

Appendix C: Toolbox



March 2012

"Let's raise our eyes beyond the conventional horizon of a year and ask, What kind of world would we like to have in a generation?" – David Suzuki

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Tools By Theme(s) Impacted

Tool	Tool Name	<div> <div></div> Primary Theme(s) <div></div> Secondary Theme(s) </div>										
		Agriculture / Local Food	Climate Change	Cultural Assets	Economic Development	Energy	Healthy Communities	Land Use Planning	Natural Assets	Transportation	Waste	Water
1	Supporting Local Food Systems I											
2	Supporting Local Food Systems II											
3	Supporting Healthy Food Systems											
4	Sustainable Food Purchasing Policy											
5	Brownfield Re-Development – Reduced Development Charges											
6	Brownfield Re-Development Tools											
7	Transportation – Greenhouse Gas Reduction											
8	Tax Exemptions for Conservation											
9	Negotiating Ontario’s Feed-in-Tariff program											
10	Bicycle Recycling Program											
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28	Aboriginal Renewable Energy Network											
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84	Reducing Vehicle Use / Improving Vehicle Efficiency											
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92	Running A Sustainability Awards Program											
93	Sustainable Business Awards Program											
94	Contest For Vehicle Reduction Use											

Tools for Municipalities / First Nations

1. Supporting Local Food Systems

What You Can Do: Establish a minimum requirement of local, sustainable food in municipal food services contracts.

Benefits: Moving more local food into the local system links our rural and urban populations, supports local farming, fosters collaboration and innovation between value chain members, often results in healthier food options, and lowers transportation costs both financially and environmentally (greenhouse gas emissions).

Details: Markham has become the first municipality in Canada to implement a local food requirement in its food service contracts. Utilizing the *Local Food Plus* certification program, the service contractor is obligated to use a minimum of 10 percent local food in Year 1, with that percentage increasing by 5 percent a year over the term of the contract.

The City of Toronto adopted a Local Food Procurement Policy in 2008, which endeavors to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the provision of food purchased for City operations and facilities while supporting local producers and processors.

Resources:

Markham Contract Wording:

The Town shall have the right to request such changes to the food menu or preparation, cooking, presentation or serving of any foods or beverages and its decision respecting same shall be final.

In the first year of the Agreement, Unique will purchase 10 percent of its material and produce from Ontario farmers. The Town will enter into an agreement with Local Food Plus (“LFP”) to help facilitate Unique in meeting the 10 percent obligation.

In the second and subsequent years of the Agreement, Unique will purchase 5 percent of its material and produce from Ontario farmers. Unique will maintain a valid LFP certification for the term of the Agreement and follow the LFP guidelines as expressed in the Memorandum of Understanding in Appendix D.

Toronto Staff Report: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/gm/bgrd/backgroundfile-39120.pdf>

Other Links: www.kawarthachoice.com

Local Food Plus: www.localfoodplus.ca

2. Supporting Local Food Systems II

What You Can Do: Tap into funding to assist municipal efforts in supporting and enhancing the local food industry.

Benefits: Allows municipalities to financially support local food industry, with the same benefits as outlined in tool #1 above.

Details: Helping increase the amount of Ontario food served in municipal child-care centres, long-term care homes, hospitals, schools and other facilities, the Broader Public Sector Investment Fund provides grants that are enabling all levels of the value chain – from farmers to processors, distributors to caterers, and buyers to institutions – to help create systemic change in the procurement and purchasing of local food. This will enhance Ontario’s economic and environmental well-being, and the sustainability of our agriculture.

The Peterborough Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) also represents an organization with potential funding for supporting the local food industry.

The Agricultural Management Institute (AMI) provides funding for projects that develop business management and risk management tools, products, information, resources, and training for farm families, farm managers, and farm business advisors.

Resources:

Broader Public Sector Funding: www.bpsinvestmentfund.ca

CFDC Funding: <http://www.cdc.on.ca/>

AMI Funding: <http://www.takeanewapproach.ca/organizations/ami-funding.aspx>

3. Supporting Healthy Food Systems

What You Can Do: Establish healthy food requirements in municipal food services contracts to encourage healthier eating and healthier communities.

Benefits: Healthier food results in improved physical health and combats illness, thereby creating a healthier community. By implementing healthy food requirements into municipal food service contracts, the municipality is taking a leadership role in creating a healthy community.

Details: Healthy food can also be tied to local and/or organic food which has a positive economic spin-off as well. Markham has implemented a clause which calls for the following:

- Transition completely to Fair Trade Coffee
- Include organic products on the menu
- Include organic juices and milk as an option
- 100 percent no MSG (minimum use of MSG included in the contractual terms)
- 100 percent Trans Fat free (included in the contractual terms)

Resources:

Sample Clause (Markham): [Contractor] shall have a healthy choice option which will include: Fair Trade Coffee, some organic products, some organic juices, Harmony Milk as an option, no MSG and must be trans fat free (“Healthy Choices”).

Awaiting wording from Fleming College food contract

Awaiting link from Health Unit to healthy food policy for workplace

4. Sustainable Food Purchasing Policy Toolkit

What You Can Do: Utilize this toolkit to help develop sustainable food purchasing policies for your municipalities and other public sector institutions

Benefits: Sustainable food purchasing enhances your local/regional economy by supporting local food, and also reduces your environmental footprint.

Details: The *Sustainable Food Purchasing Policy Project* helps educational, health care and other institutional and commercial food buyers develop purchasing policies that support social and environmental responsibility in agriculture and the food industry. The project’s objectives include:

- collecting and sharing sample food purchasing policies addressing a range of social and environmental concerns, as well as related RFP and contract language;
- outlining sustainable food purchasing policy options, the implications of these policies for institutions, and their potential impacts on the food system; and,
- sharing insight on the policy development process, and on the implementation and evaluation of sustainable food purchasing policies, from the representatives and stakeholders of institutions that have gone down this road.

Resource:

Sustainable Food Policy: <http://www.sustainablefoodpolicy.org/>

5. Brownfield Redevelopment – Reduced Development Charges

What You Can Do: Encourage remediation of Brownfield sites by offering reduced development charges.

Benefits: Brownfield remediation reduces the threat to public health and safety, improves the often poor visual presentation of the site, removes the threat of offsite migration of contaminants, allows municipalities to regain valuable land, and reduces pressure to develop green space in order to grow.

Details: Because brownfield sites are often contaminated, they tend to be undervalued and underused. Once contamination is managed, municipalities gain valuable land that can be used for a wide variety of activities. To remediate (clean-up) a site, the municipality or developer must assess it for contamination, identify the

regulatory requirements for site safety and cleanup, develop and carry out the appropriate remediation or risk management plans, reassess the site and, if needed, implement an ongoing monitoring plan.¹

The City of Brantford Development Charges Bylaw 90-2004 provides a credit against development charges for remediation within the “Brownfield Sites Community Improvement Project Area”. The development charge payable is reduced by an amount equal to the cost of the remediation required for the proposed use of the lands.

Resources:

Brantford Bylaw: <http://code.municipalworld.com/brantford/261.pdf> (bylaw 261.4.9 – pg. 261.16)

Case Studies & Other: <http://fcm.ca/home/programs/green-municipal-fund/program-resources/brownfields.htm>

6. Brownfield Redevelopment Tools

What You Can Do: Tap into the experience of other communities when looking to deal with brownfield redevelopment.

Benefits: Brownfield remediation reduces the threat to public health and safety, improves the often poor visual presentation of the site, removes threat of offsite migration of contaminants, allows municipalities to regain valuable land, and reduces pressure to develop green space in order to grow.

Details: The Province of British Columbia has established an entire website dedicated to redevelopment of brownfield sites. Check it out at the link below.

Resource:

BC Toolkit: <http://www.brownfieldrenewal.gov.bc.ca/>

7. Transportation – Greenhouse Gas Reduction

What You Can Do: Encourage the use of less polluting forms of transportation.

Benefits: Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

Details: Transport Canada’s ecoMOBILITY program aims to reduce emissions from urban passenger transportation by helping municipalities attract residents to less polluting forms of transportation. By increasing the modal share of transportation options such as walking, cycling, public transit and ridesharing (e.g. carpools), harmful emissions can be reduced and other challenges such as congestion and personal health can be addressed.

Resource:

ecoMOBILITY: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/programs/environment-ecomobility-menu-eng-144.htm>

¹ Source: <http://fcm.ca/home/programs/green-municipal-fund/program-resources/brownfields.htm>

8. Tax Exemptions for Conservation

What You Can Do: Encourage environmental conservation and stewardship through the implementation of municipal property tax exemptions for approved practices.

Benefits: Maintains green space and the associated ecosystems functions provided.

Details: Property tax exemptions can encourage landowners to maintain the natural value of environmentally sensitive lands. They can also compensate landowners for the social and ecological benefits they provide the community, consistent with the principles of full-cost accounting. Property tax exemptions are springing up all over North America as a popular way to provide long-term protection for private land.

Resources:

Overview & Case Studies - Green Bylaws Toolkit (pg. 87): <http://www.greenbylaws.ca>

Sample Bylaw Provisions (pg. 203): <http://www.greenbylaws.ca>

9. Negotiating Ontario's Feed-in-Tariff (FiT) & micro-FiT programs

What You Can Do: Promote the use of Ontario's Renewable Energy Facilitation Office (REFO) for assistance in negotiating FIT and micro-FIT programs.

Benefit: Encourages investment in renewable energy by providing a resource to help in the application process.

Details: If you are thinking about a renewable energy project but are unsure of what is involved, then REFO is a good starting point for you. REFO is a one-stop shop to assist with any questions and applications by municipalities, businesses, residents or anyone else interested in taking advantage of the above mentioned programs. Contact REFO by e-mail at REFO@ontario.ca or by phone at 1-877-440-7336.

