A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.19.180, entitled “Sustainability Initiatives Update”; AND THAT Council endorse Sustainability Committee Recommendations 1 through 4, as identified in report FAF.19.180.

B. Overview

This report provides an update regarding the Sustainability Committee’s single-use plastics and sustainability recommendations and requests Council’s approval of the same.

C. Background

The Sustainability Committee (“Committee”) is an advisory committee of Council and makes recommendations to the Town on its path to sustainability.

To this end, the Committee has considered various matters related to sustainability, and has developed several recommendations for Council’s consideration. This report provides context and an update regarding these items, with the request that Council endorse the Committee Resolutions as noted below. A similar report was also provided to the Committee at its September 11, 2019 meeting.

D. Analysis

Committee Recommendation No. 1

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.19.135, entitled “Sustainability Committee Resources” for information purposes;

AND THAT the Sustainability Committee request that Council consider additional funding to an upset limit of $21,000 be established in 2019 and $58,000 in 2020 to hire
a 12 month contract Sustainability position reporting to the CAO and to provide resources to the Sustainability Committee;

AND THAT the Sustainability Committee request Council to use the $34,000 from taxation Sustainability Plan funding in 2019 and replace that sum with $34,000 from the extra gas tax funding received following approval of the 2019 budget;

AND THAT the Sustainability Committee request that staff develop a Request for an Additional Full Time Staff Position “Manager of Sustainability” for consideration in the proposed 2020 Budget, Carried.

Attachment 1 of Report FAF.19.180 are the approved Sustainability Committees of July 10, 2019. Staff is seeking direction based on Council’s endorsement of recommendation 1 as outlined above, which came out of the July 10, 2019 Committee discussion.

Committee Recommendation No. 2

THAT the Sustainability Committee receive Staff Report FAF.19.101 entitled “Sustainable Path Funding Information” for information purposes.

AND THAT the Sustainability Committee recommend to Council this funding be used to develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (“ICSP”), Carried.

Staff is seeking direction based on Council’s endorsement of recommendation 2 as outlined above. To clarify the recommendation, the funding being proposed to be used to develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (“ICSP”) is __________.

Committee Recommendation No. 3

THAT the Sustainability Committee refer to staff Items 2 and 3 from the June 3, 2019 single-use plastics motion being:

- Phase out the sale of bottled water and the use of single-use plastic cups, straws and stir sticks at all Town-owned facilities and events by December 2019 in order to model good governmental practices;
- Develop a three-year plan to increase the number of water bottle re-filling stations on Town-owned properties, to be included in the 2020, 2021 and 2022 budget cycles;

AND THAT the Sustainability Committee include:

Items 4 and 5 from the June 3, 2019 single-use plastics motion being:

- Develop recognition/reward signage (i.e. “We’ve gone green for a Blue future” or similar) for business operators who model good environmental practices by not supplying single-use shopping bags, water bottles, straws and stir sticks;
- Investigate the development and costs of a Town of The Blue Mountains reusable bag-for-life or fabric bag options with appropriate logo for possible
purchase by retailers at cost, and to be used for various promotional events by the Town

in the direction for the Sustainability Committee to work with all stakeholders through a public consultation process, to develop a plan for inclusion in the 2020 Budget to reduce and/or eliminate single-use plastics effective July 1, 2020, Carried.

Staff is seeking direction based on Council’s endorsement of recommendation 3 as outlined above.

Staff however has met with Community Services as well as the Towns Fire Services to consider opportunities in phasing out the use of single-use plastics within Town facilities. In addition staff have also considered potential locations that would either replace existing water fountains and or add water bottle fill stations.

For example, staff is considering the installation of water bottle fill station in both Fire Hall 1 and Fire Hall 2. Firefighters currently do not have fountains in the stations, the concept brought forward by the Fire Department Staff was to supply the fire fighters with personal water bottles that are labeled with their personal firefighter ID number. This along with considering the replacement of plastic water bottles with Tetra Packs “see attachment 2” on the firetrucks for supply of water bottles for hydration for the fire fighters while engaged in training exercises or while on the fire grounds or emergency response scene.

Currently the Town has water bottle fill stations at the following locations;

- Beaver Valley Community Centre (Arena Lobby – replaced original drinking fountain in 2016)
- Town Hall (replaced original drinking fountain in 2018)
- The Georgian Trail is proposed to have a water fill station installed at Gamble Park located at the Georgian Trail crossing of Bruce Street North.
- As noted above two addition water bottle fill station will be considered in the 2020 budget for Fire Hal 1 and Fire Hall 2 along with the supply of water bottles for the fire fighters as part of their equipment.
• Other locations that will be considered in 2020, 2021, and 2022 for water bottle re fill stations are:
  o The Blue Mountains Public Library (L.E. Shore location)
  o The Craigleith Depot
  o Beaver Valley Community Centre (Community Hall replacement of existing drinking fountain)
  o Thornbury Harbour

In addition, staff have confirmed that the Beaver Valley Community School also replaced existing water fountains with water bottle fill stations within the last 5 years.

In regards to the marketing and the potential recognition/reward programs. Staff will be working with the Communication Committee to help provide consideration and recommendation for marketing opportunities and on how best to proceed with such programs through the overall corporate lens so other such type opportunities may utilize recognition/reward programs offered by the Town such as a youth friendly or cycle friendly designation program.

In 2009, the town completed a GHG Reduction Guide program see “Attachment 3 & 4” that staff and Committees may wish to refer to when considering marketing and awareness promotion ideas. The Town received funding through the Community Go Green Fund for this project. This program no longer exists, however some funding opportunities may be reviewed for consideration.

**Recommendation No. 4**

THAT the Sustainability Committee recommends to Council that the second portion of the June 3, 2019 single-use plastics motion which “direct[s] staff to work with the Sustainability Committee and all stakeholders through a public consultation process, to develop a plan for inclusion in the 2020 Budget to reduce and/or eliminate single-use plastics effective July 1st, 2020” be included into the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

Deputy Mayor Bartnicki requested a recorded vote:

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<td>Potter, Rob</td>
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</tbody>
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The motion is **CARRIED**.
Staff is seeking direction based on Council’s endorsement of recommendation 4 as outlined above.

