



Good morning from the SWR team,

It certainly seems as though summer is past and fall is upon us. Welcome to the September edition of our Community Update. This month we will be sharing more information about the new website for [TravelWise](#), a great resource for members that want to commute more sustainably.

We are also now looking for new event sponsors for the Regional Carbon Initiative. If you are interested or know someone that is, please read on and get in touch. Finally, we will be sharing more about the exciting upcoming Climate Action Waterloo Region event that is set to launch the actions that will help us reduce our cumulative GHG footprint by 6%.

There are also lots of other exciting things to share.... Thanks for reading and I hope you enjoy this first edition of Fall 2014.

Cheers,

Tova Davidson
Executive Director
Sustainable Waterloo Region

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Regional Carbon Initiative Members

New Regional Carbon Initiative Members



[Marsland Centre Limited](#)
Observing Organization
 RCI Member since: 2014



[Fairview Park Mall](#)
Observing Organization
 RCI Member since: 2014

Renewing Regional Carbon Initiative Members



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



[St. Paul's University College](#)
Observing Organization
 RCI member since: 2012



[City of Cambridge](#)
Observing Organization
RCI member since: 2012
6% reduction commitment from 2009



[Stantec](#)
Observing Organization
RCI member since: 2012

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.

Upcoming Events



Become a SWR Education Sponsor

Is your organization excited about the environment and education? Would it like to be recognized as a local leader contributing to Sustainable Waterloo Region's educational events? Check out our available sponsorship opportunities [here](#) and connect with Julie.Raineault@sustainablewr.ca about making this happen!

Plugging In: The Value of Electric Vehicle Technology

A growing number of organizations have realized the environmental and economic benefits of adopting Electric Vehicles (EVs) into their fleets and deploying EV charging stations. Join us to experience EV technology firsthand (EVs and charging stations on-site, including test-drive opportunities) and learn how you can add value to your organization from a panel of local champions.

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2014

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Location: Blackberry Building C - 2240 University Ave E, Waterloo ON, Canada

Cost: \$40 (+HST) - RCI members, students and not-for-profits, please contact allan.taylor@sustainablewr.ca for information about alternative pricing.

Registration: [Online](#)

Join us for Creating Action! *Engaging Community. Building Momentum.*

With a 6% emission reduction target set, now is the time for our community to reconnect and gain momentum for progress towards the [Climate Action Plan for Waterloo Region](#). Increase your understanding of the Action Plan and its potential as it is brought to life through various perspectives during this event. This is a key time to gather existing and interested parties in one space to spark conversation. We invite you to join in on the opportunity to connect with lead collaborators of the Action Plan and explore areas of contribution and support. Participating organizations, community decision makers and drivers of action, among others within the sustainability network, will play important roles in collectively achieving the Region-wide emission reduction target.

Date: November 13, 2014

Time: 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Location: THEMUSEUM, 10 King St W, Kitchener, ON

SWR Updates



Introducing GoTravelWise.ca

The TravelWise team is excited to announce the launch of its new commuting portal, www.gotravelwise.ca. The website is designed to help employees form carpools, explore the cost and environmental impacts for different modes of getting to work, and easily track trips to join the leaderboards and earn shareable badges. If you're interested in exploring your commuting options, check it out! Employees from TravelWise member organization can also win prizes for their trips, access discounted GRT bus passes, and use an emergency ride home program. To get your workplace involved, email [Mat Thijssen](mailto:Mat.Thijssen) for more info.

Research, Ideas, & Community Events



Waterloo Region Leads in Active Communities Pledge

Twenty-four municipal candidates from Cambridge, Kitchener, and Waterloo have pledged

to support walking and biking in their communities if elected, more than all other Ontario municipalities combined. In the wake of recent opinion polls that show growing support for measures to promote cycling, this Ontario-wide campaign is asking candidates in the upcoming October 27th municipal election to back policies that support cycling and other forms of active transportation. [Find out more about it here.](#)

Fast Cities: Comparing Transit Across Canada

Toronto has fallen behind Canada's other major cities in terms of rapid transit infrastructure, according to a new report from the Pembina Institute. [Fast Cities: A comparison of rapid transit in major Canadian cities](#) reviews the state of transit investment in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa. The report shows that Vancouver and Calgary have led the way in building new rapid transit for the last 10 years, while Toronto and Montreal have made relatively few investments during that time. [Find out more about it here.](#)

BP 'Grossly Negligent' for Gulf Spill: US Judge

A US judge last week found BP grossly negligent in its actions leading up to the deadly 2010 Macondo spill, a ruling that exposes BP to maximum penalties under the US Clean Water Act. In a long awaited, 153-page ruling judge Carl Barbier said the spill that followed the April 2010 blowout on the drilling rig Deepwater Horizon that killed 11 workers and led to the worst US offshore oil spill was the result of BP's 'gross negligence' and 'willful misconduct.' [Find out more about it here.](#)

Energy from Coffee, Absolutely

The Energy from Coffee Wastewater project by UTZ Certified has proven that it is possible to generate energy, tackle climate change and protect water resources by treating discharges from coffee mills. The project started in 2010 with the goal of addressing environmental and health problems caused by the wastewater produced in the coffee industry. [Find out more about it here.](#)

Redd+ Versus Indigenous People? Why a Tribe in Panama Rejected Pay for Their Carbon-rich Rainforests

There isn't a word or phrase in the Kuna language for "carbon trading," and much less for something as complex as REDD+. REDD+ is the worldwide UN backed climate change mitigation scheme that relies on carbon trading within forest landscapes for funding. And yet, since 2008, the Kuna people have been hearing lots about it and referring to it often in their private conversations. One of the reasons many people in Kuna Yala haven't embraced the REDD+ program has to do with the fact that negotiations happened behind closed doors. [Find out more about it here.](#)

From the Blog

Leading the Electric Vehicle Charge in Waterloo Region

By: Allan Taylor

The Canadian Medical Association concluded that the national costs of air pollution will amount conservatively to [\\$257B between 2008 and 2031](#). Transportation makes up a whopping [40% of the greenhouse gas \(GHG\)](#) emissions in the Waterloo Region. Automobiles also emit particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds... [\[Read More\]](#)



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