



Planning Department – Staff Report

February 3, 2011

Bridgewater ICSP Implementation Report Year 1 (2010-2011)

Bridgewater's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) was completed and approved by Town Council on February 17, 2010. Fiscal Year 2010-2011 is regarded as the first full year of ICSP implementation, and this document is the first annual ICSP implementation report. It is designed to keep Town Council and the community at large informed of the progress the Town of the Bridgewater has made to accomplish the ICSP's vision, goals, and actions.

This report focuses on a selection of actions that have been completed or are underway in some form. For a complete list of actions described in the ICSP, including their status, please see Appendix A. The report is organized by topic area described in the ICSP, and projects are listed under categories that best describe them.

1. Moving to efficient renewable energy



Energy Management Plan: Significant progress was made to improve energy efficiency and introduce renewable energy sources at Town of Bridgewater facilities. Based on an energy audit and a solar energy feasibility study completed in 2009, Town staff identified a significant number of lighting, mechanical, and HVAC system upgrade possibilities at 11 Town facilities. Over \$250,000 in funding was applied for from federal and provincial sources to support over \$320,000 in budgeted upgrades. Nearly all the funding was achieved. Retrofits are still underway.

Notable projects include large solar hot water installations at the Public Works Garage and Town Hall and a full lighting upgrade at the Memorial Arena, which has already cut lighting costs in half, while community members have frequently commented on the improved lighting quality. This year's upgrades are projected to save the Town over \$60,000 in energy costs annually, and

reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 300 tons annually. The energy management program will continue next year through education programs, energy monitoring, and further planning.

2. Supporting healthy affordable local food



Community Gardens: Bridgewater’s “Hodge Podge Community Garden” opened this year. It became a success thanks to collaboration between the Town and a steering group of enthusiastic community members, along with generous donations from local businesses and organizations. Located on Aberdeen Green (former VIC property), the community garden contains 16 raised beds that are allocated to enrolled Bridgewater families and organizations at no charge. The project provided healthy local food to community members, as

well as an opportunity for socializing and community building. Town staff is working with the steering group to ensure that the program continues and hopefully expands in the coming years.



Farmers’ Market: The Bridgewater Farmers’ Market was open for its second consecutive year in 2010. The Market provides Bridgewater families with healthy local food and products, and an opportunity for socializing and community building. While the Market continues to see modest growth, it requires more long-term security with respect to its location, ongoing outreach, and support from the community. Town staff

continues to work with the Board to ensure its long-term success.

3. Creating transportation alternatives



Active Transportation Plan Implementation: The Bridgewater Active Transportation Committee has been overseeing the gradual implementation of this plan. Major road upgrades are slated for North & Aberdeen, which will introduce improved pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. The committee is also investigating opportunities for smaller-scale pedestrian and cycling upgrades to local streets. This year saw the implementation of a shared bicycle lane along 1.5km

of Glen Allan Dr. Concurrently, the committee has started implementation of a 3-year public engagement campaign.



Active Transportation Education Campaign: The Bridgewater Active Transportation Committee is implementing a 3-year public engagement campaign to encourage greater

use of active transportation (walking, cycling & wheeling) as a means of getting around town. A 300 household telephone survey was completed to establish a baseline of the community's AT patterns. The "School Travel Planning" initiative was started with Bridgewater Elementary School to encourage more children and parents to walk and cycle to and from school. The "Workplace Travel Planning" pilot program was started to encourage employees at local businesses to actively commute to and from work. The committee will continue its campaigns this coming year.

Public Transit System: Town Council and staff have continued participation on the Joint Transit Committee together with the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, the Town of Lunenburg, and the Town of Mahone Bay. A transit feasibility study was completed in late 2009, but in 2010 the Joint Transit Committee and the four Councils decided that it would be too costly to implement its recommendations at this time. The committee is currently seeking additional commitment and financial support from the Province to implement some form of transit service.

4. Building a green self-supportive local economy



Sustainability Partnership & Participation Program: Staff has taken this year to redesign the Partnership program that was originally created to involve local businesses and organizations in the development of the ICSP. Based on the recommendations of existing Partners, the program is being expanded and turned into a more accessible "network" for community members. It will remain a program of the Town,

but will be increasingly self-managed by its members. The program is slated to be re-launched in the Spring of 2011.

