



Good morning from the SWR Team,

February is upon us and with the grip of the winter comes the exhilaration of so many things happening here at Sustainable Waterloo Region.

The big news from January was the launch of [Sustainability CoLab](#), the network created to share the Regional Carbon Initiative model, initially with communities across Ontario.

For those businesses that manage a fleet, our February Educational Forum *On the Road to Sustainability* was made for you! [Sign up](#) to learn more. And in the spirit more efficient transportation and reducing the number of cars on the road, [Carpool Week](#) is being held February 24th to 28th!

We are all looking forward to the Evening of Recognition, which is quickly approaching on April 24th. Registration opens February 24th.

Finally, as mentioned in [my first SWR blog](#), I want to thank everyone for the very warm welcome to this incredible organization. I am thrilled to be here and look forward to what the future has in store for us all.

Read on for more information on these and other updates from our team.

Cheers,

Tova Davidson
Executive Director
Sustainable Waterloo Region

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Regional Carbon Initiative Members

Renewing Regional Carbon Initiative Members



AET Group
Silver Pledging Partner
Reduction Target: 40% intensity/employee count
RCI member since: 2011



Donovan Insurance Brokers Inc.
Observing Organization
RCI Member since: 2012



Manulife Financial
Observing Organization
RCI Member since: 2012

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

On the Road to Sustainability

Many leading organizations are taking advantage of effective fleet management strategies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and transportation costs. The fleet is often one of the highest costs on a corporation's balance sheet. Effective fleet cost management can increase profitability but to implement a plan with the greatest payback while minimizing your carbon footprint, you need to take a holistic approach. At this educational forum, you'll learn what valuable programs, tools and best management practices are available and how other organizations are successfully maximizing their fleet efficiency.



Date: Thursday, February 20th, 2014

Time: 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Location: 30 Fairway Road South, Kitchener, ON
Cost: \$40.00 +HST
Registration is now open

5th Annual Evening of Recognition

Mark your calendar to join us in celebrating the sustainability accomplishments of organizations across Waterloo Region along with the release of our 2013 Report.

Date: Thursday, April 24th, 2014

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

Location: Bingemans

Cost: Free, registration required

Registration opens February 24th, RCI Members watch for your advanced registration next week!

SWR Updates and Collaboration Opportunities



Regional Carbon Initiative 2013/2014 Event Sponsors

We are thrilled to recognize the following organizations joining our RCI Events Sponsor list for our 2014 events! Check out [our website](#) for further details on how your organization can connect to the Waterloo Region sustainability network through event sponsorship.

Supporting Sponsors



Contributing Sponsors

[Kitchener Utilities](#)

Sustainability CoLab Launches!

After more than two years in the making, Sustainability CoLab celebrated its official launch with 225 sustainability leaders from across the province on January 16th at Artscape Wychwood Barns in Toronto. CoLab is sharing the core approaches of the Regional Carbon Initiative to help communities engage businesses to set and achieve greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals. A mix of senior representatives from all sectors were among those gathered to hear key announcements about CoLab's Board, funders and the first communities to receive support.

[Durham Sustain Ability](#) (Durham Region), [EnviroCentre](#) (Ottawa), [Niagara Sustainability Initiative](#) (Niagara Region), [Sustainable Kingston](#) (Kingston), and [Sustainable Waterloo Region](#) (Waterloo Region) were revealed as the first members and communities selected to join the CoLab network. CoLab also announced that it has received \$385,000 in seed funding from the Metcalf Foundation, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Sun Life Financial, and TD Bank Group.

Thanks to all of those that attended and made it one inspiring night. CoLab is thrilled to kick-start efforts to change the way organizations participate in the solution to climate change. To read a blog post about the event and see some photos, click [here](#). You can also stay connected with CoLab's work on Twitter: [@SustainCoLab](#).

