

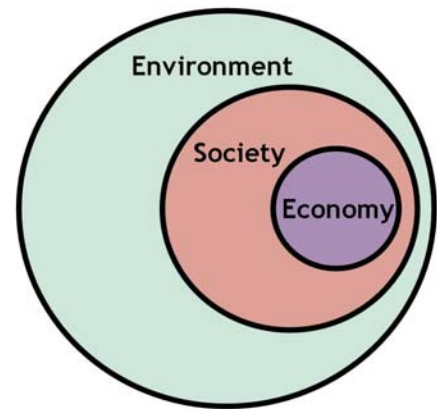


Sustainability Partnership Agreement

Introduction for Potential Partners

Introduction

Through recent consultations with the Bridgewater community, members of our town made it clear that we want to live in a community that is clean, vibrant, and a good place to live and work. We want to have a community that meets today's needs, and the needs of future generations. In other words, a "sustainable" community: one that can support an attractive economy, serving a healthy and equitable population, all living within the Earth's means.



What is Sustainability?

Few people would disagree that they want a future for their children that is just as good, if not better, than the one that exists today. But creating that desired future is not that simple, because of a number of global and local problems that are undermining our ability to create that future. These include:

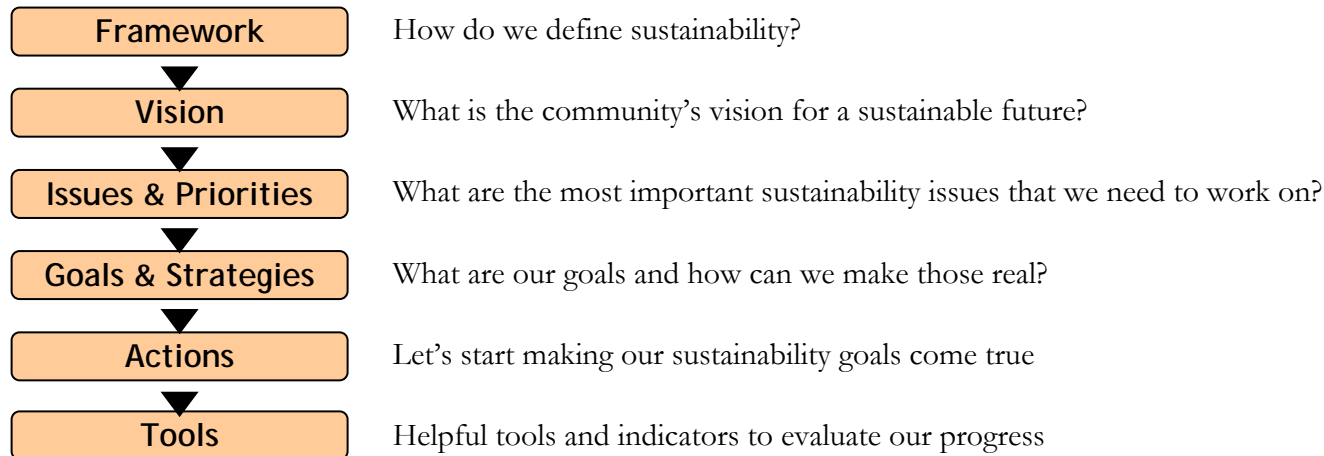
- **environmental** concerns such as climate change, the destruction of wildlife habitat, and the pollution of air and water
- **social** concerns such as access to basic services such as health care, food, shelter, and education
- **cultural** concerns such as a maintaining community bonds, fostering a sense of community identity, celebrating culture & diversity, and protecting our heritage
- **economic** concerns such as ensuring decent living standards for all, high levels of good employment, and encouraging learning and innovation.

"Sustainability" is a goal, a future where our community is living within the Earth's means, while continuing to grow and thrive, and provide people with their basic needs.

The Sustainable Community Planning Process

The Town of Bridgewater has made a commitment to becoming a more sustainable community. The first step down this path is to create an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). We will be creating this plan between 2008 and 2010, by working closely with people and organizations of the Bridgewater community.

This is an invitation to your business, organization, or group, to join us in deciding what our Integrated Community Sustainability Plan should look like. Our plan will answer the following six questions:



Becoming a Partner

We are searching for groups to be our educational and consultative Partners in developing this plan. You have been selected as a possible candidate by the Sustainable Planning Focus Group, a citizen's advisory group assisting with our planning process. As a Partner, you will provide us with your time and energy during consultations over the course of the planning process (approximately 2 years). The details of your commitments are written in a "Sustainability Partnership Agreement", which will be signed by all our Partners. This project is being funded by the Town of Bridgewater, and there will be no financial costs associated with participating as a Partner.

As part of your involvement, your organization will have the opportunity to:

- Become known as an organization that is interested in creating a sustainable community
- Be part of an important movement that is taking place around Nova Scotia and around Canada
- Have direct influence in this planning process that will shape our community
- Network with other progressive organizations in this community and region, and build organizational relationships with them
- Build the knowledge and skills of your members and/or employees through a community program
- Learn about developing your own sustainability plan

Should you be interested in joining our project, please contact us to let us know of your intentions. To learn more about the Partnerships and Sustainable Bridgewater, please visit:

www.bridgewater.ca/sustainability

We look forward to hearing from you!