



Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation

**TOOL FOR COSTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY
PLANNING: USER GUIDE**

DRAFT

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is the Tool for Costing Sustainable Community Planning?

There has been much debate in recent years about the costs of development, both in terms of the true costs of different development forms as well how the costs of development are shared between the public, the private sector and the environment. There is mounting evidence that more compact, mixed-use development is a more cost-efficient and environmentally sustainable form of development than low-density suburban development. However, there are very few readily available tools to demonstrate the degree to which this is true, or to effectively compare different types of development.

The Tool for Costing Sustainable Community Planning (henceforth, “The Tool”) was created to allow a user to estimate the major costs of community development, particularly those that change with different forms of development (e.g., linear infrastructure), and to compare alternative development scenarios. The Tool is geared towards estimating “planning-level” costs and revenues associated with the residential component of a development, although financial impacts of commercial and other types of development can be incorporated provided that infrastructure requirements are specified correctly.

The Tool is well suited to assessing development projects ranging in size from a collection of houses, to a block-by-block infill development, to an entire subdivision. A good measure of the applicability of the Tool to a given project is whether or not alternatives can be conceived that would result in significantly different densities or infrastructure requirements, or make use of different green infrastructure alternatives.

The Tool includes costing variables to allow the user to estimate costs for the following major categories:

- **Hard Infrastructure**, including roads, sewers, stormwater facilities, schools and recreation centres;
- **Municipal Services**, including transit services, school transit, fire services, police services and waste management services;
- **Private User Costs**, including driving costs and home heating costs;
- **External Costs**, including air pollution, climate change and motor vehicle collisions; and
- **Green Infrastructure** alternatives.

Revenues from development charges, property taxes, and user fees are also estimated. Users can easily estimate and compare costs and revenues among a variety of development scenarios. This tool allows users to consider the **lifecycle costs** of development, which are calculated over a **75-year** time horizon. Lifecycle costs include initial capital, annual operating, and replacement costs.

CMHC and the Tool Developers assume no responsibility for the use of this Tool or any changes made by users.

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1.2 How Does this User Guide Work?

This User Guide provides guidance on all aspects of Tool operation from installation, to development of scenarios, to outputting results, to viewing internal calculations, and conducting further analysis. The Guide can be read from “cover to cover” or can be referred to as necessary as specific questions arise. The purpose of this guide is not to provide detailed information on the assumptions and sources used in the development of default unit costs or built-in development scenarios. Further documentation, to be included in later versions of the Tool will include this detailed information.

The User Guide is structured into the following sections:

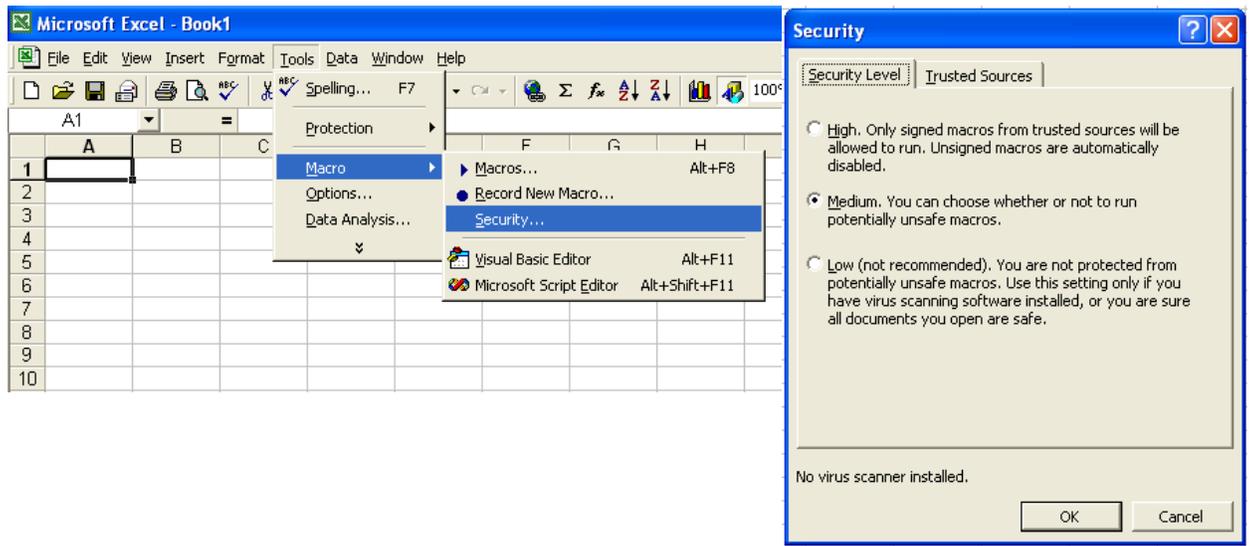
- Installing and opening the Tool
- Tool basics: structure and navigation
- Understanding scenarios
- Specifying costing variables
- Specifying revenue variables
- Entering development characteristics
- Specifying allocation of costs
- Exploring and incorporating green infrastructure alternatives
- Entering Cost Savings
- Adding user-defined costs and revenues
- Viewing results
- Further analysis

2. INSTALLING AND OPENING THE TOOL

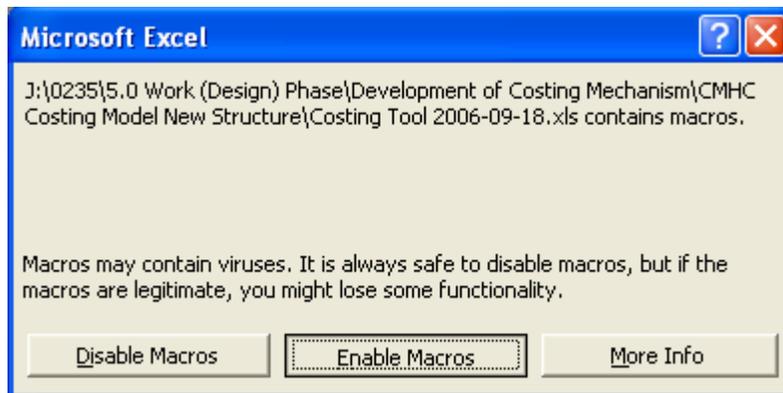
The Tool is developed in Microsoft Excel™, a software application familiar to most of its users, and is thus expected to be simple to install, open, and operate. To install and launch the Tool, follow the steps below:

1. Ensure Microsoft Excel™ is installed on your computer.
2. Save a copy of Tool to the desired location on your computer as well as a backup copy.
3. Open Microsoft Excel™ and set the Macro Security Level to “Medium” or “Low” (Tools>>Macro>>Security). **If the Macro Security Level is “High”, the Tool will not run properly.**

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4. Run the Tool file. If you are prompted regarding the security of macros in the file, select “Enable Macros”. The Main Menu of the Tool will then display.