Develop, Connect, and Contribute - Volunteer with SWR

If you enjoy writing, project coordination, and content development, we have a volunteer opportunity for you! The Lead Communications Specialist manages communication projects and facilitates the use of SWR's standard messaging. In this role you can:

- Utilize your drafting, editing, and leadership skills
- Gain communications project management experience
- Network with a passionate and committed team

For more information on the Lead Communications Specialist role and other available positions, please visit the [Volunteer](#) page of our website.

From the Blog...

[Change is Good](#)

By Tova Davidson

Evolutionary theory has taught us that it is not the strong that survive, rather it is those that can **adapt** best to their environment that survive and thrive! As a true lover of change, my faith in this tenet has been tested in the past few weeks, and has remained strong. I have now finished... [\[Read More\]](#)

[Sustainability CoLab Launches!](#)

By Mike Morrice

We finally did it. Three years in the making, we launched Sustainability CoLab at Artscape Wychwood Barns, announcing everything from: The funding: \$385,000 of \$500,000 required for a three year mandate, coming from a mix of public sector (the Ontario Trillium Foundation), and Corporate Partners (TD Bank Group and Sun Life Financial)... [\[Read More\]](#)

Recommended Environmental Research, Ideas, & Community Events



February 24th - 28th is Carpool Week

Each day tens of thousands of empty seats travel to work. From February 24th-28th, we're encouraging you to fill them up by trying out carpooling! Check out the [TravelWise website](#) to get the facts on carpooling, or to find a carpool partner right here in Waterloo Region. Plus, you

can share your carpool story to be entered into a draw for some great prizes!

The Collaborative Economy: How Sharing is Powering a Sustainable Future

To create a sustainable future, we need to alter how we live, work, produce and learn. April Rinne, Chief Strategy Officer of the Collaborative Lab, will discuss how the collaborative economy has the potential to transform how we design products and services, create sustainable and "shareable" cities, re-imagine public services, reduce waste and connect communities.

Spotlighting an array of innovations from around the world—from transportation to office space to food to education—April will show us how we can use technology and human ingenuity to unlock the wealth that exists in people, places and resources. In this way, we can develop scalable solutions for pressing social challenges.

Date: Tuesday, February 11th, 2014

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Location: MaRS Auditorium, 101 College Street, Toronto, ON

Cost: \$20.00

[Register here](#)

Corporate Knights Announce Latest Additions to Its Widely Followed Global 100 Index

Corporate Knights, the Toronto-based media and investment advisory company, released the 2014 iteration of its widely-followed [Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World](#) (Global 100) index. In its tenth year, the Global 100 index has come to be recognized as the gold standard in corporate sustainability analysis. Companies named to the Global 100 index are the top overall sustainability performers in their respective industrial sectors. [Read more about it, and see who made the list, here.](#)

Fiji Village Relocated Under Climate Change Programme

The Fijian village of Vunidogolo has become the first to be relocated under the country's climate change programme. Rising sea levels forced the community to abandon their traditional compound, according to reports in the [Fiji Times](#). Locals say the effects of climate change have resulted in seawater flowing into the village compound during high tide, damaging houses and ruining crops. The government has contributed \$879,000, around two-thirds of the capital for the move. Plans for the move were proposed over a year ago, and it is expected 34 other villages will also be moved as Fiji grapples with an eroding coastline and an encroaching ocean. [Find out more about it here.](#)

A New Era of Cleaner Air for Ontario

What was once the province's largest coal-fired station is now out of service. The Nanticoke Generating Station was the last operating coal-fired facility in southern Ontario. This latest shut down will help mark 2014 as the year Ontario will become a coal-free jurisdiction. Closing Ontario's coal-fired stations will save ratepayers \$95 million from reduced maintenance and project costs. A coal-free energy mix will also lead to a significant reduction in harmful emissions, cleaner air and a healthier environment. The Nanticoke Generating Station has been producing electricity for Ontario since January 1972. [Find out more about it here.](#)

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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