



Good afternoon from the SWR team,
Welcome to the January Update.

In this edition you will read about an existing RCI Pledging Partner that has upped their commitment and increased their carbon reduction target, a couple of new RCI members as well as a change in our staff team. There are also a couple of new ways for you to engage in the network including our annual Photo Contest and the upcoming event featuring a VP of Unilever Canada, John Coyne.

All of us at SWR look forward to working with you and would love to hear from you about ways that we can support your sustainability journey.

Have a great month

Cheers,

Tova Davidson
Executive Director
Sustainable Waterloo Region

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Our Facebook Page



Sustainable Waterloo Region Program Members

New Regional Carbon Initiative Members



[Afterglow](#)
Observing Organization



[Township of Wilmot](#)
Observing Organization

Upgrading Regional Carbon Initiative Members

New TravelWise Members



Kitchener Public Library

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

Upcoming Events



Unilever's Sustainable Living Plan

Sustainability: Core to how Unilever does business
Join us as John Coyne shares how Unilever is working toward doubling in size while reducing its environmental footprint. John will outline how they developed their Sustainable Living Plan, their progress to date and next steps.

Date: January 28, 2015
Time: 7:30 to 9:30 am
Location: Tannery Event Centre, 151 Charles Street W., Kitchener
Registration: [Online](#)

6th Annual Evening of Recogniton

Mark your calendar to join us in celebrating the sustainability-focused actions of local organizations and the release of our 2014 Report! Registration will open next month.

SWR Updates



Mat Thijssen: His Last Words as TravelWise Program Manager

It's with great excitement (and a little sadness) that I conclude my time on the SWR staff team. After three years of working in the office on the TravelWise program, I'll miss all of my wonderful co-workers, always-inspiring conversations, and all the local partnerships and friendships. SWR has been an incredible place to work, and I'm excited to see all of the success I know it will continue to have. The sustainability network in Waterloo Region is constantly growing, and I am thrilled to be a part of that in my new role as Sustainability Coordinator with the University of Waterloo. I still plan on volunteering with SWR, and wanted to thank everyone who has supported TravelWise and myself over the past three years. I look forward to collaborating with you further!

Research, Ideas, & Community Events





An Afternoon with the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

The Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, the the Faculty of Arts at Wilfred Laurier University, and the Laurier Naturalists are pleased to welcome the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Gord Miller, to Wilfrid Laurier University. Tuesday February 3, 1:15 - 2:45pm at the Paul Martin Centre.

Sustainable Food Systems Speaker Series

THEMUSEUM is delighted to present its Sustainable Food Systems Speaker Series, taking place for 8 weeks on Sundays at 1:30pm, beginning January 18, 2015 until March 8, 2015. Please join us to sample the fresh cultural content we have foraged for you. We expect you will walk away satiated after sampling the diverse voices, nourishing your connection to the amazing food resources tha our region offers. For more information and a schedule of events, [[Read More](#)].

New GHG Protocol Recruits Ranchers in Fight Against Climate Change

Daily News Rodeo, January 8th

The California Air Pollution Control Officers Association has announced the approval of a new greenhouse gas emission reduction credit protocol that recruits ranchers in the fight against climate change. The new protocol involves sustainable land management practices that help store atmospheric carbon in the soil through a process of applying compost to rangelands. The practice helps reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases through enhanced photosynthetic capture of carbon dioxide from the air, generates tradable offset credits for ranchers and enhances the productivity and water holding capacity of rangelands. [[Read More](#)]

New York to Fund Power Plant GHG Projects

Argus. January 5 2015

New York State has launched a \$14.5mn pilot program to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from power plants. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority will make up to \$2mn available for each project selected. To be eligible for funding, projects must be "replicable" and use "market-ready technologies." Successful applicants must demonstrate GHG cuts that can be sustained. Funding will come from the state's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) CO2 allowance auction revenue. [[Read More](#)]

How do you put a Price on Nature?

Radio Lab. December 23, 2014

Back in 1997, a team of scientists slapped a giant price tag on the earth. They calculated the dollar value of every ecosystem on the planet, and tallied it all up: 142.7 trillion dollars. It's a powerful form of sticker shock — one that could give environmentalists ammunition to protect wetlands and save forests. But some people argue it actually devalues something that should be seen as priceless. Then the apple farmers of Mao County in central China turn this whole debate upside down and make us question the value of understanding nature in terms of dollars and cents. [[Listen to the podcast here](#)]

From the Blog

Sustainable Waterloo Region 6th Annual Photo Contest

By: Cailin Munroe

Sustainable Waterloo Region is so excited to announce the launch of our 6th annual photo contest! Over the past 5 years we have come to see the amazing photos you can take that



really show the beauty of Waterloo Region, and we don't doubt we will see the same submissions this year. This year we will be having three categories, plus a bonus style-shot to inspire some creativity! In addition to our usual 3 categories (Natural Environment, Human Environment, and Built Environment) we are adding a Long Exposure bonus. We are hoping to get some cool and artistic shots. [[Read More](#)]

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