3. TOOL BASICS

3.1 Structure

The Tool is based on a step-by-step process consisting of up to nine steps as detailed in the main menu (see figure below). At a minimum, users must select or enter a new scenario (Step 1) and review or modify the development characteristics (Step 4). Users also have the option of changing assumptions on unit costs (Step 2), revenue variables (Step 3) and the allocation of costs (Step 5). Additionally, the Tool provides the flexibility to incorporate the costs of green infrastructure alternatives (Step 6) and user defined costs (Step 7). Step 8 provides the ability to account for in place infrastructure and resulting cost savings. Finally, Step 9 presents the results in various output formats.

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MAIN MENU



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This tool is intended to help users explore and compare the costs of different forms of development, and community planning alternatives that can help contribute to more sustainable development. The tool is capable of providing planning-level cost and revenue estimates only and should not be used as a substitute for detailed costing analyses. While all attempts have been made to develop reasonable cost and revenue estimates, CMHC assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the results of this tool. Community development costs can vary considerably by location and individual development.

For Instructions and Definition of Terms
[click here](#)

Current Scenario: Outer Suburbs / Medium Density ☞ To view a different scenario click on "Create / Modify / View or Delete Scenarios", and follow the steps

1. Create/Modify/View or Delete Scenarios	☞ This module allows users to choose from six default scenarios or begin a new scenario. REQUIRED STEP.
2. Specify Costing Variables	☞ This module specifies the unit costs for all variables, as well as related costing parameters.
3. Specify Revenue Variables	☞ This module inputs revenue information such as property tax rates and development charges
4. Enter Development Scenario Characteristics	☞ This module specifies the characteristics of the scenario including development densities, length of roads, sewers, etc. REQUIRED STEP
5. Specify Allocation of Costs and Revenues	☞ This module allows users to allocate costs and revenues between developers, the municipality and users.
6. Explore Green Infrastructure Alternatives	☞ This module explores the cost impacts of green infrastructure alternatives and provides the option for these costs to be included in the total development costs.
7. User Defined Costs and Revenues	☞ This is an optional step where users can input costs or revenues that are not considered in the basic tool.
8. Cost Savings	☞ This module enables users to discount costs to account for infrastructure that may already be in place.
9. View Results	☞ This module illustrates results in several ways and allows users to compare up to three different scenarios.

3.2 Navigation

Navigation through the nine steps is facilitated by the Main Menu. After completing a step, users can simply select the button at the top right of each screen to go back to the Main Menu and proceed to the next step, review previous steps, or proceed to the results. In each of the steps that change input, users have the option to Save Changes to the input or revert to saved values for the current scenario, using the Revert Changes button at the top of each step. **Users are not permitted to change parameters for built-in scenarios.** If users exit a step without saving changes, values are replaced with the most recent saved values upon returning to the Main Menu. Note that in the Draft Tool Green Infrastructure Alternatives are not saved together with the scenarios and only the most recent green infrastructure inputs are saved upon saving the Excel spreadsheet.

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Step 3: Revenue Variables

Save Changes

Revert Changes

Main Menu

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DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

Development charges are sometimes applied at the time of construction on a unit basis.

Development charges are intended to help pay for the cost of new infrastructure to serve development

Development charges vary by municipality

	(\$/unit)	
Single Detached	\$ 9,000	ⓘ These charges would include local and Regional development charges (where applicable). Note that some municipalities apply reduced charges in certain zones (e.g. central areas)
Semi-Detached	\$ 9,000	
Rowhouse/Townhouse/Duplex	\$ 7,000	
LowRise	\$ 5,000	
HighRise	\$ 5,000	

After completing a step, using the buttons at the top right of each screen, users can Save Changes or Revert Changes to previously saved values, and then go back to the Main Menu.

A number of visual queues are provided within the Tool to assist users:

- Provides specific information on the input assumptions, type of data to be entered, or cautionary notes.
- Provides reference to additional resources.
- Yellow

 Denotes cells that can be changed by users.
- Grey

 Denotes cells that may be changed, but caution is advised since values represent common accepted values

4. UNDERSTANDING SCENARIOS

A scenario represents a unique combination of both development characteristics and costing variables and is the basic structure used for evaluation and comparison. The first step in the Main Menu is to Create/Modify/View or Delete Scenarios.

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Step 1: Create / Modify / View Scenarios DONE

SELECT SCENARIO

Choose the scenario that best reflects the characteristics of the development scenario you wish to explore.
 See below for a brief description of each of the six built-in scenarios

Name / Description	Scenario #	
Outer Suburbs / Medium Density	<input type="text"/>	<p><i>The scenario establishes a starting point for development parameters. The parameters of this scenario can be modified in subsequent steps. Scenarios 1 to 6 must be saved under a NEW name before they can be modified. To simply view the results of a default scenario, click done above</i></p>

If you want to modify the scenario under a NEW name, enter the new name

NEW Name / Description

Creates a copy of the scenario selected. This step is mandatory if the user wants to modify scenarios 1 to 6.

If you want to delete the scenario selected above, click on Delete Scenario

Deletes the scenario selected. Scenarios 1 to 6 cannot be deleted.

4.1 Choosing a Scenario

The Tool contains six built-in scenarios ranging from High-Density, Mixed-Use in the Inner area to Low-Density, Residential in the Outer Area as described below. These scenarios are provided to help users learn how to use the Tool, illustrate a range of possible inputs, and provide a basis for user-defined scenarios. Note that costing and revenue variables are consistent across the build-in scenarios.

To choose one of the built-in scenarios, simply select one from the appropriate drop-down menu in the Step 1 screen. The scenario displayed in this field is always the active scenario. Select the “Done” button in the upper right of the screen, which will return you to the Main Menu. The scenario’s costing, revenue, development, and other characteristics can then be viewed by selecting the appropriate button in the main menu.

