



To: Township of South Stormont Council, CAO and Clerk
From: Brendan Jacobs, ALUS Ontario East Program Coordinator
Date: February 10, 2023
Subject: Introduction to the ALUS Ontario East program

About ALUS

ALUS is a national charitable organization that provides expertise, resources, and direct financial support to 35 communities across six provinces where more than 1,400 farmers and ranchers build nature-based solutions on their land to deliver ecosystem services to sustain agriculture, help build community resilience and fight climate change and biodiversity loss for the benefit of communities and future generations.

ALUS Ontario East

Originally established in 2022, ALUS Ontario East now generally operates within the Raisin Region and South Nation Conservation Authority jurisdictions. With the support of its legal entity, the Raisin Region Conservation Authority, the program is governed by a Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) led by ten local farmers along with several advisory, non-voting members from various partner organizations. ALUS Ontario East supports the establishment, management, and maintenance of various innovative and sustainable projects such as wetlands and beaver baffles, erosion control, buffers, windbreaks, grasslands, modified grazing practices, livestock exclusion fencing, and more.

ALUS shares many priorities in common with our municipalities, such as sustainable land use, cleaner water, and resilient communities. To date, we have been privileged to partner with over 62 landowners and local organizations to establish 138 projects on 783 acres within Eastern Ontario.

Enclosed is a document with more information about ALUS Ontario East. ALUS Ontario East will be contacting your municipality in the coming months to request the opportunity to offer a presentation to Council with more information about the program's opportunities for local farmers. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to meet to discuss the program.

Brendan Jacobs
Program Coordinator
ALUS Ontario East

Current ALUS Ontario East PAC:

Glen Mackey, Chair
Marc Bercier, Vice-Chair
John Van Turnhout, Past Chair
William Robertson

Kurt MacSweyn
Jacqueline Pemberton
Bill Smirle
Ian Walker
Stephen Burgess
Rene Lalonde

What is ALUS?

ALUS (originally an acronym for Alternative Land Use Services) is a national charitable organization that provides expertise, resources, and direct financial support to 35 communities across 6 provinces where more than 1,400 farmers and ranchers establish and steward nature-based solutions on their land. These solutions deliver ecosystem services to help sustain agriculture and fight climate change and biodiversity loss for the benefit of communities and future generations.



Enhanced Wetland

Projects such as enhanced wetlands, windbreaks, riparian buffer zones, wildlife habitats, adaptive agricultural practices and other impactful environmental solutions produce cleaner air, cleaner water, greater biodiversity, carbon sequestration, erosion control, flood and drought mitigation, pollinator and wildlife habitat, and other ecological services.

ALUS Ontario East

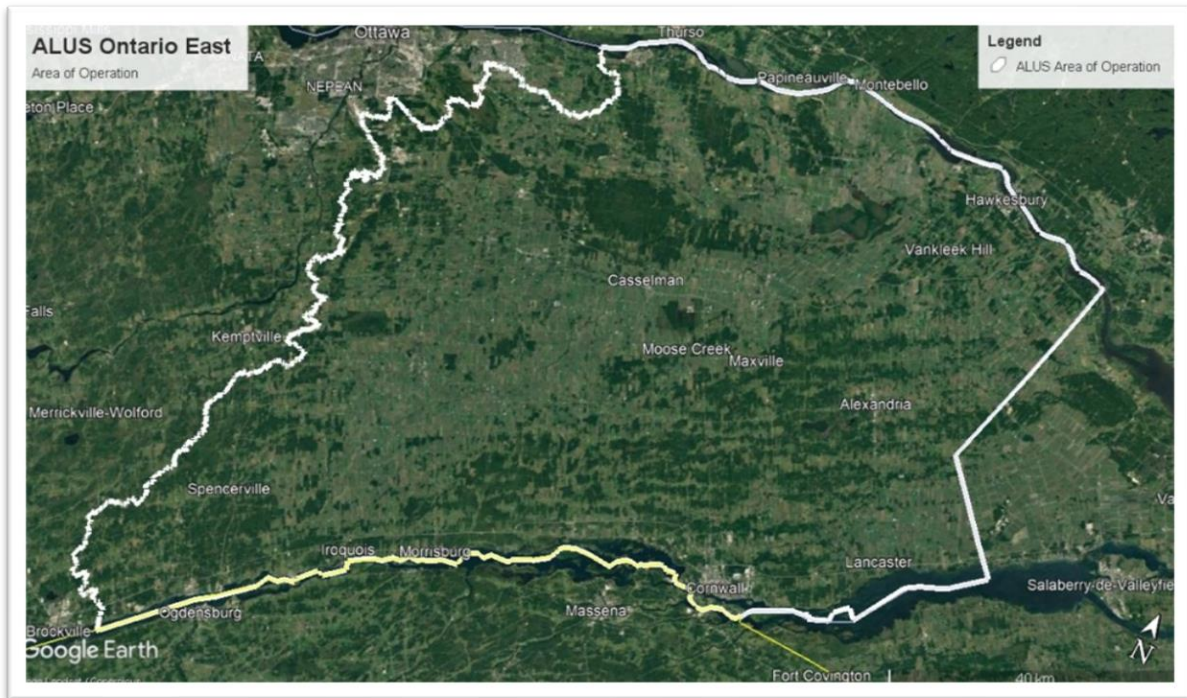
ALUS came to eastern Ontario in 2012. Today, ALUS Ontario East generally operates within the Raisin Region and South Nation Conservation Authority jurisdictions. The program is led by the local Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) with assistance from its legal entity, the Raisin Region Conservation Authority. The PAC is comprised of members from both the local farming and environmental communities.

