



Good morning from the SWR Team,

What a month! While we had three [Regional Carbon Initiative members](#) set targets to reduce their carbon impact – including the City of Waterloo – I'm also thrilled to share Sustainable Waterloo Region's renewed mission, vision and strategic direction, as well as a 2-minute video that describes our work more clearly than ever, available online [here](#).

Meanwhile, over the past month each of Waterloo, Kitchener, Cambridge, and Regional Council unanimously endorsed Waterloo Region's first-ever [climate change action plan](#). This is the culmination of three years of community engagement that now provides a new platform for all climate change related efforts in our community in the years ahead. We have also opened registration for the long-awaited launch of Sustainability CoLab, the new network that will share the approach our community has piloted to engaging businesses in setting targets to reduce their carbon impact.

Please read on for details about these and other updates from our team.

All the best,

Mike Morrice
Executive Director
Sustainable Waterloo Region

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Stay Connected –
Our Facebook Page



Regional Carbon Initiative Members

New Pledging Partner Conversion - Congratulations!

MW CANADA LTD
material innovations

MW Canada
Bronze Pledging Partner
Reduction Target: 20% intensity
RCI member since: 2013



Just Fix it
Bronze Pledging Partner
Reduction Target: 25% absolute
RCI member since: 2012



The City of Waterloo
Bronze Pledging Partner
Reduction Target: 22% intensity
RCI member since: 2009

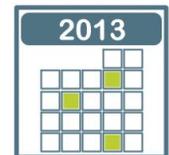
Renewing Regional Carbon Initiative Members



VeriForm Inc.
Pledging Partner
RCI member since: 2009

If interested in joining the Regional Carbon Initiative as either a [Sustaining Partner](#), [Pledging Partner](#) or [Observing Organization](#), please see the [Sustainable Waterloo Region website](#) for further details and contact [Mike Morrice](#) with any questions.

Upcoming Sustainable Waterloo Region Events



5th Annual Evening of Recognition

Mark your calendar for this annual celebration of local business sustainability and the release of our 2013 Report!

Date: Thursday April 24, 2014

Time: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Bingemans

Cost: Free

Registration opens in early 2014

SWR Updates and Collaboration Opportunities



Our Compass: SWR's New Strategic Plan

A year ago we set out to identify what makes SWR unique. What value was SWR providing the community? How did we define our culture? And how could we further enable local organizations to achieve their environmental sustainability goals? We looked at the successes of the Regional Carbon Initiative, ClimateActionWR, and TravelWise, and the growing interest in Sustainability CoLab. Through conversations with a range of individuals we gained new insights and incorporated feedback into a clear definition of SWR and the organization's potential.

The result is the new strategic plan that will act as our compass for scaling SWR's impact over the next 3-5 years. With this plan, we will focus on *fostering collaborations that enable organizations to convert their sustainability interest into action*. To do this, we will build networks, set a common direction for results, and publicly report on progress. Now as we begin using this compass, we're exploring program development opportunities that align with our strengths as we work to maximize the individual and collective successes of organizations across Waterloo Region.

Find out more about SWR and how we're scaling our impact:

- SWR Overview ([video](#) or [PDF](#))
- Our Compass: SWR's Strategic Plan ([summary](#) or [full plan](#))

5th Annual Photo Contest

We invite you to participate in our 5th Annual Photo Contest. Winning entries will be featured in our 2013 Report which will be launched at our Evening of Recognition in April. Photos must be taken in Waterloo Region and should inspire sustainable behaviour. Winners will be chosen in the following categories: Sustainable Lifestyle, Eco-Design, and Cultural Heritage. There will also be a special recognition to one youth under the age of 18. Visit the [contest webpage](#) for more details!

Local Councils Unanimously Endorse the Climate Action Plan for Waterloo Region!

