



Good morning from the SWR team,

Welcome to the November Community Update! I love that this newsletter is called the COMMUNITY update. I really feel like we are a community, working together to affect change in Waterloo Region.

In the coming month the community will be hosting a few events, including one for TravelWise on the 26th and the Untapped Resources for Sustainability event on December 4th. Read on to learn more.

We are also really excited to share some of 2014-2015 event sponsors. If your organization is interested in financially contributing to environmental sustainability in our region, we would love to hear from you. Finally there have been some fun and exciting events at SWR including one hosted by the ClimateAction team, my first date with an EV, and the selection of ClimateActionWR Leadership Committee! Thanks for reading on, thanks for your support, and thank you for promoting sustainability in Waterloo Region.

Cheers,

Tova Davidson
Executive Director
Sustainable Waterloo Region

Contents of this Update:

[Regional Carbon Initiative Members](#)

[Upcoming SWR Events](#)

[SWR Updates](#)

[Research, Ideas & Community Events](#)

[From the Blog](#)

[Current Subscriptions](#)



Regional Carbon Initiative Members

Renewing Regional Carbon Initiative Members



[Enviro-Stewards](#)
Gold Pledging Partner
 RCI member since: 2011
 80% reduction commitment from 2008



[Quiet Nature](#)
Observing Organization
 RCI member since: 2010



[University of Waterloo](#)
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



Moving Employees: Healthy & Sustainable Transportation for Workplaces in Waterloo Region

Is your organization ready to benefit as Waterloo Region transforms its travel patterns? Did you know that helping your staff commute sustainably can benefit your business, and that there are tools and resources available to help? Stop by for an exciting presentation and panel discussion on how Waterloo Region is evolving and how organizations across the Region are already seeing the benefits. The event is facilitated by TravelWise and the Region of Waterloo Public Health.

Date: November 26, 2014

Time: 8:30 to 11:00 am

Location: Cambridge City Hall Bowman Room, 50 Dickson Street, Cambridge

Registration: [Online](#)

Peer Learning Session: Employee Engagement

Join other SWR program member organizations to share current challenges and innovative solutions regarding engaging your employees in sustainability at this small discussion-based session.

Date: November 20, 2014

Time: 8:00 to 9:30 am

Location: 71 Ann Street, Kitchener

Registration: [Online](#)

Untapped Sustainability Resources

Is your organization struggling with time or money when it comes to sustainability? Join us to learn from professionals about possibly unknown sustainability support resources that are available in the community and current financial incentives that exist to assist your organization.

Date: December 4, 2014

Time: 7:30 to 10:00 am

Location: Waterloo Inn Ballroom, 475 King St. N., Waterloo

Registration: [Online](#)

6th Annual Evening of Recognition

Mark your calendar to join us in celebrating the sustainability-focused actions of local organizations! Further details to come early 2015.

2014/2015 Event Sponsors

We are thrilled to announce the following renewing event sponsors:

Presenting Sponsor



Supporting Sponsor



Contributing Sponsor

Crawford & Company Canada

SWR Updates



Creating Action! Engaging Community, Building Momentum

Last Thursday evening was ClimateActionWR's first community event since the development and unanimous endorsement of [A Climate Action Plan for Waterloo Region: Living Smarter in 2020](#). The tremendous crowd of 126 attendees at THEMUSEUM in downtown Kitchener heard from five unique community perspectives touching upon the importance of local action, the need for youth engagement, and the increased appetite and opportunity for sustainable endeavors here in Waterloo Region.

Afterwards, attendees stayed to network and walked away inspired by what the Climate Action Plan means for the future of our community. The evening also included the premiere of ClimateActionWR's new video - [which you can find here](#) - as well as the introduction of

the initiative's very first Leadership Committee. As always, for more information, check out www.climateactionwr.ca.

Tova's First Ride in an Electric Vehicle!

Our Executive Director, Tova Davidson, had the opportunity to drive an Electric Vehicle (EV) as part of a localized campaign of World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) ['First Dates with David Miller'](#). The CEO of Communtech, Iain Klugman, joined Tova for the ride. They had meaningful conversations about sustainable transportation in Waterloo Region and received a tour of the 20/20 Laboratory for Fuel Cell and Green Energy at the University of Waterloo. Read more about their exciting outing in an EV [here](#).

ClimateAction Waterloo Region Leadership Committee

ClimateActionWR is excited to announce the successful formation of its first Leadership Committee! Over the last six weeks, 17 community leaders were selected to represent the diverse interests of Waterloo Region. This Committee's primary role is to provide strategic guidance and expertise throughout the implementation of [A Climate Action Plan for Waterloo Region](#). To learn more about the Committee and its members, stay tuned to the ClimateAction [website](#) over the next couple of days.

Research, Ideas, & Community Events



Options for Climate Change Policy Well Characterized, Study says

Policy options for climate change risk management are straightforward and have well understood strengths and weaknesses, according to a new study by the [American Meteorological Society \(AMS\) Policy Program](#). "Large gaps remain in society's consideration of climate policy," said Paul Higgins, the author of the study. "This study can help in the development of a comprehensive strategy for climate change risk management because it explores a much larger set of policy options." [Find out more about it here.](#)

ClimateScope 2014 - Global Study Shows Clean Energy Activity Surges in Developing World

Developing nations represent a large and rapidly growing share of the world's clean energy investment, according to Climatescope 2014 a [country-by-country assessment, interactive report and index](#). The results suggest renewable technologies can be just as cost-competitive in emerging parts of the world as they are in richer nations. The findings show clean energy capacity added in these nations grew at a faster pace than in developed countries, more than doubling in the past five years. [Find out more about it here.](#)

U.S. Insurers Meet Climate Risk With 'Deeply Troubling' Silence

Even though insurers are in the business of protecting others from risk, [a new report](#) shows that most major United States players are turning a blind eye to a serious threat to their own bottom line—climate change. This stands in stark contrast to [other big businesses, from carmaker General Motors to candymaker Mars Inc.](#) that are increasingly taking a public stand on climate change and devoting resources to combat it. [Find out more about it here.](#)

Life Cycle Analysis Confirms Renewables' Lighter Footprint

For years, some critics of renewable energy have contended that it's really no better than fossil fuels when you consider the entire life cycle that goes into making their components. They even say there may not be enough copper, steel and other resources to build all the solar panels and wind turbines needed for a low-carbon future. But [comprehensive research](#) recently released shows how far off their thinking is from reality. [Find out more about it here.](#)

From the Blog



Community Environmental Election Forum keeps sustainability top of mind

On Tuesday October 14, we got together with another number of environmentally focused not-for-profits to host an election event that focused on sustainability. This event brought together over 40 candidates from across Waterloo Region to talk about their stance on environmental issues and connect with residents who are concerned with the same issues...[\[Read more\]](#)

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Actions - Join the Movement

On October 6th I had the privilege of attending the David Suzuki Foundation Blue Dot Tour at The Centre in The Square. Many of the speakers, including our own Tova Davidson talked about our love, as a species, for telling stories. How the stories were passed down from generation to generation were what made...[\[Read more\]](#)

Shad Valley Entrepreneurship Program a guiding force, then and now

Ten years ago I had the opportunity to spend a month at Lakehead University facing science, technology, engineering, math and entrepreneurial challenges as a 2004 Shad.

On Oct 23rd, memories of that month flooded back as I joined SWR staff and volunteer colleagues at the 2014 Shad Valley Entrepreneurship Cup to present a group of 2014 Shads with...[\[Read more\]](#)

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