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Special points of interest:

- Outcomes of Sustainability in Action workshop
- Next ACSI workshop and Sustainability Summit coming up April 17-18, 2008. Save the Date!

Moncton workshop sees Sustainability in Action

On November 13-14, 2007, 50 participants from ACSI [Sustainability Partners](#) and [Network Partners](#) came together in Moncton, New Brunswick to share their progress and celebrate successes in their journey towards sustainability. The workshop was facilitated by representatives from the Centre for Rural Sustainability and The Natural Step Canada.

The Sustainability in Action workshop marked the half-way point in this project, launched in May 2007. Partners shared their successes and challenges in improving sustainability in their organizations over the last six months. They also shared information and resources in specific areas of interest, such as green procurement and employee education.

Some of the successes and achievements of the ACSI partners so far include:

- A program to reduce the use of plastic bags has diverted 4,000 bags from landfill.
- An information kit on sustainability was developed and delivered to businesses in a municipality.



Participants from the City of Saint John at the Sustainability in Action workshop, November 2007

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Next steps for ACSI – how you can participate

There were two key items that came out of the Sustainability in Action workshop that require your participation! Please consider getting more involved and helping to make this project a success. Remember that the ACSI is YOUR network, and you will get out of it as much as you put in.

Committees

Several committees are being formed to help guide the ACSI as it continues to grow and develop. The committees we have identified so far are fundraising, outreach and communications, and a vision/governance/steering committee. If you would like to participate on a committee, please email coordinator@atlanticsustainability.ca.

Webinars

ACSI will coordinate a series of training webinars on topics of interest to participants. The first webinar will be held in January (date TBA) on green procurement. If you are interested in attending this webinar, or have other suggestions on webinar topics you'd like to see in future, please email coordinator@atlanticsustainability.ca.

Sustainability Challenge

Each newsletter will include a sustainability question or challenge. Please tell us how you would respond. Send your answers to us at coordinator@atlanticsustainability.ca

This month's question: Name an organization that is NOT part of ACSI doing great work on sustainability in Atlantic Canada.



Tip of the Month

This holiday season, why not give a gift of time instead of a consumer item? Volunteer together for your favourite charity, offer a service like baby-sitting or house cleaning, or make your own gift.

An American study found that holiday gift-giving destroys up to one-third of the value of gifts, because recipients do not want, use or value what they receive.

Sustainability in Action . . . Cont'd from page 1

- Staff and stakeholders in many of the organizations have completed training and education to learn more about sustainability and how it affects them and their work.
- A paperless office policy was implemented.
- A business now uses solar power for a portion of their energy needs.
- A municipality became a Fair Trade town.
- Green procurement policies have been improved/implemented for a number of partners so that purchasing decisions are environmentally responsible.
- An anti-idling policy was implemented.
- An organization launched a commitment to becoming carbon neutral.

It was very exciting to hear what the Partners have accomplished in the last six months as they move towards sustainability, and what they intend to do over the rest of the year as they work toward unifying their actions with strategic planning for sustainability. It was also great to hear about the new connections that were made between partners as they share information and resources, and support each other in this important work.

For more information about the workshop, please see the full workshop report, available online at <http://www.atlanticsustainability.ca/events/prevEvents.htm>.

The Sustainability Bulletin: Atlantic Canada Sustainability Initiative newsletter

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About Us

The Atlantic Canada Sustainability Initiative (ACSI) is a collaborative project coordinated by the [Centre for Rural Sustainability](#), designed to build capacity and momentum around sustainability in Atlantic Canada using [The Natural Step framework](#) as a guide. It was developed by a grass-roots network of municipalities, businesses and NGOs in Atlantic Canada in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities of sustainability and to move the region toward sustainable solutions. United by a common vision of a sustainable Atlantic Canada – and a common commitment to action – these organizations engage with each other and with other communities, businesses, and all levels of government to create a broad-based network that acts as a tipping point for greater sustainability in the region.

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Visit our website!

www.atlanticsustainability.ca