

In this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| ACSI launches plan for the future | 1 |
| Does your organization or community want to become more sustainable? | 1 |
| ACSI wraps up year one | 2 |
| Sustainability Tip and Challenge | 2 |

Special points of interest:

- Update on final report, strategic plan, and search for new host organization
- Call for organizations interested in joining ACSI as a Sustainability Partner or Network Partner

ACSI launches plan for the future

ACSI is very pleased to officially launch its Strategic Plan for 2008-2011. At the ACSI Sustainability Summit, held in April 2008, ACSI received a very strong message from its partners that they wanted to see ACSI continue beyond its first year. The [ACSI Steering Committee](#), in collaboration with Partners, has been working to develop a three-year strategic plan, which has just been released. The plan identifies 4 key priorities for ACSI in the next three years, which are:

- 1. Expand the ACSI network:** Bring in new Sustainability Partners and Network Partners that will increase the diversity of the network, and offer new tools, supports and opportunities for networking.
- 2. Build partner capacity and competence on sustainability:** In each of the next three years, take another group of 15-20 organizations on a capacity-building journey towards greater sustainability. Also continue to make all ACSI events and training available to the public.
- 3. Build momentum towards sustainability through collective action:** Develop a set of priority areas for action on sustainability in Atlantic Canada. Encourage and support partners in acting collective on these identified areas.
- 4. Evaluate and share the ACSI framework with others:** Share ACSI's innovative work with others through communications activities, case study development, evaluation and new partnerships.

These four priorities will help ACSI continue the important work of building a more sustainable Atlantic Canada. ACSI is currently seeking funding to support its future activities and hopes to launch the next round of training with a new set of partners in late fall 2008 or early winter 2009.

If you would like to read the full strategic plan, it is available on the ACSI website, at http://www.atlanticsustainability.ca/downloads/about_acsi/ACSI_StrategicPlan_Final.pdf.

Does your organization or community want to become more sustainable?

In preparation for the launch of a second year of programming, ACSI is seeking organizations in Atlantic Canada that want to make a commitment to becoming more sustainable. ACSI will support participating Sustainability Partner organizations on their journey to sustainability in several ways:

- Through training offered at 3 workshops and 6 webinars over the year.
- With a sustainability toolkit developed for Partners.
- Through individual coaching and support for each Partner organization.
- By connecting the Partner to other organizations in the network and offering opportunities for mentoring, networking, and peer learning.

Sustainability Partners include municipalities, large and small businesses, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations. If your organization is thinking about issues of environmental, social, and economic sustainability and is interested in building capacity to work towards a more sustainable future, consider becoming a partner in this project. Contact us at coordinator@atlanticsustainability.ca or 902-830-1120 for more information.



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: Citizens and organizations across Atlantic Canada are taking steps to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. How is your organization working to prevent climate change?



Tip of the Month

To keep your lawn green this summer, instead of using pesticides, why not use natural gardening practices instead? Lawn aeration, proper watering, leaving grass clippings on your lawn, and natural fertilizers can all help keep your lawn healthy.

More than 6,000 Canadians suffered acute pesticide poisoning in 2006 (David Suzuki Foundation).

ACSI wraps up year one

ACSI has spent the last few months wrapping up our first year and getting ready to launch future activities.

I. ACSI 2007-08 Final Report

The Final Report for our first year is now available on the ACSI website. The report includes a summary of activities, highlights and accomplishments, lessons learned, and more detailed case studies for each of the thirteen [Sustainability Partners](#). The report is available for download in the [Resources](#) section of the ACSI website.

III. Host organization

For the last nine months, the Atlantic Canada Sustainability Initiative has been housed and coordinated by the Centre for Rural Sustainability (CRS). CRS has now fulfilled its formal commitment to host ACSI. While CRS will continue to support ACSI through training and services, and by serving on the Steering Committee, it is not able to continue hosting ACSI. The ACSI Steering Committee is therefore currently seeking expressions of interest for a new host organization. ACSI is seeking a host organization that is a good match and fit with ACSI's values. The host organization should be prepared to support and work with the strategic plan developed by the ACSI Steering committee.

If your organization is interested in hosting ACSI, or you would like more information, please see the Request for Expressions of Interest (PDF, http://www.atlanticsustainability.ca/downloads/about_acsi/ReqExplnt_hostorg_final.pdf). Expressions of Interest are due by midnight on Friday, August 22, 2008.

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