Resource:

REFO: www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/renewable-energy-facilitation-office

10. Bicycle Recycling Program

What You Can Do: Start a bike recycling program.

Benefit: Bikes and their parts are diverted from the landfill and given to others for use, thereby reducing waste, promoting reuse, and encouraging healthier lifestyles by promoting cycling.

Details: The City of Guelph, Ontario implemented a bike recycling program in October 2011. Bikes are dropped off at the Waste Resource Innovation Centre. The used bikes can then be picked up at no charge by local residents (maximum 2 bikes per person per year).

Resource:

Bicycle Recycling Program: <http://www.guelph.ca/living.cfm?itemid=80325&smocid=2052>

11. Sustainability Screening Process / Checklist

What You Can Do: Use Sustainable Peterborough's *Strategic Directions* to create a checklist that can be used to assess projects based on their fit with the municipal sustainability plan.

Benefits: Helps ensure that project proponents utilize sustainability as a lens through which their potential projects are viewed, and therefore helps the Greater Peterborough Area move towards its vision of the future by adhering to one or more of the sustainability plan's strategic directions.

Details: The Town of Canmore, Alberta has implemented a Sustainability Screening Report process that asks the development community to present a report to Council outlining the net environmental, social, and economic benefits of their project as it relates to community sustainability. This report must be accepted by Council prior to an application being made for development, and the process also provides for public participation.

The Town of Bancroft, Ontario achieves the same result using a checklist approach.

In order to promote Sustainable Development in Surrey, B.C. the City has developed a Sustainable Development Checklist (SDC) for Planning and Development applications.

The Town of Stony Plain, AB has established an Area Structure Plan Sustainability Criteria for developers in order to ensure that environmentally, economically, equitable, and culturally responsible growth is realized. By providing this Sustainability Criteria at an early stage in developing an Area Structure Plan, the Town enables developers and their consultants to work towards creating the most sustainable project possible

Resource:

Canmore, AB Screening Reports: www.canmore.ca/Municipal-Sustainability/Sustainability-Screening-Reports

Bancroft, ON Checklist:

www.sharethewheel.com/sites/default/files/profiles/936/sustainability_checklist_final_10may11.doc

Surrey, BC Checklist: <http://www.surrey.ca/plans-strategies/9327.aspx>

Town of Stony Plain, AB Sustainability Criteria:

<http://www.stonyplain.com/public/data/documents/ASPSustainabilityGuidelinesFINALpdf.pdf>

12. Establishing a Heritage Committee

What You Can Do: Establish a heritage committee to help protect heritage properties.

Benefits: Protecting the heritage assets of a community is integral to the sustainability plan and being in control of heritage designations is a big step forward.

Details: Municipal heritage committees, comprised of local citizens who serve their community as volunteers, advise municipal councils and residents on local heritage matters and help municipalities carry out their heritage conservation programs. A municipal heritage committee can help a community participate more directly in a municipality's decision-making process by broadening the scope of information that goes into the process when it is addressing issues that impact a community. The Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport has created a toolkit to support community heritage.

Resource:

Ontario information: <http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/heritage/tools.shtml>

Sample Municipal Heritage Committee By-law:

www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/heritage/mun_heritage_committees_sampleby_law.shtml

13. Community Improvement Plans

What You Can Do: Develop and implement a Community Improvement Plan (CIP), which provides a means of planning and financing development activities that effectively use, reuse and restore lands, buildings and infrastructure.

Benefits: Community Improvement Plans are strong tools for creating a sustainable community that focus on improving the existing community infrastructure rather than building more/new infrastructure.

Details: Municipalities are using Community Improvement Plans to address growth management challenges, intensification, energy efficiency, mixed-use and transit/bicycle-oriented development, accessibility, and the emerging needs of an aging baby-boom generation. Some municipalities are using Community Improvement Plans as an incentive for encouraging development that meets recognized environmental standards, such as LEED®, while others use them to attract certain kinds of employment uses. Regional Community Improvement Plans can facilitate the development of regional infrastructure, including transportation corridors and affordable housing. From its original use as a process required for provincial downtown revitalization grants, Community Improvement Planning has become a flexible yet powerful tool for significant rehabilitation, development and land-use change²

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has put together a useful handbook for communities looking to create/implement a CIP.

Additionally, a number of communities within the Greater Peterborough Area, including Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield, are currently developing CIPs.

Resources:

CIP Handbook: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=6408>

² CIP Handbook. <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=6408>

Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield CIP Process:

<http://www.smithennismorelakefield.on.ca/en/townshiphall/CommunityImprovementPlan.asp>

14. Municipal Energy Efficiency Planning Workbook

What You Can Do: Cut energy use within your own facilities. You can do an energy audit and implement the findings, or as a first step you could review this efficiency workbook and look for some easy wins.

Benefits: Increasing energy efficiency lowers the operating costs of your facilities and reduces greenhouse gas emissions caused by generation of energy from non-renewable resources.

Details: Municipal facilities and operations use considerable amounts of energy and often rely on fossil fuels such as natural gas, oil, and coal. Rising fuel costs, along with energy security and environmental concerns, are driving governments to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings and operations.³ Completing an energy audit and/or developing an energy efficiency plan are ways that municipalities can address this challenge.

The University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension has developed a workbook which serves as a blueprint for developing an energy efficiency plan.

Resources:

Energy Efficiency Workbook:

[http://www3.uwsuper.edu/sustainability/Publications_files/Municipal%20Energy%20Planning%20Workbook\(1.0\).pdf](http://www3.uwsuper.edu/sustainability/Publications_files/Municipal%20Energy%20Planning%20Workbook(1.0).pdf)

15. Developing Affordable Housing

What You Can Do: Develop and implement a municipal affordable housing strategy that collaborates with community partners.

Benefits: Access to quality affordable housing has community-wide benefits related to economic competitiveness, health, education, social inclusion and strengthened communities.

Details: The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) has developed a handbook to provide information on the planning and financial tools available to municipalities to encourage and support the development of affordable housing in their communities.

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) also has a large variety of information on affordable housing, including financial assistance, affordable housing success stories, and other tools/ resources.

Resources:

³ Municipal Energy Planning: An Energy Efficiency Workbook.

http://www3.uwsuper.edu/sustainability/Publications_files/Municipal%20Energy%20Planning%20Workbook%281.0%29.pdf

MAH Handbook: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=9270>

CMHC Information: <http://www.cmhc.ca/en/inpr/afhoce/fias/index.cfm>

16. Creating More Successful Public Spaces

What You Can Do: Invigorate the use of your public spaces by utilizing a low risk /low cost strategy that has produced some of the world’s most successful public spaces.

Benefits: Efficiently generates new uses and revenue for public spaces and places in transition by capitalizing on the creative energy of your community.

Details: “Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper” (LQC) describes a local development strategy that produces successful public spaces. By championing use over design and capital-intensive construction, LQC interventions strike a balance between providing comfortable spaces for people to enjoy while generating the revenue necessary for maintenance and management, through leasing of space to vendors and entertainers.

Resource:

LQC: <http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/projectpublicspaces/31346/lighter-quicker-cheaper-transform-your-public-spaces-now>

17. Tapping Experience of Others

What You Can Do: No need to reinvent the wheel. Tap into the latest urban sustainability efforts for ideas, strategies and examples from communities around the globe.

Benefits: Can save you time and money by utilizing the sustainability practices of others and reduces risk by not being the first to try them.

Details: Sustainable Cities Collective touts itself as the world’s best thinkers on the urban future by bringing together real examples of successful sustainability efforts attempted in various communities around the world.

Resource:

Sustainable Cities Collective: <http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/>

18. Green Events Scorecard & Planning

What You Can Do: Encourage events held in your community to become greener by developing a green event scorecard.

Benefits: Greener events reduce the amount of waste, energy and materials consumed during the course of your event planning and festivities.

Details: In 2010, the City of San Antonio, Texas adopted an ordinance requiring events with a certain criteria to complete a 'Green Event Scorecard'. In conjunction with this ordinance the city also produced a Green Events Planning Guide to assist organizers in going green. Download the Green Events Guide, below.

Also, the Recycling Council of Ontario (RCO), the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Coca-Cola Canada recently announced a partnership to bring Ontario festivals towards zero waste by developing a Zero Waste Event Toolkit and Certification Program. The program is scheduled to launch in 2012.

Resources:

San Antonio Green Events Guide: [http://www.sanantonio.gov/oep/pdf/Green%20Events%20Guide%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.sanantonio.gov/oep/pdf/Green%20Events%20Guide%20(2).pdf)

Zero Waste Toolkit Info: https://www.rco.on.ca/zero_waste_community_event_toolkit_project

19. Working With Your Library

What You Can Do: Partner with your community's library/libraries to help achieve your sustainability goals.

Benefits: Creates a win-win situation for both parties while capitalizing on the unique relationship that the library has with your community and your residents.

Details: Libraries are local treasures and they are going through a renaissance as hubs for internet access, communication and social interaction, in addition to being a great place to find a book. But did you ever think about making them a partner in your sustainability plan? This article demonstrates how public libraries help local governments achieve sustainability goals, lays out many ways in which you can partner with your library, and provides a roadmap for partnerships that are built to last.

Resources:

Working With Your Library:

http://urbanlibraries.org/associations/9851/files/0110ulc_sustainability_singlepages_rev.pdf

20. Developing A Greenhouse Gas Inventory/Strategy

What You Can Do: Create an inventory of current municipal greenhouse gas emissions and a formal strategy to reduce them.

Benefits: Creating an inventory allows you to establish a baseline so that you can track the success of your reduction efforts going forward. Reducing greenhouse gases will lower your environmental footprint and help mitigate global warming.

Details: The Province of Manitoba has developed a simple and brief action plan template for greenhouse gas emissions.

