



Meeting the Conservation Challenge

NGO Roles and Opportunities

November 25, 2004

A Challenge Paper prepared for Ontario's Conservation Summit 2004



**The Conservation
Council of Ontario**

Meeting the Conservation Challenge

NGO Roles and Opportunities

Meeting the Conservation Challenge summarizes many of the non-governmental organization programs and services that can form an important part of Ontario's conservation movement. In so doing, it identifies new opportunities and potential areas of collaboration in support of Ontario's conservation goals and targets.

NOTES ON THE PREPARATION OF THIS PAPER

This paper was prepared for Ontario's Conservation Summit 2004 by Chris Winter, Executive Director of the Conservation Council of Ontario with the assistance of numerous contributors from the conservation community. The bulk of the information on organizations and their activities was gleaned from organization websites.

This report represents a snapshot of Ontario's conservation movement as of November 25, 2004. We apologize in advance for all errors and omissions, and encourage readers to participate in making the Green Ontario website a gateway to Ontario's conservation movement.

Updates to the information are requested, and can be submitted in several ways.

1. Each of these sections will become a factsheet on the Green Ontario website, www.greenontario.org. Updates will be incorporated into the online factsheets. Please send links and recommended text to cco@web.ca.
2. Post your resources on the GreenAID directory on the Green Ontario website, www.greenontario.org. The directory will include programs, educational resources, provincial campaigns, and great project ideas. You can update your entries on the database at any time.

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We would also like to thank the many individuals within the conservation community who have provided material for the report and comments on early drafts.

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Building a Stronger Movement

Context

The Premier of Ontario, senior Cabinet ministers, and a special Conservation Action Team have laid out a challenge to all of Ontario: to make Ontario a North American leader in conservation and create a culture of conservation across the province.

The government is seeking our help to achieve this goal, and to help achieve specific targets along the way, such as a 5% reduction in electricity consumption by 2007 and a 60% diversion rate for solid waste by 2008.

Throughout this paper you will find examples of excellence – activities by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and partnerships that include NGOs.

There **is** a conservation movement in Ontario, with centres for policy research, leaders in program development and delivery, and volunteers willing to lend a hand for worthy causes. It is a movement with that spans the province, touches all of society, and reaches into the business community and professions.

But we could do better. Much better. There are over 12 million people in Ontario. Each one is a consumer. Most of them consciously engage in conservation activities, such as recycling, taking public transit, or keeping pollution out of our lakes and waterways. We are all conservationists. Our challenge is to become better conservationists, and the role of Ontario's conservation movement is to assist people in adopting conservation values and practices in our everyday lives, or homes, our purchases and our workplace.

We have many skilled organizations in Ontario that have demonstrated leadership and excellence in environmental research, public outreach, hands-on projects, and public services. We have a strong foundation upon which we can build an even stronger conservation movement

Most Ontarians belong to one organization or another, be it a place of worship, a community group, a cultural association, a union, a professional association, or any organization that expresses common values. For many of these groups (and their members), conservation and a healthy environment is of great concern. We have a tremendous potential for reaching the Ontario public with messages, projects, and services that are tailored to the interests of each organization.

Goals and Targets

Our challenge is to create a coordinated, widespread and successful conservation movement in Ontario. Our goal is to raise our movement to a new level of capability within three years.

Specifically, we need to create a conservation movement that:

- is well coordinated provincially and locally
- is broad- based
- is better funded
- is results driven
- has skilled and productive professionals and volunteers
- has centres of excellence in research and program development
- offers high quality conservation programs and services
- develops high profile provincial campaigns

An additional and immediate task is to identify how Ontario's conservation movement can assist in meeting provincial goals and targets for conservation. A particular focus should be on developing new conservation collaborations and activities that will contribute to the provincial targets of:

- a 5% reduction in electricity consumption by 2007
- a 60% waste diversion rate by 2008.

Coordination

Networks

There are two main networking organizations in Ontario with a broad-based mandate to support cooperation on conservation and the environment:

The Conservation Council of Ontario (CCO) www.greenontario.org/cco/

The CCO is a provincial association of organizations and individual conservation leaders. Its mission is to create a conservator society in Ontario through the development of a stronger conservation movement.

The Council currently has a membership of 25 organizations including both provincial non-governmental organizations and professional association that support the goals of a conservator society and a healthy environment, are committed to incorporating environmental values into their own activities, and who wish to work together to promote a province-wide, cooperative approach to solving environmental problems.

The Ontario Environment Network (OEN) www.oen.ca

The Ontario Environment Network is a non-profit, non-governmental network serving Ontario's environmental non-profit, non-governmental community. Ontario services over 600 groups that range from national to neighbourhood-based and focus on a wide range of issues.

The OEN seeks to increase awareness of these organizations and encourage discussions about means to protect the environment. OEN is a non-advocacy network and therefore does not take positions on issues.

Issue Hubs

Coordination is also essential around individual sectors and issues. Numerous alliances exist to promote environmental policy, and there is also an increasing interest in coordination around public engagement. Of the groups listed below, most of them are less than five years old. Their purpose includes helping promote cooperation around the delivery of programs and services by NGOs.

They include:

- The Canadian Partnership on Children's Health and the Environment (health and the environment)
- Climate Air Connections (energy and air quality)
- The Low Income Energy Network (energy and poverty)
- The Stewardship Alliance (nature)
- The Ontario Smart Growth Network (urban planning and design)

Existing Activities

For the most part, existing activities are listed in subsequent sections of this paper. The following organizations and activities are significant with respect to the overall development of a stronger conservation movement.

Strengthening the Conservation Movement

The Conservation Council of Ontario www.greenontario.org

“Greening Ontario” www.greenontario.org/summit/index2002.html

Following a 2002 Eco Summit, the Conservation Council of Ontario synthesized the ideas and recommendations from the summit into a strategy paper on how to revitalize NGO contributions to conservation and a healthy environment.

Key recommendations included:

- identifying clear provincial targets and goals for conservation and a healthy environment
- identifying "centres of excellence"
- building collaborative alliances of like-minded organizations
- developing provincial outreach campaigns to raise awareness of conservation solutions

Many of the recommendations have been acted upon (such as the development of a new network around “smart growth”) and the current Conservation Summit is intended to lead to new initiatives and collaborations in support of this strategy.

The Ontario Environment Network www.oen.ca

Regional Environmental Networks

The OEN is helping set up regional networks of environmental organizations. The regional networks parallel the OEN provincial structure and role, and support greater involvement at the local level.

OEN Meetings

The OEN holds a spring and fall conference to provide opportunities for Ontario groups to come together, share ideas, learn about issues, and develop cooperative approaches.

The Sustainability Network www.sustain.web.ca

The Sustainability Network helps organizations and environmental professionals to achieve their full potential. Sustainability Network programs include training workshops, bursaries, direct management assistance, and an internet listing of capacity building tools and resources.

Identifying Opportunities

1) Improve provincial and local coordination:

- a) support the creation of "hubs" and other coordination structures to build capacity in the conservation movement to share innovations, deliver more accessible and consistent support to constituencies, and scale their efforts
- b) develop and package user-friendly services for community-based organizing and conservation education
- c) develop professional "communities of practice" around specific conservation priorities (e.g., regional Green Buildings associations) to build expertise, improve practices and make expertise more readily available to communities, organizations and households throughout the province

2) Include more organizations in a broad-based movement:

- a) establish or revitalize programs to build conservation practices within mainstream professions, such as cultural professionals, educators or civil engineers
- b) work with youth and youth organizations to develop conservation learning and volunteer activities in schools and traditional youth organizations

3) Develop significant and sustainable sources of funds for conservation activities through new and innovative sources, such as:

- a) Consumer and business incentives as a means of stimulating demand
- b) Affinity fundraising – a provincial conservation campaign that allows donors to identify issues and/or groups
- c) Flow-through surcharges dedicated to conservation subsidies or investments

4) Ensure our movement is results driven.

- a) establish a common benchmarking and performance measurement framework (e.g., the Oregon Benchmarks programme), that is shared and co-managed by the provincial government, conservation organizations, municipalities, conservation authorities, LDCs, and major conservation funders
- b) convene an annual Ontario Conservation Summit to take stock of progress and to plan and coordinate future initiatives and investments

5) Ensure our movement has skilled and productive professionals and volunteers:

- a) provide ongoing training for professionals and volunteers
- b) provide mentoring programs, especially to assist new local groups during their start-up

6) Ensure our movement has centres of excellence in research and program development

7) Develop high profile provincial campaigns. Early priorities could include:

- a) energy conservation
- b) compact, healthy urban form
- c) a campaign to promote public commitment to conservation (connecting *Green Ontario*, the *David Suzuki Nature Challenge* and other outreach campaigns)

Natural areas

Context

Nature is the heart and soul of conservation. Conservation seeks to minimize our impact on nature by reducing our ecological footprint. From the Boreal forest to the Greater Toronto Area and at all points in between, nature is at risk.

Ontario's conservation organizations continue to rise to the challenge, by urging stronger protection for the remaining natural areas, working with landowners to preserve and/or restore natural areas, and seeking to minimize the impact of development on natural areas, watersheds and ecosystems.

Provincially, there continues to be strong support for protecting nature. Ontario has initiated a Biodiversity Strategy and it is place a renewed importance on minimizing the impact of urban development on nature through reforms to the planning system in Ontario, through a regional plan for the Golden Horseshoe that emphasizes compact urban form, and through the creation of a greenbelt around the Greater Toronto Area.

Is it enough? It's a good start for certain.

Goals and Targets

While there are no formal conservation goals or targets, there is a widespread understanding of the importance of maintaining viable ecosystems and healthy populations of indigenous wildlife.

Specifically, we seek to protect, restore and enhance natural ecosystems.

Coordination

In the 1980's there was a Natural Heritage League, a partnership of 35 organization and government agencies. The League brought together groups working on natural areas and wildlife issues to share ideas and develop collaborative projects. The League was supported through the Ontario Heritage Foundation until it was disbanded in the mid 1990's.

Some of the work has been carried on by the A.D Latornell Conservation Symposium.

A.D Latornell Symposium www.latornell.ca/

The A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium attracts a wide range of challenging speakers and over 600 delegates from Conservation Authorities, federal and provincial governments, municipalities, universities, private business and community groups. The Symposium is hosted by Conservation Ontario and the Centre for Land and Water Stewardship (University of Guelph).

Partnership For Public Lands <http://www.wildontario.org/>

The Partnership for Public Lands brings together environmental and naturalist groups. It was formed in response to the provincial "Lands for Life" initiative. The Partnership's focus continues to be around government policy.

Existing Activities

Nature Networks

Ontario Stewardship <http://www.ontariostewardship.org>

Ontario Stewardship is a coordinating body for 40 Community Stewardship Councils, volunteer groups of representative landowners and land interest groups who determine what are the environmental priorities for a given area (usually a county) in Ontario.

Each Community Stewardship Council has, dedicated to it, an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources staff person known as a Stewardship Coordinator, an individual who through work experience, training and aptitude acts as an Executive Director and facilitator to the Council and hence the community.

Ontario Nature www.ontarionature.org

In addition to its public membership, Ontario Nature is a network of 135 local community conservation groups.

Conservation Ontario www.conservation-ontario.on.ca

Conservation Ontario is a network of 36 Conservation Authorities of Ontario, community-based environmental organizations dedicated to conserving, restoring, developing and managing natural resources on a watershed basis.

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) www.ofah.org

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters has 39 local clubs in its membership.

Habitat Protection

Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) www.natureconservancy.ca

For over 40 years, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has been working to protect Canada's most threatened natural habitats and the endangered species that call them home. NCC is Canada's only national charity dedicated to preserving ecologically significant areas through outright purchase, donations and conservation easements.

Since 1962 NCC have secured a long-term future for more than 1,400 properties, comprising 1.8 million acres of magnificent woodlands and seashores, internationally significant wetlands, threatened prairies, and a host of other precious natural places. And in the process, we've won the confidence of Canadians who want to protect their natural heritage for generations to come.

Ontario Nature www.ontarionature.org/reserves/index.html

In 1961 the Federation started what is now Ontario's largest non-government nature reserve system. With 21 properties totaling over 1600 hectares (4000 acres), the system preserves some of the province's best remaining examples of imperiled and vulnerable habitats.

Countless rare and endangered species are protected by the Federation nature reserve system including the spotted turtle, the blue racer snake, the ram's head lady slipper orchid and the bald eagle among many others.

Conservation Ontario www.conservationontario.org

Conservation Ontario owns more than 340,000 acres (138,000 hectares) of land in Ontario. These lands are managed through the 36 Conservation Authorities in southern Ontario; independent, local agencies made up of representatives of member municipalities within the watershed.

Conservation Ontario has 352 conservation areas in the province and more than 200 of these areas offer a wide range of recreational activities and facilities. 132,771 acres of Conservation lands are available for recreation.

Ontario Land Trust Alliance www.ontariolandtrustalliance.org/

The Ontario Land Trust Alliance is a non-profit organization with a mandate to encourage the land trust movement throughout Ontario. They provide administrative and professional support to a province-wide network of member groups who adhere to an acceptable set of standards and practices regarding the broad spectrum of land trust activities.

Local Land Trust Organizations www.ontariolandtrustalliance.org/members.htm

There are 39 local and provincial members of the OLTA.

Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation www.ormf.com/

The Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation provides support and encouragement for activities that preserve, protect, and restore the environmental integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine and support a trail along it.

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy www.escarpment.ca/

The Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy was established to preserve the landscape, ecology and wildlife of the Niagara Escarpment by developing and managing a system of nature reserves on which only ecologically sustainable recreational activities would be permitted.

Escarpment Telecom www.escarpment.ca/escarpment_telecom.html

The Conservancy manages a long distance telephone service as a fundraiser for protecting Escarpment areas. Save on long distance telephone calls while you support the preservation of natural spaces along the Niagara Escarpment, AND receive a charitable contribution receipt to reduce your income taxes!

Carolinian Canada Coalition www.carolinian.org

Carolinian Canada was a major program of the Natural Heritage League and continues to be a successful mechanism for joint priority-setting in Ontario's most threatened region. The Carolinian Canada program is critical in providing coordination between diverse conservation agendas ranging from local naturalist clubs to federal government departments and everything in between - provincial departments and ministries, conservation authorities, municipal planners, naturalists' groups, agricultural groups and stewardship councils. The 20-year-old coalition of 40+ organizations promotes innovative and comprehensive approaches to conserving our natural heritage.

The Carolinian Life Zone stretching from Toronto to Windsor is biologically the richest life zone in Canada and host to one third of the nation's Species at Risk. With 85 - 97% loss of natural areas and one quarter of Canada's population, this region requires focused and immediate attention. In particular, concerns about water quality and quantity now threaten human health, agricultural land and industrial productivity.

Public Spaces Appreciation Association of Ontario www.utoronto.ca/env/st/pspaces

Public Spaces is a not for profit environmental organization dedicated to promoting stewardship and fostering a sense of community through the protection, restoration and celebration of Ontario's public spaces. Public Spaces has a membership of approximately 50 people from across Southern Ontario. The group was founded in 1995 and was formally incorporated in 1998.

The NOAH Project

Public Spaces is a proponent of the NOAH project, connecting Niagara Escarpment landform (a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve), the Provincially Significant Oak Ridges Moraine and the Algonquin to Adirondack axis (the A to A) system, with linkages north to the Georgian Bay Shoreline and Quebec and into the northeastern United States Quebec and New York State. Volunteer experts with Public Spaces named this network the NOAH (Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine, Algonquin to Adirondack Heritage) System.



Habitat Stewardship and Restoration

Ontario Stewardship <http://www.ontariostewardship.org>

The Program's strength lies in its 40 Community Stewardship Councils, volunteer groups of representative landowners and land interest groups who determine what are the environmental priorities for a given area (usually a county) in Ontario.

Each of the 40 Community Stewardship Council has, dedicated to it, an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources staff person known as a Stewardship Coordinator, an individual who through work experience, training and aptitude acts as an Executive Director and facilitator to the Council and hence the community.

All Community Stewardship Councils have project and operational funding which act as the catalyst to ensure that good ideas can be translated into great projects.

Examples of these projects include: landowner workshops on woodlot and wetland management, pamphlets an extension notes, stream restoration projects, endangered species conservation, environmental school programs, demonstration projects, community tree plants, etc.

Volunteer for Nature www.ontarionature.org/action

Together, [Ontario Nature](http://www.ontarionature.org) and [Nature Conservancy of Canada's](http://www.natureconservancy.org) (NCC) Ontario Region are creating new conservation volunteering opportunities in Ontario through their *Volunteer for Nature* (VfN) program. Funded by the [Ontario Trillium Foundation](http://www.ontariofoundation.org), the goal of the program is to provide people with opportunities to work outdoors, enjoy being part of a team, learn new skills and participate in hands-on conservation projects in Ontario's spectacular natural places. There are two types of VfN events. NCC hosts one-day events called [Nature Conservation Days](http://www.natureconservancy.org). Ontario Nature hosts [Ontario Nature Volunteers](http://www.ontarionature.org) expeditions, which are 3 to 16 day working vacations that take place across the province. There is something for everyone!

Ducks Unlimited www.ducks.ca

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has been committed to **wetland conservation** for more than 65 years. Despite this, wetland loss continues across Canada. As much as 70 per cent of Canada's original wetlands have been lost in some areas of the country.

Evergreen Foundation www.evergreen.ca

Evergreen has a searchable database of their projects, including 215 in Ontario.
<http://www.evergreen.ca/en/cg/cg-projects.html>

Common Grounds

A national service set up to help conserve natural and cultural sites (land), create more parks, and protect open spaces for recreation, education, and enjoyment to ensure that Canada's common grounds grow sustainably and prosper through the 21st century and beyond. Evergreen's Common Grounds program provides two core services: Stewardship and Capacity Building.