E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

Goal #1: Create Opportunities for Sustainability
Objective #1 Retain Existing Business
Objective #2 Attract New Business
Objective #3 Promote a Diversified Economy
Objective #4 Support Value-Added Agriculture and Culinary Tourism
Objective #5 Improved Visibility and Local Identity

Goal #2: Engage Our Communities & Partners
Objective #1 Improve External Communication with our Constituents
Objective #2 Use Technology to Advance Engagement
Objective #3 Strengthen Partnerships

Goal #3: Support Healthy Lifestyles
Objective #1 Promote the Town as a Healthy Community
Objective #2 Increase the Range of Housing Choices and Promote Housing Affordability
Objective #3 Manager Growth and Promote Smart Growth
Objective #4 Commit to Sustainability

Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational & Operational Excellence
Objective #1 To Be an Employer of Choice
Objective #2 Improve Internal Communications Across our Organization
Objective #3 To Consistently Deliver Excellent Customer Service
Objective #4 To Be a Financially Responsible Organization
Objective #5 Constantly Identify Opportunities to Improve Efficiencies and Effectiveness

Goal #5: Ensure Our Infrastructure is Sustainable
Objective #1 Develop a Long-Term Asset Management Plan for the Maintenance, Renewal and Replacement of Existing Infrastructure
Objective #2 Avoid Unexpected Infrastructure Failure and Associated Costs and Liability
Objective #3 Implement Best Practices in Sustainable Infrastructure
Objective #4 Ensure that Infrastructure is Available to Support Development

F. Environmental Impacts

The marketing and promotion of Sustainable materials.
G. Financial Impact

Staff have broken down the financial impact of each of the four recommendations.

Recommendation #1

The first request is for a 12 month contract to be funded from the $34,000 in 2019 taxation (Sustainable Path) and the remaining coming from an increase to 2020 taxation. The Sustainable Path has a budget of $100,000 with $34,000 funded from 2019 taxation and $66,000 from Gas Tax. Internal salaries and benefits (including contract staff) is not an eligible Gas Tax expense.

The 12 month contract has been costed out at $106,000 including salaries, benefits and some employee costs. The first $34,000 will be funded from the 2019 taxation and the remaining $72,000 from 2020 taxation. This represents approximately half a percent increase on the 2020 taxation levy. The second half of this request is for an additional $34,000 be pulled from the additional Gas Tax received in 2019 so that the committee has the full $100,000 for the Sustainable Path and the contract positions.

Recommendation #2

This recommendation is requesting that Council re-affirm the $100,000 is available for the Sustainable Path Review (the Committee is now calling this plan an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan). This funding will be spent on an external consultant as internal salaries and benefits are not eligible Gas Tax expenses.

Recommendation #3

A capital sheet will be included in the Proposed 2020 Budget for Council’s consideration for the installation of water bottle refilling stations and signage at the various Town facilities. Included with that capital sheet will be the estimated cost and the most appropriate funding source.

Recommendation #4

This recommendation’s financial impact will come in the way of staff time which will be tracked and billed back to the Sustainability Committee.

H. In consultation with

Sustainability Committee

Ruth Prince, Director of Finance and IT Services / Treasurer

Sam Dinsmore, Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets

Community Services

Fire Department
I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been subject to a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Shawn Everitt, cao@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. July 10, 2019 Sustainability Committee minutes
2. Example of a Tetra Pack
3. Example of previously supplied re-useable bag
4. 2009 GHG Reduction Guide “Example of a previous town campaign”

Respectfully Submitted,

Shawn Everitt
Chief Administrative Officer

For more information, please contact: Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer
cao@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 234
Minutes

Sustainability Committee

Meeting Date: July 10, 2019 REVISED
Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers
Prepared by: Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

A. Call to Order

Co-Chairs Councillor Potter and Ken Mehi called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with Committee members Deputy Mayor Bartnicki, Councillor Matrosovs, Sally Leppard, Rosemary Mesley, Julie Scarcella, James Stinson, and Pamela Spence present.

Town staff present included Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt and Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets Sam Dinsmore.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Ken Mehi              Seconded by: Andrea Matrosovs

THAT the Agenda of July 10, 2019 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, Carried.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

NOTE: In accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act and the Town Procedural By-law 2018-20, Sustainability Committee Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

Previous Minutes (May 24, 2019, June 7, 2019)

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs              Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT the Minutes of May 24, 2019 and June 7, 2019 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made, Carried.
B. Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1 Deputations, if any

B.1.1 Presentation: Town Clerk, Corrina Giles
Re: Overview of Town’s Procedural By-law 2018-20

Note: Presentation material included is the Town’s Procedural By-law 2018-20.

Town Clerk Corrina Giles provided an overview of the Town’s Procedural By-law 2018-20. Corrina noted that Executive Assistant Committees of Council Sarah Merrifield will provide a quorum reminder and a call for agenda items for each meeting. If quorum is not obtained prior to the meeting, the meeting shall be cancelled. If quorum is obtained in advance of the meeting, but not at the time of the meeting, the meeting shall be cancelled; there should be no informal meetings of the Committee. Corrina confirmed that agenda items should not be added at the meeting unless to deal with time-sensitive matters. Committee meetings are held in Council Chambers at Town Hall, unless otherwise identified. Currently, Committee meetings are not broadcast, but they will be in the future pending revisions to the Town’s Procedural By-law.

Corrina noted that comments should be addressed through the Chair to ensure proper flow of discussion, and further confirmed the July 16, 2019 Committee of Council training will address matters such as Committee members conflict of interest, procedural requirements, and code of conduct. Corrina confirmed following review and adoption of an updated Procedural By-law for Council and Committee of the Whole, Council has directed staff to consider development of a Procedural By-law for the Committees of Council. This Procedural By-law process will be open to the public and will include an opportunity for Committees to provide input.

