



## Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **City Celebrates Earth Day with Launch of 2024 Sustainability Grants and Tree Voucher Program**

Have a cool and creative idea to make Vernon a more sustainable place to live? Passionate about helping our community reduce emissions or prepare for the impacts of climate change? The City of Vernon has programs to help you activate change!

This Earth Day, the City is launching the 2024 Sustainability Grants and Tree Voucher programs. These programs work towards getting Vernon residents engaged in sustainable neighbourhood actions that can make a real difference.

“There has never been a more important time to take action at a local level in order to foster a more sustainable way of life,” said Mayor Victor Cumming. “These two programs that are being offered by the City will provide excellent opportunities for our citizens to connect with one another, take small easy steps forward, and possibly establish new, home-grown sustainability initiatives from the ground up.”

#### **Sustainability Grants Program**

The Sustainability Grants Program encourages participation in actions that promote environmental and community resiliency. For 2024, the Sustainability Grants program will include separate spring and fall application periods. Grants up to \$2,000 will be available to encourage sustainability projects led by Vernon residents, youth, non-profit organizations, and community groups.

For information on this program and how to apply, visit [vernon.ca/sustainability-grants](https://www.vernon.ca/sustainability-grants). Deadline to apply is June 15.

#### **Tree Voucher Program**

Want to create more shade, habitat, and beauty in your yard? The City's Tree Voucher program allows Vernon households to receive a \$25 voucher toward the purchase of a shade tree to plant in their own yard. Vouchers may be used to purchase trees at Nicholas Alexander Home & Garden Centre or Swan Lake Market & Garden.

"We are encouraging residents to plant trees," said Kevin McCarty, Specialist, Climate Action  
"Trees can help offer energy cost savings by providing shade, reduce sound and dust pollution to your property, and reduce the impacts of stormwater on flood events – all while enhancing the value of your property".

For more information and to apply for your voucher, go to [vernon.ca/treevoucher](https://www.vernon.ca/treevoucher). Please note, vouchers are limited.