

# THE GREEN TOOLBOX - FOR GROWING SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPALITIES

From UNSM's Municipal Sustainability Office

November 2009

## EVENTS, COURSES & PROGRAMS

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### **MAKING ENERGY MANAGEMENT HAPPEN FOR MUNICIPALITIES: WORKSHOPS TO PROVIDE A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO ENERGY REDUCTION**

**Nov. 26, 9 AM – 4:30 PM IN NEW GLASGOW AND Nov. 27, 9 AM – 4:30 PM IN BRIDGEWATER**

Recognizing that municipalities are all at different stages of development regarding energy management, each full-day session will provide you with the necessary tools to successfully implement energy projects and strategies. In these highly hands-on and interactive sessions, workshop participants will learn to employ appropriate tactics to achieve energy savings and operate more efficiently. Facilitators will utilize a variety of demonstrations, worksheet activities, graphic slides, role-plays, case studies and colourful discussions to stimulate a highly *effective* and *enjoyable* learning environment. Don't miss out!

The workshop is valued at \$299 but your subsidized registration fee is **only \$25**. To reserve your spot, contact Debbie Nielsen, UNSM's Municipal Sustainability Coordinator at [dnielsen@unsm.ca](mailto:dnielsen@unsm.ca) or 423-8312.

### **ENERGY SOLUTIONS WORKSHOP 2009 "COMPARING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY OPTIONS"**

**Nov. 30, Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, Halifax**

This workshop will teach business, commercial and residential consumers how energy usage and costs can be reduced by exploring alternative energy sources, such as solar, wind and natural gas. For more information, click here. ([http://www.jamesongroup.ca/events2.php?event\\_id=9](http://www.jamesongroup.ca/events2.php?event_id=9))

### **SPECIES AT RISK IN ATLANTIC CANADA WORKSHOP**

**December 3-5, Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville**

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation is organizing a Species at Risk (SAR) Stewardship Workshop that will provide opportunities for learning and information sharing between policy makers, scientists, community groups, environmental managers, academia and other individuals interested in the recovery of SAR in Atlantic Canada. For registration information and other workshop details please visit <http://www.coastalaction.org>.

### **SUSTAINABILITY LEADERS' COURSE: A TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES & RESULTS**

**January 13 & 14 in Halifax**

This 2-day intensive course will provide you with a solid grounding in a proven framework that has been used to guide sustainability change efforts around the world. The course includes a 1-year e-learning license and connection to sustainability professionals across Canada using The Natural Step Framework. For more information, click here. <http://thenaturalstep.org/en/canada/learning-programs/level-one-course>

### **THUMB A RIDE: NEW RIDE SHARE PROGRAM IN NS**

An exciting new ride-sharing program has been launched in Nova Scotia, and a call is being sent out to all drivers and riders in Canada to join this new social network. It's safe, economical and green — and it knows no boundaries. For more information, go to [www.ethumbaride.com](http://www.ethumbaride.com) or contact Sue Kashanski at 634-4616 or [shk@eastlink.ca](mailto:shk@eastlink.ca).

### **NOVA SCOTIA: A NEW PROTECTED AREA AND COMMITMENT TO LAND CONSERVATION**

Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area, near the Eastern Shore of Halifax Regional Municipality, has finally received official government protection. The area spans 14,700 hectares (36,000 acres) and includes stands of old forest, large wetland complexes, raised bogs, and numerous wilderness lakes and waterways. For more information, visit <http://www.ecologyaction.ca/content/ship-harbour-long-lake-wilderness-area-declared-protected-last>.

### **AIR QUALITY INDEX**

The Air Quality Health Index is a new public information tool that relates outdoor air quality to health risk. It has been developed by Health Canada and Environment Canada, in collaboration with Nova Scotia's key health and environment stakeholders. For more information, click here.