Home Grounds

Home Grounds teaches Canadians to restore and enhance the natural environment where they live by encouraging people to practice environmentally friendly gardening techniques. Evergreen's goal is to teach people to garden without chemical pesticides and artificial fertilizers, to plant with native species that require little maintenance and water, and to grow gardens on under-utilized space such as rooftops and gardens.

See also **Learning Grounds** in the Education and Outreach section.

Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup www.vanaqua.org/cleanup/

Each September, hundreds of thousands of volunteers from around the world join forces during the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) coordinated by the Ocean Conservancy. In the past 17 years, more than 4.5 million volunteers from 120 countries, including Canada, have participated in the annual ICC.

The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup has become Canada largest contributor to the ICC, and one of Canada's largest environmental direct action programs. The Vancouver Aquarium started the Shoreline Cleanup over 11 years ago, and with support from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation the program has grown from a local beach cleanup to a national program with volunteers in every province and territory.

Conservation Ontario – Ontario's Conservation Authorities www.conservation-ontario.on.ca

Conservation Ontario is a network of 36 Conservation Authorities of Ontario, community-based environmental organizations dedicated to conserving, restoring, developing and managing natural resources on a watershed basis.

Watershed Stewardship

Conservation Ontario is a member of a National Watershed Stewardship Coalition. Conservation Authorities have a long history in working with landowners in the planning and delivery of watershed stewardship initiatives. Conservation Authorities:

- Develop technical tools to monitor and assess the state of our watersheds
- Provide advice and technical assistance
- Promote community involvement
- Build partnerships with all levels of government, environmental groups, businesses, residents and landowners.
- Create educational resources

Local Leaders

Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC) www.hamiltonharbour.ca/barc

The Bay Area Restoration Council (**BARC**) is a confederation of community stakeholders devoted to revitalizing Hamilton Harbour and its watershed. Formed in 1991 as a not-for-profit community organization, The Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC) was established to monitor, assess and promote the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan (RAP).

BARC facilitates volunteer involvement in Bay Area projects such as the Royal Botanical Gardens' marsh restoration at Cootes Paradise; the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program; the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project; Hamilton and Burlington waterfront parks development; and the Classroom Mini Marsh Program, among others. Increasing public access to the Harbour is another key issue of the RAP that BARC endorses.

Waterfront Regeneration Trust www.waterfronttrail.org/

The Waterfront Trail has been an instrumental part of Lake Ontario's regeneration. Along it you will find a 740 km celebration of nature and culture – where peaceful countryside, small towns and big cities are linked in bringing Lake Ontario to this province's residents and visitors, alike.

The Waterfront Trail represents a whole new way of thinking about the Lake Ontario waterfront that emphasizes the links between ecological health, economic vitality, and a sense of community. It has helped inspire people to rediscover and improve the lakeshore, and been part of a transformation of under-utilized and environmentally degraded lands to vibrant places with businesses and jobs, parks and recreational facilities, natural habitats, cultural venues and attractions.

Peterborough Green-Up www.greenup.on.ca

Peterborough Green-Up is a non-profit, community-based environmental organization with an excellent reputation in Peterborough and beyond for being knowledgeable, professional and accessible. Through education and action-oriented initiatives, Peterborough Green-Up's aim is to provide the tools with which local citizens can engage in, and maintain environmentally sustainable lifestyle activities.

Ecology Park is a unique place for people of all ages to discover a lasting friendship with the natural world. The Park encourages local residents to build ecological health by providing training, resources and demonstration sites. The Park has gardens to explore, a tree nursery, a market for plants, compost and garden supplies and a host of activities for all ages. Demonstration gardens include a low-water garden, a heritage vegetable garden, a tallgrass prairie and a children's garden. Native plants and trees are sold to residents and provided to agencies for ecological restoration projects. The Park provides opportunities for children to learn skills for land and water stewardship through popular school and summer programs.

Green Garden Visit is an ecological yard and garden one-on-one visit program by trained horticultural experts. The advisor conducts a one-hour visit to answer homeowners' questions about yard and garden problems. They provide recommendations on the most effective, economical and environmentally-friendly actions to improve yard and garden health.

Algonquin Eco Watch www.algonquin-eco-watch.com

Algonquin Eco Watch is a non-profit, charitable, environmental protection group, committed to "assess, protect and sustain the Algonquin Ecosystem for the future". We define the Algonquin Ecosystem as Algonquin Provincial Park, plus the 24 headwater areas that source outside Algonquin Park, but flow into it. As a result of participation in the Lands For Life initiative, we are

presently negotiating with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to have those additional headwater areas classed as "E67n - Algonquin Headwaters".

The importance of the "Algonquin Dome", which is the source area for 7 major rivers, i.e. the Magnetawan, Amable du Fond, Petawawa, Bonnechere, Madawaska, York and Muskoka, cannot be over-emphasized in this day of awakening to the critical significance of headwater protection in Ontario. Surprisingly, there are many stresses facing the Algonquin Ecosystem, such as increasing human utilization (ecotourism), development, possible improper logging practices, mining, native hunting and fishing, air and waterborne pollutants, garbage disposal, species loss, maintaining biodiversity, and environmentally irresponsible abandonment of existing facilities (e.g. the CN Railway, and the Lake Traverse Radio Observatory).

Wildlife

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) www.ofah.org

The O.F.A.H. has been involved in countless conservation projects that have helped bolster the Eastern bluebird, trumpeter swan, wood duck, and, in Ontario's far north, moose, martin and host of other species. Every year, O.F.A.H. members provide nesting boxes, plant trees, create stream buffers and help manage, protect, and enhance precious wetlands and woodlands. The result has been better habitat for waterfowl, ruffed grouse, woodcock, wild turkey, songbirds, reptiles... in short... all wildlife.

More recently, habitat restoration supported by the O.F.A.H. has led to the reintroduction of the threatened American chestnut tree; Ontario barn owl restoration; the return of speckled trout to streams; and the restoration of prairie tall grass plains.

Project Purple Week is an example of a province-wide O.F.A.H. Invading Species Control program designed to generate awareness about threats of purple loosestrife and other wetland invaders such as water chestnut and flowering rush.

Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) www.flap.org/



The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP), a registered charity, was formed in April 1993 to find a solution to the problem. During migration seasons, FLAP volunteers patrol Toronto's downtown core in the early morning hours to rescue live birds and collect the dead ones. Volunteers use nylon nets to help capture confused birds. Paper bags provide an easy means of transport, and give each bird a warm, dark place in which to recuperate before being set free. After quickly determining the species and examining each bird for injuries, a volunteer will place the bird inside a

paper bag, making sure it stays upright. Within a few hours, if there is no sign of injury, the bird will be released in a natural area well beyond the downtown core.

Environmental Defence Canada -- Report Card on Species Protection

www.environmentaldefence.ca/reports/sara.htm

EDC produces a report card that grades federal, provincial and territorial governments on their efforts to protect species at risk as outlined in the National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk.

Identifying Opportunities

Potential opportunities include:

- **Improved coordination:** create a coordinating body for natural heritage projects (or resurrecting the Natural Heritage League)
- **Promotion:** develop common promotional material
- **Collaboration:** increase the collaboration between nature organizations and educators, other NGOs and community action programs. (see other sections of this paper).
- **Support Programs:** Implement Alternative Land Use Services to support natural areas protection on farmlands (see the Manitoba example at www.kap.mb.ca/alus.htm)

Water

Context

Water is the cornerstone for life. It is the heart of our wilderness and the lifeblood of our communities. Whether in urban or rural areas, or in cottage country, we need to pay close attention to water quality and quantity.

At the provincial level, the government is working to implement the recommendations of Justice O'Connor's report on the Walkerton tragedy. New legislation is being introduced on source protection and the government has announced that we will not sign the Great Lakes Charter Annex Agreement unless changes are made to ensure stronger protections for waters in the Great Lakes Basin.

At the municipal level, water conservation is a priority as well. For communities on groundwater, water is a most precious resource not to be squandered. Yet even for communities with abundant supply, water conservation is important because of the pressure on water infrastructure, the financial cost of purifying water and treating waste, and the energy cost of pumping water through our pipes.

Goals and Targets

Our goal is to promote efficient use of water and the protection of water resources (including groundwater and waterways).

Water conservation helps to achieve a number of goals:

- The efficient use of urban infrastructure (water and sewage treatment)
- The protection of water resources and ecosystems
- Living within our water budget, in particular for communities that use groundwater or finite sources for their drinking water
- Reduce need for new infrastructure and for diversions

Coordination

There are two online collaborations around water issues in Ontario:

The Water Hole – www.thewaterhole.ca

The Waterhole is a online meeting place for those concerned about the protection of water. On this site you can find information on legislation and policies, check the latest news, contact groups working on the issue, or find related events.

H2Info -- www.h2info.org

H2infOTM - The Water Information Network is a project founded in late 1999 by RiverSides Stewardship Alliance, the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA), and the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP).

The project aims to improve municipal water quality, quantity and flow by fostering and supporting community-based programs and increasing civic participation in national, provincial and local efforts to control municipal non-point sources of water pollution. To this end, H2infOTM will promote the achievement of sustainable municipal, provincial and national policies and programs

respecting urban water quality by empowering civic and community action through research, information dissemination and exchange, partnership building and representation.

Great Lakes United (GLU) www.glu.org

Many Ontario groups are members of Great Lakes United, a bi-national coalition of nongovernmental organizations.

Great Lakes United is an international coalition dedicated to preserving and restoring the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River ecosystem. Great Lakes United is made up of member organizations representing environmentalists, conservationists, hunters and anglers, labor unions, community groups, and citizens of the United States, Canada, and First Nations and Tribes.

Great Lakes United develops and promotes effective policy initiatives, carries out education programs, and promotes citizen action and grassroots leadership to assure:

- Clean water and clean air for all
- Better safeguards to protect the health of people and wildlife
- A conservation ethic that will leave a healthy Great Lakes.

Existing Activities

Conservation Ontario – Ontario's Conservation Authorities www.conservation-ontario.on.ca

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Watershed Stewardship

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- Promote community involvement
- Build partnerships with all levels of government, environmental groups, businesses, residents and landowners.
- Create educational resources

Federation of Ontario Cottager's Associations (FOCA) www.foca.on.ca

FOCA is a non-profit, voluntary organization representing over 500 Ontario cottagers' associations plus individual and corporate members. For almost 40 years, FOCA has served as an information centre and provided assistance and leadership on many crucial issues affecting cottage properties that generate half a billion dollars in property taxes, and billions of dollars in economic activity annually in Ontario.

Lake Stewardship

FOCA's Lake Stewards are a network of interested individuals willing to lookout for the health of their lakes. The stewards work in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment's Bio-monitoring staff to keep stock of Ontario's lake environments, and provide the resources and support to make the most of our efforts on the landscape.

Riversides www.riversides.org

Riversafe Carwash Campaign www.riversides.org/riversafe/

Call Riversides to host a Riversafe pollution-free car wash for your volunteer, school, sports or church group. Riversides will supply a Latimat containment pad and environmentally friendly products, or a partnership with a local carwash to make your carwash fun and riversafe.



Low Salt Diet www.riversides.org/review/riversides/low_salt_diet.htm

The Low Salt Diet program is RiverSides national campaign to prevent road salt contamination of rivers, groundwater and threats to aquatic biodiversity.

Riversides Rain Barrel

RiverSides markets a rain barrel to conserve water and help prevent water pollution. This tough recycled 500-litre (132 US Gallons) rain barrel is a practical and efficient way to catch the rain and save your river.

Centre for Sustainable Watersheds www.watersheds.ca

Centre for Sustainable Watersheds is the Ontario coordinator for the Living By Water Project, a national shoreline stewardship outreach program targeted to shoreline homeowners, realtors, municipal leaders, and other water resource stakeholders. We offer a number of programs and resources to help raise awareness about the importance of protecting natural shorelines to water quality and ecosystem health including:

- the 'On the Living Edge' Handbook & Other Resources
- Shoreline Home Visit Program
- Shoreline Living Workshops
- Healthy Shoreline Demonstration Site
- Training & Support

Ontario Headwaters Institute

OHI focuses on research into water resources in Headwaters areas, including identifying how much is available, and the potential for contamination and exploitation. It aims to build upon innovative water management practices and technologies from jurisdictions around the globe, learning from their experiences. It encourages the adoption of these best practices in targeted Headwaters areas through education and action.

Contact Bob Duncanson, Executive Director
Ontario Headwaters Institute, 606583 River Road RR#3
Shelburne ON, L0N 1S7
(519) 925-6603

Green Communities Association www.gca.ca (See also Community Action)

The Green Communities Association is the national umbrella for local non-profit organizations that bring environmental solutions to Canadian households and communities.

Well Aware www.wellaware.ca

Well Aware, an exciting new well stewardship program, was launched in communities across Ontario in April 2003. The program builds awareness of groundwater science, proper well construction and maintenance, and common pathways of contamination. The program will further mobilize community members to engage with each other in promoting appropriate well stewardship action and protection of safe drinking water.



Environmental Defence Canada www.environmentaldefence.ca

Blue Flag Program www.environmentaldefence.ca/protecting/blueflag.htm

The International Blue Flag Program is administered by the environmental non-profit organization [Foundation of Environmental Education \(FEE\)](http://www.environmentaldefence.ca/protecting/blueflag.htm), and is the standard for clean, safe beaches in Europe, South Africa, and parts of the Caribbean. Almost 3,000 beaches and marinas in Europe and South Africa are proudly flying a Blue Flag.



Environmental Defence is the Canadian National Operator of the Blue Flag program. Flying a Blue Flag shows Canadians and visitors alike that a beach has met the highest standards and is clean for swimming. To obtain a Blue Flag, a Canadian beach must meet strict criteria in the following areas:

- Water quality
- Environmental education and information
- Environmental management
- Safety and services

Toronto is the first city applying for Blue Flag certification at its beaches. Visit TorontoBeach.ca to learn more about the Blue Flag project in Toronto.

Lake Ontario Waterkeeper www.waterkeeper.ca/

Lake Ontario Waterkeeper is a registered Canadian charity working to protect water quality on Lake Ontario and to ensure that our community's rights are protected for the future. Launched in February 2001, Lake Ontario Waterkeeper trains other individuals and volunteer groups to be local water guardians and to report pollution concerns.

The Great Lakes Cities Initiative (a municipal initiative). <http://www.nemw.org/glci/>

The **Great Lakes Cities Initiative** helps mayors and other local officials develop and advocate programs to improve the Great Lakes. Mayors in the Great Lakes basin have a direct interest and stake in the sustainability of the Great Lakes. As the world's largest freshwater resource and an international treasure, the Great Lakes are essential to the continued vitality of the cities, townships, villages and counties along the shores and in the surrounding watershed.

Local Leaders

Ottawa River Institute www.ottawariverinstitute.ca

The Ottawa River Institute is an incorporated, non-profit, charitable organization based in Pembroke Ontario. Our mission is to foster sustainable communities and ecological integrity in the Ottawa River Watershed.

Watershed Ways

Part of ORI's mission is to spread the word about simple things we all can do to better live in harmony with our environment. To this end, ORI has initiated a newspaper column called Watershed Ways. The Pembroke Observer and the Renfrew Mercury are running the column on a biweekly basis.

Toronto Environment Alliance www.torontoenvironment.org

Beach Watch www.torontoenvironment.org/beachwatch/index.html

Since the summer of 2001, TEA's Beach Watch Patrol has been visiting all 20 of Toronto's beaches to educate people about the reasons for the City's frequent beach closures and to find out what actions citizens are willing to take to stop pollution.



Friends of the Tay Watershed www.tayriver.org

Friends of the Tay Watershed (FoTW) is a non-profit, charitable association that was founded to assist in carrying forward the work of the Tay River Watershed Round Table - an informal association of government agencies and ministries, lake associations, wildlife and environmental organizations, and interested residents, formed to develop a management plan for the watershed.

Eco Superior www.ecosuperior.com

EcoSuperior was incorporated in 1994 by the Lakehead Environmental Action Group (LEAG) in order to address environmental issues for Thunder Bay and area. We are a not-for-profit organization, operated by a volunteer board of directors, with a paid staff of 10 employees.

Water Conservation

EcoSuperior delivers the City of Thunder Bay Water Conservation program, encouraging wise water usage to homeowners as well as business and industry. The residential program includes home visits and incentives such as the \$125 Toilet Replacement Rebate. The commercial sector can access a similar toilet rebate program through our office, in addition to a free water audit service. Schoolchildren learn about water conservation in our WaterWorks presentations delivered to Grade 2 classes throughout the city.



Peterborough Green-Up www.greenup.on.ca

Peterborough Green-Up is a non-profit, community-based environmental organization with an excellent reputation in Peterborough and beyond for being knowledgeable, professional and accessible.

The **Peterborough Children's Water Festival (PCWF)** helps shape children's attitudes about the importance of water in their lives and it's use, consumption and protection. Through a series of 35 interactive learning stations, students in grades 3 to 6 will explore the concepts of: water conservation, water attitudes, water technology water protection and water science. To date, the PCWF has reached over 5,000 grade 3-6 students, 400 teachers and 900 volunteers in the Peterborough area.

Well Aware: Peterborough Green-Up is the delivery agency for the Well Aware program (see the GCA description of the program) for the Peterborough area. To date over 150 families have received information on the proper construction and maintenance of their well, groundwater science and common pathways of contamination.

Water Protectors is a one-on-one visit program that creates awareness with shoreline property owners in the Kawarthas about the link between their daily decisions/actions, their shoreline and lake health. Focus is on shoreline restoration, septic health, water conservation, reduction of pesticide and fertilizer use, alternative cleaners, and actions to improve overall lake water quality.

Identifying Opportunities

Public Awareness

NGO-municipal partnerships could assist in raising public awareness and commitment to water conservation. Outreach activities could be combined with similar initiatives around hazardous waste and water quality.

See also the sections on Education, Community Action, and Culture for potential collaborations.