Clarification was requested regarding what constitutes time-sensitive matters. Corrina advised that a matter could be considered time-sensitive if the matter cannot be deferred to the next meeting due to a deadline or other imposed limit. Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt noted the Co-Chairs do have an opportunity to call Committee meetings if matters arise which are of an immediate need to address.

Councillor Potter thanked Corrina for her presentation. Corrina left the meeting at 1:12 p.m.
B.2 Public Comment Period (each speaker is allotted three minutes)
NOTE: In accordance with the Town Procedural By-law 2018-20 fifteen minutes is allotted at the Meeting to receive public comments regarding Sustainability Committee matters included on the Agenda. The speaker shall provide their name and address, and shall address their comments to the Chair. Comments shall not refer to personnel, litigation or potential litigation matters.

B.2.1 Lorraine Sutton

Lorraine Sutton spoke regarding trees, both the preservation of existing trees, and the planting of more trees. Lorraine questioned the method of ensuring a discussion about tree planting and preservation is included on the Sustainability Committee agenda. Councillor Matrosovs confirmed the Sustainability Committee has been tasked with considering a long-term strategy for addressing tree canopy protection and enhancement and it was noted that the Tree Preservation By-law Update is a standing item included on each Committee agenda. Co-Chair Ken Mehi noted the Committee may strike a sub-committee which can include members of the public and Sally Leppard confirmed the Sustainable Path document includes related strategies.

B.3 Staff Reports, if any

B.3.1 Sustainability Committee Resources, FAF.19.135

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs Seconded by: Sally Leppard

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.19.135, entitled “Sustainability Committee Resources” for information purposes;

AND THAT the Sustainability Committee request that Council consider additional funding to an upset limit of $21,000 be established in 2019 and $58,000 in 2020 to hire a 12 month contract Sustainability position reporting to the CAO and to provide resources to the Sustainability Committee;

AND THAT the Sustainability Committee request that staff develop a Request for an Additional Full Time Staff Position “Manager of Sustainability” for consideration in the proposed 2020 Budget.

Prior to voting, the Committee considered an amendment to the main motion:

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

AND THAT the Sustainability Committee request Council to use the $34,000 from taxation Sustainability Plan funding in 2019 and replace that sum with $34,000 from the extra gas tax funding received following approval of the 2019 budget, Carried.

The Committee then voted on the main motion, as amended:

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs Seconded by: Sally Leppard

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.19.135, entitled “Sustainability Committee Resources” for information purposes;
AND THAT the Sustainability Committee request that Council consider additional funding to an upset limit of $21,000 be established in 2019 and $58,000 in 2020 to hire a 12 month contract Sustainability position reporting to the CAO and to provide resources to the Sustainability Committee;

AND THAT the Sustainability Committee request Council to use the $34,000 from taxation Sustainability Plan funding in 2019 and replace that sum with $34,000 from the extra gas tax funding received following approval of the 2019 budget;

AND THAT the Sustainability Committee request that staff develop a Request for an Additional Full Time Staff Position “Manager of Sustainability” for consideration in the proposed 2020 Budget, Carried.

B.3.2 Sustainable Path Funding Information, FAF.19.101

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs Seconded by: Julie Scarcella

THAT the Sustainability Committee receive Staff Report FAF.19.101 entitled “Sustainable Path Funding Information” for information purposes.

Prior to voting, the Committee considered an amendment to the main motion:

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs Seconded by: Ken Mehi

AND THAT the Sustainability Committee recommend to Council this funding be used to develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (“ICSP”), Carried.

The Committee then voted on the main motion, as amended:

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs Seconded by: Julie Scarcella

THAT the Sustainability Committee receive Staff Report FAF.19.101 entitled “Sustainable Path Funding Information” for information purposes.

AND THAT the Sustainability Committee recommend to Council this funding be used to develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (“ICSP”), Carried.

Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt noted reference to the Sustainable Path should be maintained, at least for 2019 in order to tie the funding to the approved 2019 budget.

Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets Sam Dinsmore left the meeting at 1:41 p.m.

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Sustainability Committee Terms of Reference Review

Due to the proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference, the Committee did not review the current Terms of Reference during the Committee meeting.
C.2 Update from Sub-Committee revising the Terms of Reference

NOTE: Revised DRAFT Terms of Reference provided.

Julie Scarcella confirmed the intent of the revised DRAFT Terms of Reference, as developed by the sub-committee, is to blend, adapt and modify the existing Terms of Reference to provide clear communication and identify the intention of the Committee. Julie noted the intention in the Terms of Reference is to move towards the ICSP.

The Committee reviewed the revised DRAFT Terms of Reference and requested the following revisions:

1. Section 6 – Communication Policy and Protocol:
   Moved by: Pamela Spence Seconded by: Odette Bartnicki
   THAT the Sustainability Committee direct staff to remove bullet 3 under 6. Communication Policy and Protocol from the revised DRAFT Terms of Reference, and revise bullet 2 to state “Sustainability Committee members shall not direct any messaging without approval of the Chair/Co-Chairs, Carried.

2. Purpose statement: remove reference to “direct[ing] the Town”;
3. Purpose statement: add “development” to the phrase “guide the implementation, monitoring/tracking and reporting…”
4. Section 4 – The Purpose of the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SC): revise to state “Sustainability Committee”
5. Capitalize references to the Sustainable Path
6. Remove capitalization from sustainability
7. Remove abbreviations from the document
8. Format in accordance with the Town’s Terms of Reference standard

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs Seconded by: Pamela Spence
THAT the Sustainability Committee approves the draft Terms of Reference, including the identified revisions, and requests staff to forward the revised Terms of Reference to Council for final review and approval, Carried.

James noted he has a personal conflict that does not allow him to attend Sustainability Committee meetings as they are currently scheduled. The following motion resulted from the discussion:

Moved by: Odette Bartnicki Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley
THAT the Sustainability Committee direct staff to provide alternate meeting dates and times for the Committee’s consideration to be included in the draft Terms of Reference, Carried.
C.3 Update from Sub-Committee regarding Single-Use Plastics

Deputy Mayor Bartnicki noted the sub-committee has fulfilled its mandate, being to clarify the messaging regarding the June 3, 2019 single-use plastics motion.