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DEFAULT BUILT-IN SCENARIOS - DESCRIPTION

 <p>Scenario 1</p> <p><u>Higher Density Mixed Use Neighbourhood in the Inner Area</u> characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primarily low rise and high rise apartments - Mixed-use development - Grid road network - High level of transit service 	 <p>Scenario 2</p> <p><u>Medium Density Neighbourhood in the Inner Area</u> characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mix of townhouses, apartments and single-detached housing - Mixed-use development - High level of transit service - Possible brownfield development 	 <p>Scenario 3</p> <p><u>Medium Density Neighbourhood in Inner Suburbs</u> characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mix of townhouses, low rise apts and single-detached housing - Mixed-use development - Mainly Grid road network - Good level of transit service
 <p>Scenario 4</p> <p><u>Low Density neighbourhood in Inner Suburbs</u> characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primarily single detached with some semi-detached/townhouses - Primarily single-use (residential) development - Curvilinear road network - Moderate transit service 	 <p>Scenario 5</p> <p><u>Medium Density Neighbourhood in Outer Suburbs</u> characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mix of townhouses, low rise apts and single-detached housing - Mixed-use development - Mainly Grid road network - Good transit service 	 <p>Scenario 6</p> <p><u>Low Density neighbourhood in Outer Suburbs</u> characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primarily single detached housing - Primarily single-use (residential) development - Curvilinear road network - Low levels of transit service

4.2 Creating a New Scenario

New scenarios are created as modifiable copies of existing user-defined or built-in scenarios. To create a new scenario, navigate to the Step 1 screen and proceed to:

1. Using the drop down box, choose the existing scenario that best defined the characteristics of the development you want to explore.
2. In the second field, enter the name for the new scenario.
3. Select the button, “Save New Scenario” (to do this, you will first need to select an empty cell away from the field in which you entered the scenario name). The new scenario automatically becomes the active scenario.
4. To make modifications to your new scenario, select the “Done” button in the upper right of the screen, which will return you to the Main Menu, and proceed to appropriate screens.

There is no limit to the number of new scenarios that can be completed. However, in order to keep the file size manageable, it is recommended not to create more than 15 new scenarios in the same file. Additional scenarios can be created by saving the spreadsheet Tool as a new file.

4.3 Deleting a Scenario

To delete a scenario, navigate to the Step 1 screen and proceed to:

1. Using the drop down box, choose the scenario that you want to delete. **Built-in scenarios cannot be deleted.**

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2. Select the “Delete Scenario” button select “Yes” in response to the deletion confirmation question.

5. SPECIFYING COSTING VARIABLES

Step 2, “Specify Costing Variables” allows the user to modify the unit cost assumptions related to hard infrastructure, municipal services, private costs, and external costs. The user can also modify the interest rate for amortizing capital costs and set capital and operating cost escalation factors to account for geographic, climatic or other unique circumstances.

Details about each specific cost are provided in the Tool using the  symbol. As discussed above, all yellow cells denote cells that can be changed by the user. Grey cells denote cells that may be changed, but caution is advised, since the values represent commonly accepted levels.

After completing this step, select the button at the top right of the screen to go back to the Main Menu and proceed to the next step, review previous steps, or proceed to the results. If you change any costing variables, you can select the button to “Save Changes” to the input or revert to save values for the current scenario, using the “Revert Changes” button at the top right of the screen. If you exit a step without saving changes, values are replaced with the most recent saved values upon returning to the Main Menu.

All costing variables are summarized in the table below.

Category	Cost Type	Variable	Unit
General Cost Assumptions	Interest Rate for Amortizing Capital Costs		%
	Cost Escalation Factor	Capital Cost Factor	-
		Operating Cost Factor	-
Hard Infrastructure	Roads and Local Municipal Services – Capital Costs	Basic Roadworks (7 Roadway Types)	\$/m
		Sidewalks	\$/m
		Local Water Distribution	\$/m
		Local Sanitary Sewers	\$/m
		Local Storm Sewers	\$/m
	Regional Municipal Services – Capital Costs	Water Distribution	\$/m of trunk pipe
		Sanitary Sewer	\$/m of trunk pipe
		Storm Sewer	\$/m of trunk pipe
	Local Storm Water Management – Capital Costs	Retention Pond	\$/gross ha
	Road - Operating Costs	Local Roads	\$/m
		Collector Roads	\$/m
		Arterial Roads	\$/m
	Water Treatment and Distribution - Operating Costs	Traditional Suburban Development	\$/household
		Medium Density Development	\$/household
		Higher Density Development	\$/household
	Wastewater Treatment – Operating Costs		\$/household
	Sanitary and Storm Sewers – Operating Costs		\$/m of trunk pipe
Schools	Capital Costs	\$/student	
	Operating Costs	\$/student	
	School Bus Capital Costs	\$/student	
Recreational Facilities	Capital Costs	\$/household	
	Operating Costs	\$/household	

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Category	Cost Type	Variable	Unit
Municipal Services	Transit	Capital Costs	\$/bus
		Operating Costs	\$/vehicle service hour
	Fire Protection	Capital Costs	\$/household
		Operating Costs	\$/household
	Police Services	Capital Costs	\$/household
		Operating Costs	\$/household
Waste Management	Operating Costs	\$/household	
Private Costs	Private Vehicles	Annual Vehicle Ownership Costs	\$/vehicle/annum
		Operating Costs	\$/km
	Home Heating	Annual Home Energy Costs (3 dwelling types)	\$/household
External Costs	Climate Change and Air Pollution	Average Fuel Efficiency for Passenger Vehicles	L/100 km
		GHG Emissions Factor	g/L fuel
		GHG Emission Cost	\$/tonne of CO ₂ equivalents
		Air Pollutant Emissions Factor (5 variables for Volatile Organic Compounds, Carbon Monoxide, Nitrogen Oxides, Sulphur Oxides, Particulate Matter less than 10 microns, respectively)	g/L fuel
		Emission Costs (5 variables for pollutants above)	\$/tonne
	Motor Vehicle Collisions	Fatal Collision Rate	collisions/VKT
		Fatal Cost	\$/collision
		Injury Collision Rate	collisions/VKT
		Injury Cost	\$/collision
		Property Damage Collision Rate	collisions/VKT
Property Damage Cost	\$/collision		
Replacement Period for Capital Assets	Local Roads	Years for Replacement	years
		Replacement Cost	% of original capital cost
	External Roads	Years for Replacement	Years
		Replacement Cost	% of original capital cost
	Water Distribution	Years for Replacement	Years
		Replacement Cost	% of original capital cost
	Sanitary Sewer	Years for Replacement	Years
		Replacement Cost	% of original capital cost
	Storm Sewer	Years for Replacement	Years
		Replacement Cost	% of original capital cost
	Schools	Years for Replacement	Years
		Replacement Cost	% of original capital cost
	Recreational Facilities	Years for Replacement	Years
		Replacement Cost	% of original capital cost
	Bus Transit	Years for Replacement	Years
		Replacement Cost	% of original capital cost
	Fire Service Vehicles	Years for Replacement	Years
		Replacement Cost	% of original capital cost
Police Service Vehicles	Years for Replacement	Years	
	Replacement Cost	% of original capital cost	

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6. SPECIFYING REVENUE VARIABLES

Step 3, “Specify Revenue Variables” allows the user to modify the revenue assumptions related to development charges, property taxes, and user charges

Details about each specific revenue variable are provided in the Tool using the  symbol. As discussed above, all yellow cells denote cells that can be changed by the user. Grey cells denote cells that may be changed, but caution is advised, since the values represent commonly accepted levels.

After completing this step, select the button at the top right of the screen to go back to the Main Menu and proceed to the next step, review previous steps, or proceed to the results. If you change any revenue variables, you can select the button to “Save Changes” to the input or revert to save values for the current scenario, using the “Revert Changes” button at the top right of the screen. If you exit a step without saving changes, values are replaced with the most recent saved values upon returning to the Main Menu.