Storm water management

Storm water management has been identified as an area where increased effort is needed. This is a possible area of collaboration with groups and municipalities working on compact urban design.

Urban Planning and Design

Context

Urban planning and design are central to a culture of conservation. Urban sprawl is the antithesis of conservation. It uses up irreplaceable prime agricultural land and natural areas. It creates greater demands for aggregates and other resources. It promotes an over-reliance on automobiles, resulting in an increased reliance on oil and poorer air quality.

Sprawl is driven by individual demand for detached houses with big yards and fueled by a constant barrage of newspaper advertisements that promote monster homes and three-car garages as "communities".

Compact development needs provincial leadership. The current government has demonstrated this leadership in recent months with the Greenbelt Act, the growth management plan for the Golden Horseshoe (Places to Grow) and the Planning Reform initiatives (amendments to the Planning Act and the Provincial Policy Statement). Urban growth has been restricted to within existing municipal boundaries and Priority Urban Centres have been identified within the Golden Horseshoe for intensification.

However, urban intensification can just as problematic if it is not guided by a community vision and a commitment to improve local amenities and services through new development.

Our real challenge, now, is to use the provincial legislative reform as a springboard to promoting a new approach to urban planning and design.

We need to build communities, not just houses.

Goals and Targets

Ontario's Vision (From Places to Grow)

www.pir.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/cma_4_35449_1.html

Managing economic and population growth in Ontario in a way that promotes vibrant communities, a strong economy, and enhanced environmental sustainability.

The strength of Ontario depends on the strength of its communities. The Government of Ontario is acting on Ontarians' priorities and is delivering real, positive change that will build strong, prosperous communities with a healthy environment and quality of life that is second to none.

Over the next 30 years, the number of people living in Ontario is projected to grow. Almost four million newcomers will call Ontario home by 2030 and over two million new jobs will be created. A large percentage of these people will settle in the Greater Golden Horseshoe region, which is one of the fastest growing areas in North America and is the economic engine of Canada. We need to make sure that we can accommodate this growth and make it work.



Ontario's vision of strong communities is shared by Ontario's non-governmental organizations. In the 1980's, we formed the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition to assist communities across Ontario integrate environment, social and economic goals into their development plans. More

recently, groups across Ontario banded together to form the Ontario Smart Growth Network to bring a North American movement for compact, livable development to Ontario.

The goals of the Ontario Smart Growth Network are:

1. Stop suburban sprawl
2. Build healthy and vibrant communities
3. support citizen involvement in community planning

Coordination

There are three organizations that help to coordinate efforts of Ontario organizations around urban planning and design:

Ontario Smart Growth Network www.greenontario.org/smartgrowth/osgn.html

Ontario Greenbelt Alliance www.greenbelt.ca/

Ontario Environment Network Land Use Caucus www.oen.ca/caucuses/land_use.shtml

Existing Activities

Urban Planning and Design

Ontario Nature – www.ontarionature.org

Ontario Nature protects and restores natural habitats through research, education and conservation, connecting thousands of individuals and communities with nature.

Urban Sprawl / Smart Growth

www.ontarionature.org/enviroandcons/issues/sprawl.html

Ontario Nature sees urban sprawl as a major threat to natural areas in southern Ontario. They have produced a report called [A Smart Future for Ontario](#) and a Smart Growth Broadsheet to show how people can help your municipal council and the Ontario government curb urban sprawl and create smarter, healthier communities where nature comes first.



Sierra Club – www.eastern.sierraclub.ca

The Ontario Chapter's mission is to protect and restore the health of the natural environment, including human communities by empowering the membership and citizenry through education, advocacy, action and outdoor adventures.

Challenge to Sprawl www.eastern.sierraclub.ca/campaigns/challenge_to_sprawl/

The Ontario chapter is organizing a "Challenge to Sprawl" campaign to promote smart growth policies

Pembina Institute of Appropriate Technology www.pembina.org

The Pembina Institute is an independent, not-for-profit environmental policy research and education organization.

Building Sustainable Urban Communities in Ontario: Towards Implementation? www.pembina.org/publications_item.asp?id=169

The report, *Building Sustainable Urban Communities in Ontario: Towards Implementation?*, assesses the Ontario government's performance on urban sustainability issues against widely accepted 'smart growth' principles, and its own October 2003 election platform commitments. The Pembina Institute's report highlights the adoption of the Greenbelt Protection Act, commitment of a portion of provincial gasoline tax revenues to public transit, and release of a growth management plan focused on containing urban sprawl for the Golden Horseshoe region, as the government's key achievements during its first months in office.

Community Eco-solutions www.pembina.org/community_eco.asp

The Community Eco-Solutions program helps communities find ways to meet their energy needs through sustainable energy options including low-impact renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. Technical and business experts work with communities to develop community energy plans based on their needs and sustainable energy resources, to conduct a detailed assessment of various energy options, and to assist them in gaining financial support from potential project investors.

David Suzuki Foundation www.davidsuzuki.org/

The David Suzuki Foundation works to find ways for society to live in balance with the natural world that sustains us.

Understanding Sprawl www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/Sprawl.asp

The David Suzuki Foundation's report, *Understanding Sprawl*, and toolkit encourages communities to reshape urban areas. We need more dense and compact cities, with better bike paths and pedestrian friendly walkways.

Environmental Defence Canada www.environmentaldefence.ca

Environmental Defence protects the environment and human health. We research. We educate. We go to court when we have to. All in order to ensure clean air, safe food and thriving ecosystems. Nationwide.

Ontario Greenbelt Alliance – coordinating input around the greenbelt www.greenbelt.ca

The Ontario Greenbelt Alliance is an alliance of diverse organizations that support a vision for the Ontario greenbelt. It aims to create a continentally-significant Greenbelt that improves Ontarians' quality of life, protects valuable agricultural lands, and connects the largest biodiversity hotspots in the region. The Greenbelt should help create NOAH, a linkage of ecosystems from the Niagara Escarpment to the Oak Ridges Moraine, north to Algonquin Park, and south to the Adirondack State Park.

The Natural Step www.naturalstep.ca/

The Natural Step (TNS) is an international non-profit organization in twelve different countries that uses a science-based, systems framework to help organizations, individuals and communities take steps towards sustainability.

Community-wide Engagement Process

www.naturalstep.ca/scp/sustainablecommunities.html

The Natural Step Canada has launched The Natural Step to Sustainable Communities program with the support of the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation. A major component

is our community-wide engagement process that involves working with multiple stakeholders to build a sustainable community. This process is outlined below and is detailed in the linked documents, which also include a description of a successful case from Whistler, B.C.

Community sustainability depends upon the commitment, engagement, and practices of the entire community – households, schools, businesses, and government – to be truly integrated into the way that a community plans and makes decisions. Such community commitment, engagement, and, practice, depends in part upon having a shared framework for sustainability.

The purpose of our community-wide engagement process is to use the shared Natural Step framework to bring diverse stakeholders together to create a common understanding of what sustainability means to the community and to develop a strategic plan to help the community move towards its sustainability goals. The process also aims to build additional capacity in all participating organizations to further the continuing practice of sustainability after the project has ended.

Ontario Professional Planners Institute www.ontarioplanners.on.ca

As the recognized voice of the Province of Ontario's planning profession, OPPI represents over 2,600 practicing planners and 400 student members. OPPI broadens public awareness of planning and the role of planners. The Institute is a key stakeholder on planning and related issues. Our members work for government, private industry, agencies and academic institutions and are committed to improving the quality of Ontario's environments and communities. We provide leadership and vision on key issues of policy related to planning, development and other important socio-economic issues.

OPPI members are encouraged to be active in their communities. Many planners volunteer their time and expertise to a wide-range of planning-related charitable and not-for-profit organizations.

Canadian Urban Institute www.cui.org

The Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in urban areas in Canada and internationally. As an independent body the Institute meets the need for a think-tank committed to improving policy making, governance and management in urban regions by encouraging a better understanding of contemporary urban issues among business, government and other key institutions.

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) www.iclei.org

ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability was founded in 1990 by local governments at the United Nations Headquarters in New York as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). ICLEI is a democratically governed membership association of cities, towns, counties, metropolitan governments, and local government associations. Its headquarter is located in Toronto, Canada.

ICLEI's mission is to build and serve a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global sustainability with special focus on environmental conditions through cumulative local actions.

Housing and Building Design

Ontario Straw Bale Building Coalition <http://www.strawbalebuilding.ca/>

The OSBBC's first-ever province-wide open house was a terrific success. Despite the disastrous weather on the morning of the tour, hundreds of people came out to see the 20+ houses on the tour. Some houses had upwards of 100 visitors, and some had only a few, but by all accounts those who came out for the tour enjoyed the experience.

<http://www.strawbalebuilding.ca/tourmap.htm>

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities www.greenroofs.org

The mission of GRHC (*Green Roofs for Healthy Cities*) is to achieve the development of a multi-million dollar market for green roof products and services in cities throughout North America in order to take full advantage of the many benefits these technologies offer.

Identifying Opportunities

With the introduction of stronger provincial legislation and planning policies, there is a major opportunity to reshape the future of urban development in Ontario.

Public engagement: there is a clear need for public education material that to promote the social and environmental benefits of compact development. We need to provide clear visual examples of what a compact healthy community looks like, and the benefits with respect to accessibility, affordability, safety, recreation, greenspace and community spirit.

Community planning: community planning is an important tool to avoid the minefield of bad development and NIMBY reactions. We need to provide communities with models and professional advice on how to create a stronger, healthier community through urban redevelopment and intensification.

Municipal partnerships: municipalities will bear much of the responsibility for transforming the face of urban development in Ontario. We should seek out those that wish to embrace the principles of smart growth and develop partnership projects. (see also the section on Community Action)

Better Homes: from the Building Code to straw bale construction, there is much that can be done to improve the energy efficiency of housing.

Community Action

Context

Community-based action is the key to a successful conservation movement. It brings like-minded groups together, finds local and provincial sponsors for projects, and generates community spirit around environmental goals such as a 5% reduction in energy consumption by 2007, a 60% waste diversion target, or the restoration of local natural areas.

Goals and Targets

Our goals are to organize communities and to support their role in engaging the public in conservation solutions and activities:

1. Organize communities for public outreach and engagement
2. Develop community-oriented campaigns for community groups and volunteers.

Coordination

There are several organizations with networks of local communities, including the Ontario Environmental Network, the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition and the Green Communities Association. There are some partnerships between provincial organizations, but no overall coordination of community-based outreach and engagement.

Existing Activities

Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition – an integrated approach

www.healthycommunities.on.ca

OHCC provides support services to communities that wish to combine social, economic and environmental concerns within a healthy community model. The Coalition is partnering with environmental organizations to develop and deliver environmental programs to Ontario communities.

ecoCommunities project www.ecoperth.on.ca/ecocommunities and

www.healthycommunities.on.ca

ecoCommunities is a joint project of the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition and ecoPerth, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Environment Canada. Between 8 and 12 Ontario communities will be selected to participate in the ecoCommunities project, between April 2004 and November 2005.

The Ontario Environment Network (OEN) www.oen.ca/regions/regions-index.html

The OEN is setting up a number of regional environment networks to help connect groups at the local level. Regional network initiatives include:

- Halton Environmental Network www.the-hen.net/
- Peel Environment Network www.peelenvironment.org/
- Durham Environment Network
- Collingwood Environment Network
- Wellington Environment Network
- Sudbury Basin Environmental Networking Initiative

The Conservation Council of Ontario – Community Action Plan

www.greenontario.org/caction/

The CCO has a manual on low-cost community organizing that is available for free on the Green Ontario website. Several of the communities that prepared action plans went on to develop successful programs under the Green Communities Initiative. The model includes setting up a coordinating committee, identifying a community coordinator, creating a community network, developing a community action plan, and supporting community campaigns.

Cambridge City Green Strategy

www.city.cambridge.on.ca/subsection.php?ssid=41&live=1

The City of Cambridge has used the Community Action Plan model since the early 1990s. The purpose of the City Green Strategy is to encourage and coordinate individual and collective action in support of the environment, by promoting lifestyle changes and participation in community-based projects.



The City Green Strategy hosts an annual workshop every spring. Cambridge Community Groups, Schools, Churches, Industries and Businesses who might wish to participate in the Workshop are encouraged to plan environmental action project proposals for the year.

Environmental Advisory Committees

http://www.ontarionature.org/enviroandcons/community_cons/eac.html

There are 33 EACs in Ontario (out of over 400 municipalities). An EAC is set up by a municipality to advise on environmental issues and policy. Ontario Nature's website gives a complete contact list. Some, such as the Town Environmental Advisory Committee for Halton Hills and Georgetown is looking to help bring the various community groups together to work on common priorities

The Natural Step www.naturalstep.ca/

The Natural Step (TNS) is an international non-profit organization in twelve different countries that uses a science-based, systems framework to help organizations, individuals and communities take steps towards sustainability. The mission of TNS is to catalyze systemic change and make fundamental principles of sustainability easier to understand and meaningful sustainability initiatives easier to implement.

Community-wide Engagement Process

www.naturalstep.ca/scp/sustainablecommunities.html

The Natural Step Canada has launched The Natural Step to Sustainable Communities program with the support of the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation. A major component is our community-wide engagement process that involves working with multiple stakeholders to build a sustainable community. This process is outlined below and is detailed in the linked documents, which also include a description of a successful case from Whistler, B.C.

Community sustainability depends upon the commitment, engagement, and practices of the entire community – households, schools, businesses, and government – to be truly integrated into the way that a community plans and makes decisions. Such community commitment, engagement, and, practice, depends in part upon having a shared framework for sustainability.

Green Communities Association (GCA) www.gca.ca

The Green Communities Association is the national umbrella for local non-profit organization that bring environmental solutions to Canadian households and communities. The GCA has developed several core programs and they are replicated in most of the Green Communities. In Ontario, the following groups are full members of the Green Community Association and run one or more of their programs (contact information is in the spreadsheet):

- Environment Network (Collingwood)
- Elora Centre for Environmental Excellence
- Guelph Project
- REEP OFFICE (Waterloo Region)
- Green Venture (Hamilton)
- Hearthmakers Energy Cooperative (Kingston)
- Lanark & Leeds Green Community
- EnviroCentre (Ottawa)
- Perth County Greenworks
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Eco-Action Sudbury
- EcoSuperior (Thunder Bay)
- Green\$aver (Toronto)
- Windfall Ecology Centre (Newmarket)

There are also an additional 12 Associate Member Organizations in Ontario.

Home Performance Experts – the Home Energy Audit

www.homeperformanceexperts.com/

- Also known as the Residential Energy Efficiency Project (REEP) or as Energuide for Homes (the federal program)

Pesticide Free Naturally – a campaign to reduce the cosmetic use of pesticides

<http://www.gca.ca/content.php?page=pfn>

Pesticide Free Naturally builds awareness among the general population of health and environmental impacts of pesticide use in homes and gardens. It provides concerned citizens with the information they need to use non-toxic methods of pest control in the home, yard, and garden

Active and Safe Routes to School – the Walking Schoolbus www.saferoutestoschool.ca/

Active & Safe Routes to School helps to clear the air, create safer neighbourhood routes for children, increase physical activity levels and foster community spirit. If just nine families participate regularly in a Walking School Bus they can collectively prevent almost 1,000 kg of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere.

Well Aware – protecting groundwater www.wellaware.ca/

Well Aware encourages Ontario's residential well owners to protect their wells and our common groundwater supplies. Well Aware is a project of The Green Communities Association in partnership with the Ontario Ground Water Association. This project has received funding support from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

Local Leaders

The Environmental Volunteer Network (EVN) www.trca.on.ca/events/volunteer/

The EVN is a program funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and represents a partnership of [The Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants \(OCASI\)](#), the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the [Sustainability Network](#), the [City of Toronto Environmental Volunteers](#), the [Volunteer Centre of Toronto](#), [Accessible Career Counselling and Employment Services \(ACCES\)](#), and the [Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel](#).

The goal of the EVN is to provide group and individual volunteers with hands-on work experience and education in the field of conservation and environment, while providing non-profit environmental and municipal agencies of the TRCA's jurisdiction with ready, willing and able environmental volunteers.

Toronto Environmental Volunteers (City of Toronto)

www.city.toronto.on.ca/wes/techservices/involved/outreach/tev/

The Toronto Environmental Volunteers (TEV) are committed individuals who create environmentally sustainable projects in their own neighbourhoods and communities at the grassroots level.

TEV's focus on many environmental issues such as solid waste management (garbage, recycling and composting), water efficiency, household hazardous waste, stormwater management, energy efficiency and air quality.

Eneract www.eneract.org

Eneract is a Toronto not-for-profit organization that delivers innovative solutions to environmental problems and builds capacity in communities to work towards a sustainable future.

Smart Steps, Simple Solutions www.smartliving.ca

Since 2002, Eneract's Smart Steps, Simple Solutions program has demonstrated remarkable success at providing simple solutions to high energy bills for the residents of the Greater Toronto Area and, via its website – www.smartliving.ca, to people around the world. We offer a tangible tool that allows visitors to explore their space and to learn about the simple things they can do to reduce dependence on energy, to understand how smart living applies to them, and to learn about what is happening across Canada. Click here to visit the Smart Steps, Simple Solutions website.

The Diversity Outreach Initiative

The GTA is remarkably diverse, with more than 90 ethnic groups. In the City of Toronto, for example, over 50% of the population is part of a visible minority. Such a remarkable cross-section of peoples – yet educational programming, especially environmental programming, occurs mostly in English despite the fact that over one-third of area residents speak a language other than English at home.

In order to capture the attention of these ethnic communities, it is necessary to conduct outreach from within their communities – in their language (where applicable), via community media and using representatives of their communities as “agents of change”. [Click here](#) to visit the smartliving.ca website for conservation information in Chinese.

ecoPerth <http://www.ecoperth.on.ca>

ecoPerth is a not-for-profit incorporation in the town of Perth, Ontario, Canada. They have an extensive list of projects covering energy conservation, transportation, water conservation, pesticide alternatives and local food.