5. Educating for sustainability



Annual Sustainability Event: The Growing Green Fest was Bridgewater's second annual sustainability festival. It drew 1000-1500 visitors, about a 4-fold increase since the first Festival. This year the Festival established new partnerships including the Farmers' Market, Little River Folk, the Bridgewater Library, and the Bridgewater Century Ride. The event closed down part of King St. where it hosted 33 vendors and interactive 'green living skills' demonstrations, as well as a

line-up of 18 performing groups and individuals. The event contributed to a celebration of community spirit, and encouraged participation in sustainable living. Overall the Festival was considered a success, and Council has already committed to funding next year's event.

6. Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure

Making sustainability improvements to municipal infrastructure in many cases is a challenging and long-term process. In many cases, improvements have been ongoing for years, and need to be kept up in order to ensure success. Below are highlights of efforts made this year:

- **Water Supply, Treatment & Distribution:** A Master Plan was completed that will guide investments into future water system expansions and improvements. Upgrades to the two Hebb Lake dams were about 50% completed and will continue next construction season. Four additional dams are slated for improvement next year. Ongoing efforts are being made to upgrade the distribution system, including an upgrade on the Dufferin St. section of an inter-reservoir transmission system to coincide with other work. Watershed land continues to be acquired to further the PSC's source water protection objectives.
- **Sanitary Sewer and Waste Water Treatment:** A cursory evaluation by Nova Scotia Environment related to the new Canada-wide MWWWE strategy has resulted in the Town's treatment plant being classified as "low risk". Staff is waiting for the implementation strategy from the Province before proceeding with any significant new projects. A tender has been awarded to start implementing a remote monitoring and control system (SCADA) for the sewage lift stations and the treatment plant, and a WWTP supernatant study is underway to improve the efficiency of the waste water treatment process.
- **Storm Water:** Efforts have continued to separate storm sewer from sanitary sewer lines through a major upgrade on Dufferin St. between King and York.
- **Road Infrastructure:** Detailed design and land acquisition has continued on North St. and Aberdeen Rd. in preparation for a major upgrade of those streets. *See Active Transportation Plan Implementation above for actions related to AT.*
- **Solid Waste:** The Town has continued to support the regional solid waste diversion system. This year an operational review and compost study were completed, which will result in recommendations for the ongoing management and improvement of the LRCRC facility at Whynotts Settlement and its related services. Additional enforcement activities are planned throughout Region 6 in the coming years.

7. Implementation & Monitoring

- **Permanent Sustainability Coordinator:** Leon de Vreede was retained on a full-time permanent basis to coordinate the implementation of the ICSP.
- **Comprehensive Planning Document Review:** This year marked the start of the Planning Review, through the hiring of additional planning staff and the formation of the Planning

Review Advisory Committee. The Planning Review provides an opportunity to include sustainability-related solutions in the Town’s updated land use policies and regulations. The Review is expected to be completed by late 2012 / early 2013.

- **The “Green Team”:** This staff team was formed this year, and its membership includes the Sustainability Planner plus engineering and administration staff. The team’s early work has included development of ‘green cleaning’, idling reduction, and energy awareness programs and policies for Town facilities.

Gas Tax Update

This year the Town of Bridgewater renewed its Gas Tax municipal funding agreement with the Federal government, and the program was extended until 2014. The funding may be used to finance many (but not all) sustainability initiatives described in the ICSP, and it will continue to be an important source of revenue for the Town to implement its ICSP objectives. The table below shows the Gas Tax funding received and spent by the Town of Bridgewater to date.

Phase	Fiscal Year	Income*	Expenditure*
Pre-ICSP Completion	2005-06	\$184,496	\$0
	2006-07	\$186,570	\$91,301
	2007-08	\$255,001	\$188,067
	2008-09	\$321,930	\$367,083
	2009-10	\$657,860	\$390,643
ICSP Implementation	2010-11	\$642,540 (projected)	\$456,540 (projected)
TOTAL		\$2,248,397 (projected)	\$1,493,634 (projected)
<i>Remainder of \$754,763* carried forward to future years (projected)</i>			

** note: figures do not include accrued interest*

Conclusion

The Town of Bridgewater will continue in its overall efforts to implement the ICSP and monitor progress towards achieving its vision, goals, and actions.

Two programs suggested by Council for exploration at the start of last year (“Community Energy Assistance Fund” and “Support Local Campaign”) were not able to be pursued due to a lack of staff resource capacity. However, with a number of large projects such as the energy improvements nearing completion, staff is confident that these programs can be developed this year.