All revenue variables are summarized in the table below.

Category	Revenue Type	Variable	Unit
Development Charges	Single Detached		\$/unit
	Semi-Detached		\$/unit
	Rowhouse/Townhouse/Duplex		\$/unit
	Low Rise		\$/unit
	High Rise		\$/unit
Property Taxes	Average Assessment Value	Single Detached	\$/unit
		Semi-Detached	\$/unit
		Rowhouse/Townhouse/Duplex	\$/unit
		Low Rise	\$/unit
	High Rise	\$/unit	
Property Tax Rate			%
User Charges	User charges not included in property taxes		\$
	Transit Fare	Transit Costs Recovered Through Transit Fares	%

7. ENTERING DEVELOPMENT CHARACTERISTICS

Step 4, “Enter Development Characteristics” allows the user to specify development characteristics, such as land use, demographic assumptions, residential densities, and the amount of hard infrastructure required. When assessing different development types for a given plot of land, unit cost and revenue assumptions will generally remain consistent, so that the development characteristics will be the defining characteristics that lead to different costs and revenues between the scenarios. Thus, it is important to specify these characteristics as accurately as possible. Explanations for each development characteristics category are provided below.

LAND USE AND LOCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Variable under this category related to the general locational and land use characteristics of the development and are used in the calculation of travel activity and related impacts as well as in the

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allocation of costs between residential and non-residential uses. These variable are defined, as follows:

- **Distance to Central Business District:** The straight-line distance between the approximate centre of the development and the approximate centre of the nearest central employment area in kilometres. This variable is a significant determinant of travel activity.
- **Gross Land Area:** The total area of the development in hectares, including any area, such as streams or other sensitive areas that will not be developed.
- **Percent Residential:** Proportion of Gross Land Area that is designated for residential uses, including residential parcels, local roads, parks, schools, and other facilities integral to residential development. Setting this value will require some judgement. User should determine this percentage, while considering that this value is used as a scaling factor to estimate the proportion of infrastructure and municipal services costs associated with the residential component of the development. Cost for the “Residential Portion” are used to determine per household costs, which are used to compare the cost-efficiency of different developments (see Section 12, which discusses Step 9, “View Results”). Implicitly, this assumes that these costs vary proportionally with land allocation. This assumption is considered reasonable in most cases, but may be less accurate where there is a large difference in the intensity of development between residential and non-residential components of a development.

As an example, consider a ten-hectare site, with the following land allocation:

- 7 hectares dedicated to residential buildings, local roads, schools, and parks;
- 1.5 hectares dedicated to local and regional commercial uses;
- 1 hectare dedicated to regional arterial roads; and
- 0.5 hectares undeveloped.

Such a development would have a Gross Land Area of 10 hectares. Calculation of Percent Residential would require some judgement, particularly in the case of the regional arterial roads, which serve the local residential population as well as more regional traffic. Without further information, it is assumed that half of the land area for the regional arterial roads can be assumed a component of residential development. Thus, the Percent residential would be 75% (i.e. $(7 + 1 \cdot 0.5) / 10$).

DEVELOPMENT TYPE

This category requires the user to characterize the development as one of three types, which most represents the development under consideration:

- Compact development, retail services close by, bike lanes or trails available, grid network or continuous streets.
- Medium density residential development with some ancillary commercial uses. Generally a continuous grid network with good transit service and potentially bike lanes.

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- Primarily residential development built on closed network street patterns (e.g. cul-de-sacs) with limited transit accessibility and few or no bike lanes.

This input is used by the Tool to assume approximate values for several variables, which play a minor role in the estimation of auto ownership. These variables include weekday transit service hours within a 1 kilometre radius, percent curvilinear road layout, and the ratio of bike lanes to road kilometres, among others.

DEVELOPMENT DENSITIES

The number of residential units by housing type is required to determine many factors, such as the number of households and per household costs, revenues, population, and auto ownership and use, among others. The Tool considers five dwelling types: single detached, semi-detached, rowhouse/townhouse/ duplex, low rise, and high-rise. Each built-in scenario is the same size (i.e. 40 hectares), but has different breakdown of housing units by type. These values can be modified for new scenarios.

A screenshot of the Development Densities input screen is shown below. As described in the user note to the right of the screenshot (), **users must enter the number of housing units by type directly (column 4)**. To guide this input, users can specify the “Unit Type Breakdown” (column 2), and take the value from the “Approximate Units” field (column 3). This field calculates the number of units by housing type based on the calculation: Gross Land Area * Percent Residential * Typical Coverage * Unit Type Breakdown. All subsequent calculations are based on the number of units (Column 4).

DEVELOPMENT DENSITIES

Housing Type	Typical Coverage (Units/ha)	Unit type breakdown (%)	Approximate Units*	Number of Units by Type
Single Detached	20	50%	320	320
Semi-Detached	50	30%	480	480
Rowhouse/Townhouse/Duplex	80	10%	256	256
LowRise	200	10%	640	640
HighRise	400	0%	0	0
Total		100%	1696	1696

 *Users must enter the number of housing units by type directly (Column 4). "Approximate Units" can guide this input based on the user-specified "Unit Type Breakdown". All subsequent calculations are based on number of units (Column 4).*

 Transit Supportive Land Use Guidelines
<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca>

This View of Density
<http://www.sflcv.org/density/index.html>

Gross Density (Units/residential ha)

* Approximate number of units that could be accommodated given housing type breakdown.

DEMOGRAPHIC ASSUMPTIONS

Demographic assumptions are important in calculations regarding auto ownership and use and school costs. Assumptions include the average household size by dwelling type, the number of adults per household, average household income, and the number of jobs within 5 kilometres of the development. Jobs within 5 kilometres of the development and the distance to the central business district should be calculated from a location, which is approximately in the centre of the development.

HARD INFRASTRUCTURE

The amount of required road, water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure determine much of the costs of the development. Due to possible differences in allocation of costs, road inputs are divided into internal and external road requirements. Internal road lengths can be specified in terms

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of seven different road types ranging from public laneways, to four-lane arterials, to user-specified facilities (i.e., user can create a new road type defined by its unit cost in Step 2).

Internal water and sewer infrastructure requirements do not need to be specified as they are assumed to follow the internal road requirements. Water and sewer unit costs by road type are specified in the Revenue Variables sheet. Water and sewer infrastructure external to the development is identified explicitly, including the length of required trunk pipes for water distribution, storm sewers, and sanitary sewers, as well as the size of stormwater management pond required.

TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE

Public transit infrastructure is specified in terms of the vehicle service hours per capita and the number of buses required per 1000 vehicle service hours. Vehicle service hours per capita (or revenue service hours per capita) can be estimated from local results from your community. Contact your local transit agency or look to the Canadian Transit Fact Book published by the Canadian Urban Transit Association (<http://www.cutacta.ca/>).

