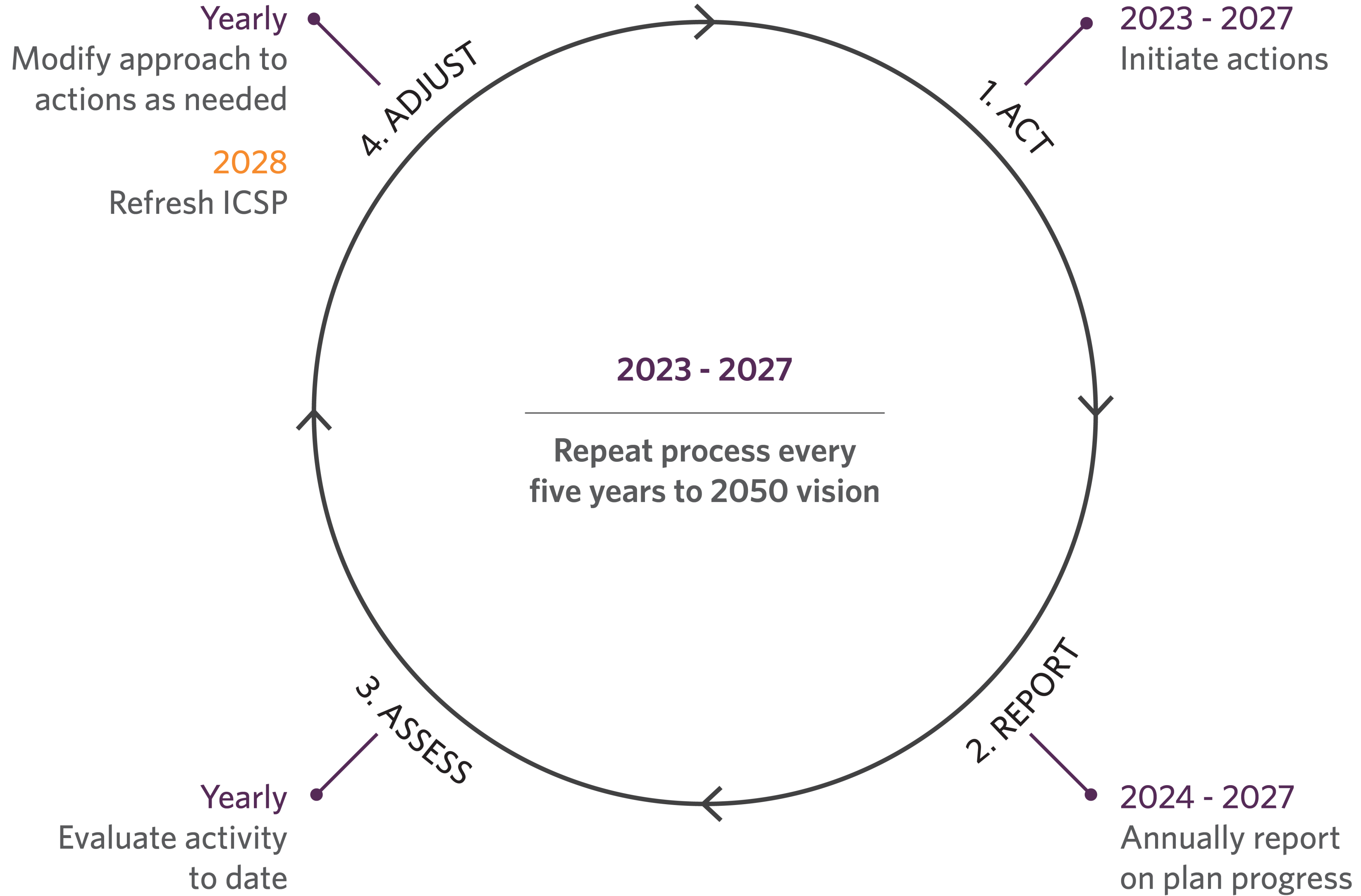
How will the plan be realized?



Considerations for implementation

- Be clear on timelines, responsibilities and resources
- Facilitate cross-departmental collaboration
- Support community champions
- Be “planfully opportunistic”
- Measure, monitor, and adapt where possible





Path forward

A refresher



Path forward

- Summer 2022: Preview of emerging plan direction
- August - September 2022: Plan drafting and alignment
- October 2022: Circulation of plan for review
- November 2022: Public review of draft plan



Priorities for plan drafting

- Get in-depth on timelines and resources to ensure the plan is realistic
- Ensure connection and alignment with other Town initiatives
- Align where possible with ongoing GDS and GER work



Part 3

Feedback



Guiding Questions

- Is there anything present in the draft ICSP direction that is a “showstopper” for Council?
- Is there anything missing that should be factored into the plan drafting phase?
- What would be your big priority for sustainable action in Cobourg?



Thanks very much!