EcoSource Mississauga www.ecosource.ca

EcoSource Mississauga is an innovative environmental education organization serving youth, adults and families in Mississauga. EcoSource strives to increase environmental sustainability through proactive programs dealing with consumption, waste reduction and other key environmental issues in our community. Our hands-on programs focus on how each of us can change our daily habits to become better environmental citizens.

Sudbury Basin Environmental Networking Initiative (SBENI)

www.oen.ca/regions/sbeni_launch_eng.html

Sudbury Basin Environmental Networking Initiative (SBENI) is a research project looking to identify the pieces needed to support the on-going and active environmental groups in the Sudbury Basin. We are speaking with organizations and individuals from the francophone, Anglophone and aboriginal communities with concerns and ideas for the environment. In order to map out the complete "green picture" we want to put all the pieces together.

The Ontario Environment Network, the Healthy Communities Coalition and Northwatch partnered together to create the SBENI research initiative launched in September 2004. One of the goals of the project is to identify the gaps and gems related to the development of an active and sustainable environment network in the Sudbury Basin. SBENI will communicate with environmental groups and individuals in the Sudbury area and ultimately bring its findings and analysis back to community stakeholders. With consultation from the environmental groups and individuals, SBENI will develop a network model to support and promote the vital environmental activities in our diverse northern community.

"Living Green™ Lane" at Windsor Home & Leisure Show

The first-ever "Living Green™ Lane" at the 2004 Windsor Home & Leisure Show showcased 12 government and non-profit 'green' exhibitors including Windsor Parks & Rec (with a free tree seedling give-away booth), Tree Canada Foundation (Ottawa), CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency promoting Emerald Ash Borer awareness), ERCA (Essex Region Conservation Authority), WECEC (Windsor Essex County Environmental Committee), GLIER (Great Lakes Institute of Environmental Research), Ontario Environmental Health Centre and other non-profits. An ENERguide consultant also had a booth on the Lane.

Our "Living Green™ Lane" at the 2005 Windsor Home & Leisure Show will be bigger and even better as all of our 'green' exhibitors last Spring gave us rave reviews, and we have a special emphasis on energy conservation and alternative energy this year. (Essex Power which collaborated with the Ministry of Energy to produce www.kidsenergy.ca has already booked a booth on the Lane.)

In addition to free pre-Show and at-Show publicity, including promotional appearances on the Lane by the Mayor and the County Warden on Saturday, May 1st, our 'green' exhibitors were able to meet and learn from one another as well as Showgoers.

Links to Community Groups and Events

Here are some of the websites that will help you identify groups and activities in your area.

1. **Earth Day Canada** www.earthday.ca
There are over 100 Ontario Earth Day Events listed on Earth Day Canada's online database. Most of these are local.
2. **The Ontario Environmental Directory** <http://www.oen.ca/dir/list.php>
The OEN has over 829 organizations from across the province listed in its searchable online directory.
3. **Ontario Nature Network** <http://www.ontarionature.org/network/groups.html>
There are 130 naturalist and community conservation groups in the **Ontario Nature** database
4. **Evergreen Foundation Project Registry** <http://www.evergreen.ca/en/registry/search.php>
There are 202 projects listed in the registry, with detailed contact information on each project.

Identifying Opportunities

Opportunities include:

1. develop a collaborative approach of community organizing with lead delivery groups and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.
2. Integrate provincial campaigns and conservation outreach activities into community-based projects.
3. Replicate successful local projects – The Great Ideas from our local leaders and innovators.

Energy conservation

Context

Without the August 2003 blackout, where would we be?

It is unfortunate that our society is motivated by crisis, but the truth is that the political commitment to energy conservation was low prior to the blackout that plunged eastern North America into darkness.

Add to the ongoing electricity woes that oil has now surpassed \$50 a barrel and we begin to see why energy conservation is one of the most important challenges facing our society and economy.

Fortunately, we are beginning to see a commitment to conservation at both the federal and provincial levels, as well as a commitment to coordinate conservation priorities through a Climate Air Connections “hub”. The federal commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and the provincial priorities of electricity conservation and air quality all have energy conservation at the core of their solutions. We have an opportunity to create a strong, coordinated campaign for energy conservation.

Goals and Targets

Our goal is to make Ontario a leader in energy conservation and renewable energy. The current target is a 5 per cent reduction in electricity consumption by 2007.

Coordination

Climate Air Connections (website under development – contact www.cleanairfoundation.org)
A new organization is being established – Climate Air Connections – that will assist in coordinating energy conservation and air quality initiatives across Ontario.

Low Income Energy Network (LIEN)

The Low Income Energy Network is a coalition of organizations concerned about the impact of high energy prices on low income groups. They are helping coordinate outreach efforts and support programs to people on low income.

Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA)

The Clean Air Alliance is a policy-oriented coalition of organizations and utilities that support the phase-out of coal-fired power plants in Ontario.

Existing Activities

Green Communities Association – Energuide Home Energy Audit <http://egh.gca.ca/>

For over a decade Green Communities have helped homeowners make sustainable choices in the use of environmental resources. GCA Advisors have made over a hundred thousand home

visits advising homeowners about the contributions they can make to improve the quality of our air, water and soil.

In 1997, Green Communities piloted EnerGuide for Houses, a rating system developed by Natural Resources Canada, to analyse energy performance and home comfort. It has since become one of the leading delivery agents for this federal government initiative across the country with over 25,000 EGH ratings. This advanced evaluation tool helps us assess the energy efficiency of your home and enables the GCA Advisors to provide expert advice on ways to reduce your heating and cooling costs.

3 FOR KYOTO (OSEA and TREC) <http://www.ontario-sea.org/34kyoto/index.html>

The 3 FOR KYOTO program, developed by the Toronto Renewable Energy Cooperative and the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association, demonstrates some of the simplest steps that we can all take to help conserve energy, which in turn will help to protect our air, our water and our city. The program demonstrates three simple and effective ideas that you can undertake at home that take little time, will not affect your day to day life, but can have huge impacts on limiting your daily greenhouse gas emissions.

Participants in the 3 FOR KYOTO project will be asked to register and pledge to undertake one or more of the following programs.

1. Turn my Air Conditioner UP by 2 or 3 degrees over the summer
2. Replace 2 incandescent lights, that burn for many hours each day (such as a porch light), with compact fluorescent light bulbs
3. Have my home audited to assess its potential for a solar hot water heating system

Clean Air Foundation www.cleanairfoundation.org

Energy Smarts www.cleanairfoundation.org/energy_wise

The Clean Air Foundation in partnership with Home Depot has brought together 12 leading manufacturers of energy-efficient products, 2 major utilities and the Government of Canada through the One-Tonne Challenge to launch Energy Smarts, the 2nd annual and largest national retail-based energy efficiency campaign in the country.



Energy Smarts provides you with discounts and valuable information on ENERGY STAR and related energy efficient and clean air products which improve the performance of your home and help make a demonstrable improvement to our environment.

Cool Shops www.cleanairfoundation.org/cool_shops/

Cool Shops identifies appropriate energy saving measures for each retailer by conducting an energy audit. Retailers implement some of these recommendations to become a Cool Shop.



CAF does a walk-through site visit with the retailer to gather information about the store's total energy use. This information will give an idea of the store's energy needs and how it can be reduced. The energy audit will help identify the best ways to reduce energy use starting with simple, no-cost actions in addition to long-term energy-savings investments. CAF can offer simple steps to undertake, or refer the retailer to a qualified contractor for more complicated work (such as lighting retrofits or window installation).

Keep Cool www.cleanairfoundation.org/keep_cool/

Keep Cool is an incentive program to encourage people to upgrade their air conditioner to a newer, more efficient model. The program is offered in partnership with retailers.



Public response to the 2003 Keep Cool program was strong. Keep Cool successfully collected 354 old room air conditioner units over the program dates, June 20-22 and 27-29, 2003. Of the 354 old units brought in for recycling, 320 participants used the rebate coupons to purchase new ENERGY STAR qualified models. The post-program analysis revealed that Keep Cool reduced 50.11 tonnes of CO₂, 78.82 Kg of NO_x, and 360.31 Kg SO₂ emissions related to energy savings. Over and above the reduction of emissions related to electricity production, the Keep Cool program captured 62 Kg of R22 (HCFC) gases.

Local Leaders

EnviroCentre (A Green Community Association member) www.envirocentre.ca
The City of Ottawa's official non-profit partner for energy-efficiency.

In October 2004, EnviroCentre's top ten clients reduced CO₂ emissions by over 12 tonnes per house as measured by EnerGuide for Houses. It's Healthier Homes and Cleaner Air project has just installed energy-efficiency devices in over 500 low-income homes and, thanks to the Trillium Foundation, is now expanding to help 25,000 households keep their monthly electricity consumption below 750 kwh. EnviroCentre also coordinates Ottawa's successful Commuter Challenge and Active and Safe Routes to Schools programs.

Peterborough Green-Up www.greenup.on.ca

Peterborough Green-Up is a non-profit, community-based environmental organization with an excellent reputation in Peterborough and beyond for being knowledgeable, professional and accessible.

EnerGuide for Houses – Peterborough Green-Up is a delivery agent for the EGH program in the Peterborough region, Northumberland county and part of the City of Kawartha Lakes. In 2001 Green-Up piloted an incentive program for homeowners wishing to make their residence more energy efficient. The successful pilot formed part of the basis for the national Home Energy Efficiency Grant program offered by Natural Resources Canada.

Sustainable Peterborough focuses on energy efficiency in the industrial, commercial and institutional sector in Peterborough and region. In 2002, Sustainable Peterborough was instrumental in promoting an energy efficiency project with the municipal government. Workshops for local business owners have been conducted. Sustainable Peterborough is partnering with Peterborough Utilities Services to increase the reach of the program.

ecoPerth <http://www.ecoperth.on.ca>

ecoPerth is a not-for-profit incorporation in the town of Perth, Ontario, Canada.

ecoCommunities project www.ecoperth.on.ca/ecocommunities

ecoCommunities is a joint project of the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition and ecoPerth, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Environment Canada. Between 8 and 12 Ontario communities will be selected to participate in the ecoCommunities project, between April 2004 and November 2005.

20/20 The Way to Clean Air www.city.toronto.on.ca/health/2020/

20/20 The Way to Clean Air is a campaign of health units in the regions of York, Peel, Halton, Durham and Toronto, and is coordinated through the Clean Air Partnership. It is designed to involve individuals in the Greater Toronto Area in solutions to air pollution so we can all breathe easier. 20/20 provides you with resources to help reduce home energy use and vehicle use by 20 per cent.

20/20 also partners with the province-wide [EcoSchools](#) initiative to bring 20/20 resources to schools, teachers, students and their families across the Greater Toronto Area and beyond.

Caledon Countryside Alliance www.caledoncountryside.org

The Caledon Countryside Alliance (CCA) is a Not for Profit agency. Its objective is to ensure that Caledon and the Headwaters region maintain their rural character. We think of our countryside as a permanent feature rather than land waiting to be developed. The CCA encourages people to think about and observe their rural surroundings. We want you to decide why you chose to live in or visit Caledon or the headwaters region. We provide opportunities where people can come together to talk about these topics, and we undertake research into the issues that effect our countryside.

Step Up to Kyoto

Some people say Canada shouldn't ratify the Kyoto Protocol because it's too tough. We don't see it that way. In 2002, an average Canadian produced 5 tonnes of greenhouse gases (GHGs) per year and Canada's emissions were 15% above 1990 levels. Therefore, to reach Canada's Kyoto target of 6% below 1990 levels, each Canadian must reduce personal emissions by 21%, or about 1 tonne of GHGs per year.

Take any one of the actions included in our on-line pledge list or paper pledge list and reduce your emissions by 1 tonne or more. You'll be surprised at how easy it is.

Cool Caledon www.coolcaledon.org/

COOL Caledon is the Town of Caledon sponsored taskforce committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, smog, other harmful air pollutants and climate change.

Community projects include:

- Electricity Doctor Home Visits
- Tree Stewardship
- Transportation Alternatives
- Wind Power
- Alternative Energy Sources
- Public Awareness, including a School Program

Caledon Energy Show

The first ever Caledon Energy Show was held Saturday, November 13 2004. It was quite a success and hosted a wide range of exhibitors, from local businesses to nationally known brands. 1,000 people attended from all over the GTA and beyond – a tremendous turnout

Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario (CEA)

www.citizensenvironmentalliance.org/

CEA hosts an annual Smogfest, an arts festival to raise awareness of ways to reduce smog.

One Tonne Challenge www.climatechange.gc.ca/onetonne/english/

The One Tonne Challenge is a federal initiative in support of the Kyoto Protocol. The goal is to have Canadians reduce their carbon emissions by 20% or one tonne.

Community Challenges

City of Sudbury and EarthCare

Ms. Barb McDougall-Murdoch, Coordinator of EarthCare Sudbury Initiatives
EarthCare Sudbury and the City of Sudbury barb.mcdougall@city.greatersudbury.on.ca

The Community Challenge will be spearheaded by EarthCare Sudbury, a coalition of individuals, community agencies and organizations, businesses and institutions. The campaign will utilize various approaches to engage citizens to reduce their personal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The goal of the campaign is to reach and engage individuals at home, at work, at school and on the road to reduce their GHG emissions.

Through the development of a strategy addressing climate change, GHG reduction and the promotion of sustainable community development, the community will have a framework for recognizing individual actions and contributions. This also will help to motivate and track the community's progress towards its goal. By providing concrete suggestions for GHG reduction, removing barriers to implementation, and emphasizing the collective impacts of individual action, the One-Tonne Challenge will empower community members to feel their actions can and do make a real difference.

EcoSuperior (Thunder Bay)

Ms. Ellen Mortfield, Team Manager, EcoSuperior Environmental Programs
ellen@ecosuperior.com

Using the principles of community-based social marketing, EcoSuperior will focus on five key areas:

- Community Challenge promotion,
- Transportation programs,
- Waste reduction,
- Energy conservation, and
- Water conservation.

In partnerships with various organizations, including the media, EcoSuperior will bring citizens to action and track the overall community commitment in three sectors: individuals, schools and community groups, and workplace. Building on their successful Climate Change Connections project, the One-Tonne Challenge will link to local programs such as the employee transit pass packages, rideshare program, waste reduction week, composter sales, alternative energy tour, EnerGuide for Houses promotion, and others.

Timmins Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Keitha Robson, Manager, Timmins Chamber of Commerce tcocmgr@nt.net

The Timmins Chamber of Commerce, a Green Communities Association member, operates various environmental programs and services in the City of Timmins. Using its network of 500 local business members, the Chamber will partner with the municipality, local educational facilities and environmental groups to deliver the Challenge. They will host community sessions to:

- outline local climate priorities
- develop a strategy to engage the citizens, including incentives and rewards
- monitor the campaign

Some proposed activities include: an anti-idling campaign, workplace challenges, commuter challenge, school challenges, energy audits and carpooling. All the local program and resources will link to the One-Tonne Challenge.

Peterborough Green-Up

Ms. Sue McGregor-Hunter Executive director, Peterborough Green-Up mchunter@greenup.on.ca

The Peterborough Community Challenge aims to provide a range of initiatives targeting various interests, needs and lifestyle activities in the community. As a local organization in touch with the needs of this small, progressive and action-oriented community, appropriate new initiatives will be produced alongside well-established ones. Cross-promotion and reinforcement will be integral to the success of the Challenge. The campaign will include the creation of a community-based slogan for the Challenge, a website, email newsletters, community events, displays and media coverage. Recognition and awards will encourage participants to take the Challenge and follow through on their commitments.

City of Kingston

Ms. Beth Sills M.A.Sc., P. Eng., Environmental Engineer, City of Kingston, bsills@cityofkingston.on.ca

The City of Kingston and Hearthmakers Energy Cooperative will work together to deliver the One-Tonne Challenge to the City of Kingston and surrounding area. This team approach will take advantage of existing knowledge, capacity building and distribution channels in the community to raise individual awareness of transportation alternatives and home energy efficiency. Using a community-based social marketing approach to empower citizens to live in a more sustainable manner, the Challenge will provide tailored workshops that speak directly to individual lifestyles. The workshops will be marketed to community groups such as faith groups, youth groups, schools, businesses, unions, industry, environmental groups, hospitals and neighbourhood organizations.

One Tonne Toronto

Ms. Eva Ligeti, Executive Director, Clean Air Partnership, eligeti@cleanairpartnership.org

One Tonne Toronto (OTTO) is a partnership of non-profit groups whose purpose is to provide a local counterpart to the One-Tonne Challenge (OTC) program. Current OTTO members include:

- 20/20: The Way to Clean Air
- Clean Air Champions
- Clean Air Partnership
- EnerACT
- Green\$aver
- Sierra Club of Canada
- Toronto Atmospheric Fund

The goal is to have mutually reinforcing messages on how individuals can do their part on climate change, and to link these marketing and advertising elements to concrete programs that can assist individuals in achieving their personal OTC. The partnership will create a brand identity that is visually and institutionally connected to the OTC. It will also link existing and future programs of OTTO member groups to the national initiative while using the OTTO umbrella to direct area residents to the member groups' programs.

Don Valley West One Tonne Challenge (Toronto)

Mr. Philip Hawkins, Chair, Advisory Committee, Don Valley West One-Tonne Challenge
phawk1ns@yahoo.ca

The Don Valley West (DVW) One-Tonne Challenge (OTC) was established to reduce average per capita emissions of greenhouse gases in the Don Valley West riding by 20%, or one tonne. This will be done primarily by connecting residents with the expertise, resources and programs already in place in the Greater Toronto Area. Two social marketing campaigns will focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions caused by personal road transportation and home energy use. The DVW OTC will engage citizens on transportation issues by targeting key employers in the community. The energy efficiency program component will build on these contacts, but also will also work with schools and other environmental organizations, and will promote home energy audits.