8. SPECIFYING ALLOCATION OF COSTS

A key factor in determining the costs of a development is the question of who pays. Allocation of capital and operating costs associated with hard infrastructure and municipal services is specified in Step 5, "Allocation of Costs". Users can specify how each cost is shared between four different partners: the developer, the municipality, the user, and an "Other" category.

The cost allocation input screen is shown below. The default for each cost is to allocate 100% of the cost to the municipality. The user can modify this as appropriate, but should ensure that the total column for each cost sums to 100%.

COST ALLOCATION												
	CAPITAL Cost Allocation					Total	OPERATING Cost Allocation					Total
	Municipal	Developer	User	Others			Municipal	Developer	User	Others		
Infrastructure Costs												
Local Roads	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%		
Regional Roads	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%		
Water Distribution and Water Treat.	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%		
Sanitary Sewers and Wastewater Treat.	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%		
Storm Sewers and Water Management	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%		
School Construction and Operation	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%		
Recreational Facilities	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%		
Municipal Services												
Bus Transit	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%		
School Transit	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%		
Fire Service	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%		
Police Service	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%		
Waste Management Service	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%		

9. EXPLORING AND INCORPORATING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ALTERNATIVES

Step 6, "Green Infrastructure" allows the user to explore a wide variety of green infrastructure alternatives and estimate associated costs and revenues, in many cases. In this discussion, the term "green infrastructure" is used broadly to refer to all infrastructure components of a development that can enhance the environmental sustainability of the development relative to

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conventional approaches. Since costs and benefits associated with several green infrastructure alternatives, such as Tree Preservation, are highly variable and dependent on many factors, information on these alternatives is included to provide decision support, but costs and revenues cannot be estimated directly. The table below lists the green infrastructure alternatives considered in the Tool and whether associated costs can be estimated.

Green Infrastructure Alternative	Costs Estimate Available
Bicycle and Pedestrian Paths	✓
Permeable Pavement	✓
Exfiltration Trenches	✓
Stormwater Harvesting	✓
Green Roofs	✓
Rain Barrels	✓
Naturalized Landscaping	✓
District Heating and Cooling	✓
Photovoltaics	✓
Distributed Power	
Building Orientation and Design	
Traffic Calming	✓
Alternative Road Standards	✓
Tree Preservation	

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A separate screen is provided for each green infrastructure alternative, which can be reached from the Step 6 screen. Each specific screen has a similar layout, which consists of four sections: "General Description and Importance to Sustainability", "Typical Costs", Typical Savings", and "Costs", as shown in the screen for Naturalized Landscaping, to the right.

Costs of the different green infrastructure alternatives are summarized in the Step 6 screen, as shown below. Total green infrastructure costs are carried forward to the Results screen and displayed in their own category.

Note that inputted values and estimated costs for Green Infrastructure Alternatives are not saved together with the scenarios. Only the most recent green infrastructure inputs are saved upon saving the Excel spreadsheet Tool.

NATURALIZED LANDSCAPING

GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND IMPORTANCE TO SUSTAINABILITY
 Low maintenance landscapes are designed on principles of low-water consumption and reduced maintenance, primarily through the use of drought tolerant, native plant material.

Naturalized landscaping, or xeriscaping, reduces potable water requirements and the use of fertilizers and pesticides, in addition to enhancing and protecting biodiversity. Water savings of as much as 65% over traditional horticultural landscapes can be achieved, if xeriscapes are properly designed and maintained once established. (CMHC, Definitely in My Backyard: Making the Best Choices for You and the Environment, 2000)

TYPICAL COSTS

Xeriscaping: - Capital: \$18.00 per m2 - Maintenance \$0.10 per m2 - Typical irrigation requirements: 8 L/m2	Conventional Landscaping: - Capital: \$8.00 per m2 - Maintenance \$0.50 per m2 - Typical water use: 38 L/m2
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Conventional landscaping = conventional sod (i.e. Kentucky Blue Grass) with 10cm of topsoil
 Xeriscaping = specialized drought tolerant sod (i.e. fine-leaved fescue) with 30cm of topsoil. The extra depth of topsoil is for the benefit of the street trees, in addition to the extra volume in the tree pits that is accounted for in the tree costs.
 Maintenance includes watering, fertilizing, application of pesticides, mowing, mulching, etc. (Dillon Consulting, Regent Park Sustainable Neighbourhood Plan, 2004)

TYPICAL SAVINGS

Xeriscape landscapes can initially cost more than conventional landscapes due to the need for professional design, and the use of native plant species, which can be harder to obtain, however, current research by Canada Mortgage and Housing indicates that maintenance costs of xeriscaping are considerably lower than other types of landscaping (potential water savings of 65%).

COSTS

Enter total area of xeriscaping (m2):	10,000
Enter unit cost differential for xeriscaping (\$/m2):	\$ 10.00
Total Cost of Naturalized Landscaping to be carried forward:	\$ 100,000.00

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Step 6: Green Infrastructure

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To examine representative Green Infrastructure alternatives, click on its correspondent button

Bicycle & Pedestrian Paths	\$750,000	Photovoltaics	Discussion Only
Permeable Pavement	\$25,000	Distributed Power	Discussion Only
Exfiltration Trenches	\$0	Bldg Orientation & Design	Discussion Only
Stormwater Harvesting	\$0	Traffic Calming	\$171,000
Green roofs	\$117,000	Alternative Road Standards	-\$893,050
Rain Barrels	\$20,000	Tree Preservation	Discussion Only
Naturalized Landscaping	\$100,000	Miscellaneous Green Infrastructure Costs	\$0
District Heating & Cooling	\$0	Total Green Infrastructure Costs	\$289,950

10. ENTERING COST SAVINGS

Step 7, “Infrastructure Cost Savings” enables users to discount costs to account for infrastructure that may already be in place. Areas such as brownfields, for example, may have excess capacity to accommodate new growth without the need for additional infrastructure. Users can enter the proportion of infrastructure that already exists and is considered space capacity. Final costs will be multiplied by the difference between the percentage entered and 100%. Entering 0% means that no cost savings are incurred due to excess infrastructure and all costs are attributed to the development.

Category	Percentage in place
Local Roads	0%
Regional Roads	0%
Water Distribution and Water Treatment	0%
Sanitary Sewers and Wastewater Treatment	0%
Storm Sewers and Water Management	0%
Schools	0%
Recreational Facilities	0%

Areas such as brownfields may have excess capacity to accommodate new growth without the need for additional infrastructure. Users can enter the proportion of infrastructure that already exists and is considered space capacity. Final costs will be multiplied by the difference between the percentage entered and 100%. Entering 0% means that no cost savings are incurred due to excess infrastructure and all costs are attributed to the development.