Moved by: Ken Mehi Seconded by: Odette Bartnicki

THAT the sub-committee stuck to clarify the messaging regarding the June 3, 2019 single-use plastics motion be dissolved having completed its mandate, Carried.

C.4 Discussion of next steps re June 3rd Motion re single-use plastics and timelines in the motion that are directed to the Sustainability Committee for response by August 26th, Deputy Mayor Bartnicki

Moved by: Ken Mehi Seconded by: Sally Leppard

THAT the Sustainability Committee refer to staff Items 2 and 3 from the June 3, 2019 single-use plastics motion being:

- Phase out the sale of bottled water and the use of single-use plastic cups, straws and stir sticks at all Town-owned facilities and events by December 2019 in order to model good governmental practices;
- Develop a three-year plan to increase the number of water bottle re-filling stations on Town-owned properties, to be included in the 2020, 2021 and 2022 budget cycles;

AND THAT the Sustainability Committee include:

Items 4 and 5 from the June 3, 2019 single-use plastics motion being:

- Develop recognition/reward signage (i.e. “We’ve gone green for a Blue future” or similar) for business operators who model good environmental practices by not supplying single-use shopping bags, water bottles, straws and stir sticks;
- Investigate the development and costs of a Town of Blue Mountains reusable bag-for-life or fabric bag options with appropriate logo for possible purchase by retailers at cost, and to be used for various promotional events by the Town

in the direction for the Sustainability Committee to work with all stakeholders through a public consultation process, to develop a plan for inclusion in the 2020 Budget to reduce and/or eliminate single-use plastics effective July 1, 2020, Carried.

Shawn confirmed he will discuss with staff the progress regarding Items 2 and 3 above and follow-up with the Committee.
Julie noted the June 3rd Notice of Motion was a Motion tabled and voted upon days before the Federal Government’s announcement of its plans to reduce/eliminate Single Use Plastics in 2021 and before the Sustainability Committee’s Terms of Reference were ratified at the Committee level. Central to the Terms of Reference is the development of an Integrated Community Sustainable Plan (ICSP) which will include strategies and tactics against all aspects of Waste Management and Recycling and will address single-use plastics at the appropriate time as the process unfolds. Julie noted single-use plastics should be not undertaken as an isolated initiative of the Town’s ICSP process and will pose a distraction and could prevent compliance to the current Federal Gas Tax funding requirements as well as future Gas Tax funding that the Town may request. Further to this the upcoming federal programs will likely develop requirements for all municipalities and regulations as well as funding programs. Julie noted the need to ensure that that are no unnecessary tax burdens and unbudgeted costs placed on the Town of The Blue Mountains residents.

Moved by: Rosemary Mesley
Seconded by: Julie Scarcella

THAT the Sustainability Committee recommends to Council that the second portion of the June 3, 2019 single-use plastics motion which “direct[s] staff to work with the Sustainability Committee and all stakeholders through a public consultation process, to develop a plan for inclusion in the 2020 Budget to reduce and/or eliminate single-use plastics effective July 1st, 2020” be included into the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

Deputy Mayor Bartnicki requested a recorded vote:

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The motion is CARRIED.

Shawn Everitt noted he will be taking a report to Council regarding the Sustainability Committee and will include the motions from the July 10, 2019 meeting for Council’s information to ensure Council is aware of the Committee’s response and action plan as it relates to single-use plastics.
C.5 Email from Councillor Potter dated June 14th to Committee Members, Deputy Mayor Bartnicki

The Committee reviewed the email from Councillor Potter dated June 14 and discussed the intent of the email was to confirm the Committee must discuss matters at the open Committee meetings, rather than via email. Deputy Mayor Bartnicki thanked Councillor Potter for clarifying, and noted Committee decisions must be made during the meetings.

C.6 Discussion of Merits, and Possible Scheduling, of a Work Planning Session, Sally Leppard (verbal)

Sally briefly noted she would like the Committee to consider if the scheduling of a Sustainability Committee Workshop, hosted offsite, might be a good path forward. This topic was deferred to the August 14, 2019 Committee meeting to be discussed in greater specificity.

C.7 Sustainability Committee Background Information (verbal)

Note: staff are requesting the Committee’s feedback regarding requested background information. Documents/information requested so far include:

- Sustainable Path;

Sarah requested Committee members to consider the types of resources they wish to receive related to Sustainability matters. The Committee members will follow-up via email with any requested documents and this matter will be reviewed at the August 14, 2019 Sustainability Committee meeting.

C.8 Discussion regarding Committee Contacts (verbal)

Sarah requested that Committee members provide written confirmation that staff can share contact details amongst the Committee members, specifically phone numbers and email addresses. The Committee members agreed to provide consent in writing.

C.9 Tree Preservation By-law Update, Councillor Andrea Matrosovs (verbal)

Councillor Matrosovs noted the Town held a Public Meeting to consider comments relating to the first portion of the Tree Preservation By-law Update. Currently, staff and Councillor Matrosovs are reviewing the public comments received. Councillor Matrosovs advised she has a meeting with Community Services staff to discuss the long-term strategies for addressing tree preservation. Further information will be provided at the August 14, 2019 Sustainability Committee meeting.
C.10 **Town Policies & Legislation Acknowledgement**


Sarah noted a training session is scheduled for July 16, 2019 to review relevant materials and will be provided to all Committee of Council members. The Committee agreed to review the materials provided and sign their acknowledgement of receipt at the next regularly scheduled Sustainability Committee meeting.

D. **Correspondence**

D.1 **Drinking Water Source Protection**  
**Re: Modernizing the Conservation Authorities Act**  
Received for information

D.2 **Drinking Water Source Protection Committee**  
**Re: First Progress Report**  
Received for information

NOTE: Council referred items D.1 and D.2 to the Sustainability Committee for information at the June 3, 2019 Council meeting.