Resources:

Template: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/ia/climate/toolkit/apt.pdf>

21. Joining the Partners for Climate Protection Program

What You Can Do: Join the Partners for Climate Protection Program

Benefits: Helps your community reduce greenhouse gases and mitigate climate change.

Details: As part of the International Council for Local Climate Initiatives, the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program is a network of Canadian municipal governments that have committed to reducing greenhouse gases and acting on climate change. PCP is based on a five milestone framework used to guide municipalities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The five milestone process is a performance-based model which remains flexible; milestones do not need to be completed in sequential order. Each milestone provides an opportunity for municipal capacity building. The five milestones are:

- Creating a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast;
- Setting an emissions reductions target;
- Developing a local action plan;
- Implementing the local action plan or a set of activities;
- Monitoring progress and reporting results.

Resources:

PCP Program: <http://fcm.ca/home/programs/partners-for-climate-protection.htm>

22. Understand Climate Change Risks

What You Can Do: Educate your municipal team and your community about the risks of climate change and develop mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Benefits: By first understanding climate change risks, municipalities are better positioned to develop strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and to potentially take advantage of any associated opportunities. With proper planning, the response can be more effective and less costly.

Details: The Province of Ontario has developed an adaptation and action plan entitled *Climate Ready*. The report is written in a straightforward, easy-to-understand language and outlines what climate change means to Ontarians in areas such as human health, agriculture, personal property, water resources, and forestry. The plan also outlines the province's strategy to address climate change, including actions, goals, and opportunities.

Resource:

Climate Ready:

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/%40ene/%40resources/documents/resource/stdprod_085423.pdf

23. Energy Management & Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program

What You Can Do: Develop and implement a program to track, manage and reduce your energy use and related greenhouse gas emissions.

Benefits: Measuring your energy use is a key step in any plan to reduce energy use, and in turn reduce operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Details: Local Authority Service Ltd. has developed the *LAS Energy Management Tool (EMT)* which allows Ontario municipalities to take control of their energy costs by benchmarking facility performance, measuring and verifying savings from energy conservation projects, monitoring processes, and by enabling environmental stewardship goals including greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions. Municipalities with interval meters will also be able to utilize the software to accurately manage accounts in real-time.

The EMT is a web-based system available through the LAS website. The EMT allows municipalities to track electricity, natural gas, and water accounts, and is available to all Ontario municipalities regardless of location, size, number of facilities, or internal resources.⁴ *Fee: The fee associated is approximately \$2 per month per meter.*

The development of the Saskatoon Energy and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan is a collaborative initiative by the City of Saskatoon and Road Map 2020 that provides a framework to manage greenhouse gas emissions and reduce energy consumption.

The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program is a network of Canadian municipal governments that have committed to reducing greenhouse gases and acting on climate change.

Resources:

LAS Energy Management Tool:

<http://www.amo.on.ca/Content/las/EnergyServices/EnergyManagementToolEMT/default.htm>

Saskatoon plan:

<http://www.saskatoon.ca/DEPARTMENTS/Utility%20Services/Environmental%20Services/climatechange/Pages/EnergyandGreenhouseGasManagementPlan.aspx>

FCM's PCP program: <http://fcm.ca/home/programs/partners-for-climate-protection.htm>

24. Joining a Bulk Purchasing Program

What You Can Do: Join a bulk procurement program for items such as fuel, natural gas, electricity and even health plan coverage.

Benefits: Bulk purchasing lowers operating costs by creating economies of scale.

⁴ From Local Authority Services website:

<http://www.amo.on.ca/Content/las/EnergyServices/EnergyManagementToolEMT/default.htm>

Details: Local Authority Services Ltd., the wholly-owned subsidiary of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, offers municipalities opportunities to reduce their operating expenditures through the principles of economies-of-scale and co-operative procurement efforts. Municipalities have an opportunity to participate in a variety of bulk procurement programs.

Resources:

Fuel Procurement: <http://www.amo.on.ca/Content/las/CommodityPrograms/FuelProcurement/default.htm>

Natural Gas Procurement:

<http://www.amo.on.ca/Content/las/CommodityPrograms/NaturalGasProcurement/default.htm>

Electricity Procurement:

<http://www.amo.on.ca/Content/las/CommodityPrograms/ElectricityProcurement/default.htm>

Group Benefits Program:

<http://www.amo.on.ca/Content/las/AdministrationPrograms/MunicipalGroupBenefitsProgram/default.htm>

25. Surface Water Management Plan Bylaw

What You Can Do: Minimize changes to natural water flow regimes that occur during development.

Benefits: Alternative design approaches can replace hard infrastructure with a system that is cheaper for local governments, mimics and retains natural hydrologic systems, and retains vegetation.

Details: The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich implemented a Surface Water Management Plan Bylaw in 2010 which regulates and requires the disposal of surface water and stormwater runoff.

Resources: [http://www.centrialsaanich.ca/Assets/Central+Saanich/Bylaws/Bylaw+No.+1606\\$!2c+2010.pdf](http://www.centrialsaanich.ca/Assets/Central+Saanich/Bylaws/Bylaw+No.+1606$!2c+2010.pdf)

26. Green Roof Bylaw

What You Can Do: Encourage the construction of green roofs on new buildings.

Benefits: Green roofs reduce runoff by absorbing rainwater and also act as an additional insulation barrier, which aids in keeping the building cooler in summer and warmer in the winter.

Details: The City of Toronto Green Roof Bylaw requires all new developments over 2,000 square metres to include a green roof with coverage of available roof space ranging from 20 to 60 percent. The bylaw applies to all new residential, commercial and institutional building permit applications made after January 31, 2010, and to all new industrial development applications after January 31, 2011.

Resources:

Staff Report: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/cc/bgrd/pg25.3d.pdf>

Toronto Original Green Roof Bylaw (2009): <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/bylaws/2009/law0583.pdf>

27. Water Use Conservation Bylaw

What You Can Do: Encourage water conservation through the summer months via enactment of a conservation bylaw or policy.

Benefits: Reduces water consumption and ensure adequate water reserves for all during hot, dry summer months.

Details: Richmond Hill's water use conservation bylaw restricts water use from June 15 to September 30 each year to conserve water in the hot, dry summer months. Violators are subject to a minimum penalty of \$300. Peterborough Utilities also has a watering restriction policy, enforceable via a \$50 penalty for non-compliance.

Resources:

Richmond Hill Bylaw: <http://code.municipalworld.com/richmondhill/1000.pdf>

Website - Watering Info: http://www.richmondhill.ca/subpage.asp?pageid=by_law_lawn_watering_restrictions

Peterborough Utilities Policy:

http://www.peterboroughutilities.ca/Water/Water_Utility_News/Summer_Water_Restriction.htm

28. Aboriginal Renewable Energy Network

What You Can Do: Develop renewable energy generation facilities in your First Nations community.

Benefits: Creates jobs, supports energy self-sufficiency and reduces environmental footprint.

Details: The Aboriginal Renewable Energy Network is a web-based resource where you'll learn how Aboriginal communities can participate in developing renewable energy generation facilities. You can share knowledge and best practices about renewable energy projects here. You will also find detailed information, links to other useful websites and case studies. Key topics covered on this site include getting started with your project, financial considerations, operational issues, types of renewable energy and an overview of the electricity market and transmission system.⁵

Resources: <http://www.aboriginalenergy.ca/about-network>

29. Community Wide/Rural Public Transit

What You Can Do: Implement a public transit system that links smaller, rural communities around Greater Peterborough Area.

Benefits: Supports healthy communities by providing transportation for those unable to drive, and lowers greenhouse gas emissions by providing an alternative to individual vehicle use.

Details: Ride Norfolk is a new public transit system that links five major communities in Norfolk County.

⁵ Taken from <http://www.aboriginalenergy.ca/about-network>

The Rural Overland Utility Transit (T.R.O.U.T.) service was originally the 'Handi-bus' that transported seniors from their homes to the Town of Bancroft. Now it provides public transportation for all people in North Hastings and Highlands East while continuing to provide door-to-door service for seniors and people with physical challenges/disabilities.

Resources:

Ride Norfolk website: <http://www.ridenorfolk.ca/>

TROUT website: <http://catchthetrout.ca/>

30. Restore Wetlands

What You Can Do: Utilize *The Drainage Act* to restore regional wetlands without harming agricultural business.

Benefits: Restored wetlands recharge the groundwater table, prevent erosion, decrease the incidence and intensity of downstream floods, improve water quality and lower water temperatures to benefit native coldwater fish species, such as brook trout. Stored waters recharge local groundwater tables as conditions become drier, providing better growing conditions for adjacent farmers.⁶

Details: The Wetland Drain Restoration Project has been an ongoing effort by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Norfolk County and other significant partners. The overall goal of the project is to balance the advantages provided by municipal drainage projects with the water purification, storage and discharge functions provided by wetlands. The project also aims to create sustainable partnerships with community groups, landowners and natural resource agencies.

Resources:

Wetland Drain Restoration Project:

http://www.conservationontario.ca/projects/pdf/fact%20sheets/PHASE%20I/enhancing_water_storage_english.pdf

MNR Overview:

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/GreatLakes/1ColumnSubPage/STDPROD_084027.html

31. Renewable Energy Development

What You Can Do: Investigate and potentially pursue investment in local renewable energy alternatives utilizing incentives available through the *Green Energy and Green Economy Act*.

Benefits: Local renewable energy projects increase self-sufficiency, reduce greenhouse gases generated in non-renewable energy generation activities, and create local employment.

⁶ From http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/GreatLakes/1ColumnSubPage/STDPROD_084027.html

Details: The Province of Ontario is committed to becoming a leader in the growing global clean energy movement and has produced a guide to assist municipalities in pursuing the development of renewable energy. This guide is intended to help municipalities understand the renewable energy development process, with particular attention paid to the rights, responsibilities and opportunities for municipalities to be meaningful participants in development.