Waterloo Region now has its first-ever comprehensive community action plan on climate change. In November and early December, the City Councils of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo, as well as the Regional Administration & Finance Committee, unanimously passed recommendations to endorse the Climate Action Plan and commit to a community GHG reduction target of 6% below 2010 levels by 2020. With this plan acting as the collective direction, our community is poised to further our sustainability efforts and together contribute to meeting the reduction target by 2020. Implementation of the plan will begin in early 2014.

In the meantime, you are invited to [read and share the plan](#), and contact [Sarah Brown](#) for more information.

Develop, Connect, and Contribute - Volunteer With SWR

Does your creative side flourish behind a video camera? Are you interested in capturing and communicating sustainability-related topics on video? Are you detail-oriented and self-motivated? If so, the RCI Events Video Specialist may be an opportunity for you! The main responsibility for this role is to capture video footage at RCI Events and as SWR operates, for the purpose of facilitating learning and sharing success stories. In this position you can:

- Utilize and develop your filming and video editing skills
- Gain experience creating professional videos
- Be a key part of a passionate and committed team

For more details on the RCI Events Video Specialist and other available volunteer positions, [visit our website](#) and get in touch with us!

Recommended Environmental Research, Ideas, & Community Events



Ontario can Overcome "Regrettable" WTO ruling on Green Energy Act: Study

The recent World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling that the Ontario Green Energy Act's local content requirements conflict with international trade rules is based on an overly restrictive interpretation, concludes a new study released last week by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA). [Find out more about it here.](#)

Losses from Extreme Weather Rise to \$200-Bn a Year: World Bank

Global economic losses caused by extreme weather events have risen to nearly \$200 billion a year over the last decade and look set to increase further as climate change worsens - particularly in the developing world - according to a new report by the World Bank published last week. A United Nations' panel of scientists has warned that floods, droughts and storms are

likely to become more severe over the next century as greenhouse gas emissions warm the world's climate. [Read more about it here.](#)

New Guide Helps Companies Report Their Climate Policy Positions

For the first time ever, companies have a guide to manage and report on their direct and indirect influences on climate policy. The UN Global Compact, in cooperation with seven leading international organizations, released guidelines to help companies engage in climate policy in a transparent and accountable way that is consistent with their sustainability commitments. The [Guide to Responsible Corporate Engagement in Climate Policy](#) sets baseline expectations for companies to provide proactive and constructive input for governments to create effective climate policies. It helps companies to connect the dots between sustainability commitments, such as emissions reductions across their value chains and efficiency improvements, with their corporate policy positions. [Read more about it here.](#)

'Missing Heat' Discovery Prompts New Estimate of Global Warming: Artic Warming Fast

An interdisciplinary team of researchers say they have found 'missing heat' in the climate system, casting doubt on suggestions that global warming has slowed or stopped over the past decade. Observational data on which climate records are based cover only 84 per cent of the planet -- with Polar Regions and parts of Africa largely excluded. Researchers have reconstructed the 'missing' global temperatures using a combination of observations from satellites and surface data from weather stations and ships on the peripheries of the unsampled regions. The new research shows that the Arctic is warming at about eight times the pace of the rest of the planet. [Read More here](#)

From the Blog...

[After a Year of Planning, Clarity: We Convert Sustainability Interest Into Action](#)

By Mike Morrice and Susan Jantzi

At the most recent SWR Board meeting we supported a motion for full partnership with the Region of Waterloo's TravelWise program, as it moves beyond its two year pilot and expands on its mandate... [\[Read More\]](#)

[A Chance to Share Some Exciting News: What Are You Doing on January 16th?](#)

By Mike Morrice

I was driving home from the Niagara Sustainability Initiative (NSI)'s launch event, in January 2011, when I first fully came to grips with an important realization: while the past year of coaching NSI had been rewarding and exciting, it couldn't continue on in such an ad-hoc way... [\[Read More\]](#)

Current Subscriptions

You are currently subscribed to the following Sustainable Waterloo Region Distributions:

- Community Updates: Subscribed
- Technical Workshops: Subscribed
- Educational Forums: Subscribed

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