D.3 **City of Brantford**  
**Re: Request for Support regarding Single-Use Plastic Straws**  
For Committee consideration and report back to Council

NOTE: Council referred item D.3 to the Sustainability Committee for consideration and report back to Council at the May 13, 2019 Council meeting.

Moved by: Odette Bartnicki Seconded by: Ken Mehi

THAT the Sustainability Committee receive correspondence items D.1 to D.3 for information purposes and sends acknowledgement of receipt regarding Item D.3 City of Brantford Re: Request for Support regarding Single-Use Plastics Straws dated April 16, 2019, Carried.

The Committee noted they would like to be kept updated on the City of Brantford’s progress regarding single-use plastics.
E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

E.2.1 2020 Budget Process Information

E.2.2 Sustainability Committee Resources Follow-up

E.2.3 Consideration of a Workshop Planning Session

E.2.4 Potential Sustainability Committee Meeting Dates

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

August 14, 2019
Town Hall, Council Chambers

G. Adjournment

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs                Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT the Sustainability Committee does now adjourn at 4:22 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, Carried.
‘Your Community, Your Planet’ – Reusable Bag
A Message From Mayor Anderson

On behalf of Council and Town staff, I am pleased to introduce The Blue Mountains Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Guide. We have created this guide to help us take action on climate change, help the environment and save a little money too!

The guide was developed with input from members of our community and Town staff. It builds on the goals the Town has set to reduce our GHG emissions. These goals are just the beginning - soon, we hope to set more aggressive targets that will assist us in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The Town is taking steps to reduce impacts from our operations which you can learn about on page 7. As well, I am personally taking action and challenge you all to help me. Updates on my progress will be posted on the Town’s website regularly. Some of the things I plan to do are biking to work X days a week, begin composting in my backyard and eat more local food or walk regularly when possible.

We can all make many of the changes outlined in this guide every day. Let’s take the steps together to learn about what climate change means, and how each of us can make a difference by reducing the emissions we create.

Join me and together we will make the changes that build a sustainable, healthy environment and community. Let us know what you are doing, by filling in the commitment card at the back of this guide!

Yours very truly,
Ellen Anderson, Mayor
The Blue Mountains

Acknowledgements

Jeffrey Fletcher and Adrian McManus, Engineering and Public Works Department, The Blue Mountains
Robert Butler, Photography
Renee Smith, Illustrations
Jeff Domm & Andrea Wray, Graphic Design
Project coordination provided by Lura Consulting

This guide has been endorsed by the Earth Day Canada’s EcoAction Teams program (www.ecoactionteams.ca) and the Clean Air Partnership (www.cleanairpartnership.org). Both of these organizations are on the front lines of promoting GHG reduction activities for communities like ours.
What Does This Guide Include?

The guide features the following:

- **Get With It!** Learn how to join Earth Day Canada’s EcoAction Teams today!
- **Climate Change 101:** Going to school has never been this easy! Get an A+ by learning what climate change is, what causes climate change, where GHGs come from, and how we can reduce them.
- **What the Town is Doing:** Read about The Blue Mountains’ target for GHG reductions. Find out what your Town is doing to reduce its carbon footprint in Town facilities and operations.
- **What You Can Do:** Find out what simple actions you can take to help our Town reach its GHG reduction goals. Each of the actions corresponds with the EcoAction Teams online calculator, which you can use to track your household’s progress.
- **Ambassadors:** Meet local ambassadors from your community who are already doing amazing things to reduce their environmental impact.
- **“In Orbit” Fun Zone:** Challenge yourself! Discover interesting facts. Impress your friends with your knowledge. Have fun!
- **Commitment Card:** Show your commitment to reducing GHG – send back your card and enter the draw to win a prize package!

Get With It!

Join the EcoAction Teams!

The actions in this guide are the same actions that Earth Day Canada uses in its EcoAction Teams online calculator. This online tool allows users to register, track their actions, and calculate their GHG emissions. Registration is FREE and EASY! Like the online calculator, actions in this guide to reduce GHGs are based on 5 themes: energy, water, waste, food & garden, and transportation that fall into 3 levels of effort:

- **Easiest - Low Impact**
- **Easier - Moderate Impact**
- **Easy - High Impact**

This guide will help you choose actions to reduce GHGs. When you register online for the EcoAction Teams, for every action you choose, the online calculator will calculate your GHG emissions and dollar savings. You can also join The Blue Mountains EcoAction Team. Your individual actions will be pooled with the actions of others in our community, allowing us to calculate a “team savings report” that shows our collective progress toward reducing GHGs.

Choosing to register for the EcoAction Teams is up to you. You can still take actions in the guide and register your commitment to the actions by mailing in the commitment card at the end of this guide. If you don’t have a computer, you can register using the Town’s public access computer at the library.

Start with the easiest actions and move on to others actions when you can. As you add more actions, the online calculator will track your progress for you!

Join The Blue Mountains EcoAction Teams Today! www.ecoactionteams.ca

For support, contact:

The Blue Mountains Environmental Initiatives Coordinator at 1-888-BLUMTNS ext. 264 or email ghguide@thebluemountains.ca

EcoAction Team Program Coordinator at 1-888-283-2784 or email ecoactionteams@earthday.ca

The EcoAction Teams online calculator is subject to change.
Great Balls of Fire!
How Changing Temperatures Will Affect Us

A changing climate may have consequences for the Blue Mountains in a number of areas:

- Agriculture: Climate change can affect agriculture in various ways including length of growing season, amount and timing of rainfall, extreme weather events, drought, snow cover and frost periods. Climate change also indirectly impacts agricultural productivity through changes in the types of pests, invasive species, weeds and disease.

- Forests: Warmer conditions combined with increasing levels of carbon dioxide could increase forest distribution and growth, but at the same time make forests more vulnerable to insects and diseases, forest fires, and competition from unwanted species.