11. ADDING USER-DEFINED COSTS AND REVENUES

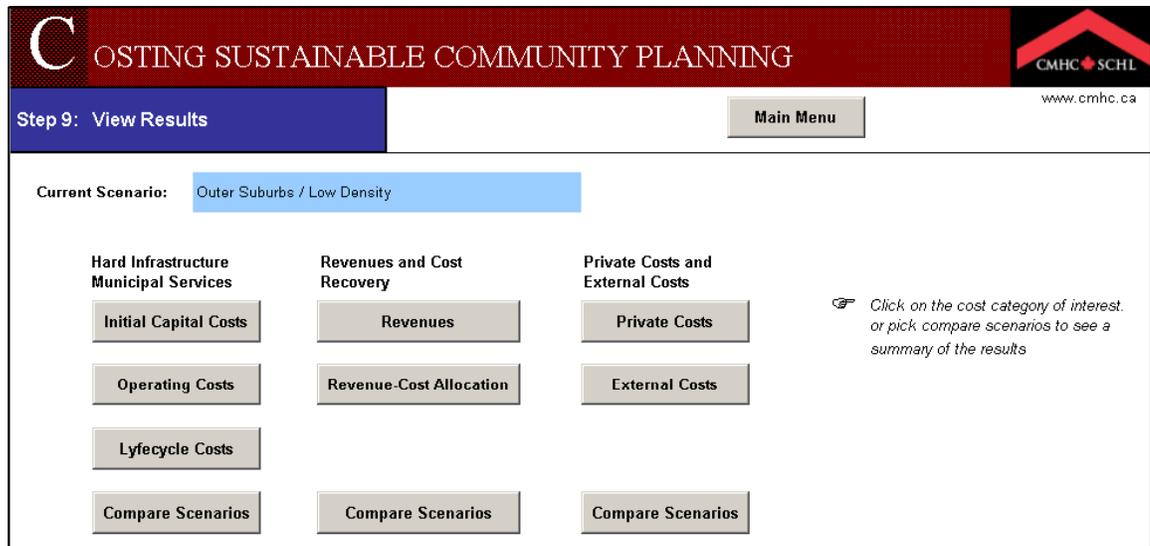
The Tool includes many of the most common types of costs associated with a development. However, there may be other costs and revenues that users may wish to include such as:

- Home construction costs;
- Land costs;
- Site remediation costs due to pre-existing environmental contamination;
- Noise remediation;
- Demolition costs;
- Green Infrastructure Funds;
- Brownfield redevelopment funds;
- Revenues from sale of lands or other resources; or
- Revenues from district energy production or other green ventures.

Step 8, “User-Defined Costs and Revenues” any other miscellaneous initial capital costs, annual operating costs, or revenues. Revenues should be entered as an annual equivalent amortized over the lifecycle (i.e., 75 years).

12. VIEWING RESULTS

Step 9, “View Results” allows users to view and print summaries of costs and revenues and compare results from different scenarios. As shown in the screenshot of the Results Navigation Window, below, users can be directed to result summaries and scenario comparisons under three categories: “Hard Infrastructure and Municipal Services”, “Revenues and Cost Recovery”, and “Private Costs and External Costs”. Directions for viewing the data and performing scenario comparisons are provided in the sections below.



12.1 Hard Infrastructure and Municipal Services

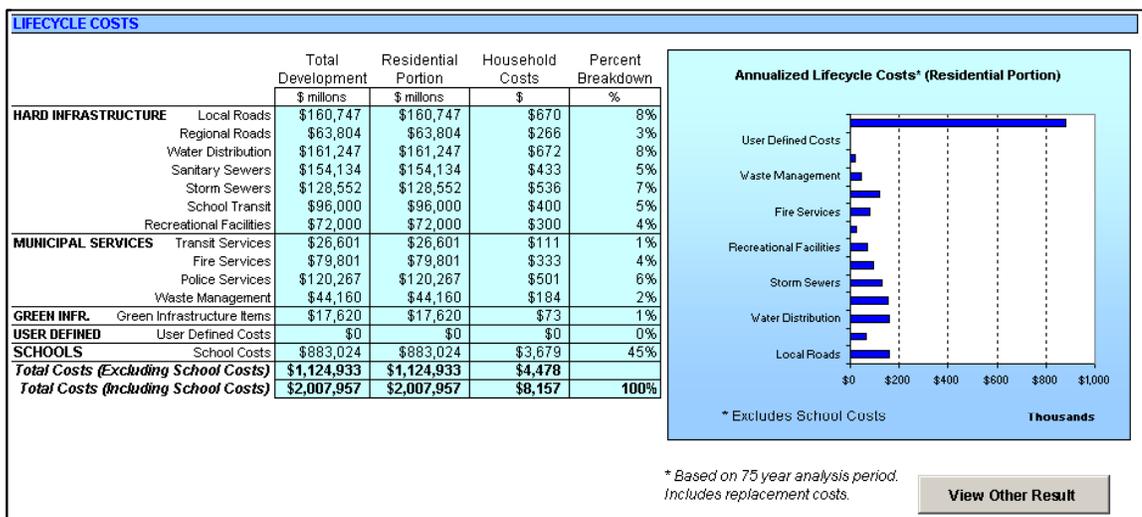
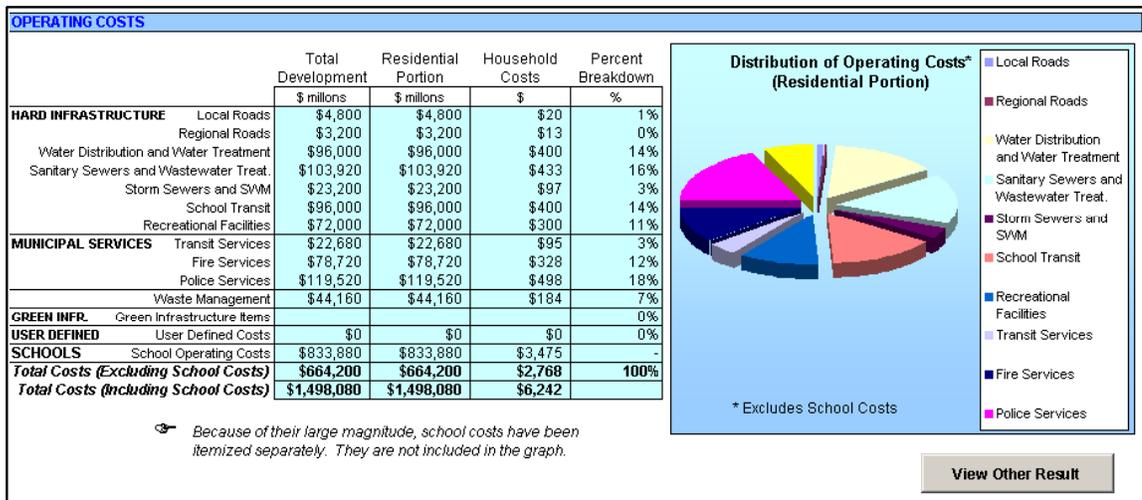
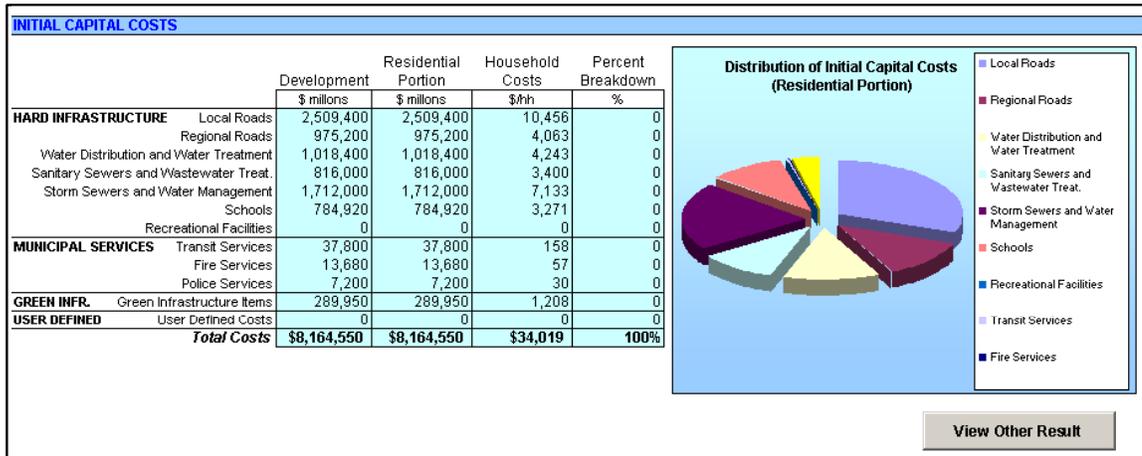
Result Summaries

