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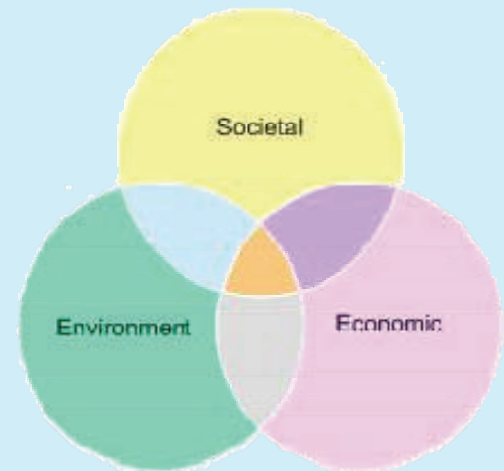
- Find out more about sustainable procurement
- Next ACSI workshop and Sustainability Summit coming up April 17-18, 2008. Save the Date!

Making socially and environmentally responsible purchasing decisions

On January 29, 2008, ACSI hosted its first learning webinar. The focus of this session was on green procurement. Two speakers from the Province of Nova Scotia, Lynda Rankin (Department of Environment and Labour) and Mary Anne MacEachern (Office of Economic Development) spoke about their experiences developing and implementing a green procurement policy in the Department of Environment and Labour, and working on a new government-wide sustainable procurement initiative. Both Lynda and Mary Anne also sit on the provincial Sustainable Procurement Policy Working Group.

The webinar attracted significant interest from across the Atlantic region. It seems that many organizations are thinking about or have started developing a green or sustainable procurement policy.

Following the webinar, participants had the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters and each other. One of the key questions was about the difference between green procurement and sustainable procurement.



What does sustainable procurement mean to you?
Image courtesy NS Department of Environment and Labour

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Coaches' Corner

by [Sarah Brooks](#) (TNS Sustainability Advisor and TNS-ACSI liaison)

As part of their Atlantic Canada Sustainability Initiative, all [Sustainability Partners](#) receive coaching from sustainability advisors and associates of [The Natural Step Canada](#). Coaching occurs on a regular basis to help ACSI partners maintain momentum on their paths to sustainability. Each organization has different goals and objectives, and all are at varying points in the implementation of their sustainability initiatives. The role of the coaches is to provide one-on-one support to individuals within the organization, provide feedback on plans and other strategic documents, and help partners focus their energies where they can be the most effective.

As we continue through the final phase of this first year of ACSI, we look forward to seeing and celebrating the sustainability successes of all of the partners. Coaching will be even more focused and targeted to really help partners identify opportunities to move forward with their sustainability plans.

[The Natural Step Canada](#) is proud to be a key training partner in the Atlantic Canada Sustainability Initiative.

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: What is your organization doing to ensure you are making environmentally and socially responsible purchasing decisions?



Tip of the Month

During the winter months, make sure you are making the most of energy used for heat in your home or office. Seal air leaks in windows by using caulking, weatherstripping, or plastic. For more information and instructions, see the office of Energy Efficiency's [website](#).

Windows can account for up to 25 percent of total house heat loss.

Responsible Purchasing . . . Cont'd from page 1

The following definitions are from the [European Commission's website on green procurement](#):

Green Procurement: taking into account **environmental elements** when procuring goods, services or works at all stages of the project and within the entire life-cycle of the goods.

Sustainable Procurement: taking into account **all three pillars** (economy, environment and society) of sustainable development when procuring goods, services or works at all stages of the project.

Developing a policy that truly reflects sustainable procurement may be more challenging, as it can be difficult to demonstrate the social and ethical aspects of a final product. Developing a green procurement policy to start is a great way to build capacity in this area.

See www.gov.ns.ca/enla/sp for more information about the government-wide Sustainable Procurement Initiative, and for more information about Sustainable Procurement, see <http://www.gov.ns.ca/tenders/enviro/default.asp>.

A copy of the webinar presentation, a summary of the discussion, and a number of other resources (documents, links and more) related to sustainable procurement are available on the [ACSI website](#). Just click on the [Resources](#) link to learn more.



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