- Water Resources: Water levels in the Great Lakes are expected to decline. Water shortages have already been documented in southern regions of Ontario and will likely become more frequent as summer temperatures and evaporation rates increase. Sections of the shoreline of southern Georgian Bay will become more vulnerable to shortages within the next 20 years. Drinking water intake and wastewater outfalls would need to be moved into deeper water at great expense.

- Fish & Wildlife Habitat: Warming temperatures could affect how fish and wildlife populations are distributed. Already there have been changes in the relative abundance of fish species in southern Ontario showing a shift from cold-water species to more warm-water species. Warmer temperatures have likely contributed to extensive algae blooms and invasions of non-native species in the Great Lakes.

- Human Health: Higher temperatures and increases in air pollution episodes are expected to increase heat-related and air pollution mortality in southern and central Ontario by the 2050s. Extreme heavy rain events, such as the one in May 2000 that contributed to the E. coli outbreak in Walkerton, are projected to increase.

- Tourism and Outdoor Recreation: Changed weather patterns could alter how Canadians enjoy the outdoors. Recreational fishing, game hunting and winter recreation may be particularly impacted.

The Blue Mountains has set a target to reduce GHG emissions from both Town operations and community activities. Some of the actions already taken to meet this target include:

- A water conservation initiative to install water meters in all homes
- Buying Green products and services
- Town Council’s priority to increase the urban tree canopy
- Development of a GHG reduction and offset plan for Town operations
- Solar lighting for outdoor signage
- New waste reduction programs (e.g., electronic waste recycling and additional blue box items)
- Vehicle “idle free” zones (see page 15 for a list of locations)

The Blue Mountains completed an inventory of GHG emissions related to Town operations and community activities. GHG emissions are measured in units known as equivalent carbon dioxide (eCO2). Amounts of eCO2 are determined by converting emissions from the combustion of various fuels and the burying or burning of solid waste using “conversion coefficients” for each “fuel.”

In 2007, The Blue Mountains completed an inventory of GHG emissions related to Town operations and community activities. GHG emissions are measured in units known as equivalent carbon dioxide (eCO2). Amounts of eCO2 are determined by converting emissions from the combustion of various fuels and the burying or burning of solid waste using “conversion coefficients” for each “fuel.”

In the future, the Town will take more aggressive action on climate change. The Town plans to continue to develop new and innovative ways to reduce GHGs. If you have ideas, please let us know! Contact us at: ghguide@thebluemountains.ca.

To reach our current reduction target, each household in The Blue Mountains needs to reduce their GHG emissions by 850 kg per year!

GHG Reduction Target 2016
To reduce GHG emissions from Town operations to 20% below 1994 levels by 2016 and community emissions by 6% below 1994 levels by 2016.

TBM Resolution passed in March 2006
Did you know? Proper weather stripping and caulking of doors and windows can reduce heating bills by 25%.

EASY 1) Weather-stripping - Find out what type of weather-stripping is best for the windows of your home and purchase the proper equipment.

EASY 2) Caulking - Air seal any cracks and penetrations on the inside surface of exterior walls, ceilings or floors.

EASY 3) Weather-stripping doors - Apply weather-stripping around exterior doors.

EASY 4) Insulate older hot water tanks - Wrap the heater in an insulating blanket. Be sure to check your user's manual and labels on the tank first.

EASY 5) Insulate piping - Insulate the entire length of your hot water pipes - running to and from tanks.

EASY 6) Insulate the roof - Insulate the attic. Ask someone with experience to help you.

EASY 7) Insulate the walls of your home.

EASY 8) Buy energy efficient appliances - Replace your old appliances with new energy star models.

EASY 9) Green Power - Buy a portion (or all) of your household energy from renewable sources [see "Where to get help" for Green Power resources]

Get An Energy Audit Rebate!

The Elora Centre for Environmental Excellence performs home energy audits in The Blue Mountains in association with Natural Resources Canada's ecoEnergy Grant Program. The audits have resulted in over 8,000 tonnes of GHG reductions each year over the past 10 years. Call 1-866-865-7337 (REEP) to book a visit from a contracted delivery agent. ecoEnergy Retrofit for Houses will help homeowners:

• Reduce home heating costs.
• Improve home comfort.
• Earn a grant back from Natural Resources Canada.

Depending on the retrofits you complete, you could be eligible for a rebate of up to $5000.

Quick Facts:

1) If every person in The Blue Mountains replaced one 60W light bulb with a Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb, we'd save the same amount of greenhouse gases as pulling 16 cars off the road for a year.

2) If every Blue Mountains household turned up their fridge by 2 degrees, we'd save enough electricity to power nearly 70 homes.
Can You Dig It? FOOD & GARDEN actions to reduce GHGs

You may be wondering how food and gardens relate to GHGs. The food we eat typically travels hundreds to thousands of kilometers before it reaches our plates. That uses a lot of fuel! Food production is also a major cause of climate change because of the land and water resources required. Your food and garden choices do matter. The actions below will help guide you to the best choices for reducing GHGs.

**EASY**

1) Eat more vegetarian meals - Choose one day each week to eat only vegetarian meals. If you are already doing that, add more days where your household goes meat-free.

2) Limit perishable purchases - Buy only what you can consume in perishable foods. This will reduce the risk of your household having to waste food.

3) Reduce your food miles: Buy local - identify sources where you can buy produce that is locally grown or produced such as farmers’ markets and produce stands. Buy local food and imported whenever possible and adjust your diet to buy more of what’s available in season.

**EASIER**

4) Water your lawn in the morning - Cultivate a water-smart yard by watering early in the morning, and, only when necessary.

5) Grow it in the garden - Plant your garden after the last frost considering what and how much you will plant, your climate and location, how to keep your garden naturally pest-free, and which plants grow well together.

**EASIEST**

- Buy only what you can consume in perishable foods. This will reduce the risk of your household having to waste food.

- Identify sources where you can buy produce that is locally grown or produced such as farmers’ markets and produce stands. Buy local food and imported whenever possible and adjust your diet to buy more of what’s available in season.

