



Town of Wolfville Sustainability Initiative (WSI)

Presentation to Climate Change Workshop

St. John's Newfoundland

December 19, 2005

The Town of Wolfville

- Small town located in central Nova Scotia in the Annapolis Valley
- Primary local industries include agriculture, Michelin, Acadia University, wineries and tourism
- Population of approximately 3,700 swells to 7,500 during the academic year
- Large senior and academic populations

Wolfville Sustainability Initiative (WSI) Evolution

- Town of Wolfville in partnership with The Centre for Rural Sustainability (CRS) established the WSI to explore sustainability initiatives within the community
- Workshops for elected and appointed officials were held for education on The Natural Step Process (TNS)
- This created political acceptance for further exploration about sustainability
- This also put Wolfville in a leadership position in relation to other municipalities

Current Success Stories

- Wolfville Green House Gas Emissions Report
- Participation in the One Tonne Community Challenge (Eco-Kings Action Team)
- Paperless Council & staff meetings
- LED light program
- Pesticide free practice on municipal property (Pesticide Management Task Force)
- 747 Project (partners with Nova Scotia Nature Trust)
- No idling practice

Background & Orientation

- Town, in partnership with CRS, applied for and was successful in obtaining Federal & Provincial funding to assist with the MPS review and other sustainability projects
- Funding available from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) through the Municipal Green Enabling Fund Program
 - Program supports greening and/or sustainable projects

Background & Orientation (cont'd)

- Town of Wolfville made application to the FCM and received \$83,000 for this project
- Town hired Karen Dempsey for a two-year contract to manage the MPS/LUB Review
- Review will update the overall plan using sustainable principles as a foundation
- As a result of this funding a task force was created to oversee the project

Partners

- FCM (\$83,000)
 - detailed agreement that includes five main components that the Town must fulfill
- Province of Nova Scotia – SNSMR (\$40,000)
 - \$20,000 each year for two years and staff in-kind participation
- Wolfville Sustainability Initiative - Advisory Group
- Centre for Rural Sustainability - Consultant Group

Sustainable Community Planning (SCP) Task Force

- Task force consists of representatives from the following organizations;
- Town Council
- Planning Services Public Advisory Committee
- Heritage Advisory Group
- Wolfville Business Development Corporation
- Acadia University
- Centre for Rural Sustainability

SCP Task Force (cont'd)

- Community at large representative
- Youth Representative (yet to be determined)
- Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations
- MPS/LUB Project Manager
- Staff and/or consultants as required

Role of SCP Task Force

- Acts as citizen advisory board recommending to Planning Services Public Advisory Committee
- Prepare a Sustainable Community Plan & Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS)
- Rewrite the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) using The Natural Step (TNS) framework
- Consider planning issues on the basis of sustainable principles
- Complete the five projects as contracted
- Works with Project Manager & Project Leads

Contracted Projects

- The Town of Wolfville, in partnership with the CRS, has contracted with the FCM & SNS&MR to complete five sustainability projects within two years.
 - Council & staff training
 - Public education
 - Innovative infrastructure projects
 - Community health indicators
 - MPS/LUB review

Players

- Council
- SCP Task Force
- PSPAC
- FCM, SNS&MR
- Public: Input, Education & Engagement process
- Agencies and Organizations represented on the Task Force
- Consultants, Partners, Town Management Team, Project leads
- Other PAC

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- Questions?