Resource:

Guide: http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/docs/en/ON9126_MEI_Guidance_Brochure9.pdf

32. Cultural Resource Mapping: A Guide for Municipalities 2010

What You Can Do: Complete a cultural resource mapping exercise which is systematic approach to identifying, recording, and classifying your community's cultural resources in order to describe and visualize them. The database info can be plotted on a map by geographic reference point.

Benefits: Not only a great visual tool, a cultural resource map identifies opportunities by identifying clusters and hubs of cultural resources. It provides connections for city planning, creates a baseline for benchmarking and supports a Municipal Cultural Plan.

Details: Cultural vitality is critical to prosperous and sustainable local economies and communities. Municipalities across North America and in our own region are creating cultural resource maps in an attempt to identify and leverage a community's cultural resources. Municipal Cultural Planning Incorporated (MCPI) has created a guide for municipalities looking to create their own cultural resource map.

The Township of Cavan-Monaghan has recently completed cultural mapping exercise for their community. Details can be found at the link below.

Resource:

MCPI Guide:

<http://issuu.com/municipalculturalplanning/docs/culturalresourcecmapping?mode=embed&layout=http%3A%2F%2Fskin.issuu.com%2Fv%2Fcolor%2Flayout.xml&backgroundColor=FFFFFF&showFlipBtn=true> Cavan-

Monaghan Cultural Map: [Rob chasing info](#)

33. 10 Things You Can Do To Support Culture

What You Can Do: Support culture in your community. A wide variety of actions are available to do this, many at little or no cost.

Benefits: Culture is one of the four pillars of community sustainability. Municipal efforts to support local culture have positive impacts on diversity, economic development and community health.

Details: The Cultural Coalition in North Hastings recently presented the top 10 things a municipality can do to support culture. This is a straightforward list that can be addressed by any community.

Resource:

Supporting Culture – Top 10 List

http://www.sharethewheel.com/sites/default/files/profiles/936/top_10_municipal Rack Card copy 0.jpg

34. Creating a Municipal Cultural Plan

What You Can Do: Create a Municipal Cultural Plan for your community to leverage your community's cultural resources to support economic development and the integration of culture across all facets of local planning and decision-making.

Benefits: Promotes city building by enabling economic development, and by helping to create liveable and sustainable cities with vibrant downtowns and healthy neighbourhoods.

Details: The City of Peterborough is in the process of creating a Municipal Cultural Plan. Details are below.

Resource:

Peterborough MCP:

<http://www.peterborough.ca/Assets/City+Assets/Arts%2c+Culture+%26+Heritage/Documents/Peterborough+MCP+Oct+19+Open+House+Panels.pdf>

35. Water Conservation Program

What You Can Do: Develop and implement an innovative community water conservation plan.

Benefits: Reducing water consumption saves money, reduces wear on water treatment infrastructure, and reduces impacts on the environment.

Details: Developed from six years of practice and research on the POLIS Water Sustainability Project, the WaterSmart Toolkit offers practical resources for community water conservation. The Toolkit supports communities as they transition from supply-side management to long-term integrated water conservation planning. It is designed to help municipal staff and community leaders implement effective conservation initiatives. The WaterSmart Toolkit includes a full planning guide, a quick guide, case studies, pilot projects and a scenario builder tool.

Resources:

Main toolkit site: <http://poliswaterproject.org/toolkit>

Quick Guide: http://poliswaterproject.org/sites/default/files/quick%20guide_may%202009_0.pdf

36. Support Public Art

What You Can Do: Create a municipal policy that supports public art through installation, promotion and upkeep.

Benefits: Public art enriches our everyday lives, brings to light social issues and political events, creates an appreciation of culture and heritage and teaches us about our surroundings. Public art supports local cultural expression.

Details: The City of Calgary has a specific policy that includes a funding mechanism for public art. The City of Thunder Bay has a policy that defines the value of public art and promotes it through a walking tour.

Resource:

Calgary: <http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Recreation/Documents/Public-art/Public-Art-policy.pdf>

Thunder Bay: http://www.thunderbay.ca/Living/Culture_and_Heritage/Public_Art.htm

37. Water Conservation Incentive Programs

What You Can Do: Encourage the installation and utilization of water conservation devices such as low-flow toilets, low-flow showerheads and rain barrels through the implementation of a municipal incentive program.

Benefits: Low flow devices significantly reduce water use, save money and reduce the load on the municipal sewage treatment infrastructure.

Details: Norfolk County has been running an incentive program since 2009 to encourage the installation of low-flow toilets in houses built prior to 1996, the year more water efficient toilets were required as per the Ontario Building Code. Toilets being replaced must use a volume of 13 L or greater. \$100 rebate are available to residents of the County.

Welland's Conservation Program offers replacement incentives for toilets and washing machines, along with offering subsidized rain barrels.

Resource:

Norfolk County Low-Flow Toilet Program: <http://www.norfolkcounty.ca/living/programs-and-incentives/toilet-replacement-program/toilet-replacement-tc/>

Welland Conservation Program: <http://www.city.welland.on.ca/Conservation/index.asp>

38. "Creative Economy Potential" Assessment Service

What You Can Do: Assess the potential for your community's economic development strategy to include pursuit of the creative economy.

Benefits: Supports the creation of knowledge-based economy jobs which tend to pay higher than average wages/salaries.

Details: Through the Rural Economic Development and Data Intelligence (REDDI) program, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs provides a complimentary service that analyzes your local economy and can filter the results for a focus on the creative economy. The link below gives some background to the program and provides contact information for our area.

Resource:

REDDI: <http://www.reddi.gov.on.ca/pdf/advisoryservicesmap.pdf>

39. Develop Green Building/Development Standards

What You Can Do: Develop and implement a set of local green building or development standards to encourage more sustainable building practices and techniques.

Benefits: Lowers the environmental impact of both building construction and operation.

Details: The Toronto Green Standard (TGS) is a two-tier set of performance measures, with supporting guidelines, for sustainable site and building design for new development. Its purpose is to promote site and building designs that address air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency, water quality and efficiency, solid waste and ecology. The TGS provides guidelines for three separate categories: i) low-rise non-residential, ii) low-rise residential, and iii) mid-high rise (any use). Their informative website contains guidelines, checklist, standards, and studies supporting green building practices.

The community of Ucluelet, B.C. is often used as an example of innovation and planning for other local governments. By actually implementing a number of sustainable planning initiatives, Ucluelet has been able to ground test various techniques and improve upon them. Other communities can benefit from this work and use it to their advantage.

Resources:

Toronto Green Standard: <http://www.toronto.ca/planning/environment/greendevlopment.htm#standards>

Ucluelet, BC: <http://www.toolkit.bc.ca/success-story/ucluelet-s-approach-sustainable-development-planning>

40. Incentives for Building Green

What You Can Do: Provide incentives for local developers and builders to build to a pre-determined set of green building standards.

Benefits: Increases chances of greater utilization of green building standards, which in turn improves impact on the health of building occupants, and lowers environmental footprint of construction.

Details: The City of Toronto provides a development charge refund of 20 percent for site plan applications that meet both Tier 1 and 2 of the Toronto Green Standard. The Development Charges (DC) Refund incentive

applies to projects that are required to pay development charges, that meet Tier 2 of the Toronto Green Standard (TGS) and that follow the proper application and verification procedures.

Resources:

TGS: <http://www.toronto.ca/planning/environment/developerinfo.htm>

41. Curbside Organic Waste Collection

What You Can Do: Develop and implement a municipal curbside organic waste collection program.

Benefits: Extends the life of a landfill site by diverting organic waste.

Details: In January 2006, Ladysmith became the first municipality in B.C. to offer residential curbside pick-up of organic waste. Almost 33 tonnes of organic waste are diverted each month to the organics processing facility. The production of methane gas and leachate, two common by-products of organics in a landfill, has been significantly reduced. This initiative has also reduced the transport of residual garbage off island by approximately one "B train" sized tandem trailer per month, eliminating one return truck trip to the Cache Creek landfill.

Resources:

Ladysmith, B.C. Program: <http://www.toolkit.bc.ca/success-story/curbside-organic-waste-recycling-ladysmith>

42. Protecting Natural Heritage

What You Can Do: Adopt a Natural Heritage System and/or promote land trust programs.

Benefits: Helps protect our natural assets and the ecosystem services they provide.

Details: The Kawartha Heritage Conservancy (KHC) is a regional charitable land trust based in Peterborough whose mission is to conserve the natural and cultural heritage and distinctive landscapes of the Kawartha bioregion. KHC provides technical and legal information on conservation strategies and on tax and other financial benefits of conservation. KHC is also developing a Natural Heritage System which envisions a landscape that supports the needs of local people and the natural environment, while ensuring we make the most efficient use of our resources.

The City of Guelph, ON has developed an extensive Natural Heritage Strategy to identify significant natural areas, forests and wetlands, and develop policies to protect and enhance them as the city continues to grow. The community has also incorporated the Natural Heritage Strategy into their Official Plan.

Resources:

(new website coming for KHC natural heritage system)

KHC Natural Heritage System Info:

http://www.kawarthaheritage.org/downloads/Kawarthas_NaturallyConnected_Final.pdf

KHC land trust info: <http://www.kawarthaheritage.org/ourworkprograms.asp>

Guelph, ON Natural Heritage Strategy: <http://www.guelph.ca/living.cfm?itemid=62105&smocid=1905>

Guelph Official Plan Update: <http://www.guelph.ca/living.cfm?subCatID=1765&smocid=2341>

43. A Sidewalk Strategic Plan

What You Can Do: Develop and implement a municipal sidewalk strategy.

Benefits: Promotes healthy communities by supporting walking as a mode of transportation and recreation, and indirectly reduces vehicle use, greenhouse gas emissions and transportation costs.