Windfall Ecology Centre (York County)

Christina Alcorn, One Tonne Challenge Coordinator, Windfall Ecology Centre
calcorn@windfallcentre.ca

The York Region Community Challenge will be developed as a collaborative project. Partners will include municipalities, First Nation, businesses, schools and other environmental organizations. Its focus will be transportation and energy efficiency activities. The York Region Community Challenge will:

- o Review local priorities and opportunities
- o Identify champions to be trained to overcome typical obstacles and take advantage of marketing resources
- o Manage the development of common tools to link York Region participants to local service providers and OTC messaging
- o Track, evaluate and provide feedback on collective actions to the community
- o Recognize OTC achievers at the individual and group level

One-Tonne Challenge-Waterloo Region

Mr. Daryl Novak, C/O University of Waterloo, Waterloo Public Interest Research Group
otc-wr@pirg.uwaterloo.ca

The One-Tonne Challenge-Waterloo Region (OTC-WR) is a coalition of representatives from local non-profit organizations, community groups, educational institutions, businesses and municipal governments formed in response to the invitation to take part in the Community Challenge. OTC-WR will develop a social marketing campaign to promote a “shopping basket” of existing locally-available products, services and programs that promote greenhouse gas reductions. Activities will be targeted at the home, work and schools and will periodically highlight specific theme-based challenges such as anti-idling, winter or summer home energy efficiency and alternative methods of traveling to work and school, over the two years of the project. Champions will deliver the message and get people to act using random prize draws or other incentives and rewards.

Thames Region Ecological Association (TREA) and the City of London

Mr. Jay Stanford, Division Manager
Corporation of the City London Environmental Programs & Customer Relations
jstanfor@london.ca

In partnership with 36 other organizations, the Thames Region Ecological Association and City of London will challenge citizens to be energy efficient and make wise consumer choices that

support health and the environment as well as producing financial savings. They will promote a wide variety of challenges to businesses, schools, service providers and neighbourhoods through transportation and energy use campaigns. Each Challenge and its supporting activities will include special events, media planning, involvement of local celebrities/community leaders, and other activities throughout the year.

Identifying Opportunities

There are excellent opportunities related to public engagement and community outreach, including:

- Developing a common outreach campaign
- selling compact fluorescents and LED Christmas lights
- conduct an expanded home green-up visit
- identify people who want to conserve and connect them with services, such as an energuide audit
- expanded retailer partnerships

Renewable Energy

Context

Energy conservation and renewable energy go hand in hand. For the same reasons that we need to minimize our energy demand in order to create a more sustainable society and a competitive economy, renewable energy creates local employment, increased reliability, and a healthier environment.

Goals and Targets

The Ontario government has set a target of five per cent renewable power or 1,350 MW by 2007; and 10 per cent by 2010.

In support of this target an RFP was issued for 300 MW green power on April 28, 2004. A second RFP was issued for 2,500 MW of clean power, including from renewables and demand management on September 13, 2004.

Coordination

The Clean Air Renewable Energy Coalition <http://cleanairrenewableenergycoalition.com/>

The Clean Air Renewable Energy Coalition is a group of corporate, environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) and municipal governments launched to accelerate the development of Canada's renewable energy industry. At the moment, the group is comprised of major corporations, five environmental organizations and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (see membership listing).

Existing Activities

Ontario Sustainable Energy Association (OSEA) www.ontario-sea.org

OSEA is an association of individuals and groups working to develop sustainable energy projects in their communities. Our communities are the largest scale at which most of us feel personally connected and capable of direct, meaningful participation. They are also the smallest scale at which it is possible to mobilize the resources needed for a major initiative. OSEA works to bring together these local efforts on a Provincial scale.

OSEA's Campaign for Advanced Renewable Tariffs

www.ontario-sea.org/ARTs/ARTsList.html

OSEA has been organizing community and farm groups to support Advanced Renewable Tariffs in Ontario as part of revisions to the Electricity Act. These tariffs are widely used in Europe, notably Germany and Spain, to rapidly develop wind, solar, biomass, and low-impact hydro technologies. Recently the Ontario Liberal Party formally endorsed the concept as a mechanism for meeting its target for renewable energy development. The next step is for the government to begin a process for quickly implementing these tariffs in the province.

Green Tags <http://www.greentagsontario.com/>

Green Tags is a project of the **Grey Bruce Renewable Energy Cooperative (GBREC)**, a not-for-profit cooperative corporation and an arm of the Grey Bruce Power Council. Green Tags are a way to support electricity generation from renewable sources. Every Green Tag bought reduces the coal power emissions that cause smog, acid rain and climate change. Green Tags Ontario uses Green Tags sales revenue to stimulate the development of new sources of green energy.

Each Green Tag supports the development of one Megawatt-Hour of clean, wind-generated electricity. That's about one-tenth the amount of electricity an average Ontario household of four consumes in one year. Regardless of where you buy your electricity from, you can buy Green Tags from Green Tags Ontario to support green energy.

Ontario Clean Air Alliance www.cleanair.web.net/

Recognizing the need for reducing air pollution from the electricity sector, The Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA) was formed in August, 1997. The OCAA is a diverse, multi-stakeholder coalition of 85 organizations. Our members include cities, health associations, environmental and public interest groups, public utilities, unions, faith communities and individuals. The OCAA's goal is to achieve the complete phase-out of Ontario Power Generation's coal-fired power plants by 2010 or sooner.

Electricity Choices www.electricitychoices.org/

OCAA runs a website called Electricity Choices, which provides the public with information and links on energy conservation and renewable power. A list of renewable energy suppliers can be found at www.electricitychoices.org/renewables.html.

David Suzuki Foundation www.davidsuzuki.org

Since 1990, the David Suzuki Foundation has worked to find ways for society to live in balance with the natural world that sustains us. Focusing on four program areas – oceans and sustainable fishing, forests and wild lands, climate change and clean energy, and the web of life - the Foundation uses science and education to promote solutions that help conserve nature.

Smart Generation www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/

Smart Generation: Powering Ontario With Renewable Energy urges Ontario's decision makers to develop the province's abundant renewable sources of energy while creating a new focus on conservation. In return, Ontario will get a more reliable, cost-effective electricity system, cleaner air, more jobs, and a new and vibrant industry. Ontario can add at least \$9 billion to its economy and create 25,000 jobs by 2010 if the province uses renewable energy to power its electricity system, says the Suzuki Foundation.

Pollution Probe www.pollutionprobe.org

Pollution Probe is a Canadian environmental organization that

- Defines environmental problems through research;
- Promotes understanding through education; and,
- Presses for practical solutions through advocacy.

Green Power Vision www.pollutionprobe.org/whatwedo/greenpower/index.html

Pollution Probe and Summerhill Group have prepared *A Green Power Vision and Strategy for Canada* and are encouraging governments and stakeholders across Canada to work cooperatively to implement the Vision and Strategy.

Local Leaders

Toronto Renewable Energy Cooperative (TREC) www.trec.on.ca/

Windshare www.windshare.ca/

WindShare is a project developed by the Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative (TREC). WindShare was started to provide an opportunity for citizens to generate Green Power in Ontario's new deregulated electricity marketplace.



Positive Power www.positivepowerco-op.com

Positive Power is a non-profit co-operative dedicated to promoting and generating clean, sustainable energy through community-based renewable energy projects and education. The cooperative operates in the Hamilton, Haldimand and Halton regions.

Green Power Business Organizations

Canadian Wind Energy Association www.canwea.ca/

The Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA) is a non-profit trade association that promotes the appropriate development and application of all aspects of wind energy in Canada, including the creation of a suitable policy environment.

Association of Power Producers of Ontario www.newenergy.org/indexappro.html

Formerly known as the Independent Power Producers' Society of Ontario, we are now the Association of Power Producers of Ontario. The organization has grown to represent over 95% of the Ontario electricity market, more than 30,000 MW of power generation capacity.

APPRO's annual conference includes a Green Power forum.

Identifying Opportunities

Farm-based windpower – There are 55,000 farmers in Ontario. If only one-half of them installed one megawatt of renewable power generation they would be able to provide one-third of Ontario's current electricity supply—considerably more if the province reduced its consumption to its fullest potential. Thus, there is an opportunity to enlist the thousands of rural landowners in the province for supplying renewable-generated electricity while at the same time enabling them to raise a new cash crop: renewable energy.

Solar Roofs – Capitalize on the high level of public interest and support for renewable power with a solar roofs program. Passive solar for hot water heating would be a particularly cost-effective program.

Guaranteed pricing for renewable energy – Ontario can look to Germany and France for help in implementing Advanced Renewable Energy Tariffs. There are a number of organizations and government agencies that can provide technical assistance based on their experience with this mechanism for fostering renewable energy development. OSEA has been building bridges to these groups in its campaign for renewable tariffs in the province.

Transportation

Context

From A to B and back again. Repeat. Daily.

Travel is one of the most basic tasks and yet one of the most significant causes of poor air quality, urban sprawl and an unhealthy reliance on a dwindling supply of oil. Ask anyone and they will tell you the situation is getting worse. Fuel consumption is still with SUV sales and our roads and highways are becoming increasingly congested.

Transportation alternatives are at the root of our ability to create a conserving society, be it alternatives to the car, alternative fuels, or alternative automobile designs. It requires leadership in urban design, in supporting public transit and other alternatives (including bicycling), and in promoting alternatives to the family car(s).

Owning and operating a car can cost up to \$12,000 a year. For urban dwellers, a mix of alternatives (including transit, car sharing cooperatives, train, and rentals) can cost around \$5,000 for a family of four. Less convenient at times, yes, but what would you do with up to \$7,000 tax-free?

Goals and Targets

Our goal is to provide the public with viable and affordable alternatives to automobiles, and to promote conservation options for personal transportation.

Coordination

Although there is no shortage of worthwhile initiatives, there is currently no coordinating body for alternative transportation initiatives.

The Climate Air Connections hub may play a role in this regard through its work in supporting energy conservation and air quality initiatives throughout Ontario.

Existing Activities

Car Sharing -- a practical transportation alternative

www.carsharing.ca for a list of participating cities, including

Guelph

Kingston

Kitchener- Waterloo

Ottawa

Toronto

Contact Bill Barrett gircbill@web.net

Contact Kate Archibald-Cross kcross@kingston.net

People's Car Co-op www.peoplescar.org/

Vrtucar www.vrtucar.com/

AutoShare www.autoshare.com/

Car Sharing gives members 24 hour access to a fleet of cars stationed in downtown neighbourhoods. It is cheaper than owning a car if you need a car for fewer than 12,000 km/year.

You pay only when you drive, as long as you need or as little as 1 hour. It means reduced insurance costs, no more repair bills or parking hassles. It works well for people who don't need a car most days and eliminates the need for the "2nd" car in the family. It reduces vehicle pollution by over 50% simply by driving less and reducing the number of cold engine start-ups.

Pollution Probe www.pollutionprobe.org

Pollution Probe is a Canadian environmental organization that

- Defines environmental problems through research;
- Promotes understanding through education; and,
- Presses for practical solutions through advocacy.

S-M-A-R-T Movement www.pollutionprobe.org/whatwedo/Smart.htm

S-M-A-R-T (Save Money and the Air by Reducing Trips) Movement Programme is a flexible, trip reduction programme designed to guide individual workplaces in reducing employee drive-alone car trips. The programme is customized to best meet the needs of individual workplaces. The S-M-A-R-T sustainable transportation alternatives include: group commuting (public transit, carpool); schedule changes (telework, flex time); and active commuting (walking, cycling).



Clean Air Commute www.pollutionprobe.org/cleanair/

Pollution Probe organizes an annual Clean Air Commute for workplaces:

1. You designate a Clean Air Commute Coordinator at your workplace to promote the event.
2. Pollution Probe sends the Coordinator a Clean Air Commute Registration Kit with all the necessary promotional materials and prizes, including a series of eye-catching posters to help raise awareness in your workplace.
3. Your Coordinator will also be sent a supply of diary cards so employees can track their progress and see how much smog and greenhouse gases they've kept out of our air during the Commute. Your employees can also record their commuting activity through an interactive email version of the diary card.



The Sierra Club of Canada (Ontario Chapter) www.eastern.sierraclub.ca/

Sierra Club is a grassroots organization. We provide a framework within which you, as a member, get to decide for yourself what campaigns you'd like to pursue and how you'd like to contribute.



The Sierra Club is a lead partner in Car Free Days.

Car Free Days www.carfreeday.ca

During the week of Sept 22, International Car Free Day was celebrated by over 100 million people in over 1,500 cities around the world. Sierra Club of Canada events were held in Ottawa, Toronto and Kitchener-Waterloo while other groups celebrated in Halifax, Hamilton, Kingston, Montreal, Victoria and elsewhere.

Active and Safe Routes to School www.saferoutestoschool.ca (also listed in Education)

The **Active & Safe Routes to School** program is primarily parent-driven but there are many opportunities for involvement of students through classroom activities that link to the Ontario Curriculum. As well, other school related groups and users can be engaged in the program, e.g. Environmental Clubs, English as a Second Language (ESL) students, After School Programs, etc. There are also opportunities to network with other schools - both in Canada and abroad.

Transportation Options www.web.net/~detour/transopt.html

Transportation Options is a Toronto-based non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable systems of transportation which foster ecological balance, social equity, and economic vitality.

Moving the Economy (MTE) www.movingtheeconomy.ca

MTE is a partnership of the city of [The City of Toronto](#), Transportation Options (an NGO) and the Federal [Government of Canada](#). MTE works locally and internationally with a broad range of Industry, Government, Community, Labour and Academics to carry out its mission and its projects.

[VISIT the Virtual Trade Show](#)

Akin to a traditional trade show - the Virtual Trade Show exhibits products, services, and technologies within the New Mobility Cluster. The difference is that the show goes on and continues to grow long after the conference is over. Search exhibits by keyword, industry type, or New Mobility category.

Detour Publications www.detourpublications.com

Detour Publications was established as a non-profit effort in 1995 to be a one-stop source for the broadest and best range of books, videos and reference materials on sustainable transportation and urban ecology. Detour serves as a communications initiative of Transportation Options, co-organizers of the international Moving the Economy conference held in Toronto in 1998.

Local Leaders

Smart Commute Association of Black Creek www.bcrma.org/

The Smart Commute Association of Black Creek (SC-BC) is a private, non-profit membership organization. We are supported by the Cities of Toronto and Vaughan, York Region, EcoAction, Toronto Atmospheric Fund, York University and many other partners. We are working to do something about smog and congestion in the Black Creek region and the unacceptable toll they are taking on our businesses, communities, and environment.

While ours is the first in Ontario, and one of the first in Canada, independent Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) already exist in many cities across North America.

Peterborough Green-Up www.greenup.on.ca

Peterborough Green-Up is a non-profit, community-based environmental organization with an excellent reputation in Peterborough and beyond for being knowledgeable, professional and accessible. Through education and action-oriented initiatives, Peterborough Green-Up's aim is to provide the tools with which local citizens can engage in, and maintain environmentally sustainable lifestyle activities.

Peterborough Gets a Move On! provides local residents with both answers to their transportation questions AND opportunities to participate! Working closely with the Peterborough County-City Health Unit and the City of Peterborough, projects include www.peterboroughmoves.com (an online hub for local transportation needs and queries); and the Shifting Gears Workplace Transportation Challenge (a month long challenge for workplaces and individuals).

Toronto Environmental Alliance www.torontoenvironment.org

The Toronto Environmental Alliance was formed in 1988 in order to provide an activist voice to local Toronto issues. TEA's mandate is to promote a greener Toronto. Our vision of a healthy community is based on equity, access, safety and a clean environment.

Rocket Riders www.torontoenvironment.org/rocketriders/main/index.htm

Rocket Riders is a non-profit citizens advocacy group dedicated to public transit issues in the Greater Toronto Area. Rocket Riders is committed to efficient, safe and sustainable public transportation for all.

Community Bicycle Network (Toronto) www.communitybicyclenetwork.org/

CBN is a community-based bicycle organization with the goal of promoting and stimulating healthy, active, and neighbourhood-friendly sustainable transportation initiatives within the City of Toronto.

BikeShare <http://communitybicyclenetwork.org/bikeshare.html>

BikeShare is an innovative community bicycle-lending program in downtown Toronto that provides its members with access to a fleet of bright yellow bikes.

Just show your membership at any conveniently located hub and ride away on a retro single-speed bike equipped with lock, bell, basket and reflector tape. Use the bike for a couple of hours or the whole day and then drop it off at any hub - not just the one you signed it out of.



Transportation for Livable Communities (Hamilton)

www.hwcn.org/link/tlc/

TLCs activities include a transit users group, car free days, parking meter parties and critical mass bike rides.

Identifying Opportunities

Transportation Management Associations – more municipalities and commuter-sheds should look at establishing transportation management associations, following the Smart Commute Association of Black Creek lead (www.bcrmta.org/).

Car Sharing – more municipalities should support establishing car sharing cooperatives as an alternative to car ownership (www.carsharing.ca)

Provincial Campaign – alternative transportation options should be marketed as a package, or a menu of options from which individuals can design their own transportation package. The personal savings to individuals are significant. Campaigns on transportation alternatives can also be tailored to individual communities (see Community Action).

Health and the Environment

Context

Healthy people need healthy environments.

A recent study by the Canadian Environmental Law Association and Pollution Probe points to a short list of substances that are of particular concern to children's health:

- metal groups (lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, Chromium VI) and numerous compounds within each group;
- dozens of pesticides and, therein, several key groups of pesticides;
- all the persistent organic pollutants identified in the recent Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Treaty and several additional POPs;
- dozens, and more likely hundreds, of indoor and outdoor air pollutants, including those associated with vehicular emissions and other sources of combustion, as well as many
- additional hazardous air pollutants;
- phthalates;
- various sources of radiation;
- a range of additional substances, mostly in consumer products, including flame retardants, specifically PBDEs, nonylphenol and its ethoxylates, perfluorochemicals, as well as (drinking water) disinfection by-products.

