

SUSTAINABLE HURON

Your Guide to Sustainability in Huron County!

Issue 1

January 2011

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Sustainable Huron Survey

Have you taken the Sustainable Huron Survey?

We would appreciate your thoughts on what matters most to you in Huron, and what the future should look like. The survey will only take a few minutes to complete.

Have your voice heard - fill out the online survey today!

Find it through the Sustainable Huron website at:

<http://www.huroncounty.ca/sustainablehuron>

Or through the Sustainable Huron blog!

Project Update

The County of Huron was pleased to officially launch the County's Sustainability Plan in August of 2010. The Sustainability Plan is a long range plan designed to provide a framework to address environmental, social/cultural and economic issues in the County and its 9 individual municipalities. The Sustainability Plan will include the development of an action plan, the implementation of pilot projects, and will also include an accompanying monitoring framework which will track the projects over time. The Sustainability Plan will build upon the results of the *Take Action Report*, and work towards formulat-

ing and implementing actions to achieve the goals outlined in the *Take Action Report*.

Since the program launch, the Sustainable Huron Project Team has been working closely with the Steering Committee to identify a long-term vision for the project, along with goals and indicators to track progress. The identification of measurable and effective indicators will ensure project accountability and allow the Sustainable Huron Project Team to adjust implementation actions based on results and by continually evolving priorities.

Out and About

The Sustainable Huron project team has been busy talking to different people in Huron about the Sustainability Plan. You might have seen our booth set up at fall fairs, trade shows and other events, but here are the highlights of some of our recent public visits around Huron County:

HMA's 5th Annual Huron

Manufacturing Excellence Awards

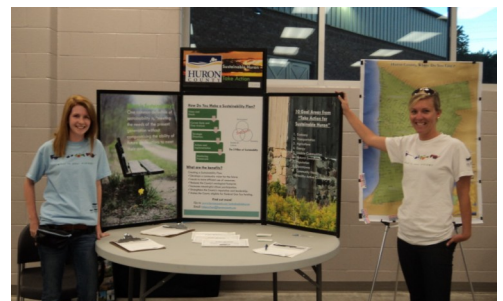
Held on November 12, 2010, the HMA awards recognized outstanding achievement in manufacturing in Huron. Congratulations to the winners and to everyone nominated. May you continue to raise the bar for sustainable manufacturing standards in Huron County!

Environmental Educators Workshop

This workshop, held on September 14, 2010 in Goderich, was a great opportunity to meet so many inspiring teachers dedicated to spreading the word of sustainability through education.

Is the Coast Clear Conference 2010

Held on August 20, 2010, this one-day conference was attended by about 170 people,



including everyone from First Nations people, academics, students, politicians, agency staff and landowners. A list of presentation topics and PowerPoint downloads are available through Lake Huron's website.

You may have also seen us at The 45th Zurich Bean Festival in late August, the Water Source Protection Steering Committee and the Economic Development update meetings in September, the Welcome to Autumn Celebration at the Regional Equine and Agricultural Centre of Huron (REACH) and a World Tourism Day Conference at Ryerson University.

It has been great meeting all of you and spreading the word about Sustainable Huron!

Is there an upcoming event we should be at? Let us know! Contact us by e-mail at take.action@huroncounty.ca or by phone at (519) 524-8394 ext. 3.

Take Action Focus Areas

1. Economy
2. Transportation
3. Agriculture
4. Energy
5. Livable Communities
6. Natural Environment
7. Population
8. Downtowns
9. Community Needs
10. Healthy Active Communities

The *Take Action Report* is available at:

<http://www.huroncounty.ca/sustainablehuron>

“Sustainability is about ensuring the long-term well-being of the planet, people, and economy. Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

~ *Take Action Report*

Early Win Projects

The Sustainable Huron campaign is pleased to announce three exciting early pilot projects for the County of Huron's Sustainability Plan. As a part of the Plan's comprehensive strategy, the County of Huron and its partners will implement a series of pilot projects to build momentum, foster sustainable initiatives, and lead by example. The early win projects, identified during the Sustainability Plan's development process, reflect some of the key goals represented in the *Take Action* areas of focus, including:

Agriculture, Economy, Natural Environment, Healthy Active Communities and Livable Communities. The progress of each pilot project will be measured using relevant criteria, such as the number of pilot projects implemented with the Business Efficiencies Project. These measurements will give insight as to the success of the pilot implementations to help guide future projects for Sustainable Huron. The three pilot projects are:

The Sustainable Business and Efficiencies Project

The Sustainable Business and Efficiencies Project will involve the development of a sector-specific (manufacturing) best practice report and toolkit. The toolkit will provide a framework and checklist guide that will aid manufacturers in Huron County in their pursuit of becoming more sustainable. By assembling and communicating best practices, both locally and internationally, the toolkit will make it easy to identify and integrate opportunities related to efficiencies and saving money within their business. The pilot project is being developed in partnership with the HMA and the Midwestern Green Jobs Strategy. Stay tuned to the HMA website for video updates of this project!

The Planting Project

The Planting Project will focus on creating new beauty and function in three of Huron's elementary school grounds. This project will involve the development of stimulating school landscape designs that feature native species. Grade 7 and 8 classes will be invited to participate in the landscape design process and will work collaboratively with a landscape architect to prepare designs for the outdoor classrooms. The designs will involve the planting of more than 105 trees and shrubs among other local species. In addition, the classes participating will receive a presentation courtesy of our local conservation authorities (MVCA and ABCA) about sustainability, the importance of native species in our environment, and how to plant and maintain the trees. Schools that are interested in taking part in this project need to apply by February 11th, 2011. For more information, please contact takeaction@huroncounty.ca.