Details: The City of Peterborough has a Sidewalk Strategic Plan in place. The purpose of the Plan is to create a process to prioritize sidewalk projects within the City of Peterborough, including i) new sections of sidewalk, and ii) sidewalk ramps (for accessibility) on existing sidewalks. The scope of this project includes missing sections of sidewalk and sidewalk ramps in existing developments throughout the city.

The City of Kelowna, BC also has a sidewalk plan in place.

Resources: Peterborough, ON Sidewalk Plan:

<http://www.peterborough.ca/Assets/City+Assets/Transportation/Documents/Sidewalk+Strategic+Plan.pdf>

Kelowna, BC Plan: <http://www.kelowna.ca/CM/page428.aspx>

44. Make Your Community a Walkable Community

What You Can Do: Use the Canada Walks program to review the six characteristics of a walkable community and see how your community measures up.

Benefits: Walkable communities are important because a community that supports walking as a primary mode of transportation reaps benefits in the areas of health, the environment, transportation management, social cohesion, fuel dependency, safety and happiness

Details: Canada Walks is an initiative of Green Communities Canada that brings together a diverse group of projects whose focus is on promoting walking and walkable communities. Canada Walks aims to showcase best practice in walkable communities using inspiring examples from Canada and around the world. The initiative also defines a walkable community using six criteria.

Resource:

Canada Walks: <http://www.canadawalks.ca/aboutus.asp>

45. Greening Your Vehicle Fleet

What You Can Do: Green your fleet and reduce emissions that impact climate change and human health by conserving fuel, implementing new technology and changing fleets to alternative fuels where feasible.

Benefits: Greening your fleet results in a number of benefits including:

- Lower operating costs from fuel savings and more efficient vehicles;
- Capital cost reductions from choosing properly-sized vehicles and eliminating older, inefficient vehicles;
- Improved local air quality;
- Support for local economies by buying fleet-related products and services that are made locally;
- More efficient route planning; and
- Opportunities to show leadership on environmental issues and meet municipal environmental goals.

Details: With the cost of fuel increasing and the need to reduce the environmental impact of fleet operations and meet municipal and national GHG reduction strategies, many municipal fleet operators have started to “green” their fleets by exploring the use of alternative fuels, improving operational fleet standards, and purchasing new vehicle types and technologies.

To help fleet managers green their fleets, the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) has developed an extensive guide for greening heavy duty vehicles. It contains ideas, real city examples, and tools to achieve a greener fleet.

Resources:

Guide to Helpful Resources: http://www.fcm.ca/Documents/tools/Enviro-fleets/Enviro_fleets_reducing_emissions_from_municipal_heavy_duty_vehicles_EN.pdf

Guide to Best Practices: http://www.fcm.ca/Documents/tools/Enviro-fleets/Enviro_Fleets_Reducing_municipal_heavy_duty_vehicle_emissions_EN.pdf

FCM source page is: <http://www.fcm.ca/home/programs/past-programs/enviro-fleets.htm>

Tools for Partners

46. Green Defensive Driving Course

What You Can Do: Make all your employees better, safer, greener drivers using the Canada Safety Council's Green Defensive Driving Course.

Benefits: Helps keep your communities safe by improving driving habits, and lowers greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging behaviour and providing tips to increase fuel efficiency.

Details: This online course is designed for both new and experienced drivers, and provides the knowledge to help you prevent collisions. It also provides you with tips on how you can reduce the environmental impact of driving on the job and when you are off-duty.

Resource:

Course Access: <http://canadasafetycouncil.org/training/green-ddc-web-based-learning-experience>

47. Controlling Stormwater Using Green Infrastructure

What You Can Do: Make your community 'stormwater friendly' as a developer when building.

Benefits: Managing stormwater prevents erosion, promotes remediation of micro amounts of pollution, recharges aquifers, and reduces the risks of flooding

Details: If you need to find examples of what to do the American Society of Landscape Architects has just released a massive database of 479 case studies describing the successful application of 'green infrastructure' techniques that collect and process rainwater naturally before it flows into receiving waterways as polluted runoff. The database demonstrates the power of increasingly widespread application of sustainable practices to prevent pollution while simultaneously bringing nature and natural process back into urban environments. The case studies come from 43 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada.⁷

Resource:

ALSA Database: <http://www.asla.org/ContentDetail.aspx?id=31301>

48. Personal Sustainability for Groups/Organizations

What You Can Do: Help make personal sustainability an active part of daily life for your employees and stakeholders.

Benefits: Supporting personal sustainability can help improve the lives of your employees/stakeholders and aids in creating a more rewarding and fulfilling workplace. It also serves to support any organizational sustainability initiatives, by creating consistency in thinking sustainably both at home and at work.

⁷ Kaid Benfield's Blog http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/kbenfield/how_green_infrastructure_for_w.html

Details: *My Sustainability Plan* (MSP) for Organizations is an online tool that aids you in developing personal sustainability in an organization's members. It is a royalty-free license for organizations interested in adapting MSP for their employees or stakeholders and provides guidance, support, examples and an ability to track and share your experiences with others.

Resource: *My Sustainability Plan* for groups <https://mysustainabilityplan.com/Organization>

49. Climate Change Awareness for K to 12 Schools

What You Can Do: Schools can implement hands-on practical programs which educate students (grades K through 12) about climate change and its impacts.

Benefits: Understanding climate change at a young age and in a manner that makes it relevant to children helps encourage more sustainable behaviour now and in the future.

Details: The Association for Canadian Educational Resources has four programs for school age children to engage them in an active learning experience.

Resources:

Planting for Change: <http://acer-acre.ca/programs/planting-for-change-p4c>

Measuring Our Resources: <http://acer-acre.ca/programs/measuring-our-resources>

Let's Plant, Measure and Mulch: <http://acer-acre.ca/programs/lets-plant-measure-and-mulch>

Go Global: <http://acer-acre.ca/programs/go-global>

50. E-Business Handbook

What You Can Do: Implement an E-Business strategy for your company by using digital technology to grow your business.

Benefits: A great way to expand the capabilities of local, small business while at the same time potentially reducing waste, travel and your environmental footprint.

Details: The Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation has developed an E-Business Toolkit which is comprised of an introductory handbook, booklets on advanced e-business topics, e-business success stories and e-business sectoral studies.

Resources:

E-Business Toolkit (website): www.ontario.ca/ebusiness

E-Business Guidebook:

http://www.ontariocanada.com/ontcan/1medt/smallbiz/sb_downloads/ebiz_handbook_march2010_en.pdf

51. Supporting the Transition to Organic Farming

What You Can Do: Help farmers to switch to organic farming or start small organic farms targeted at local food products.

Benefits: Organic farming is meeting a growing demand for food that is healthier and has a smaller environmental footprint.

Details: There are many ways to support local organic farmers and the Ontario Government has pulled together a large library of online resources. These can be used to develop programs or can simply be shared through libraries and other community centres.

Resources:

OMAFRA Online Library: www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/organic/organic.html

52. Aboriginal Business Development Toolkit

What You Can Do: Assist your First Nations community members in business start-up and development.

Benefit: Contributes to a vibrant local economy and recognizes and supports the traditional aspects of local First Nations culture.

Details: The Government of Ontario has developed an Aboriginal Business Development Toolkit for members of First Nations thinking about starting or expanding a business. The toolkit includes identifying opportunities, completing market research, developing a business plan and executing it.

Resource:

Business Toolkit: <http://www.aboriginalaffairs.gov.on.ca/english/economy/abdtoolkit/abdtoolkit.pdf>

53. Creating an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

What You Can Do: Create and implement a plan for your farm that encourages the adoption of environmentally sound practices to improve the quality of our soil, water, air and biodiversity

Benefit: The EFP helps you to consider new ways of working that will decrease the risks to our natural resources, and lower your footprint.

Details: Developed by the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition, environmental farm plans (EFP) are assessments voluntarily prepared by farm families to increase their environmental awareness in up to 23 different areas on their farm. Through the EFP local workshop process, farmers highlight their farm's environmental strengths, identify areas of environmental concern, and set realistic action plans with timetables to improve environmental conditions.⁸

⁸ From http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/programs/canada_ontario_environmental_farm_plan_efp.htm

Resource:

EFP: http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/programs/canada_ontario_environmental_farm_plan_efp.htm

54. Alternative Land Use Services for Farmers

What You Can Do: Establish a program that assists farmers in their voluntary efforts to return marginal, environmentally sensitive, or inefficient farmland to native vegetative cover and wetlands.

Benefits: Creates a healthy and sustainable countryside able to support farming activities and healthy communities.

Details: The Norfolk Alternative Land Use Services Pilot Project is a voluntary, incentive-based project testing the concept of providing payments to farmers for returning marginal, environmentally sensitive, or inefficient farmland into native vegetative cover and wetlands. The pilot project is founded on the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) concept developed by Manitoba's Keystone Agricultural Producers. ALUS supports the conservation, restoration, and management of native habitat on working farms and ranches by providing project start up assistance, technical expertise and support, and incentive payments. The ALUS concept is a "fee for service" proposal that recognizes and rewards farmers and ranchers for the role they play in creating healthy, sustainable countryside vital to healthy human populations. ALUS sees the production of agricultural crops and livestock as compatible with the production of nature's benefits; and seeks to assist farmers and ranchers in continuing to employ land management practices that create productive agricultural systems and healthy countryside.⁹

Resources:

ALUS: http://www.norfolkalus.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9&Itemid=2

55. Greenbelt Green Energy Program for Agriculture (GGEPA)

What You Can Do: Farms within the Greenbelt can get funding to implement energy conservation programs and/or to start green energy generation projects.

Benefits: This is good for the environment and it helps farmers financially through cost savings or new revenue streams.