In addition to specific actions prescribed to the Town of Bridgewater in each section of the ICSP (summarized in Appendix A), the ICSP contains recommendations for broader advocacy and partnership building. To date, these have been pursued in a piecemeal fashion when staff or Councillors have had opportunities for input into regional or Provincial strategies or programs. In the 2011/12 fiscal year, staff will examine a more strategic approach to this work, which may result in more effective communication and ultimate uptake by regional partners.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Shaw, MCIP, LPP
Director of Planning

Appendix A: Town of Bridgewater ICSP Summary of Actions

Appendix A

Town of Bridgewater Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

Summary of Actions

Key to Symbols

E Energy	F Food	T Transportation	C Economy	D Education	I Infrastructure	▲ Implementation
✓ Under development but not yet implemented		✓✓ Partially implemented		✓✓✓ Complete or demonstrating success		

Action	Category	Status
Community Energy Assistance Fund	E	
District Heating / Cooling Study	E	
Energy Management Plan (Town operations)	E	✓ ✓
Heritage Conservation District	E	
Lifecycle Energy Policy (Town operations)	E	
New Building Standards (Town operations)	E	
Partners for Climate Protection	E	
Renewable Energy Potential Study	E	
Breastfeeding-Friendly Policy (Town operations)	F	
"Buy Local Food" Campaign	F C D	
Community Gardens	F	✓ ✓ ✓
Support Farmers Market	F	✓ ✓
Sustainable Food Policy (Town operations)	F	
Active Transportation Plan Implementation	T I	✓ ✓
AT Education Campaign	T D	✓ ✓
Community Bicycle Share or Rental	T	
Community Car Pool Strategy	T	
Fleet Management Plan (Town operations)	T	
Policy for AT Street Events (Town operations)	T	
Policy to Reduce Vehicle Use (Town operations)	T	
Public Transit System	T	✓
Sustainable Vehicle Use Campaign	T D	
Transit Gap Analysis	T	
Annual Sustainability Event	C D	✓ ✓ ✓
Downtown & Main St. Revitalization Plan	C	
Permanent Sustainability Partnership & Participation Program	C D ▲	✓
"Support Local" Campaign	C D	
Comprehensive Water Master Plan	I	✓ ✓
WTP: Increase Human Resource Capacity	I	✓
Infrastructure Renewal (Dams)	I	✓ ✓

Action	Category	Status
Infrastructure Renewal (Distribution System)	I	✓ ✓
WTP: Risk Management Plan	I	✓
Strategic Watershed Land Acquisition	I	✓ ✓
Water Conservation Education Program	D I	
Water Loss & Leak Detection Technology	I	✓ ✓
Implement Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent (MWWWE)	I	✓
Inflow Reduction Program – Storm Sewer	I	✓ ✓
WWTP: Remote Monitoring & Control Systems	I	✓ ✓
Sanitary Sewer Upgrade & Renewal	I	✓ ✓
Sanitary Sewer Utility – Investigation	I	
Sewer By Law Upgrade, Expansion & Enforcement	I	
WWTP: Treatment Process Efficiency Upgrades	I	✓
Waste Water Education Program	D I	
Waste Water Energy Efficiency Upgrades	I	✓
Storm Water Policy for New Developments	I	
AT Plan – General Infrastructure Improvements	T I	✓ ✓
Increase Street Maintenance	I	
Increase Snow & Ice Service	I	
Optimize Traffic Signals	I	✓ ✓
Pavement Management Software	I	
Road Salt Management & Reduction	I	✓ ✓
Transportation Master Plan	I	
Upgrade North & Aberdeen	I	✓
Operational & Capital Funding for Solid Waste Management	I	✓ ✓ ✓
Staff Support for Solid Waste Management	I	✓ ✓ ✓
Solid Waste Education Support	D I	✓ ✓ ✓
Permanent Sustainability Coordinator		▲ ✓ ✓ ✓
Integrate Sustainability into Decision-Making Processes (eg. Purchasing Policy)	E F C	▲
Comprehensive Planning Document Review	E F T C I	▲ ✓
Report-Carding System & Annual Indicators Update		▲ ✓ ✓
Develop a “Green Team” (Town Operations)		▲ ✓ ✓
Comprehensive ICSP Review		▲

For descriptions of these actions, please read the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, pp. 30-81.