Under the category of “Hard Infrastructure and Municipal Services”, the Tool generates tables and graphs summarizing initial capital costs, annual operating costs, and lifecycle costs. **Lifecycle costs** are expressed on an annual basis and are calculated as initial capital costs, annual operating costs, and replacement costs amortized over the 75-year time-horizon. Sample screenshots of these summaries are shown below.

Summary tables subdivide costs into total development costs, residential costs, household costs, and percentage breakdown. Residential costs refer to the infrastructure and service costs associated with the residential portion of the development and are calculated as total costs multiplied the Percent Residential Land Area, specified in Step 4, “Enter Development Characteristics” (see Section 7). Household costs simply express the costs of the residential portion of the development on a per-household basis.

For each cost summary, pie and bar charts provide a visual breakdown of hard infrastructure and municipal services costs. Note that due to the large magnitude of school operating costs, these costs are not included in the pie chart for annual operating costs. A “View Other Result” button below each of these charts allows the user to easily return to the Results Navigation Window and then view other results.

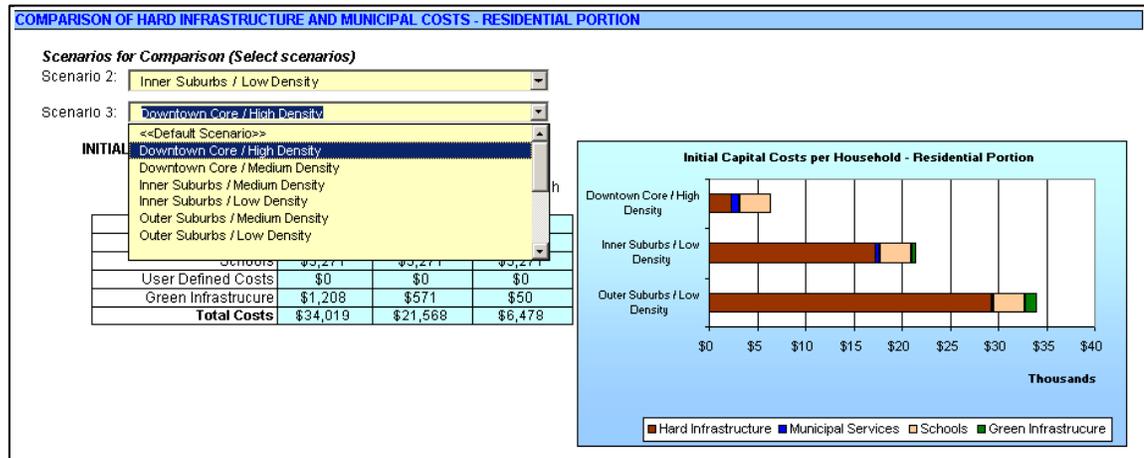
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Comparing Scenarios

Under the heading, “Comparison of Hard Infrastructure and Municipal Costs – Residential Portion”, the Tool allows the user to compare per household initial capital, annual operating, and annual lifecycle costs among up to three scenarios. Both user-defined and built-in scenarios can be compared with the active scenario. Use the drop down menus to select the appropriate scenario for Scenario 2 and Scenario 3 as shown in the sample screenshot below.



12.2 Revenues and Cost Recovery

Result Summaries

Under the category of “Revenues and Cost Recovery”, the Tool generates tables summarizing revenues and comparing them to costs associated with infrastructure, municipal services, personal consumption, and externalities. As shown below, the Tool summarizes lifecycle costs and allocates annualized lifecycle costs between four parties: Developer, Municipality, User, and Other. Allocation of costs is based on the user-specified distribution of initial capital and annual operating costs, which is set in Step 5, “Specifying Allocation of Costs”.

As mentioned earlier, **lifecycle costs** are expressed on an annual basis and are calculated as initial capital costs, annual operating costs, and replacement costs amortized over the 75-year time-horizon.