The Local Food Project

The Local Food Project will foster awareness of local food through education and the establishment, and further promotion, of local food activities. The Sustainability Plan has partnered with Huron-Perth Farm to Table to help execute and deliver two exciting local food events in the upcoming months. The first event, a Farmer/Food Business development day will be taking place in the spring. This event will help kick start the niche farmer study clubs (viticulture, cheeses, local food), as well as feature some great and inspiring keynote speakers who will discuss the trends and opportunities for regional growers in Huron County. The second event will be an open-house to the all new Huron-Bruce Produce Auction in the summer. Everyone will be welcome to attend this exciting day!

Questions regarding the pilot projects or the County of Huron's Sustainability Plan can be directed to take.action@huroncounty.ca or by phone to (519) 524-8394 ext. 3.



Sustainable Initiatives in Huron County

There is a lot to be proud of in Huron County! A variety of sustainable initiatives, organizations and projects currently exist or are underway in the County. Here are a few highlights:

- * Huron Good Food Box Program
- * Huron Manufacturing Association established a Renewable Energy Group
- * Goderich Flea & Farmers' Market had its best year ever in 2009
- * The Regional Equine & Agriculture Centre for Huron (REACH) partnered with Georgian College and Health Kick to host a Food Service Worker (FSW) program
- * The Huron-Perth Food Enterprise Opportunities Program
- * MTS Environmental Products announce Bio-Desolve product line
- * Plans to renovate the former CPR Station in Goderich
- * Exeter Downtown Revitalization Program through a Rural Economic Development Program grant
- * Hensall's Community Improvement Plan
- * Lake Huron Learning Collaborative post-secondary opportunities in Kincardine (funded by OPG)
- * Emergency Services Training Centre to construct new technology centre
- * McDonald Lumber to construct solar panels
- * elearnnetwork facility in Exeter
- * Girls Unlimited Skilled Trades Workshops, Technology Skills Summer Camps and the Service Excellence Certificate Program
- * Four County Labour Market Planning Board
- * Gateway Rural Health Research Institute
- * Heritage & Cultural Partnership (HCP)
- * Huron County Cultural Plan
- * Huron Business Development Corporation
- * Huron County Federation of Agriculture
- * Recent launch of the Huron County Local Immigration Partnership Council
- * Founding of the Huron County Youth Council
- * Huron Perth Farm-To-Table Map
- * Network Huron
- * Midwestern Green Jobs Strategy

(For more information, read *The State of the Huron County Economy 2010*, available on the Huron County website)

Sustainability Tips

Here are some great ideas from *Take Action* that you can do to promote and foster sustainability!

- ⇒ Shop locally, shop downtown
- ⇒ Contract local builders and trades
- ⇒ Purchase local farm fresh products
- ⇒ Walk or bike to work, carpool, live closer to your job
- ⇒ Don't idle your engine for longer than 20 seconds
- ⇒ Draft proof your house
- ⇒ Wash clothes in cold water
- ⇒ Install low-flow shower & toilet
- ⇒ Buy at the farmer's market
- ⇒ Give pedestrians the right of way
- ⇒ Explore local trails
- ⇒ Foster children's appreciation of nature
- ⇒ Plan a backyard vegetable garden
- ⇒ Talk to a farmer
- ⇒ Plant a native tree species
- ⇒ Welcome a new resident to town
- ⇒ Host a neighbourhood BBQ party
- ⇒ Visit Conservation Areas
- ⇒ Experience the cuisine of other cultures
- ⇒ Attend a downtown event, activity or festival
- ⇒ Volunteer for a community organization, event, activity or community project
- ⇒ Try out the 'Good Food Box'
- ⇒ **Tell others about living in Huron!**

Contact Us

By e-mail:
take.action@huroncounty.ca

By phone:
(519) 524-8394 ext. 3

For more information, visit:
<http://www.huroncounty.ca/sustainablehuron>

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TAKE
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Youth ART CONTEST

for

SUSTAINABLE HURON

What does SUSTAINABLE HURON look like to you?

Huron County is proud to present the Youth Art Contest for Sustainable Huron! It is a creative art contest to promote sustainability in Huron County. All Huron County high school students are eligible to enter individually, or as a team of up to 4 people. The contest runs from February 1st, 2011 to March 20th, 2011. The submission deadline is Saturday, March 20th, 2011 at 4:00pm.

Students are asked to create art that reflects the ideas of sustainability in their community. Students are encouraged to be as creative as possible with their submission - any form of artwork will be accepted, including a video, blog, painting, sculpture, graphic design, map, song, photograph, poem, collage, drawing or play. Use your imagination to show what sustainability in Huron County means to you!

Finalists will have their artwork posted online and the winner will win a cash prize of \$250. Cash prizes of \$125 will be awarded to the second and third place winners.

Be on the lookout for the contest posters at your local school!

Artwork submissions can be dropped off at any Huron County Library or submitted electronically to agolden@lura.ca.

For full contest guidelines and details, please visit the Sustainable Huron Blog and Facebook Page, or contact Alissa Golden at agolden@lura.ca for more details.

Finalists will have their artwork posted online!



Huron County (The State of the Huron County Economy 2010)