<http://www.healthyenvironmentforkids.ca/english/news/index.shtml?x=1916>

Much of the effort to eliminate or reduce the use of these substances rests with regulation and corporate leadership. Public education is important, and it needs to be supported by easy access to alternatives.

Goals and Targets

To create an environment with clean air, safe food, clean drinking water, and consumer and commercial products free of environmental health and safety threats.

Coordination

There are two national organizations that help to coordinate and support efforts to eliminate or reduce the use of hazardous substances.

The Canadian Partnership on Children's Health and the Environment (CPHE)

www.healthyenvironmentforkids.ca/

The Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment (CPCHE) is an affiliation of organizations working together to protect children's health from environmental contaminants. While their focus is on child health, they cover most of the priority contaminants that affect us all.

The Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention (C2P2) www.c2p2online.com/

A recognized leader in pollution prevention, the Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention (C2P2) encourages actions that avoid or minimize the creation of pollution and waste – pollution prevention (P2) – actions that foster a healthier environment and a sustainable society. The Centre is a non-profit, non-government organization supported by members and sponsors. Its Board of Directors represents business, governments, trade associations and academia.

The Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition also plays a significant role in bridging health and environmental issues and organizations, both provincially and at the community level

Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition (OHCC) www.healthycommunities.on.ca.

OHCC provides information and training on the links between environmental conditions and human health. Through its community animation program it supports community groups to take action on health and environment issues by increasing skills and knowledge, assisting with volunteer and financial development and facilitating collaborations and partnerships among various organizations.

OHCC produced the "Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities" Tool Kit, which provides information about the impacts of our environment on our health along with ways in which we, both as individuals and as community members, can improve our environment. Several community projects in Ontario are showcased, and suggestions for further reading and other resources are provided. The kit is distributed free of charge.

The CPCHE Partnership

From www.healthyenvironmentforkids.ca/english/about_us/partners.shtml

Members of the Canadian Partnership on Children's Health and the Environment include:

- Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
- Canadian Child Care Federation
- Canadian Environmental Law Association
- Canadian Institute of Child Health
- Environmental Health Clinic
- Health Promotion and Environmental Protection Office (Toronto Public Health)
- Learning Disabilities Association of Canada
- Ontario College of Family Physicians
- Ontario Public Health Association
- Pollution Probe
- South Riverdale Community Health Centre

The Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment (CPCHE) has adopted an innovative constellation model to govern its work. This model is composed of three levels of membership:

1. Extended **national network** of allies and friends that are in diverse ways working to improve the environment to protect children from potentially dangerous environmental exposure. [Click here to join the network.](#)
2. Organizations that we are engaged with through our work in the **constellations** of CPCHE. Through constellations, CPCHE partners come together around specific issues to more actively move an issue forward.
3. The **core membership** of CPCHE is currently composed of nine organizations that are leading voices on children's environmental health issues in Canada. Each of these organizations has prioritized children's environmental health within their own organization and is governed by the **CPCHE Partnership Agreement**. CPCHE partners include:

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)

CAPE is a group of physicians, allied health care practitioners and citizens committed to a healthy and sustainable environment. As an organization composed mostly of physicians, CAPE brings its health expertise to environmental issues, and is an important voice for environmental health in

Canada. CAPE addresses issues of environmental degradation by educating health care professionals and the public and advocating for stronger environmental policy.

Children's environmental health is CAPE's priority issue, and it informs all the education and advocacy that CAPE does in working for a healthier environment. CAPE's work on children's health and the environment includes the ***Children's Environmental Health Project***, a website for health professionals and the public describing the major environmental health impacts on children. CAPE is also the lead organization of the *Municipal Pesticide Use and Children's Health Project*. The project educates citizens interested in pesticide issues about the health impacts that municipal pesticides can have on children.

Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCF)

The Canadian Child Care Federation is a national, non-profit, membership-based organization committed to achieving excellence in early childhood development services in Canada in partnership with families, policy makers and child care communities. Since 1987 it has developed bilingual resources and training materials that support quality early childhood education, learning and care. It continues to create networks with others working to support children's healthy development. CCCF has 9,500 members working in a variety of child care settings including child care centres, family day homes, pre-schools, nursery schools and after-school programs. Members also teach at Canadian colleges and universities.

As a leader in developing Internet-based resources and managing collaborative partnerships, CCCF acts as the web site manager for the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment. Other collaborative web-based initiatives include **Child & Family Canada**; the **Canadian Health Network** and the **Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development**. For information about CCCF: info@cccf-fcsge.ca.

Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA)

CELA is a non-profit public interest organization, founded in 1970. It is an environmental law clinic within Legal Aid Ontario - dedicated to providing legal services to low income people and disadvantaged communities, as well as advancing the cause for strong environmental protection through advocacy, education and law reform. In addition to providing direct legal representation and summary advice, CELA's law reform and public educational mandates include ensuring access to environmental justice and protecting citizens' environmental rights. With respect to environment and health, CELA's Children's Health Project has, since 1998, included a productive collaboration with physicians and other environment-focused health organizations. The Children's Health Project's initial collaboration with the Ontario College of Family Physicians Environmental Health Committee is expanding to include a wide range of organizations working on environment and health issues related to children.

Canadian Institute of Child Health (CICH)

For the past 25 years, CICH has worked to improve the health and well-being of children. Its many publications and resources for parents and health professionals have acted as a dedicated voice in pursuit of this goal. As a national charitable organization they employ a volunteer Board of Directors, top Canadian advisors in the child health field, and a professional staff. Its role in child and family health involves working with governments to ensure the right kinds of policies are developed; working with professionals and educators to equip them with the best in research and programs; and reaching out to families to help with the crucial task of nurturing, protecting, educating, and empowering our children. CICH projects and activities focus on five health related areas: speaking out on children's behalf; monitoring children's health; healthy pregnancy and childbirth; healthy child development; and healthy and safe environments. It holds a determined motivation to give all children the best possible future.

Environmental Health Clinic (EHC)

The [Environmental Health Clinic \(EHC\)](#) began in 1996 as the clinical component of a joint clinical and research program at Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre and the University of Toronto . It is one of only two academically-affiliated, government-funded, provincially-mandated such clinics in Canada , the other being in Nova Scotia . Poor outdoor and indoor air quality, along with contaminated food and water, can trigger various acute and chronic symptoms that can involve many body systems. The EHC wishes to help prevent adverse health effects of exposure to environmental pollutants, particularly in the most vulnerable citizens, fetuses, children, women, and some workers. The purposes of the EHC are to educate patients, the public, and health professionals about environmental health issues, and to provide comprehensive, multidisciplinary assessments and health care advice to people with Environmental Sensitivities/Intolerances, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, Fibromyalgia, and other environment-linked conditions.

[Health Promotion and Environmental Protection Office \(HP&EPO\) - Toronto Public Health](#)

The HP&EPO works to promote environmental quality and health. The HP & EPO was established in 1987 in response to growing community and political concerns about the impact of environmental contaminants on human health.

As part of Toronto Public Health, we subscribe to the vision that Toronto will be the healthiest city possible, where all people enjoy the highest achievable level of health. Our work arises from locally-mandated initiatives by Toronto City Council, and from provincially-mandated programs through the Health Protection and Promotion Act. HP&EPO employs a multidisciplinary team with expertise in toxicology, epidemiology, environmental health policy, health promotion and environmental education.

HP&EPO has been actively involved in addressing emerging environmental health issues through research, education, policy development and advocacy. The issues that we are working on include: smog and air quality, water quality, food safety, pesticides, waste management, energy conservation, toxic substances and children's health and the environment.

[Learning Disabilities Association of Canada \(LDAC\)](#)

The LDAC is a national, non-profit, volunteer-based organization founded in 1963 with the mission of representing persons with learning disabilities and those who support them. The LDAC activities include the collection and dissemination of information on learning disabilities in the areas of prevention, early identification, assessment, education, intervention, social interaction, health, coping skills, family support, advocacy, transitions, employment, and justice to consumers, parents, professionals, various levels of government, and other agencies. It has published a number of manuals, guides, self-help and reference books to meet growing needs, and has developed screening and teaching tools to increase the literacy skills of adults with learning disabilities.

Affiliated Learning Disabilities Associations exist in each Canadian province and two territories, which extend to a network of more than 75 chapters across the country; all maintaining the shared mission. The LDAC is headed by a Board of Directors composed of fifteen members appointed by each of the ten provincial and two territorial Associations. It also has a Canadian Advisory Committee comprised of 15 experts in the field.

Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP)

The Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) is the Ontario Chapter of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC). The OCFP is a provincial, voluntary, not-for-profit organization whose mandate includes undergraduate, post-graduate education, the continuing professional development of family physicians and the maintenance of high standards of medical care and education in family practice. The OCFP is the voice of family medicine in Ontario and represents more than 6,400 family physicians who provide patient care for remote, rural, suburban, urban and inner city communities throughout Ontario. The building and maintenance of high standards of practice, the continuing professional development of our members and improved access to high quality family medicine services for all residents of Ontario are at the heart of our organization.

Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA)

Founded in 1949, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) is a voluntary, charitable, non-profit association. OPHA is an organization of individuals and Constituent Associations from various sectors and disciplines that have an interest in improving the health of the people of Ontario. The mission of the organization is to provide leadership on issues affecting the public's health and to strengthen the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario.

The OPHA has several Workgroups composed of volunteers from across the province. One promotes breast-feeding, one focuses on child's health, and another addresses environmental health. The Environmental Health Workgroup has been active on issues related to air quality, pesticides, electromagnetic fields, water quality, food safety and children's environmental health. The OPHA also has an Air Quality Program Coordinator who conducts research, policy analysis and health promotion on air quality issues.

Pollution Probe Foundation

Pollution Probe is a Canadian environmental organization that defines environmental problems through research, promotes understanding through education, and presses for practical solutions through advocacy. It asserts a dedication to achieving positive and tangible environmental change. Designed on a partnership-building platform, Pollution Probe engages government agencies, private businesses and other non-profit organizations that have a legitimate interest in an issue to help find solutions. Headed by a Board of Directors and an Advisory Board, this donor-based organization seeks to represent the needs of the general public. It prides itself on a non-partisan, though politically engaged, approach; and strives toward fair-minded, results oriented endeavours. Pollution Probe has four major programme areas: Air; Water; Climate Change; and Toxic Substances. The goal is to serve the needs of both our own and future generations for a clean and healthy environment.

South Riverdale Community Health Centre (SRCHC) (Toronto)

The SRCHC is a community-controlled organization that is committed to the World Health Organization's definition of health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely an absence of disease or infirmity. Health is a fundamental human right and is central to social, economic and personal development. As a CHC, SRCHC holds that it's role is to provide quality primary care while engaging in clinical, social, economic, political, cultural, and educational initiatives that promote health.

The SRCHC is one of the few community health centres with a designated position for environmental health promotion, and an articulated commitment to environmental health issues. The centre has been instrumental in working with the community around local pollution and environmental issues and in promoting participation in developing new plans for community development.

SRCHC developed a "Healthy Homes Healthy Environments" workshop series on topics including healthy cleaning, healthy pest control, renovations and home repair, food and the environment, and children's health and the environment. In addition, they have developed a resource manual, Making Environmental Health Happen in the Community! The Indoor Air Quality Work Group - facilitated through the SRCHC – produced Hidden Exposures: A Practical Guide to Creating a Healthy Environment for You and Your Children. The SRCHC, in collaboration with Toronto Public Health, has also produced a fact-sheet series and pamphlet entitled Hidden Exposures, Reproduction and Pregnancy; a resource aimed at prenatal educators, pregnant women and the public, and in collaboration with the Environmental Health Clinic has developed a series of educational forums to raise awareness among prenatal educators regarding these issues.

Existing Activities

Information Portals

Both the CPCHE and the C2P2 websites are excellent sources of information on hazardous substances and pollution prevention.

Through its website, www.healthyenvironmentforkids.com, CPCHE focuses on researching the issues, educating its members and others, and working to move children's environmental health issues into the minds of decision-makers, caregivers and the public.

The Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention website, www.c2p2online.com, offers a wide range of resources, services and links with respect to pollution prevention. The emphasis is on corporate solutions.

Pollution Prevention

The Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention www.c2p2online.com,

The Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention is a non-profit, non-governmental organization whose mission is to encourage actions that avoid or minimize the creation of pollutants thereby fostering a healthier environment and sustainable society. Some of projects include the following:

SME Outreach in Ontario

Continued support of the delivery of an Ontario based pollution prevention (P2) outreach program for small and medium sized enterprises. The outreach program will help small business sector become more familiar pollution prevention concepts and to help small businesses apply pollution prevention practices in their businesses. The SME website at <http://www.c2p2online.com> will also be augmented with new resources, outreach materials such as success stories and guidance materials.

Truckers Idling Reduction Program

With funding from Environment Canada's Eco-Action program, C2P2 has initiated Green house gas reduction project focused at truckers. The local community of Sarnia is effected by the short duration idling that occurs in places like weigh scales, truck compounds, duty free plazas and truck stops. The project increased awareness among truckers that even small decreases in idling time from heavy duty diesel trucks will help to improve air quality in our community.

P2 & Skis

Working in collaboration with Environment Canada-Ontario region and the Ontario Snow Resorts Association, C2P2 has developed a P2 based environmental management strategy that focuses on water, air, energy, waste and land at Ontario ski areas.

Group EMS Peer Assistance Project

Led and coordinated a group of six healthcare facilities (5 in Ontario) in the simultaneous development of an environmental management system (EMS) in order to improve the implementation of prevention based environmental initiatives.

EcoSuperior www.ecosuperior.com

EcoSuperior was incorporated in 1994 by the Lakehead Environmental Action Group (LEAG) in order to address environmental issues for Thunder Bay and area. We are a not-for-profit organization, operated by a volunteer board of directors, with a paid staff of 10 employees.

Pollution Prevention

Currently, our Mercury Reduction project is developing ways to help reduce mercury discharge into our environment, working in partnership with business, industry and government. We have established recycling programs for thermostats, fluorescent tubes and button batteries. To address dioxins, we are coordinating public outreach campaigns to eliminate the burning of household garbage.



Pesticides

Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and the Environment

www.healthyenvironmentforkids.ca/

Partnership for Pesticide Bylaws

www.healthyenvironmentforkids.ca/english/special_collections/fulltext.shtml?x=787

The Partnership for Pesticide Bylaws formed in the fall of 2002 to bring together health, environmental, labour and animal welfare organizations in support of municipal pesticide bylaws. The PPB focused its efforts on the City of Toronto. In May of 2003, with a solid majority, Toronto City Council passed a pesticide bylaw and in so doing reinforced the efforts of those advocating for similar bylaws in municipalities across Canada.

The CPCHE website includes the platform statements, media releases, background information, and other public statements made by the Partnership for Pesticide Bylaws during its successful campaign to encourage Toronto to implement a pesticide bylaw.

Municipal Pesticides By-Law Support Project

The Municipal Pesticide Use and Children's Health project has been raising awareness about municipal pesticide use and its potential impacts on children's health. Since the summer of 2001, when the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the by-law passed by the town of Hudson to restrict the use of pesticides, community groups all over Canada have increased their activities on this issue.

Pesticide Free Ontario www.pesticidefree.ca/

Pesticide Free Ontario website. Is a coalition of citizen groups connecting on a provincial level to work towards urban pesticide reduction/elimination. Their website lists resources and projects to help promote pesticide free lawncare.

Centre for Pollution Prevention

Responsible Pest Management Website www.pestinfo.ca

In partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities continue to operate and maintain the Responsible Pest Management web site. The web site provides municipal governments and communities with access to information, tools and networks that maximize opportunities for pesticide reduction

Green Communities Association www.gca.ca (See also Community Action)

The Green Communities Association is the national umbrella for local non-profit organizations that bring environmental solutions to Canadian households and communities.

Pesticide Free Naturally www.gca.ca/indexcms/index.php?pfm

The Green Communities Association pesticide reduction campaign - Pesticide Free Naturally - was launched in 2000 with the following objectives:

- build awareness among the general population of health and environmental impacts of pesticide use in homes and gardens
- provide concerned citizens with the information they need to use non-toxic methods of pest control in the home, yard, and garden
- encourage neighbourhood discussion about pesticide use and alternatives, and make reducing pesticide use a matter of individual and neighbourhood pride



The GCA published a ***Pesticide Free Naturally Action Kit*** for use in the home, which includes:

- a pesticide-free lawn sign
- factsheets on health impacts
- tips on how to engage neighbours in discussions about pesticide use
- Children's Activity Pack
- information on effective alternatives to pesticides, including home recipes

Caledon Countryside Alliance www.caledoncountyside.org

The Caledon Countryside Alliance (CCA) is a Not for Profit agency. It's objective is to ensure that Caledon and the Headwaters region maintain their rural character. We think of our countryside as a permanent feature rather than land waiting to be developed.

Weedgee Kidz www.caledoncountyside.org/WeedgeeKidz.htm

Weedgee Kidz are youth who volunteer their time to help keep Caledon green and healthy. Co-ordinated by Team Leaders and managed by the Caledon Countryside Alliance and Healthy Lawns, Healthy People, the Weedgee Kidz program exists to help people in Caledon reduce their Ecological Footprint by getting their lawns off 'drugs' and to adhere effectively to the Healthy Horticultural Landscapes By-law which comes into effect on May 1, 2004.



Indoor Air Quality

The Lung Association www.YourHealthyHome.ca

The quality of air in our homes can sometimes be worse than air quality outdoors. To improve the air quality in your home, visit The Lung Association's new website at www.YourHealthyHome.ca.