([www.airhealth.ca](http://www.airhealth.ca))

### **RESOURCES**

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#### **PRESCRIPTIONS FOR A HEALTHY CANADA**

**REPORT BY D. BOYD AND D. SUZUKI**

Many Canadians will find it disturbing to learn that their country has fallen behind in protecting its citizens from environmental threats to their health. While most developed countries have adopted national health and environment strategies, Canada has not. We could join other world leaders in protecting public health by embracing the recommendations in *Prescription for a Healthy Canada* for reducing air pollution, protecting water quality, improving food safety, addressing threats posed by consumer products, and banning the most hazardous substances currently on the market. For a copy of the report, click here. ([http://www.davidsuzuki.org/health/National\\_strategy.asp](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/health/National_strategy.asp))

#### **NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY (NRTEE) – REPORTS & RESEARCH ON WATER**

NRTEE has completed a number of excellent reports on waste and wastewater, such as *Water Sustainability and the Future of Canada's Natural Resource Sectors* and *Wastewater Services in Canada*. For copies of these reports and others, click here. (<http://www.nrtee-trnee.com/eng/issues/water.php>)

#### **COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION INFORMATION BOOKLET & WORKSHOP**

Clean Nova Scotia has produced a booklet outlining climate change adaptation options, an overview of what other communities and provinces are doing and suggestions of what your community can do to prepare for projected changes in climate. For a copy of the booklet, please click here and (<http://www.clean.ns.ca/images/CCAdaptBooklet.pdf>) and if you are interested in a free presentation about climate change adaptation options for your municipality, contact Clean Nova Scotia at [ccc@clean.ns.ca](mailto:ccc@clean.ns.ca) or 1-800-665-5377.

#### **ADDRESSING SEA-LEVEL RISE AND STORM EVENTS AS A PRIORITY COASTAL ISSUE IN NOVA SCOTIA REPORT**

The Marine Affairs Policy Forum provides perspectives on current and emerging issues of concern to the coastal and ocean policy community in the Atlantic Region. The current issue focuses on coastal issues relating to climate change and can be viewed by clicking here. ([http://marineaffairsprogram.dal.ca/Files/MAP\\_Policy\\_Forum\\_July\\_2009\\_-\\_Sea-Level\\_Rise\\_and\\_Storm\\_Events.pdf](http://marineaffairsprogram.dal.ca/Files/MAP_Policy_Forum_July_2009_-_Sea-Level_Rise_and_Storm_Events.pdf))

#### **MUNICIPAL RESOURCES FOR ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund has developed a publication which features seven municipalities starting to think about adaptation in their communities. Also included in

this report are lists of scientific resources and planning tools that have been used by other municipalities to address climate change adaptation. A copy of the report can be downloaded by clicking here. [http://gmf.fcm.ca/files/Capacity\\_Building\\_-\\_PCP/PCP\\_Resources/Mun-Re-\\_Adapting-Climate-Change-e.pdf](http://gmf.fcm.ca/files/Capacity_Building_-_PCP/PCP_Resources/Mun-Re-_Adapting-Climate-Change-e.pdf)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FUNDING - WEB PORTAL LAUNCHED

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new Community Action Programs for the Environment (CAPE) web portal, which brings together, for the first time, Environment Canada's 10 community funding programs on a single website. Canadians now have easy access to information about all our community funding programs, including each programs' goals, eligibility criteria, funding deadlines, geographic range, available funding, and website.

Thank you for your interest in the CAPE portal. Please take a moment to bookmark the link at: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/pace-cape/Default.asp?lang=En&n=06DD166D-1>

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS

Nova Scotia Power is offering free energy efficiency upgrades to low-income homeowners who heat their homes with electricity to reduce their energy use and save money. For more information, please call 1-877-434-2136 or contact Katherine Reed at Nova Scotia Power by e-mail ([katherine.reed@nspower.ca](mailto:katherine.reed@nspower.ca)).

### ecONova SCOTIA IS SEEKING FUNDING APPLICATIONS FROM MUNICIPALITIES

If you have not completed your municipal energy inventory and audit, please submit your application anytime before January 31, 2010 under ecoNova Scotia's Category 1 *Municipal Program for Clean Air and Climate Change*. Funding is also available under Category 2 to support recommendations based on the energy inventory and audit and Category 3 to assist with community initiatives to reduce energy and emission. For more information and/or assistance with the application process, please phone Robert Cuthbert at 424-7500 or visit ecoNova Scotia's website at [www.gov.ns.ca/ecoNovaScotia](http://www.gov.ns.ca/ecoNovaScotia).

**For more information about the initiatives included in the GREEN TOOLBOX, please contact Debbie Nielsen, Municipal Sustainability Coordinator by telephone (423-8312) or e-mail ([dnielsen@unsm.ca](mailto:dnielsen@unsm.ca)).**

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