

June 6, 2011

---

*We, the individuals, families, businesses, non-profit organizations, and institutions of the Community Sustainability Network, hereby agree to the following principles and priorities, and pledge our commitment to them through our individual actions and collective participation in the Network...*

## **Vision**

The year is 2050... In the face of global, regional and local challenges, Bridgewater has emerged as a diverse, thriving and healthy community.

Settled on the historic LaHave River, this regional town is a place that brings people together. We prosper thanks to a green, self-supportive economy, in which all people are able to meet their basic needs. Our community, and especially our youth, embrace our achievements, including a complete shift to sustainable and affordable energy, transportation, housing, food, and the responsible use of our natural resources.

Inspired by traditional and new values, we work together to create a community that serves the needs of current and future generations.

## **Mission**

The Community Sustainability Network engages Bridgewater (and area) citizens and organizations in opportunities for sustainability education and collaborative action.

## **Focus Areas**

The Network is inspired to achieve the goals of Bridgewater's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP), so that by the year 2050:

### **I. Energy**

- Our community has reduced the energy needed to build, maintain, and power our built environment
- Our energy needs are met through secure sources of renewable energy
- All people can afford energy for their homes, businesses, and transportation means

## 2. Food

- All people in our community can afford and have access to healthy local food
- Food sources and distribution systems are secure and can adapt to disruptions

## 3. Transportation

- People choose to use active transportation (AT) as the primary means of getting around town
- People use environmentally responsible practices when traveling to and from Bridgewater
- All people in our community have access to a successful public transit system

## 4. Economy

- Bridgewater has a diverse and resilient local economy
- All people in our community have access to a decent livelihood and a good standard of living
- Goods are produced and consumed locally using environmentally responsible practices

## 5. Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure: water supply, treatment and distribution; sanitary sewer and waste water treatment; storm water; road infrastructure; and solid waste

## 6. Education

- In the areas of infrastructure, energy, food, transportation, and economy, people's values have evolved and are reflected in the ways that they choose to live
- In the areas of infrastructure, energy, food, transportation, and economy, all people have learned about sustainability by taking individual and collective action

To download a copy of the ICSP, or to learn more about it, please visit [www.bridgewater.ca/sustainability](http://www.bridgewater.ca/sustainability).

## **Principles for Sustainability**

Practicing sustainability means living in such a way that future generations can enjoy as much quality of life as we do today. To help make this practical, we use a science-based definition of sustainability called The Natural Step, which can be simplified as follows:

Living within the Earth's means...

- Eliminating pollution
- Protecting natural systems
- Conserving resources for future generations

... while meeting basic human needs

- Physical, mental, social, economic
- Protection from harm
- For current and future generations

For more information on The Natural Step, please visit [www.naturalstep.ca](http://www.naturalstep.ca)

## Commitments for Network Members

### Individuals and families commit to...

- ✓ Learn about sustainability
- ✓ Attend sustainability events
- ✓ Take individual action to live more sustainably
- ✓ Promote sustainability and educate others in the community
- ✓ Join initiatives and take collaborative action to make our community more sustainable

### Businesses, non-profit organizations and institutions commit to...

- ✓ Identify a senior leader ((CEO / Manager / Owner / Board Member / etc) within the organization who will champion sustainability and the Network
- ✓ Assign a contact person who will communicate with the Network and relay relevant information to members of the organization
- ✓ Involve members of the organization in learning opportunities about sustainability whenever possible
- ✓ Encourage members of the organization to attend sustainability events hosted by the Network, and elsewhere. Representative(s) of the organization will attend at minimum the Annual Gathering.
- ✓ Develop plans and take action to improve the sustainability of the organization
- ✓ Serve as a role model to the wider community by sharing the organization's successes and lessons learned with respect to sustainability
- ✓ Promote sustainability and educate others in the community
- ✓ Build regional momentum towards sustainability by engaging citizens, organizations and governments within Bridgewater and in the region

## Contact

- Website: [www.sustainablebridgewater.ca](http://www.sustainablebridgewater.ca)
- Coordinator: Leon de Vreede, Sustainability Planner for the Town of Bridgewater  
541-4390 / [ldevreede@bridgewater.ca](mailto:ldevreede@bridgewater.ca)



## Community Sustainability Network Signing Page for Businesses & Organizations

Name of the Organization / Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check off the following:

We have read and agree to the principles and priorities of the Community Sustainability Network as described in the Charter, and pledge our commitment to them through our active participation in the Network.

The following Senior Leader (CEO / Manager / Owner / Board Member / etc) within the organization has approved our participation in the Network and has agreed to champion the Network, and sustainability in general:

Senior Leader Name & Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: (phone) \_\_\_\_\_

(email) \_\_\_\_\_

We have assigned the following contact person to communicate with the Network and relay relevant information to members of our organization:

Contact Name & Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: (phone) \_\_\_\_\_

(email) \_\_\_\_\_

### Signature on Behalf of the Organization

Signatory Name & Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: (phone) \_\_\_\_\_

(email) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_