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## Taking Community Action on Sustainability: the Canmore Experience

Public Lecture with Bart Robinson, Program Director of the Bow Valley Sustainability Hub, Canmore, AB

**Friday, April 18, 2008,  
7:30 pm : Room 1009,  
Rowe Management  
Building, Dalhousie  
University, 6100  
University Ave., Halifax**

## Taking community action on sustainability

Communities across Canada and around the world are becoming increasingly concerned about sustainability and are beginning to take action, whether at the municipal level, or through grass-roots organizing.

Sustainability is the greatest challenge of our time. It cannot be achieved by one organization - one company, one municipality, one government - alone. It is a challenge that requires collaboration between departments, between sectors, between levels of government, and at all levels of civil society. New organizations and new ways of thinking are needed to allow us to move beyond our own disciplines and areas of expertise to collaborate with others.



The Biosphere Institute, Canmore, AB  
Home of the Bow Valley Sustainability Hub

One example of a new approach to moving toward greater sustainability is the process that took place in Canmore, AB. The development of the Atlantic Canada Sustainability Initiative is loosely modeled on the Canmore approach, but on a regional scale.

On Friday, April 18, Bart Robinson, Program Director of the Bow Valley Sustainability Hub in Canmore, AB, will share the journey that helped Canmore begin its journey toward greater sustainability.

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## Celebrating Earth Day

Launched in 1970, and celebrated every April 22, Earth Day is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide. Over 6 million Canadians join 500 million people in over 180 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues. Earth Day is about improving the state of our environment, raising awareness about the environmental challenges we face, and taking positive environmental action.

This year, in celebration of Earth Day, a number of the ACSI partners, led by the Halifax Regional Municipality, will be conducting a tree planting ceremony. In HRM, the ceremony will take place at Sullivan's Pond Park in Dartmouth. Native tree species are being planted to replace trees lost during Hurricane Juan in 2003.

Simultaneous Earth Day tree planting ceremonies are also taking place in the ACSI partner communities of Wolfville, NS, Bathurst, NB, and Antigonish, NS. Please see the [ACSI website](#) for more information.

As the first year of ACSI draws to a close, with the Sustainability Summit taking place April 17-18, 2008, the tree planting ceremonies on Earth Day also provide an opportunity for Atlantic Canada Sustainability Initiative partners to symbolically reconfirm their commitment to sustainability in Atlantic Canada.



## 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](mailto:coordinator@atlanticsustainability.ca)

**This month's question:** What are you doing on a personal or organizational level to celebrate Earth Day?



## Tip of the Month

Doing some spring cleaning? Instead of throwing out items you no longer need, why not donate them to a charity for re-sale, or give them away using [Freecycle](#) (a service for people to give away items for free).

In a lifetime, the average North American will throw away 600 times his or her adult weight in garbage.

- Natural Resources Canada

## Taking community action . . . Cont'd from page 1

The Bow Valley Sustainability Hub, established in 2006, is dedicated to creating and supporting a culture of sustainability in the Bow Valley. The Hub is a legacy of [The Natural Step to a Sustainable Canmore](#), a two-year program in which the Town of Canmore and other local organizations and businesses learned the principles of sustainability and developed sustainability action plans. At the end of The Natural Step program, the participants chose to create the Bow Valley Sustainability Hub as a means to engage the greater Bow Valley community in taking steps towards a sustainable future.

Bart served as the coordinator for The Natural Step to a Sustainable Canmore in 2005 and 2006, and has subsequently become a Senior Sustainability Associate with the Natural Step Canada, in addition to his ongoing work with the Hub.

Please join us on Friday, April 18 at 7:30 pm in Room 1009 of the Rowe Management Building (6100 University Ave., Halifax) to learn more about Canmore's experience, about the work of the Atlantic Canada Sustainability Initiative, and about how you can take action on sustainability in your own community.

Thanks to the website of the Bow Valley Sustainability Hub for some of the text and the photo in this article. For more information, please see <http://www.biosphereinstitute.org/?q=p-sustain-home>.

### 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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