Green Cleaners

The Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention www.c2p2online.com

Green Cleaners project

www.c2p2online.com/main.php3?section=139&doc_id=295&session

Many dry cleaners are taking small measures such as improving operating practices, modernizing equipment, changing dry cleaning solvents or initiating recycling programs with the intent of protecting the environment of the communities they operate in.

Green dry cleaners are offering consumers environmentally preferable cleaning processes such as cleaning clothes in water instead of solvent (wet cleaning) as well as:

- phasing out the use of perchloroethylene
- collecting and reusing hangers
- recycling plastic bags

Click [here](#) to find a green dry cleaner near you.

Identifying Opportunities

Collaboration – joint projects with health care providers, labour, and other professions would be useful in promoting public awareness about alternatives to harmful products in the home and workplace.

Waste Reduction

Context

Waste is a mess.

Fortunately, we all agree that something has to happen. Years of public hearings over waste management options (such as Adams Mine proposal) and the interim solution of trucking Toronto's garbage to Michigan have made the public and our governments alike agree that we need to radically improve on our waste diversion rates and minimize the need for disposal.

The best solution is prevention.

Plans for designated materials are being developed through Waste Diversion Ontario, an arms-length agency established by the provincial government. Industry stakeholders hold the majority of seats on the board, with one seat being held by a representative from the Recycling Council of Ontario.

Goals and Targets

The Ministry of Environment has set a target of 60% diversion by 2008.

Coordination

There is little coordination at the provincial level. The coordination of public engagement around waste reduction appears to be carried out at the national level through Waste Reduction Canada www.wrwcanda.com/.

The Ontario Environment Network www.oen.ca, has a waste caucus that is helping to coordinate NGO participation in reviewing waste diversion and management proposals.

The Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators

The Municipal Waste Integration Network

Existing Activities

Waste Reduction Week Canada www.wrwcanda.com/

Waste Reduction Week in Canada is organized by a coalition of non-government, not for profit environment groups from each of the thirteen participating provincial and territorial jurisdictions from across Canada. The Recycling Council of Ontario is the lead partner for Ontario.

Waste Reduction Week offers resources for municipalities, schools and businesses. It also encourages municipalities to proclaim Waste Reduction Week each year in October.

Recycling Council of Ontario www.rco.on.ca

The Recycling Council of Ontario is a not-for-profit organization committed to minimizing society's impact on the environment by eliminating waste. RCO's mission is to inform and educate all

members of society about the generation of waste, the avoidance of waste, the more efficient use of resources and the benefits and/or consequences of these activities.
The RCO hosts an annual conference and the annual Waste Minimization Awards.

Target Zero Canada www.targetzerocanada.org/

A growing number of private, public and not-for-profit organizations are embracing Zero Waste concepts as a means of achieving greater efficiency, cost reduction, economic growth, and environmental sustainability. Zero Waste emphasizes resource conservation, waste reduction, reuse, and recycling as integral components of economic growth and environmental responsibility.

On November 21, 2000, Earth Day Canada launched **Target Zero Canada (TZC)** – a national program established to promote Zero Waste solutions. Target Zero Canada will provide Zero Waste oriented resource materials and networking capabilities. The program will also communicate real-world models of business and community innovation in waste reduction.

Composting Council of Canada www.compost.org

The Composting Council of Canada is a national non-profit, member-driven organization with a charter to advocate and advance composting and compost usage. It serves as the central resource and network for the composting industry in Canada and, through its members, contributes to the environmental sustainability of the communities in which they operate

The Sierra Club of Canada (Ontario Chapter) www.eastern.sierraclub.ca/

Sierra Club is a grassroots organization. We provide a framework within which you, as a member, get to decide for yourself what campaigns you'd like to pursue and how you'd like to contribute.

No Junk Mail

The Sierra Club of Ontario will make No Junk Mail stickers available to the public on request.

Waste Diversion Toronto/Canada contact Rod Muir: rodmuir@sympatico.ca

Waste Diversion Toronto/Canada seeks to assist in the steps necessary to divert waste from landfill or incineration. The group proposes new legislation be established to regulate package size, composition, and minimum recycled content.

Reduce Packaging Campaign

Waste Diversion Toronto/Canada has produced mailing labels that can be affixed to excess packaging and mailed to the federal Minister of the Environment with a request to reduce overpackaging.

Local Leaders

Clean North - The Sault And District Recycling Association <http://www.cleannorth.org>

"Bring out your recently dead" is a fun way to recycle old computers. Clean North's runs an immensely popular Computer Recycling Event and Garage Sale. They accept all computer equipment accepted, including computers, monitors, printers, cables, modems, and other peripherals. Also toner and ink cartridges and phones of all kinds. No TVs or Microwaves, thanks, there is no recycling market for these items yet.

Toronto Environment Alliance www.torontoenvironment.org

TEA advocates reduction-centred waste policies. Its "Return to Re-use campaign is working to bring back refillable glass bottles for beverage containers. They also promote composting, and we oppose garbage incineration.

TEA's Use-It Re-Use It Guide

Find out where you can buy used items, repair broken items, or take unwanted items for others to re-use and help ease Toronto's garbage crisis. TEA and the Ontario Waste Management Exchange has partnered to provide TEA's successful Use-It ReUse It Guide in an updated online version.

Peterborough Green-Up www.greenup.on.ca

Peterborough Green-Up is a non-profit, community-based environmental organization with an excellent reputation in Peterborough and beyond for being knowledgeable, professional and accessible.

www.peterboroughreuses.com is an information source for residents of Peterborough City and County who wish to either divert items from the waste stream or locate used items. The Reuse and Recycling Guide provides complete information on items that can be locally reused or recycled. The Classifieds section provides a free opportunity to buy, sell, trade and/or give away items citizens can no longer use. Currently under development is a Green Shoppers Guide, which will promote environmentally sound consumer choices to assist the community in reducing waste at one of its main sources.

In-School Program is a multi-streamed curriculum linked "Waste Reduction" program for Grade 3 and Grade 7

The think Food program coordinates the local collection and recycling of used ink jet and laser printer cartridges and cell-phone through a series of in-house and public collection sites.

Eco Superior www.ecosuperior.com

EcoSuperior was incorporated in 1994 by the Lakehead Environmental Action Group (LEAG) in order to address environmental issues for Thunder Bay and area. We are a not-for-profit organization, operated by a volunteer board of directors, with a paid staff of 10 employees.

Waste Reduction

At our office, consumers may purchase composters and access advice and information on recycling and other waste reduction practices. We coordinate seasonal programs such as the Great Pumpkin Compost Collection, Waste Reduction Week, and the Battery Round-up and Municipal Clean Up Month.



Professional Associations

Composting Council of Canada www.compost.org

The Composting Council of Canada is a national non-profit, member-driven organization with a charter to advocate and advance composting and compost usage. It serves as the central resource and network for the composting industry in Canada and, through its members, contributes to the environmental sustainability of the communities in which they operate.

Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators (AMRC) www.amrc.guelph.org/

The **AMRC** is an incorporated not-for-profit organization formed in 1987 by municipal waste management professionals to facilitate the sharing of municipal waste reduction and recycling information and experience.

Identifying Opportunities

Opportunities include:

- Community based outreach on waste reduction initiatives, including education on current recycling programs, home composting, and waste minimization. The model would need to be adapted to reflect the waste management system for each municipality
- Community-based outreach on household hazardous waste, including the safe disposal of compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Community services for household hazardous waste, such as collection of compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Central social marketing for waste diversion – target recycling tomorrow to ensure maximum participation and capture – we should be able to achieve 80% There is a strong potential role for NGO leadership and partnership with municipalities. Municipalities could reduce costs through a common campaign

Several organizations have identified a need to review the role of the Waste Diversion Organization in setting policy for waste management in order to ensure that it is driven by the principles of waste diversion

Education and Awareness

Context

Conservation is a lifelong process of learning and adopting new ideas and activities.

Lifelong Learning, Education and Awareness underscore our collective need to equally consider the long term future of the economy, equity of all communities and ecology in the decisions and actions we make and take. The connection between formal and informal education and our ability to achieve results in conservation in all arenas is evident.

Within formal education, much of what is mandated through curriculum and course development does not adequately address the value of conservation. Environmental education and outdoor experiences allow for a connection, understanding and appreciation of the natural world's form and function. These experiences are extremely important in helping the individual develop a sense of respect and responsibility for the world around them. Primary and Secondary education needs to reflect this and also needs to be reoriented to educate students on the need to balance economic, social and ecosystem consideration in our actions. The same can be said for post secondary education.

Outside the formal education system, the outreach and public engagement activities of Ontario's conservation community are an extremely important means of ensuring a strong culture of conservation. We need to connect the outreach programs with the solutions and services in order to ensure that public support is translated into action.

The United Nations has declared 2005 to 2014 as the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The goal of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is to reorient education, in all forms, so that we move collectively towards sustainability. The four thrusts of the Decade are Basic Education, Reorienting Existing Education Programs, Developing Public Awareness and Understanding of Sustainability and Training. The Decade offers an opportunity to engage Ontario's conservation movement and environmental educators in a joint effort to make Ontario a leader in results-based conservation education.

Goals and Targets

Environmental Education Ontario has as its vision:

An Ontario where all members of the population are environmentally literate, and their behaviour reflects a commitment to a healthy, sustainable environment for future generations

Specifically, we want to ensure that all Ontarians are aware of the importance of conservation and are committed to incorporating conservation actions into their lives.

Two main areas of activity in support of this goal are public education and outreach and conservation education and activities in Ontario's schools and educational institutions

Coordination

Environmental Education Ontario (EEON) www.eeon.org/

EEON came into being when Environmental Science and Environmental Studies courses were removed from the Ontario curriculum in 2000. EEON is a charitable corporation that is a coalition of environmental and ecological educators, concerned citizens, parents, and representatives from non-governmental organizations and government agencies.

Believing that Ontario needs more, not less, environmental and ecological education, EEON has set as its task the facilitation, development and implementation of a Strategic Plan for Environmental and Sustainability Education. Such education consists of a shift in traditional learning, includes an examination of what is ecologically sustainable, and explores various options to achieve positive change.

Existing Activities

Public Awareness

David Suzuki Foundation www.davidsuzuki.org/WOL/Challenge/

The David Suzuki Foundation has researched the 10 most effective ways we can help conserve nature and improve our quality of life.

- Reduce home energy use by 10%
- Choose an energy-efficient home & appliances
- Don't use pesticides
- Eat meat-free meals one day a week
- Buy locally grown and produced food
- Choose a fuel-efficient vehicle
- Walk, bike, carpool or take transit
- Choose a home close to work or school
- Support alternative transportation
- Learn more and share with others

The Challenge is to **pick at least three steps** and sign up by clicking the button below. It's an easy and effective way to make a difference.



As of November 2nd, 2004, **133,093** individuals have taken the Nature Challenge!

Earth Day Canada www.earthday.ca

Earth Day Canada (EDC) is a national environmental communications organization mandated to improve the state of the environment by empowering Canadians to achieve local solutions. Since 1991, EDC has been coordinating Earth Day/Earth Month events, and creating successful community programs and award-winning artistic and media projects.

EDC is a registered charity, and the Canadian arm of Earth Day Network. With over 3,500 affiliated community-based organizations and 5,000 member organizations, EDC operates year-round to provide resources, user-friendly programs, and networking assistance to help Canadians help the Earth.

Eco Kids

EcoKids is Earth Day Canada's environmental education program for youth who care about the planet. Since 1994, the EcoKids Program has empowered Canadian youth with environmental knowledge and hands-on activities, and presented this information in fun, exciting ways that increase awareness and encourage active community involvement.

Earth Day Canada provides many different EcoKids across the country with environmental knowledge and hands-on activities and ideas that increase awareness and inspire active community involvement.

EcoAction Teams

The EcoAction Teams Program is a new, neighbourhood-based initiative developed by Earth Day Canada (EDC), designed to teach the fundamental "how-tos" of household energy and resource conservation, waste reduction and alternative energy options. The initiative recognizes that community groups and individuals accomplish some of the most significant environmental work at the local level. As a result, the program seeks to reduce human impact on the environment by helping ordinary Canadians achieve the lifestyle changes that need to be made if we are to be successful in creating a truly sustainable world.

Web Networks www.web.ca

Web Community Resource Networks was founded in 1987 as a non-profit corporation. Web Networks' mission is: Web Networks provides appropriate and innovative communication technology and resources to non-profit organizations.

Web Networks services range from inexpensive entry-level options to large and complex packages. Its smallest package, the "community membership" costs only \$65/year and is used by over a thousand individuals and small groups. At the other end, we also host large national organizations and federations.

Detour's UrbanSource (<http://www.urbansource.org>)

Established as a non-profit bookstore in 1995, Detour provides over 300 books, action guides and on-line resources focusing on sustainable transportation, urban planning/smart growth, climate change, energy conservation, green business, green tourism, food security, and environmental ethics.

Schools

Ontario EcoSchools www.yorku.ca/fes/envedu/ecoschools.asp

Ontario EcoSchools has been designed to help school boards and schools play their part in responding to one of the great challenges of our time: the increasingly urgent need to live more sustainably.

The purposes of this project are to 1) provide teachers with climate change resource units for elementary and secondary grades based on the Ontario Curriculum, 2) provide guides that promote taking individual action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, 3) align what is taught in classrooms with school operations (curriculum & facilities), 4) save money and reduce our impact on the environment (e.g., conserve energy and minimize waste) at both the Board and individual school levels and 5) provide related opportunities for learning and action outside the classroom to reinforce classroom education.

The Ontario EcoSchools program consists of **sixteen guides** and three **multi-media presentations** organized into four categories: Getting Started, Connecting to the Elementary Curriculum, Connecting to the Secondary Curriculum and Enriching your Program.

EcoSchools is partnering with Ontario ENGOs such as the Clean Air Partnership, Pollution Probe, and the Clean Air Foundation in the delivery of its program.

Whitney Public School EcoSchool Certification

http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/whitney/ecoschools_certification/certification_contents2.htm

Whitney Public School in Toronto has posted the results of their EcoSchool audit on their website. They scored 76 out of a possible 100.

Learning for a Sustainable Future www.lsf-1st.ca/

Learning for a Sustainable Future is a Canadian nonprofit organization whose mandate is to work with educators from across Canada to integrate the concepts and principles of **sustainable development** into the curricula at all grade levels.

[Green Street](#) (GS) is a Standard of Excellence in Environmental Learning and Sustainability. GS provides teachers with high quality environmental education programs that are creative, free, relevant to their curricula, and fun! These education programs actively engage Canadian students in learning about the environment, promoting environmental stewardship and taking further action. Visit www.green-street.ca for the latest listings of available programs and youth engagement activities.

Destination Conservation <http://www.dcplanet.org/>

dcPlanet (Destination Conservation) is an innovative school based conservation program where students, staff, school district staff and utility companies interact to initiate environmental education and conservation activities.

The dcPlanet Program involves students and staff in conserving energy and resources in their schools! Educate students, retrofit your school and save money.

Active and Safe Routes to School www.saferoutestoschool.ca (also listed in Transportation)

The **Active & Safe Routes to School** program is primarily parent-driven but there are many opportunities for involvement of students through classroom activities that link to the Ontario Curriculum. As well, other school related groups and users can be engaged in the program, e.g. Environmental Clubs, English as a Second Language (ESL) students, After School Programs, etc. There are also opportunities to network with other schools - both in Canada and abroad.

The Green Group www.green-group.com/

THE GREEN GROUP is a charitable organization -- established in 1991 to provide environmental programming to school-aged children, their teachers and families. Over the past thirteen years, THE GREEN GROUP has provided highly valuable and successful programs such as the Comprehensive Litter-Less Lunch, the Composting Crew, the Clean Up Challenge, the Green Kid Club and ECO-PALS to more than 3,500 schools across Canada and the U.S. At least 250,000 students and their families have been positively affected by one or more of our programs. We also offer the ECO-PALS program to American classes in the area of the Great Lakes Watershed.

ECO-PALS

ECO-PALS is a pen-pal program with an environmental theme. It is available to elementary and junior high/middle schools in all provinces of Canada as well as in American states in the Great Lakes Watershed



area. Up to 500 classes are accepted into the program each September and are "twinning" in this unique program. Each class exchanges information about their local community with their assigned 'pals'. Every effort is made by THE GREEN GROUP to match classes from as diverse areas of the country as possible.

Association for Canadian Educational Resources (ACER) www.acer-acre.org/

ACER is charitable organization which was founded in 1987. Members are leaders in education, media and business who initiate and facilitate development, production and promotion of Canadian materials to meet the needs of to-day's learners.

Measure Up is a monitoring program focussed on trees and specifically designed to be carried out by volunteers, yet yield data useful to scientists. It is based on plots or quadrats which are set up and measured.

Evergreen Foundation

Evergreen has a searchable database of their projects, including 215 in Ontario.

<http://www.evergreen.ca/en/cg/cg-projects.html>

Learning Grounds

Learning Grounds brings teachers, students and neighbours together to transform traditionally barren asphalt and turf school grounds into natural outdoor classrooms. By planting trees, shrubs and wildflowers, planning meadows or ponds, and creating murals, sculptures, vegetable gardens and other theme areas, the learning opportunities literally come alive. These outdoor classrooms provide students with a healthy and safe place to play, learn and develop a genuine respect for nature and each other.

See also the **Common Grounds** and **Home Grounds** programs under Natural Areas.

Earth Day Canada – Eco Mentors www.ecomentors.ca/

EcoMentors matches high school students with elementary school classes or environmental clubs to assist in teaching environmental education. By working together, both groups of students can turn their ideas into action by participating in relevant environmental activities in their community and explore and express their ideas and viewpoints with regard to human-environment interactions.