- Cultivate a water-smart yard by watering early in the morning, and, only when necessary.

- Plant your garden after the last frost considering what and how much you will plant, your climate and location, how to keep your garden naturally pest-free, and which plants grow well together.

**Did you know?**

It takes 5 to 7 kilograms of grain to produce 1 kilogram of beef. Each kilogram of grain takes considerable energy to produce, process and transport. As meat consumption rises around the world, so does its climate impact.

**Quick Fact:**

Did you know?

If every Blue Mountains household composted our organic food waste, we’d reduce waste output by as much as 470 households worth.

Visit www.ecoactionteams.ca today to register for the online calculator and watch your GHG savings grow.
**Take a Load Off!**

**Actions to reduce WASTE**

Household garbage accounts for 40% of the solid waste generated in Canada and community waste contributes to 14% of municipal GHG emissions. Landfills are a major source of GHGs. As well, the trucks required to transport waste to landfills and recycling markets release harmful GHGs. Reduce waste in your household and take a load off your GHG contributions.

1) **Composting:** An easy combination - Separate your food waste from your regular garbage and recycling. Designate a small household container for your scraps then dump the contents into your backyard composter or green bin daily.

2) **Bring a bag:** Reduce the number of disposable plastic bags brought into your home by taking your own bag when you go shopping.

3) **Litterless lunch:** Pack meals in reusable containers and bottles rather than using plastic wrap or aluminum foil.

4) **Paper is nice, use it twice:** Put a basket beside the phone and wherever else you need paper. Keep it filled with scrap paper for notes, and make sure both sides are used before recycling.

5) **Clothing Swap:** Go through closets and storage spaces to gather items like clothing, bedding, curtains and other fabrics that you no longer use.

6) **No junk mail thanks:** Write to the Canadian Marketing Association to have your name removed from mailing and telemarketing lists. Make a “No Junk Mail Thanks” sign for your mailbox. Send junk mail back to the sender (write ‘Return to Sender’ on the envelope). Contact Canada Post to get the red dot that signals to the postman that the Canadian Marketing Association has removed you from mailing and telephone lists.

7) **Reusable containers to go:** Bring reusable containers with you instead of accepting disposable containers for take out and leftovers at restaurants.

Did you know?

Burning garbage releases harmful chemicals into the air including nitrogen oxides, which can damage your lungs and are a major greenhouse gas.

Use your Blue Box!

- glass bottles and jars
- aluminum and tin containers
- rigid plastic containers (numbered: 1-7)
- empty paint and aerosol cans

Use your Grey Box!

- paper bags, office paper, newspapers, magazines, flyers
- paper egg cartons, cereal boxes, paper tubes
- juice boxes and milk cartons

At the Landfill:

Take used home electronics (computers, TVs, stereos, vcrs, monitors, etc.) household hazardous wastes (on specific days), organic wastes to our landfill site for free recycling.

Solid Waste Disposal and Compost Site: 7888090 Grey County Road 13, The Blue Mountains.
Get Your Groove On!

TRANSPORTATION actions to get you moving

In Canada, the largest contributor to GHG emissions is transportation, which includes both passenger and freight vehicles. With the high cost of gas these days, it makes both economic and environmental sense to take the actions below.

**Where are the Idle-Free Zones?**

The Town is continuing to create a network of Idle Free locations. Here are a few of the committed locations:

- Beaver Valley Outreach
- The Blue Mountains Library
- LCBO
- Home Hardware
- Georgian Peaks Ski Club
- Canada Post, Thornbury
- Craigleith Ski Club
- Thombury Laundromat
- Blue Mountains Resort
- The Ironworks
- Beaver Valley Community School
- Toronto Ski Club

**EASIEST 1)** Idling gets you nowhere - Reduce your daily idling time to zero. Even if your car is parked for more than ten seconds after ten seconds, idling can burn more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it.

**EASIER 2)** Check tire pressure - Check the tire pressure on your vehicle regularly. If just one tire is underinflated by 20%, you will use an additional 74 litres of fuel annually, which translates into 177 kilograms of GHGs. You can improve your gas mileage by more than 3% by keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure.

**EASY 3)** The Cost of Speeding - Drive the speed limit. Driving above the speed limit burns more gas than driving within posted limits. By altering your driving behaviour for the better, you can reduce both fuel consumption and GHG emissions by up to 20%.

**EASY 4)** Conduct an emissions test - Perform regular maintenance checks and emissions tests on your vehicle to ensure that it is running smoothly. A poorly maintained vehicle increases fuel consumption by up to 50% and pollution emissions by 20%. By properly maintaining your vehicle, you can reduce your annual fuel consumption by up to 10% and prolong the life of your vehicle.

**EASY 5)** Take the train, not a plane - Make it a practice, when possible, to take the train instead of a plane when traveling less than 500 kilometers.

**EASY 6)** Carpooling commutes - Start a carpool to commute to work. Ask if your workplace provides incentives for employees who carpool.

**EASY 7)** Clean Air commutes - Walk, bike or carpool to get to school or work instead of driving.

**EASY 8)** Block heaters help - Use a block heater to warm your vehicle’s engine in the winter. Set the timer for two hours before you need to drive.

**Get Moving Now!**

Visit www.ecoactionteams.ca to register for the free online calculator and start tracking your GHG reductions today!
Did you know?
Canada’s per capita water use is the second highest in the world.

Town Watering Restrictions
Restrictions apply May 31 to September 30.

Potty Discount
The Town has a toilet rebate program for residents on the Town’s water system. You may be eligible if you are a resident of The Blue Mountains, have a house that was built before 1996, and have a high flow toilet. When you replace your high flow toilet with a low flow model, you can receive a $50 credit on your water bill. As well, Thornbury Home Hardware is offering discounts of up to 25% for two low flush models.

Interested in going Low Flow? Please contact the Town for eligibility details.

Don’t Be a Drip!