Details: The Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation was created in 2005 to champion activities that preserve and enhance the Greenbelt's agricultural, rural and ecological integrity. Through a collaborative effort involving farm organizations, the Foundation, federal and provincial governments, farmers may be eligible for enhanced cost sharing through the Greenbelt Green Energy Program for Agriculture (GGEPA) to implement Best Management Practices (BMP) involving energy conservation and green energy generation.

⁹ Taken from ALUS website: http://www.norfolkalus.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9&Itemid=2

Farms located within Ontario's Greenbelt that satisfy current eligibility requirements for the cost-share program associated with the EFP, have ready access to GGEPA funding. Upon verification of the eligibility of the registered farm and the proposed project, the process to acquire the enhanced cost-share is quite simple.

Resource:

Green Energy Program:

http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/programs/greenbelt_green_energy_program_for_agriculture.htm

56. Farming "Best Practices" Tool Kit

What You Can Do: Tap into industry best practices to help you improve in the areas of bio-security, business development, environment, climate change, and food safety and traceability on your farm.

Benefits: Utilizing best practices provides tools and skills to assist farmers in being more profitable, innovative and viable without having to invest the time and effort in developing the practices on their own.

Details: The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs has developed a 'Growing Forward' best practices suite.

Resource:

Growing Forward: <http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/about/growingforward/2011-bestpractices.htm>

57. Five Things Restaurants Can Do Right Now to Be More Sustainable

What You Can Do: Implement one or more simple steps to help your restaurant become more sustainable.

Benefits: Saves on operating costs, reduces waste, improves image and reduces your impact on the environment

Details: Leadership in Environmentally Accountable Foodservice (LEAF) is an organization which helps restaurants reduce their environmental impact, and makes it easy for diners to identify green restaurants. LEAF provides a benchmark to measure the environmental sustainability of foodservice establishments in Canada, and fosters sustainability by working with the community to support the local economy.

Resource:

LEAF Resource: http://www.leafme.ca/index.php?/main/read_news/53

58. Earthwise Thunder Bay Net Zero Business Guide

What You Can Do: Download and use Thunder Bay's Net Zero Business Guide to help you significantly reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

Benefits: Potentially diverts all waste from landfill and lowers your environmental footprint.

Details: This guide is designed to give you all the information you require to assess your business needs, create a Net Zero Action Plan, and access technology and financial incentives.

Resource:

Guide: <http://www.thunderbay.ca/Assets/Living/Environment/docs/Net-Zero+Business+Guide.pdf>

59. Eight Lessons to Promote Diversity in Public Places

What You Can Do: Utilize your public places to encourage and celebrate social diversity in your community.

Benefits: Enhances community diversity, which is a key component of the cultural pillar of a community sustainability plan.

Details: This tool identifies eight ideas that can be used as practical steps by communities as they begin thinking about engaging a wide range of cultural and socioeconomic groups through their public spaces and programming.

Resource:

Public Places and Diversity: <http://www.pps.org/articles/diversityinpublicspaces/>

60. Tool for Post-secondary Institution Sustainability

What You Can Do: Encourage our post-secondary institutions to become more sustainable by utilizing a self-assessment rating tool.

Benefits: Supports sustainability initiatives in a wide variety of areas including education and research, operations, planning and administration, and innovation.

Details: The Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education has developed a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. The framework, known as STARS, is intended to engage and recognize the full spectrum of colleges and universities – from community colleges to research universities, and from institutions just starting their sustainability programs to long-time campus sustainability leaders.

Resource:

STARS Program: <https://stars.aashe.org/pages/about/>

61. Ontario Business Program Guide

What You Can Do: Help your business ensure financial success through incentive programs.

Benefits: Maintains a vibrant and healthy local economy.

Details: The Ontario Business Program Guide is the Ontario government's free, online directory of tax incentives, tax credits and government support programs for business.

Resources:

Ontario Business Program Guide: www.ontario.ca/en/business_program/index.htm

62. *Eat-Smart* Recognition Program for Healthy Eating

What You Can Do: Adopt a healthy eating recognition program for your recreation centres and workplaces.

Benefits: Healthy eating leads to healthy communities, and reduces strain on local medical service providers.

Details: *Eat Smart* is an Award of Excellence program that recognizes Ontario workplaces and recreation centres for providing healthier environments for their customers and employees. Our local Public Health Unit, along with the Canadian Cancer Society (Ontario Division) and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, award *Eat Smart* designations to locations that provide:

- a variety of healthier food choices, on the menu or by request, including vegetables, and fruit, foods prepared using healthier preparation methods and substitutions;
- an excellent track record in food safety and at least one employee who is certified in safe food handling; and
- a 100 percent smoke-free environment which does not promote the use of tobacco.

Resource:

Workplace Program: <http://www.eatsmartontario.ca/workplace>

Recreation Centre Program: http://www.eatsmartontario.ca/recreation_centre

63. Funding For Community Renewable Energy Projects

What You Can Do: Improve the potential economic viability of community renewable energy projects by tapping into available funding programs such as the Community Power Fund.

Benefits: Local renewable energy projects increase a community's energy self-sufficiency/resiliency and reduce greenhouse gases by decreasing the use of non-renewable energy.

Details: The Community Power Fund (CP Fund) was established in 2007 to financially support project development activities of Ontario-based community organizations pursuing local renewable energy projects. Financing instruments include grants, loans and investment equity and are distributed via two principle programs: the Community Energy Partnerships Program (CEPP) and Community Power Capital (CP Capital).

Resource:

Community Power Fund: <http://www.cpfund.ca/about-the-fund.html>

64. Testing Your Lake Water

What You Can Do: Join Kawartha Lake Stewards' Association (KLSA) water testing program.

Benefits: Allows you to confirm levels of phosphorus and *E.coli* bacteria in your lake and track changes over time. KLSA also provides information on stewardship activities that can reduce nutrient loading and improve the health of your lakes.

Details: The Kawartha Lake Stewards Association is a non-profit, volunteer organization of cottagers and year-round residents formed to monitor the water quality of the Kawartha Lakes. Founded in 2000, KLSA represents 24 cottager associations on more than a dozen lakes along the Trent Severn Waterway. Initially formed to test surface waters, the organization now participates in research studies with respect to other factors causing changes in lakes.

Resource:

KLSA Water Testing Program: <http://klsa.wordpress.com/about>

65. Shoreline Inspection Program

What You Can Do: Have a thorough inspection of your shoreline completed by the Lakeland Alliance's Shoreline Advisor Program.

Benefits: Maintaining a healthy, natural shoreline prevents excessive amounts of nutrients from entering your lake, prevents shoreline erosion, provides food and shelter for fish and wildlife species and protects your property and investment.

Details: The Lakeland Alliance offers the *Shoreline Advisor Program* to selected lake associations in the region. The Advisor Program provides free and site-specific consultation services to individual shoreline property owners who are looking for inexpensive, effective and natural ways to protect their shoreline and their waterfront investments. A trained and qualified advisor tours your property with you and provides suggestions and positive stewardship actions specific to your property. The program is free, voluntary, confidential and non-regulatory. Focus areas include: shoreline protection, erosion mitigation, best management practices for septic systems, pollution prevention, invasive species, and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement.

The Lakeland Alliance also produces "A Shoreline Owner's Guide to Healthy Waterfronts".

Resource:

Shoreline Advisor Program: <http://www.lakeland.greenup.on.ca/advisor/index.html>

Shoreline Owner's Guide:

http://www.lakeland.greenup.on.ca/resources/documents/Healthy_Waterfronts_2011.pdf

66. Greening Sacred Spaces

What You Can Do: Make your faith community building more efficient and sustainable by engaging members in the greening process and creating a green team by accessing services, resources, tools and the networks knowledge sharing opportunities.

Benefits: This program will help you reduce operating costs and create an action plan to green your facility while demonstrating moral leadership as stewards in the community.

Details: Access information and resources of both the educational and spiritual dimensions of greening as well as the 'how-to' side of audits, retrofits and generally reducing the faith community's environmental footprint. The network has developed a whole resource kit with workshops, posters, music, and more to help faith groups become community leaders in working towards a more sustainable future. The *Greening Sacred Spaces* guide offers hundreds of local, sustainable products, services and resources to build, retrofit and maintain a green faith building and extend that sustainable vision to the broader community and homes.

Resource:

Greening Sacred Spaces: <http://www.greeningsacredspaces.net/>

67. Fostering Sustainable Business Practices

What You Can Do: Evaluate your business operations for efficiency, investigate industry standards and learn about new opportunities for business owners and managers regarding facility upgrades, energy and waste management.

Benefits: This program offers opportunities for business to excel in a changing economy by engaging the social and environmental aspects of sustainability to save money, gain differentiation from competitors, get recognized as a good corporate citizen, and boost productivity, loyalty and morale of employees while reducing your business impact on the environment.

Details: Peterborough Green-Up offers consultation services, training seminars on fostering sustainable business practices and employee engagement workshops. You can access the "Sus-Bus" Audit tool, industry standard guides, fact sheets and business news through their website.

Resource:

Peterborough Green-Up:
http://www.greenup.on.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=106&Itemid=106

68. Save ON Energy

What You Can Do: Implement strategies and solutions to reduce your business' energy use.

Benefits: By reducing energy use, businesses lower their operating cost, reduce their environmental footprint, and help defer the need to build new generation infrastructure.

Details: A number of innovative programs exist that can help businesses reduce their energy needs. Save ON Energy is a program which provides help to fund energy audits, to replace energy-wasting equipment or to pursue new construction that exceeds our existing codes and standards. Businesses can also pursue incentives for controlling and reducing their electricity demand at specific times. Your local electric utility can assist you to assess and implement energy efficiency measures for your building, equipment and operational practices that could lower your electricity costs now and in the future.

Ontario's Ministry of Energy also provides ideas and tips on how your business can reduce its energy use.

