

# Key Sustainability Challenges for Bridgewater

Endorsed by Bridgewater Town Council in January 2009

Challenge areas listed below were developed through extensive public consultation from August to December 2008. Listed in bullets below each topic are examples of the most prominent challenges (currently and in the future) described by stakeholders. They are presented alphabetically.

<b>Key Sustainability Challenge Areas (Bridgewater / Region)</b>	
<b>Key Topic</b>	<b>Examples of Sustainability Challenges</b>
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of a green, local economy</li> <li>▪ Challenges for small businesses</li> <li>▪ “One industry town”</li> <li>▪ Uncertain future</li> </ul>
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Too many people not earning liveable wage</li> <li>▪ Lack of good, diverse jobs</li> <li>▪ People move away to work elsewhere</li> </ul>
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rising cost of fuels</li> <li>▪ Dependence on oil</li> <li>▪ Pollution</li> <li>▪ Inefficiency &amp; waste</li> </ul>
Environmental Degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pollution</li> <li>▪ Climate change</li> <li>▪ Not protecting our natural resources (forests, rivers, wetlands, coastline, etc)</li> </ul>
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of healthy affordable food</li> <li>▪ Not enough support for local farmers</li> <li>▪ Lack of food security</li> </ul>
Global Disruptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Economic recession</li> <li>▪ Climate change</li> <li>▪ Population pressure</li> <li>▪ Conflict &amp; war</li> <li>▪ Fear &amp; instability</li> </ul>
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of doctors &amp; health care</li> <li>▪ Rise of chronic disease</li> <li>▪ Mental health challenges</li> <li>▪ Unhealthy lifestyles</li> </ul>
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of affordable, decent housing</li> <li>▪ Housing stock doesn't match housing needs</li> <li>▪ Lack of energy efficient buildings</li> </ul>

LaHave River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pollution</li> <li>▪ Flooding &amp; sea level rise</li> <li>▪ Disappearing fish &amp; aquatic life</li> <li>▪ Not used to bring people together</li> <li>▪ Not used to full potential</li> </ul>
Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents can't meet their basic needs</li> <li>▪ Child poverty</li> <li>▪ Lack of affordable food, housing &amp; transportation</li> <li>▪ Time poverty</li> </ul>
Products / Manufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Too much waste</li> <li>▪ Too much consumption</li> <li>▪ Lack of affordable green products &amp; local suppliers</li> </ul>
Public Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increasingly expensive to maintain</li> <li>▪ Aging infrastructure</li> </ul>
Sense of Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of sense of community</li> <li>▪ Lack of participation</li> <li>▪ Lack of identity &amp; vision for the future</li> </ul>
Social Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of social &amp; cultural diversity</li> <li>▪ Lack of quality of life for many</li> <li>▪ Lack of child care</li> <li>▪ Aging population</li> <li>▪ Safety issues</li> </ul>
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rising cost of fuel</li> <li>▪ Not affordable</li> <li>▪ No bus service</li> <li>▪ Pollution</li> <li>▪ Not enough support for biking &amp; walking</li> </ul>
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We produce too much waste</li> <li>▪ Challenges with recycling system</li> <li>▪ Littering / illegal dumping</li> </ul>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pollution</li> <li>▪ Threats to water security</li> <li>▪ Water resources &amp; watersheds not protected enough</li> </ul>
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Don't want to stay here</li> <li>▪ Not enough opportunities &amp; activities</li> <li>▪ Unhealthy lifestyles &amp; habits</li> </ul>