



Good morning from the SWR Team,

Welcome to the August edition of the Community Update. The slower pace of the summer has afforded the SWR team to work on lots of planning and strategy for the coming year. In this edition we will share some of what we are working on, as well as give you advance notice on some cool events.

We would love to hear from you! Please reach out to any of the team to let us know what you think of the update, any ideas you may have for our programs or simply any ways we can support you to make sustainability part of your day!

Cheers and enjoy the rest of summer!

All the best,

**Tova Davidson**  
**Executive Director**  
*Sustainable Waterloo Region*

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**Regional Carbon Initiative Members**

**Renewing Regional Carbon Initiative Members**



[House of Friendship](#)  
**Silver Pledging Partner**  
 RCI member since: 2011  
 40% reduction commitment from 2010



[Athena Software](#)  
**Gold Pledging Partner**  
 RCI member since: 2009  
 60% reduction commitment from 2009



[Wilfrid Laurier University](#)  
**Bronze Pledging Partner**  
 RCI member since: 2010  
 25% reduction commitment from 2009



[Sutherland-Schultz Ltd.](#)  
**Observing Organization**  
 RCI member since: 2013



The TOWNSHIP of  
NORTH DUMFRIES

[Township of North Dumfries](#)

Observing Organization

RCI member since: 2013

**Borealis**  
GRILLE & BAR

Obsessively Local

[Borealis Grille and Bar](#)

Observing Organization

RCI member since: 2013

If interested in joining the Regional Carbon Initiative, please see the [Sustainable Waterloo Region website](#) for further details and contact [Tova Davidson](#) with any questions.

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## Upcoming SWR Events

### Join ChargeWR at Open Streets!

Come out to Open Streets on September 14th to learn about the expanding Waterloo Region electric vehicle network! Open Streets is a fun filled day for the whole family, check out electric vehicles and chargers, while browsing local artisans, and a wide array of other community booths. To learn more, connect with ChargeWR online, through twitter (@ChargeWR) and Facebook(groups/ChargeWR).

**Date:** Sunday, September 14th, 2014

**Time:** 1-5pm

**Location:** Uptown Waterloo



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## SWR Updates

### ClimateActionWR Summer 2014 Progress Snapshot

Did you know that *A Climate Action Plan for Waterloo Region: Living Smarter in 2020* includes straightforward ways to improve the sustainability of local homes, workplaces, transportation, waste, and agriculture & food? To reach our community GHG reduction target of 6% below 2010 levels, local residents, organizations, and municipalities are moving forward with Actions from the plan. To learn more about the progress being made in your community, [click here!](#)

### Get involved! SWR is hiring a Policy Research Analyst Volunteer

The Policy and Research Analyst is a volunteer position that supports the Policy Engagement Manager through research and report-writing on issues of environmental policy that impact organizations within Waterloo Region. The position is approximately a 5 hour/week commitment, to learn more about the positions duties and responsibilities, visit our [website](#) and contact [Naudia Banton](#) for more information.



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## Research, Ideas, & Community Events

### Canadian Cities lead on Climate Change

*By David Suzuki with contributions from David Suzuki Foundation Science and Policy Manager Ian Bruce.*

Amid the dire warnings about global warming's impacts, what's often overlooked is that actions to reduce or prevent them will lead to livable communities, improved air quality, protection of natural spaces and greater economic efficiency, to name just a few benefits. So it's not surprising that tangible positive action on climate change is happening in Canada's cities. Plenty of examples can be found in the [National Measures Report](#), released in mid-July by the [Partners for Climate Protection](#), which includes the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and ICLEI-Canada, a local government organization dedicated to sustainability. [Continue reading here.](#)

### Municipal Energy Plan Program Provides Funding to Help Municipalities

Ontario is supporting local energy planning and conservation through the Municipal Energy Plan (MEP) program. Launched in 2013, the MEP program supports municipalities' efforts to better understand their local energy needs, identify opportunities for energy efficiency and clean energy, and develop plans to meet their goals. Ontario is accepting applications on an ongoing basis. [Find out more about it here.](#)

### Scientists find Beef Production Harmful to the Environment

Production of beef is nearly ten times more damaging to the environment than any other form of meat production, according to a new study. American scientists measured the environment



inputs required for beef production and concluded that beef cattle need 28 times more land and 11 times more irrigation water than pork, poultry, eggs or dairy. [Find out more about it.](#)

### Missed Targets: When Companies Fail to Keep Their Key Sustainability Promises

When the Walt Disney Company reached out to Rainforest Action Network for help in crafting a new sustainable paper sourcing policy in 2012, the nonprofit was all ears. As the world's largest publisher of children's books and magazines, with more than 700m products sold each year, [Disney's paper sourcing](#) influences the operations of 25,000 factories in more than 100 countries. But after 18 months of working closely with the company, some of [Rainforest Action Network's](#) officials have grown frustrated with Disney's slow pace. [Find out more about it here.](#)

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## From the Blog

### A Change in Scenery

*By Mike Morrice*

It's only been six months since Tova officially started as Executive Director at Sustainable Waterloo Region. And while I'm proud of the work and planning that went into the transition at all levels of the organization, I'm prouder still of how wonderfully Tova has taken the lead of this growing organization at such a critical... [\[Read more\]](#)



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## 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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