Resources:

Save ON Energy: <https://saveonenergy.ca/>

Ontario Ministry of Energy Program: <http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/saving-energy-for-business/>

69. Quest for Less – School Waste Reduction Programs

What You Can Do: Teachers can book the Quest for Less Grade 1, 3 or 7 programs or the Earth Week School Challenge.

Benefits: Both of these waste reduction programs are based on the concept of the 5 Rs – Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (and compost) and are aimed to inspire children, teachers and parents to make choices and take actions that will lead to reducing the waste created in our community.

Details: Peterborough Green-Up offers a number of waste reduction programs including Quest for Less. All programs are linked to the Ontario curriculum, are updated regularly and are delivered by experienced educators.

Resources:

Quest for Less: http://greenup.on.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=88&Itemid=64

Peterborough Green-Up Waste Reduction Programs:
http://greenup.on.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=51&Itemid=53

70. Waste Reduction Toolkit for Construction/Demolition Projects

What You Can Do: Develop and implement a 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) strategy for your construction and demolition projects.

Benefits: Saves money and resources and lowers negative impact on the environment.

Details: It is estimated that almost eleven percent (over 1 million tonnes in 2008¹⁰) of Ontario waste going to landfills comes from construction, renovation and demolition (CRD) projects. This includes materials such as wood, drywall, cardboard, doors and windows, but excludes materials such as asphalt, concrete, bricks and

¹⁰ Taken from: http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/industry/standards/ici_waste_reduction/crd/index.htm

clean sand or gravel. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment has produced a toolkit to help reduce waste generated from construction, renovation and demolition projects. The kit helps you get started in the development of all integral components of a waste management plan including waste audit, waste reduction work plan, and source separation plan.

Resource:

CRD Waste Reduction:

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/industry/standards/ici_waste_reduction/crd/STDPROD_078843.html

71. *Take Back the Light* Fluorescent Tube Recycling Program

What You Can Do: Recycle or become a recycling depot for fluorescent lighting tubes.

Benefits: Recycling fluorescent tubes diverts this mercury-containing product from landfills, and recycles not only the mercury but also the glass and phosphorus which make up the product.

Details: The Recycling Council of Ontario's *Take Back the Light* program streamlines the process for getting bulbs to the recycler, and provides a cost-effective solution to handling fluorescent bulb waste.

Resources:

Take Back the Light: <http://www.takebackthelight.ca/about>

Tools for Individuals

72. The Ontario Smart Home Roadmap

What You Can Do: Raise awareness of residents in your community about how the power grid is changing by sharing this free tool.

Benefits: Helps educate residents on trends and potential new technologies which are evolving and will create more efficient and sustainable actions as they pertain to running a household.

Details: This Roadmap was developed by the Ontario Smart Grid Forum to provide a timeline for new energy use options for the home consumer. More detail about the roadmap and other aspects of the development of smart grid capabilities in Ontario can be found in the Forum's latest report: Modernizing Ontario's Electricity System: Next Steps.

Resources:

Roadmap: <http://www.ieso.ca/smarthomeroadmap/>

Smart Grid Report: http://www.ieso.ca/imoweb/pubs/smart_grid/Smart_Grid_Forum-Report-May_2011.pdf

73. Steps for Developing a Renewable Energy Project

What You Can Do: Develop a renewable energy project by taking advantage of current government programs and incentives.

Benefits: Renewable energy promotes a green economy, moves communities closer to energy self-sufficiency, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Details: As part of the Ontario Ministry of Energy, the Renewable Energy Facilitation Office provides a one-stop shop to assist those looking to develop a renewable energy project, including a simple outline of the steps involved.

Resources:

Renewable Energy Facilitation Office: <http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/renewable-energy-facilitation-office/developing-a-renewable-energy-project/>

74. One Hundred Ways to Save Energy

What You Can Do: Lower your energy use by implementing simple and potentially low cost ideas.

Benefits: Reducing energy use saves you money and lowers greenhouse gas emissions caused by generation of energy from non-renewable resources.

Details: The City of Guelph has produced a list of 100 ways to save energy for homeowners, employers, kids, travellers and students.

The Ontario Power Authority's *Save ON Energy* program also provides helpful information on ideas and incentive programs to help you reduce your household energy consumption and save money.

Resources:

City of Guelph Ideas: <http://www.guelph.ca/living.cfm?itemid=78786&smocid=2127>

Peterborough Distribution Inc.: <https://www.saveonenergy.ca/Consumer.aspx>

75. Personal Sustainability Plan

What You Can Do: Create your own personal sustainability plan that allows you to determine what's important to you, decide what changes you want to make in terms of living healthier or greener, make those changes and track them. One way to do this is through a free, online tool called My Sustainability Plan.

Benefits: When individual actions on sustainability are examined collectively, they make a tremendous difference. Creating a plan will aid you in actually making the changes happen, and in turn do your part to make the world a little better.

Details: My Sustainability Plan is an online tool that aids you in developing your plan to live more sustainability. It provides guidance, support, examples and an ability to track and share your experiences with others.

Resource:

Personal Sustainability Plan: <https://mysustainabilityplan.com/>

76. Sustainability Practices at Home Toolkit

What You Can Do: Implement sustainability practices in your own home with the assistance of the *Sustainability At Home* toolkit.

Benefits: Helps you to save money, create a healthier living space, and reduce your environmental impact.

Details: Developed by The Natural Step and The Cooperators, *Sustainability at Home* helps Canadians identify opportunities to "green" their homes in a way that works within the capacity of nature to sustain us over the long-term. It presents practical tips and ideas on a room-by-room basis. The toolkit is designed as a guide for every kind of household, large and small, and includes sustainability advice on everything from grocery shopping to landscaping to disposing of medication.

Resources:

Sustainability at Home: <http://www.thenaturalstep.org/en/canada/sustainability-at-home-new-toolkit-offers-guidance-for-leading-more-sustainable-lifestyles>

77. Environmental and Stewardship Education for Children

What You Can Do: Provide opportunities for children to develop environmental literacy and stewardship skills.

Benefits: Children who have high quality experiences with the natural world are more likely to become adults who are committed to sustainable lifestyles. Parents and teachers can provide a variety of experiences for children that encourage a respect for living things and a commitment to living lightly on the planet.

Details: Parents and children can enjoy a variety of self-guided outdoor learning opportunities at the Peterborough Ecology Park, or enrol in special summer children's programs. Teachers can involve their elementary classes in a wide range of curriculum-linked half-day programs exploring themes such as habitats, soil, plants, animals, food, seasons, energy and waste reduction.

Resource:

Ecology Park located on Ashburnham Drive, Peterborough (Open May through October)
www.ecologypark.greenup.on.ca

78. Local Re-use and Recycling Guide

What You Can Do: Utilize the local re-use and recycling guide to divert waste from the landfill.

Benefits: Promotes healthy communities by keeping hazardous waste out of the landfills and lowers your environmental footprint by encouraging the re-use and recycling of products.

Details: *Peterboroughreuses.com* is a website providing a comprehensive listing of where to get rid of unwanted items in the Peterborough area. The guide includes recycling and reuse options and information on the safe disposal of hazardous products. The Reuse & Recycling Guide lists 68 waste reduction categories in alphabetical order and provides brief information about each category as well as the names, phone numbers and street addresses of businesses that will accept material in that category.

Resource:

Peterborough Reuses: <http://www.peterboroughreuses.com/recycling/>

79. Supporting Community Gardens

What You Can Do: Establish a local community garden.

Benefits: Helps increase to local, sustainable, healthy food.

Details: The Peterborough Community Garden Network exists to “foster community gardens through education, advocacy, and networking to increase access to local sustainable food.” Their website contains a variety of great information and tools including tips on how to get started, sample rules and regulations for members, and information on Peterborough’s Community Garden Policy.

Resource:

Peterborough Community Garden Network: <http://ptbocommgardennetwork.blogspot.com/>

Peterborough Garden Policy:

<http://www.peterborough.ca/Assets/City+Assets/Corporate+Policy/Documents/Community+Services/Recreation/Community+Gardens+Policy.pdf>

80. Using a Rain Barrel

What You Can Do: Harvest rainwater by purchasing and installing a rain barrel.

Benefits: Conserves water, saves you money and lowers your environmental footprint.

Details: Peterborough Green-Up offers a helpful, easy-to-read fact sheet on rain barrels including benefits, maintenance, and installation. The Green-Up store also sells rain barrels.

Peterboroughreuses.com also provides rain barrel information and a list of locations where you can purchase one.

Resources:

Green-Up Rain barrel Fact Sheet: <http://www.greenup.on.ca/images/stories/W-Rain%20barrels.pdf>

Peterboroughreuses.com info: <http://www.peterboroughreuses.com/shopping/default.asp?catID=161>

81. Inspect Your Septic System

What You Can Do: Ensure your septic system is working properly by completing a personal inspection or hiring someone to have a look.

Benefits: Ensures that system is working efficiently and safely and therefore protects human health and the environment.

Details: The Township of Huron-Kinloss runs a mandatory septic inspection program that results in septic inspections being completed on a six-year rotational basis. Their website provides an excellent overview of the program, and of septic system information in general including maintenance tips.

Resources:

Township of Huron-Kinloss Overview: <http://www.huronkinloss.com/septic-systems.cfm>

82. Community Stream Stewardship Program

What You Can Do: Join the Community Stream Steward Program.

Benefits: Provides access to information, advice, and stewardship training to conserve and restore area streams, thereby protecting our natural heritage and our water.

Details: The Community Stream Steward Program (CSSP) is a multi-partner conservation and stewardship initiative hosted by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. With the aim of engaging landowners and communities, the program works to build a network of leaders in stream conservation, restoration, and stewardship across Ontario. The program provides landowners and community members with the advice, support, and tools required to conduct coordinated stewardship activities along stream reaches within their neighbourhoods.