ALUS Ontario East works with farmers and ranchers to enhance ecosystem services on marginal, inefficient, and fragile areas and on lands that can be managed in a different manner through projects that best suit their farming operations. ALUS participants receive an annual payment for every acre enrolled in the program in exchange for managing and maintaining projects that increase ecosystem services to that benefit both their farm and wider community.



Hedgerow Setback

ALUS is voluntary and non-prescriptive, which allows for increased flexibility when designing projects to suit any farming operation. The program is always on the lookout for interesting and innovative project ideas that will bring together agriculture and nature.



ALUS Ontario East Area of Operation

Overall Benefits

- ALUS puts local communities at the center of conservation policy.
- ALUS engages farmers and ranchers as environmental partners on the working landscape and recognizes the important role they play as land stewards.
- ALUS creates benefits from nature for everyone, such as: cleaner water, cleaner air, erosion and flood control, as well as habitat for pollinators, fish and wildlife.
- ALUS creates real and sustainable landscape improvements without costly regulations.
- ALUS provides fair market value for ecological goods and services.

Program Funding

The ALUS Ontario East program receives funding through ALUS and at a local level from private foundations, corporations, the federal and provincial governments, and local stewardship programs or community groups. Participating local farmers provide both financial and in-kind contributions to establish and maintain stewardship projects on their properties, thus playing an integral role in the overall success of the program. ALUS Ontario East recognizes their stewardship efforts and endeavors to augment them by offsetting some of the costs associated with the establishment, management, and maintenance of these projects.

Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC)

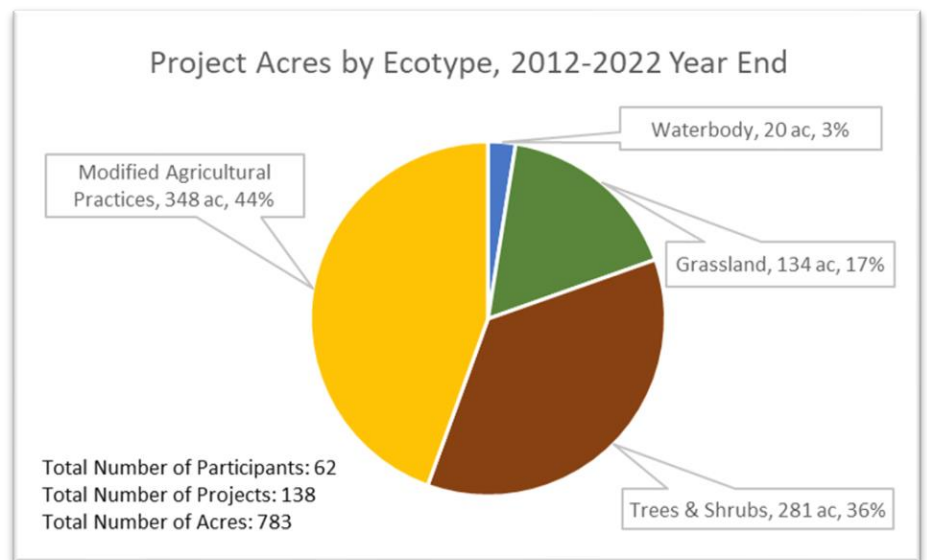
The ALUS Ontario East Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) oversees the coordination and implementation of the ALUS program within the local community. The PAC is comprised of local farmers as well as non-voting advisors from various agricultural, environmental, and community organizations. The PAC consists of 10 voting members, all of whom are farmers distributed throughout the ALUS Ontario East area of operation.

The farming members of the committee provide direction on stewardship priorities, budget, project approvals, management and maintenance payments, and outreach. The current advisory members consist of representatives from the Raisin Region Conservation Authority, South Nation Conservation, Ontario Woodlot Association – Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Chapter, Boisés Est, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and ALUS.

Projects Summary

ALUS Ontario East supports the establishment, management, and maintenance of a variety of innovative and sustainable project types. These include among others:

- Wetlands
- Beaver baffles
- Erosion control
- Buffers, windbreaks and edible forests
- Livestock exclusion with alternative water sources
- Grasslands, delayed hay, and modified grazing practices



Project Distribution

As of December 31, 2022, ALUS Ontario East has been privileged to partner with over **62 landowners** and local organizations to establish **138 projects** on **783 acres** within Eastern Ontario.

ALUS's Eight Core Principles

1. **ALUS is community-developed:** The ALUS program is flexible. It is designed to be customized by local communities to respect local agricultural and environmental priorities and help create rural resilience.
2. **ALUS is farmer-delivered:** Agricultural producers are the largest group of landowners in North America. They are in a unique position to provide important solutions to some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time, including climate change and biodiversity loss.
3. **ALUS is science-based:** Based on sound scientific principles and verification guidelines, ALUS provides valuable support and technical expertise for the design and implementation of natural infrastructure projects and nature-based solutions.
4. **ALUS is market-driven:** The ecological services produced by ALUS projects have economic value on the marketplace, which ALUS is actively developing. Through ALUS, citizens, corporations and philanthropists can invest directly in environmental stewardship.
5. **ALUS is integrated:** The delivery of the ALUS program is intended to complement existing conservation programs, including federal and provincial government policy frameworks.
6. **ALUS is targeted:** The ALUS program focuses on marginal and ecologically sensitive parcels or lands that can be managed in a different manner to produce ecosystem services.
7. **ALUS is accountable:** ALUS projects are independently monitored, verified, and audited by trusted farm organizations or reliable institutions. Data collection respects the highest standards in data integrity and confidentiality.
8. **ALUS is voluntary:** Farmers and ranchers who choose to participate in the ALUS program have flexible agreements that suit their operation and offer them financial compensation for their ecosystem management.

Learn More

For more information go to ALUSOntarioEast.ca or contact:

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