Local Leaders

Willow Park Ecology Centre (www.willowparkecology.com)

Willow Park Ecology Centre is a 5.5 acre site in Halton Hills, on Hwy 7 just west of Toronto. It has as its vision: "to maintain the natural habitat for flora and fauna at Willow Park, to promote the use of Willow Park Ecology Centre to educate and inform students and the general public in Halton Hills about ecological and environmental matters, and to continue to provide a place for passive recreation for residents and visitors alike". Our facility and programs are described on our website, but we are particularly proud of our Grade 3 program, garnering interest from across the Halton Region, drawing classes from as far away as Burlington and Oakville.

Peterborough Green-Up www.greenup.on.ca

Peterborough Green-Up is a non-profit, community-based environmental organization with an excellent reputation in Peterborough and beyond for being knowledgeable, professional and accessible.

The Kawartha Environmental Educator's Network (KEEN) supports and promotes high quality environmental education in the Peterborough region. The best resources for children

and youth are scouted out and made available to teachers and educators. The network provides easy access to local information and resources for educators and facilitates the sharing of skills, ideas and information among youth leaders. In integral part of KEEN is the website www.keenet.org

Peterborough Green-Up Resource Centre offers information and Green-Up staff to answer environmental questions. The Centre houses fact sheets, booklets, and brochures on a wide variety of environmental topics. The lending library offers books, videos, magazines and curriculum materials. The Green Boutique carries biodegradable, phosphate-free materials such as detergents and cleaners, as well as water conservation devices, blue boxes, composter, rain barrels and garden aids.

Professional Associations

Ontario Society for Environmental Education www.osee.org/

The Ontario Society for Environmental Education is a professional organization whose members are elementary, secondary, and post-secondary teachers, people who teach in outdoor education centres or parks, and people who are involved directly or indirectly with environmental education. Membership is open to all teachers, students, parents and persons dedicated to the promotion and improvement of environmental education.

OSEE's activities include publishing Interactions - The Ontario Journal of Environmental Education, holding an annual conference, providing workshops and professional development activities, participating in writing and reviewing provincial curriculum, writing and providing resources for the use of those involved in environmental education, maintaining a web site for the purpose of promoting and improving environmental education and for the purpose of communicating with members and other interested persons, advocating for environmental education, communicating with the Ministry of Education and other education organizations, and linking with and supporting the activities and resources of other environmental education organizations.

Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario <http://webhome.idirect.com/%7Ehesterkb/coeo/>

The Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario is a non-profit, volunteer organization which promotes personal growth through quality outdoor experiences, and acts as a professional body for outdoor educators in the province of Ontario.

Science Teachers of Ontario www.stao.ca/

STAO, founded in 1890, continues to be the professional voice of Science Educators in Ontario.

Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario www.coeo.org

The Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario (COEO) is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization that promotes safe and high quality outdoor education experiences for people of all ages. It also acts as a professional body for outdoor educators in the province of Ontario. These aims are achieved through publishing Pathways: The Ontario Journal of Outdoor Education as well as an electronic newsletter, running an annual conference and regional workshops, maintaining this web site, and working with kindred organizations as well as government agencies

Green Teacher www.greenteacher.com

Green Teacher is a magazine by and for educators to enhance environmental and global education across the curriculum at all grade levels. Fifty pages of ideas and activities, four times a year; we're not slick... just resource-full

Identifying Opportunities

- 1) There is a tremendous opportunity to improve the connection between the lead organizations for priority conservation issues and the organizations involved in public outreach and school-based education.
- 2) The United Nations has declared 2005 to 2014 as the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. At the Federal level, discussions are taking place between the government and civil society as to what shape Canada's efforts will take and identifying roles, responsibilities and resources. Starting from these National efforts, a similar effort needs to be organized so that Ontario can take advantage of the opportunities that the Decade offers for forwarding the conservation movement.

First Nations and the Environment

(this material is available at www.greenontario.org/strategy/firstnations.html)

Context

Ontario's First Nations have a close connection with the environment. Their society and culture reflects centuries of living in harmony with nature and respect for all living creatures. We would do well to incorporate aboriginal values into our own guiding principles for Ontario's economic and social development.

At the same time, the close connection aboriginal people have with the environment has also given rise to a whole range of environmental and health problems. Like canaries in a coal mine, aboriginal communities are at the forefront of water quality and pollution issues.

First Nations have a strong culture of conservation. They are leaders in raising awareness of the links between healthy environments and healthy communities.

Contacts

Contact Lists

[Chiefs of Ontario contact list](#) for the 134 first nations in Ontario.

[Aboriginal Affairs Contacts](#) on the [Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat](#) website.
[First Nations Information Project](#)

Organizations

[Chiefs of Ontario](#): In March of 1975, at the First All Ontario Chiefs Conference, a joint First Nations Association Coordinating Committee was formed. The purpose of the committee was to provide a single Ontario representative to the Assembly of First Nations. From this committee emerged the Chiefs of Ontario office. Chiefs of Ontario is a coordinating body for 134 First Nation communities located within the boundaries of the Province of Ontario. The purpose of the Chiefs of Ontario office is to enable the political leadership to discuss regional, provincial and national priorities affecting First Nation people in Ontario and to provide a unified voice on these issues.

[Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians](#): The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians was established primarily as a political organization in 1969 to represent its member Nations in any negotiation or consultation with any level of government affecting the well-being of the member Nations as a whole. The Association currently represents eight (8) Nations of status Indians in Ontario with a membership of approximately 16,000 people.

[Anishinabek Nation](#): The Anishinabek Nation, founded in 1949 as the Union of Ontario Indians, is a political advocate and secretariat to 43 member First Nations across Ontario. The Anishinabek Nation territory encompasses First Nations along the north shore of Lake Superior and surrounding Lake Nipigon, the north shore of Lake Huron, Manitoulin Island, east to the Algonquins of Golden Lake (150 km east of Ottawa), and through the south central part of Ontario

to the Chippewas of Sarnia First Nation. Tribal groups represented within the Nation include Odawa, Ojibway, Pottawatomi, Delaware, Chippewa, Algonquin and Mississauga.

[Nishnawbe-Aski Nations](#) (NAN): Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) evolved out of Grand Council Treaty #9, which was established in 1973 as the regional organization representing the political, social, and economic interests of 49 First Nations in Northern Ontario who are signatories to Treaty No. 9 and Treaty No. 5 (in Ontario). In 1982, the name changed to Nishnawbe Aski Nation. NAN's traditional territory, which encompasses two thirds of the province of Ontario, stretches from the Quebec border in the east to the Manitoba border in the west and from the James Bay and Hudson's Bay watersheds in north to roughly the Canadian National Railway in the south.

[Assembly of First Nations](#) (AFN): The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is the national representative/lobby organization of the First Nations in Canada. There are over 630 First Nation's communities in Canada. The AFN Secretariat, is designed to present the views of the various First Nations through their leaders in areas such as: Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, Economic Development, Education, Languages and Literacy, Health, Housing, Social Development, Justice, Taxation, Land Claims, Environment, and a whole array of issues that are of common concern which arise from time to time.

[Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association](#): OMAA was founded in 1971 (originally as the Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association). OMAA offers representation to the 250,000 Indian and Metis peoples living off reserves in Ontario. OMAA is today an incorporated (as a non-share capital Ontario corporation) umbrella organization representing community based local associations, known as "Locals", and five regional organizations, known as "Zones". Each Local is affiliated both with a Zone and directly with OMAA.

[Métis Nation of Ontario](#): The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was founded in 1994 at a delegates meeting that brought together Métis from nearly 100 Ontario communities. Today, over 380 communities and 12,000 individuals are included in the [MNO Registry](#) of Métis people.

[Ontario Native Women's Association](#): The Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) is a non-profit voluntary organization founded in May 1st, 1972. It is based on the belief of unity among Aboriginal women.

[Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres](#): The Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC) is a provincial Aboriginal organization representing the collective interests of twenty-seven member Friendship Centres located in towns and cities throughout the province.

[Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation](#): The Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation is the founding organization in Canada whose purpose is to provide professional technical advisory services to all First Nations in Ontario and to foster technical self-reliance.

Federal Government

[Department of Indian and Northern Affairs](#)

[Aboriginal Canada Portal](#)

You'll find some interesting information in the Environment and Natural Resources section. There is also a good list of contacts for Ontario, including community and organizations websites and community profiles

Ontario Government

[Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat](#): the secretariat under the Ministry of Justice responsible for native affairs.

First Nations and Environment

[First Nations Environment Network](#) a Canadian network affiliated with the Canadian Environmental Network.

[Indigenous Environment Network](#) a North American Network.

Existing Activities

Health and the Environment

[The National Environmental Contaminants Program](#)

The National Environmental Contaminants Program (NFNECP) grew out of the efforts of First Nations communities in the Great Lakes to understand the effects Great Lakes contaminants were having on the Great Lakes First Nations. EAGLE was a community-based cooperative venture between Assembly of First Nations and Health Canada. It represented a different way of doing health and environmental studies. Using "western sciences" and First Nations knowledge, EAGLE attempted to study the effects of these contaminants on the First Nations communities. In the broadest terms it is research that stands on the three legs of partnership: mutual respect, equity and empowerment.

Northern Boreal Initiative

The Ministry of Natural Resources is looking to develop northern boreal forest and is consulting with first nations groups on the development of new, commercial forestry opportunities. In listing the initiative in the Environment Registry ([#PB01E1012](#)), the Ministry claims that "planning processes such as the one outlined in this posting will not, in themselves, have a significant effect on the environment". Ontario's naturalist groups have expressed "cautious optimism" that the planning process will lead to community-oriented and environmentally-sensitive development.

For information on the NBI, see:

- the [MNR section on the Northern Boreal Initiative](#)
- the [Nishnawbe Aski Nation \(NAN\) web site](#)
- the [Partnership for Public Lands section on the NBI](#)
- the [Wildlands League section on the Far North](#)

Public Education and Involvement

Walpole Island Heritage Centre

The [Walpole Island Heritage Centre](#) links traditional knowledge and values with current environmental and social challenges. On the website, you'll find background papers on values and local environmental projects.

Community Economic Development

Wikwemikong Community Forest

Community forestry is a program designed to stimulate sustainable forest management by, and for, the local community. The Ontario program was initiated by the Conservation Council of Ontario in the late 1980's and later supported by the provincial government. Wikwemikong was one of the first communities selected to the Ministry of Natural Resources' pilot program. The funding has expired, but the project lives on with the community.

Details [Indian and Northern Affairs factsheet](#)

See also the website for the [Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reservation](#)

See also the [First Nations Forestry Program](#) for more information on forestry in aboriginal communities.

Niigon Technologies Inc

Niigon Technologies Inc. is being called Canada's first-ever Aboriginal sustainable industrial project. Created by participation from Husky Injection Moulding, federal and provincial governments, and the Moose Deer Council, this initiative is expected to yield 69 jobs within the first five years. Niigon will provide plastic injection moulding in a 41,000 sq.ft. state-of-the-art facility. Of the total \$23 million invested in the start-up, \$4 million was contributed by the Federal government, and \$3.6 million by the Ontario government.

Details: [Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat press release](#) (June 2000)

Identifying Opportunities

Potential activities include....

Develop a provincial aboriginal environment-health strategy. Much of the environment and health projects for aboriginal communities are being done on a case-by-case basis -- a succession of demonstration projects. A provincial strategy would help establish targets for water quality, pollution prevention, ecosystem health, and sustainable resource management.

Solicit aboriginal leadership in defining Ontario's environmental values. Each of Ontario's ministries subject to the Environmental Bill of Rights is required to publish a Statement of Environmental Values. In addition, the provincial government has also committed to the development of a provincial vision for the environment. The people who are too often at the receiving end of the side effects of poor development should be asked to help us define the values that will guide our future development decisions.

Culture and the Environment

Context

The environment is everyone's concern!

Ontario is home to over 60 different cultures, with major language groups (outside of French and English) that include Chinese, Italian, German, Portuguese, Indo-Iranian, Greek, Polish, Spanish, Dutch, and Ukrainian.

The challenge for Ontario's environmental movement is to ensure that everyone, no matter what culture or first language, is involved in protecting the environment.

This can be achieved in three ways:

- with environmental contacts and programs in the major cultural associations,
- by making educational material available in different languages, and
- by developing environmental projects with cultural groups

For more statistics on multiculturalism in Canada, see "[Multicultural Canada: A Demographic Overview](#)" on the [Canadian Heritage - Multiculturalism](#) website.

Goals and Targets

Our goal should be to increase the opportunities for people of all cultures to experience Ontario's natural heritage and to participate in conservation opportunities.

Coordination

How can I contact Ontario's multicultural groups?

[Settlement.org](#) is an excellent source of information for new Canadians. The website has an extensive list of organizations, organized alphabetically, by category (including environment), or you can use a search engine to look for a specific keyword or language. *Best Bet!*

Settlement.org is managed by the [Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants](#) (OCASI). Many of Ontario's multicultural agencies belong to OCASI. Their website includes a directory of member agencies, which is also a good starting place to find multicultural agencies in your area.

In Toronto, perhaps the best place to start is [Community Information Toronto](#) (CIT), a service of the City of Toronto. CIT publishes the [Blue Book](#) which, for \$54, will give you information on community, government, and social services in Toronto. You can also find a copy at your local library. The CIT website also has a list of [Community Information Centres](#) across the province.

In Peel, contact the [Multicultural Inter-Agency Group](#) (MIAG): they have a directory of agencies for the Region of Peel.

National Contacts

[Cultures Canada](#) is a project of the [Canadian Ethnocultural Council](#). The website has sections on cultural communities, a database of organizations that can be searched by region, and a [links](#) section.

The [Canadian Heritage - Multiculturalism](#) website has a list of links to Canadian organizations.

Who is working to connect the environmental movement with cultural groups?

The [Sustainability Network](#) has published a [Directory of Ethno-Cultural Organizations and the Environment](#). The Directory lists contacts and case studies of groups working to connect Ontario's cultural groups with the environment.

In particular, here are several groups that have the environment and multiculturalism at the core of their mission:

[Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition \(OHCC\)](#)

The Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition seeks to achieve social, environmental, and economic health and well-being for individuals, communities and local governments. The Coalition brings together a broad-based group of communities and provincial organizations, spanning the social, environmental, economic, and political spectrums.

[Environmental Centre for New Canadians \(ECENECA\)](#)

ECENECA (Environmental Centre for New Canadians) is a not-for-profit, community-based, provincially incorporated environmental organization. The agency was founded in 1993 with the support of the Toronto City Hall through the Healthy City Office. Its mission is:

- To deliver environmental education through workshops, seminars and audio visual training materials so as to assist new immigrants to adapt to Canadian culture pertaining to environmental issues.
- To promote health care education for new immigrants to Canada to ensure that medical examinations are performed as soon as they enter Canada by providing education and list of treatment centers.
- To provide job skills training to the unemployed, needy or low skilled immigrants.
- To assist needy or other underprivileged immigrants with a variety of settlement and other charitable programs with a view to assist with their adaptation to Canadian civic society.

Multiracial Network for Environmental Justice (MNEJ) (no website available Email: mnej@canada.com)

MNEJ works in close cooperation with various ethno-cultural communities to implement environmental education programs, and community walking tours of Toronto neighbourhoods. They help raise community awareness of the environmentally significant sites in and around the local area.

Toronto Chinese Health Education Committee (TCHEC) (no website available e-mail: alam@ctchc.com)

TCHEC seeks to raise community interest in and awareness of environmental issues including issues related to environmental health. They run an Environmental Ambassadors program to train community volunteers in environmental issues (see Major Projects below).

Where can I find environmental information in different languages?

We haven't been able to find many sources of information, but here are a few places to start.

City of Toronto

[Access Toronto](#) offers information in more than 140 languages through Language Line Services. People who cannot speak English can call 416-338-0338 for assistance in whichever language they speak. Access Toronto also offers translations of most city factsheets. The information is not available on the website, but can be ordered by phone or e-mail. Phone: 416-338-0338, TTY: 416-338-0TTY (0889), e-mail: access_toronto@city.toronto.on.ca

Provincial Government

At the provincial level, the Ministry of Natural Resources has a few publications available in other languages (eg. fishing regulations in Chinese). Call the Information Access Service at 1-800-667-1940

Other Options

[BabelFish: Alta Vista's online translation service](#): It's full of errors, but you can get any web page translated into French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese. It even keeps the format of the original web page.

Existing Activities

What are some of the best multicultural / environmental projects?

Environmental education and community involvement are two important ways to introduce new Canadians to our environment and our environmental practices. Here are two examples of successful projects that can be adapted for other communities, cultural and language groups.

For these and other success stories, see the Sustainability Network's 2001 [Directory of Ethno-Cultural Organizations and the Environment](#).

Environmental Ambassadors

One of the more innovative and successful projects has been the Toronto Chinese Health Education Committee's (TCHEC) Environmental Ambassadors project. Based on the "train the trainer" concept (which was also used by the Recycling Council of Ontario in their Master Composter program), volunteers learn about environmental issues through workshops and field trips. The volunteers graduate from the course as "environmental ambassadors" and help spread the message to Chinese community groups and businesses across Toronto. In recent years, the project has targetted climate change and waste in restaurants.

For more information, contact Alice Lam, alam@ctchc.com.

Tree-Planting and Habitat Restoration

Several groups, such as [Evergreen](#) and the [Toronto and Region Conservation Authority](#), have supported projects to create new natural areas in urban areas. Local community groups provide the labour and other sponsors help turn a naturalization project into a community event. For example, in 1997, The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority initiated the "[Community Development for Multicultural Environmental Stewardship Project](#)" to encourage visible minorities to take an active role in the environmental management of their communities.

Identifying Opportunities

Potential activities include....

Make environmental factsheets readily available in all major languages. Basic environmental information could be translated (or adapted) to different languages and cultural groups. In particular, new Canadians would benefit from information about recycling, energy and water conservation, public transit, and local natural areas.

Develop the Environmental Ambassadors project as a province- wide program. The Toronto Chinese Health Education Committee's environmental ambassador project could be easily adapted to other communities, and cultural and language groups. It's a excellent way to reach a lot of people through volunteers.