Resource:

Community Stream Steward Program: <http://www.ofah.org/streamsteward/index.cfm>

83. Home Weatherization Program for Low Income Households

What You Can Do: Take advantage of free home retrofits and improvements for insulation and draft proofing to homeowners and tenants in financial need in the City and County of Peterborough and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Benefits: Reducing energy costs assists those in financial need and frees up resources for other necessities. Homes are made more energy efficient which means they are healthier and more comfortable. Retrofits increase the home's value to potential buyers or tenants and the environment is protected by less energy use and cleaner air.

Details: The Enbridge Gas Home Weatherization Program is delivered exclusively by Peterborough Green-Up. The program is directed to applicants who are already in receipt of various government assistance programs (such as ODSP or Ontario Works), or, who are of limited financial means and pay their own natural gas bill. Qualified homes are audited and may receive free services such as basement, wall and attic insulation installation and draft proofing to increase the home's efficiency. Results are tracked to produce real conservation demand statistics and the program is fully funded by Enbridge Gas and free to all qualified applicants and homes.

Resources:

Enbridge Gas Home Weatherization Program

http://greenup.on.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=102&Itemid=102

84. Reducing Vehicle Use / Improving Vehicle Efficiency

What You Can Do: Change your driving habits in a more eco-friendly fashion.

Benefits: Saves you money, helps improve air quality and lowers your greenhouse gas emissions.

Details: Peterborough Moves provides eco-driver tips to help reduce your vehicle use. The website also provides tips on how to improve your fuel efficiency.

Resource:

Eco Driver Tips: <http://www.peterboroughmoves.com/eco-driver-tips>

85. 10 Ways to Save Your Local Woods

What You Can Do: Check out this list of 10 strategies you can use to protect and save your woods.

Benefits: Preserving natural areas such as woodlots provide social, economic and environmental benefits. At minimum, trees absorb carbon and assist in reducing greenhouse gases and global warming.

Details: Ontario Nature protects wild species and wild spaces through conservation, education and public engagement. All across Ontario, individuals and communities are mobilizing to protect their local woodlands in a variety of creative ways. Ontario Nature has put together a list of 10 ways to save your local woods. These 10 ways work equally well for wetlands and other aquatic habitats (coastal habitats, river valleys, etc.), alvars and other non-forested wilderness.

Resources:

Ontario Nature: http://www.ontarionature.org/discover/resources/PDFs/factsheets/ten_ways.pdf

86. Sustainable Gardens & Yards

What You Can Do: Boost the biodiversity of your yard.

Benefits: A yard and garden with a wide variety of living things is naturally resistant to pests and diseases, as well as a delight to the senses.

Details: Including native plants in your garden plan, controlling invasive species, providing shelters for wildlife such as birds and using natural soil amendments and pest controls are fundamental to sustainable gardening. Display gardens, factsheets, plants, City leaf compost, garden supplies and personalized advice are all available during the growing season at Peterborough's Ecology Park.

Resource:

Peterborough's Ecology Park: Ashburnham Drive next to Beavermead Park
<http://ecologypark.greenup.on.ca/location.html>

Gardening factsheets: http://greenup.on.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=30
(Scroll down to Gardening series)

87. Backyard Composting

What You Can Do: Learn how to compost in your own yard.

Benefits: Reduce waste sent to landfill, create a valuable soil amendment and reduce energy in transporting waste.

Details: Visit the City's compost demonstration site, pick up some info sheets, buy a composter (subsidized), talk to staff about successful composting, and see the benefits of compost in the beautiful display gardens. You can also download a series of composting factsheets from Peterborough Green-Up.

Resources:

Peterborough's Ecology Park: Ashburnham Drive next to Beavermead Park
<http://ecologypark.greenup.on.ca/location.html>

Composting Factsheets:
http://greenup.on.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=30 (Scroll down to Waste Reduction series)

88. Supporting Urban Forestry

What You Can Do: Contribute towards a healthy urban forest by planting and maintaining a variety of native trees on your property.

Benefits: A well-treed city or town provides many physical and psychological benefits to its residents. Summer shade reduces energy consumption and extends the life of roads and sidewalks. Trees reduce stormwater runoff, control soil erosion, capture carbon and purify the air. Diverse green areas relieve stress, reduce crime and increase property values.

Details: Peterborough Green-Up provides a series of local urban forest factsheets to support urban tree planting. The Peterborough Ecology Park runs an arboretum and tree nursery, and focuses on germinating native species up until they are large enough to move to permanent homes. Plants are then sold to the public, used in regional restoration projects, and planted in demonstration gardens in the Ecology Park, as 'green ambassadors' for healthy, sustainable landscapes.

In 2011, the City of Peterborough completed a draft Urban Forest Strategic Plan, with the purpose of updating the 1998 plan and recommending direction and actions for the City to optimize the benefits of trees.

Resources:

Peterborough Green-Up Factsheets:

Trees in the City: <http://greenup.on.ca/images/stories/Trees%20in%20the%20City.pdf>

Choosing the Right Tree: http://greenup.on.ca/images/stories/ChoosingTrees_web.pdf

Planting/Caring for Trees:

<http://greenup.on.ca/images/stories/Planting%20and%20Caring%20for%20Trees.pdf>

Ecology Park Nursery Info: <http://www.ecologypark.greenup.on.ca/nursery.html>

City of Peterborough's Draft Urban Forest Strategic Plan:

<http://www.peterborough.ca/Assets/City+Assets/Public+Works/Documents/Draft+Urban+Forstry+Plan.pdf?method=1>

89. Outdoor Water Conservation

What You Can Do: Design a yard that requires a minimum amount of water.

Benefits: A community's water consumption can actually double during summer months when residents use significant amounts of water on their lawns and gardens. A well-designed yard can drastically reduce water use.

Details: Peterborough's Ecology Park provides an opportunity to visit their xeriscape garden to learn the basics of conserving water outdoors, from using rain barrels to learning the best time to water, and which plants to select. Peterborough Green-Up offers a 'Low Water Garden' Factsheet providing information and ideas on reducing your outdoor water consumption.

Resource:

Ecology Park: <http://www.ecologypark.greenup.on.ca/displays.html>

Peterborough Green-Up Factsheet: <http://greenup.on.ca/images/stories/Low-Water%20Gardens.pdf>

90. Energy Conservation

What You Can Do: Plant a shade tree on the south or west side of your home.

Benefits: Keeps your home cooler in the summer months and reduces air conditioning costs by up to 25 percent, thereby saving you money and reducing your environmental impact.

Details: Have a look at your property and decide whether there is space for a shade tree on the south or west of the building. Take note of the growing conditions in these locations (i.e., soil, moisture, sun, road salt), and note whether there are overhead wires or paved surfaces which could restrict tree growth. Peterborough Green-Up provides information on 'Choosing the Right Tree'. Also, Peterborough's Ecology Park tree nursery displays a variety of native trees suitable for growing in the Peterborough region.

Resource:

Choosing the Right Tree: http://greenup.on.ca/images/stories/ChoosingTrees_web.pdf

91. Sustainable Household Products

What You Can Do: Utilize sustainable and locally sourced household products and ideas that help you embrace a greener lifestyle.

Benefits: Reduces your household ecological footprint.

Details: Peterborough Green-Up represents one local location that provides sustainable household products and information. All store products have been selected based on the following criteria: 1. Reduces your environmental footprint; 2. Reusable and/or recyclable; 3. High post-consumer recycled content; 4. Natural and non-toxic ingredients; 5. Little-to-no packaging; 6. Sourced as locally as possible; 7. Ethically manufactured; and 8. Quality products that work.

Visit Green-Up at 378 Aylmer Street in Peterborough anytime between 9 and 5 Monday to Friday and 10 to 4 on Saturday to learn about current environmental topics of interest in their resource library or browse their eco-friendly products.

Resource:

Sustainable Household Products

http://greenup.on.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=72&Itemid=65

Tools for Promotion

92. Run a Sustainability Awards Program

What You Can Do: Why not recognize achievement in the Greater Peterborough Area? Consider implementing a sustainability awards program.

Benefits: Recognizing local sustainability achievements provides public promotion and support of the value of sustainability initiatives, and provides encouragement for others to implement their own initiatives.

Details: The City of Boston runs a Green Awards program that recognizes local sustainability efforts in the areas of: 1) Residential, 2) Business, and 3) Food Leadership. The program recognizes efforts that demonstrate exemplary sustainable practices in their community, their homes and their businesses. In the case of Food Leadership the award recognizes extraordinary efforts to provide fresh and local food in the most sustainable manner.

Resource:

Sustainability Awards Program

<http://www.cityofboston.gov/environmentalandenergy/greenawards/winners11.asp>

93. Sustainable Business Award Program

What You Can Do: Why not encourage small businesses to become more sustainable? In Edmonton they have launched a terrific program that provides small prizes as an incentive.

Benefits: Encourages local businesses to green their operations and reduce the environmental footprint of their company.

Details: The Small Business Eco Challenge celebrates the environmental achievements of small business operating in Edmonton. Judging criteria are linked to the City's Environmental Strategic Plan which fosters collaboration on moving towards community sustainability.

Resource:

Sustainable Business Award Program: <http://www.edmonton.ca/environmental/programs/small-business-eco-challenge.aspx>

94. Contest for Vehicle Use Reduction

What You Can Do: Join the Shifting Gears program, either as a workplace team or as a household, to reduce your vehicle use and potentially win prizes.

Benefits: Increased physical activity and associated health benefits, reduced family transportation costs, improved air quality and lower climate change emissions.

Details: Shifting Gears has existed for eight years in Peterborough as a workplace-based program with an objective to reduce individual vehicle trips to work. In 2011, the program added a neighbourhood category to allow households to join and compete. Prizes and bragging rights are provided to winning organizations and households in a number of categories.

Resources:

Shifting Gears Program: <http://www.peterboroughmoves.com/shiftinggears>