ANNUAL REVENUE-COST ALLOCATIONS				
ANNUALIZED LIFECYCLE COSTS				
	Developer	Municipal	User Fees	Others
Infrastructure Costs	\$128,381	\$612,976	\$0	\$0
Municipal Services	\$0	\$350,545	\$11,868	\$4,416
Green Infrastructure				\$17,620
Schools	\$14,310	\$868,715	\$0	\$0
User Defined Costs				\$0
Ann LC Costs*	\$142,690	\$1,832,235	\$11,868	\$22,036
ANNUAL REVENUES				
Taxes & Develop. Charges		\$1,551,916		
User Charges		\$63,340		
User Defined Revenues		\$0		
Ann LC Revenues		\$1,635,256		
ANNUAL PRIVATE COSTS				
Driving Costs			\$4,337,972	
Home Energy			\$518,307	
Ann LC Private Costs			\$4,856,279	
ANNUAL EXTERNAL COSTS				
Climate Change				\$55,220
Air Pollution				\$47,049
Motor Vehicle Collisions				\$325,427
Ann LC External Costs				\$427,697

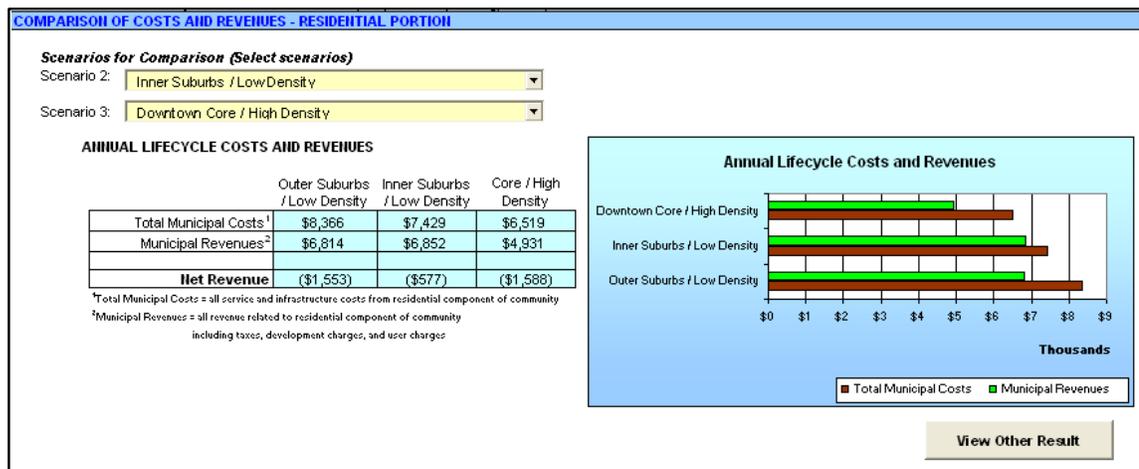
* Based on 75 year life. Includes initial capital, annual operating, and replacements costs.

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Comparing Scenarios

Under the title “Comparison of Costs and Revenues – Residential Portion”, the Tool allows the user to compare municipal costs and municipal revenues among up to three scenarios. These values are expressed as annual lifecycle costs and revenues per household for the residential component of the development. An example of this comparison is shown in the screenshot below.

Caution should be observed in comparing municipal costs against municipal revenues, as municipal revenues are intended to cover a wide range of services. Similarly, due to varied approaches used by municipalities for providing credits for development charges, it is not recommended that development charges be compared directly with developer costs.



12.3 Private and External Costs

Result Summaries

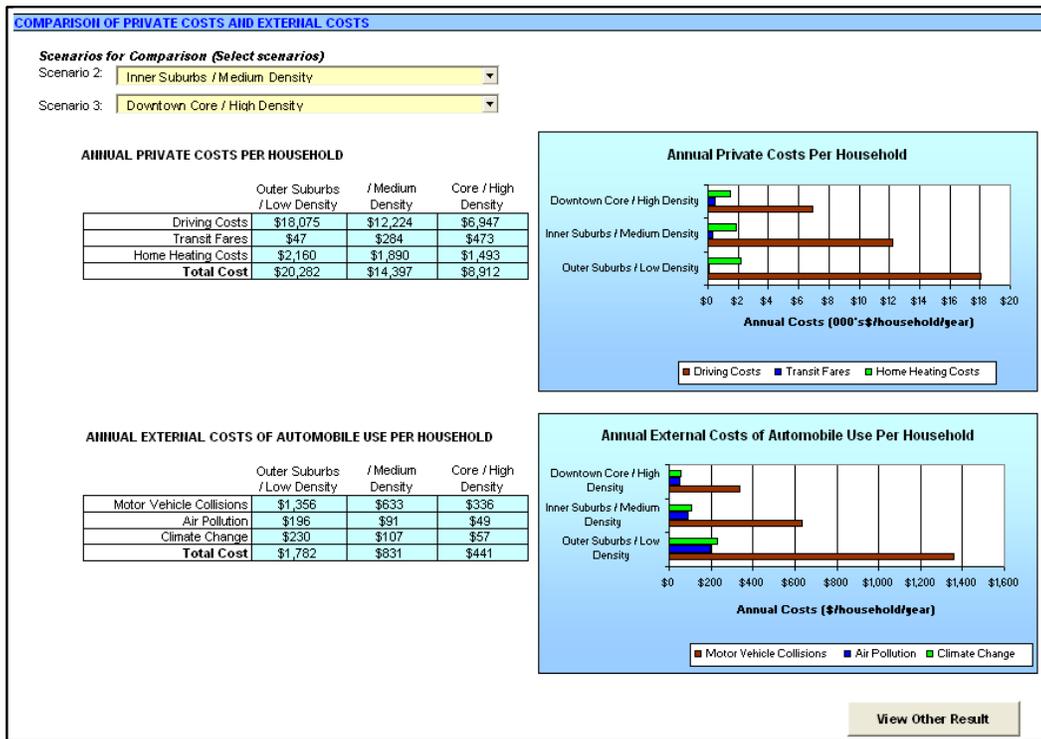
The Tool summarizes private costs associated with personal transportation and home heating, two major household costs that depend on development form. Displayed private costs include annual driving costs (i.e., vehicle ownership and operation), transit fares, and home heating. Default driving unit costs are based on the 2005 Driving Costs report by the Canadian Automobile Association, while home heating costs are based on the National Energy Code For Housing Standards from the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes. Auto ownership and use is estimated based on a variety of development and socio-economic characteristics (e.g., jobs within 5 km, income, etc.) based on methods developed in the CMHC Tool for Evaluating Neighbourhood Sustainability (www.cmhc.ca).

External costs associated with vehicle use are also estimated including motor vehicle collisions, air pollution, and climate change. Sources for default unit costs are noted in the Tool, but it is emphasized that the valuation of external costs is highly varied and results should be viewed as approximate.

Comparing Scenarios

Under the title “Comparison of Private Costs and External Costs, the Tool allows the user to compare private and external costs among up to three scenarios. These values are expressed as annual costs per household. An example of this comparison is shown in the screenshot below.

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12.4 Printing Results

To print results, select (File>>Print>>OK). Printing settings (i.e., Print Area settings) are already set so that the results are laid out in an organized and clear manner.

13. CONDUCTING FURTHER ANALYSIS

Advanced users may wish to review the Tool Structure and background calculations. To do this, change the option to view tabs (Tools>>Options>>View>>Sheet Tabs) un-hiding the hidden sheets. The worksheet, "Intermediate Calculations" contains many of the background calculations. Calculations and default values for the built-in scenarios are password protected.

Users can conduct further analysis by copying Tool results into another Excel file or other application.

CMHC and the Tool Developers assume no responsibility for the use of this Tool or any changes made by users.