The water heater is one of the biggest energy users in many Canadian homes. Energy is also required to transport and treat the water you use (for those on Town water). Improving the efficiency of your water heating system will reduce your hot water energy costs while reducing your GHG emissions. Conserving water will reduce the amount of energy needed to supply your household with water. Take the actions below, reduce your costs, and see your GHG contribution drop!

1) Reduce shower time by 5 minutes - Reduce your personal shower time by five minutes.
2) Run dishwasher when full - Reduce your water use by only running your dishwasher with a full load.
3) Save every drop in the sink - Conserve water in the bathroom and kitchen by not running the taps unnecessarily.
4) Dam toilet tanks - Install a displacement dam in every toilet tank in your house. Only use toilet dams in non low-flow models.
5) Showering: Go low flow - Replace all showerheads in your home with low-flow models.
6) Install faucet aerators - Check to see if your faucets are threaded to accept aerators. Install aerators with a rated flow of 12.5 litres/minute or less.
7) Tighten those taps - Check pipes, taps, and toilets for leaks. Make sure the plumbing system is watertight by looking for signs of leakage.
8) Try drip irrigation or a soaker hose - Choose drip irrigation or a soaker hose and install the system on your lawn or in your garden.
9) Rain barrel - Place the barrel under your eavestrough downspout to catch rain water. Use the contents on your yard and indoor plants.
10) Low flow flushing - Replace all toilets with low-flow or dual-flush toilets (see offer on page 17).

Rain Barrels
Rain barrels can reduce your reliance on municipal water for outdoor watering and reduce the demand on municipally treated water.

Get your rain barrel for $60 at the Town Landfill Site.

Call 1 888 BLUMTNS ext. 224 for more information about Town water programs.
We’re not the only Blue Mountains turning green!

Like The Blue Mountains, the City of Blue Mountains, Australia, has joined the Cities for Climate Protection Program. Though the City of Blue Mountains is home to 76,000 people, they share many of the values that we do in our smaller community. City of Blue Mountains citizens value the unique character and lifestyle of their community and place a high value on the natural environment and clean air. They understand that they can do something to reduce GHGs and are ready to take action!

Through their 25-year sustainability vision, the City of Blue Mountains will be monitoring and addressing GHG emissions just as we are in The Blue Mountains. Like us, they have set a target for GHG emissions reductions and will move through a series of milestones towards meeting their target.

The question is... which Blue Mountains will reach their target first?

Want to check out the competition? Go to www.sustainablebluemountains.net.au
What could warmer temperatures mean for the slopes?

The downhill ski industry plays a very important role in The Blue Mountains – not only does it provide recreational opportunities which attract hundreds of thousands of visitors to the area each year, it also supports our local economy through revenue generation and employment. The Blue Mountains is home to Blue Mountain Resort, Ontario’s largest public ski resort, as well private ski clubs such as Osler Bluff Ski Club, Craigleith Ski Club, Alpine Ski Club, and Georgian Peaks Club.

The snow is great, and we want to keep it that way. However, climate change predictions indicate that the industry could be facing shorter seasons and less snowfall – rising temperatures mean potentially wetter seasons and decreased snow pack, which could reduce the number of runs open. It may also result in increased snowmaking to enhance the early season experience and ensure reliable conditions. Warmer temperatures would make this already costly task more expensive and difficult.

The good news is, there are things skiers and snowboarders can do to help:

Don’t be a drag – Take your ski rack off your are when not in use and replace your snow ties with your regular tires at the end of the season.

Share a ride – carpool, drive a fuel-efficient car or take shuttles to help reduce emissions.

Be Idle Free – turn your vehicle off when unloading passengers or equipment at drop-off areas.

Adapted from www.keepwintercool.org

Ambassadors for GHG Reduction

Blue Mountain Resort recognizes its impact on the natural environment and is committed to improving environmental performance in all aspects the resort’s operations to further minimize this impact. Many employees are local ambassadors who understand that small changes will ultimately lead to greater benefits. Some of the exciting ways the resort is reducing its GHGs include:

• Participating in the National Ski Areas Association’s Sustainable Slopes program.
• Signing an Idle-Free Declaration with the Town affirming commitment to working towards eliminating unnecessary vehicle idling across the resort and with charter bus companies.
• Participating in the National Ski Areas Association’s Keep Winter Cool program, which aims to raise guest awareness about the potential impacts of climate change on the ski industry and encourages individuals to do their part to help fight climate change.
• Switching all on-road diesel vehicles to a biodiesel blend in 2007, including 3 large complimentary guest shuttles, a staff transportation vehicle, and the winter sanding truck.
• Replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent and/or LED lights in their owned and operated facilities.
• Encouraging employees, through various company incentive programs, to play their part in reducing emissions.
• Installing a combined heat and power system that recovers thermal energy to heat water for all 90 hotel rooms and dishwashing facilities located at the Blue Mountain Inn.
• Replacing 3 large complimentary guest shuttles, a staff transportation vehicle, and the winter sanding truck.

For more information on Blue Mountain Resort’s environmental initiatives, please visit: www.bluemountain.ca/environment

21
“One too many? Not your taste? Old, but still too good to waste? Help it find a home elsewhere. Someone else may really care.”

“One tonne of GHG is saved per year when 67 Blue Mountain families purchase locally grown apples instead of apples from Washington State.”
“As a local organic farmer with a long-term vision for sustainable agriculture, I feel good about growing food that will improve the health and prosperity of our community in a manner that is good for the environment and future generations.”

“In 2002, Blue Mountain Resort began implementing various lighting retrofit projects in order to improve the resort’s energy efficiency wherever possible. To date, over 10,677 compact fluorescent light bulbs have been installed to replace the incandescent light bulbs previously used. These lighting retrofits have helped to reduce energy consumption in a variety of the resort’s accommodation units and conference facilities and minimize the associated greenhouse gas emissions.”
DID YOU KNOW?

- 11 of the last 12 years (1995-2006) rank among the 12 warmest years since recording began in 1850?
- Global GHG emissions due to human activities have grown since pre-industrial times, with an increase of 70% between 1970 and 2004?
- Human activity is driving climate change and unless it is modified, it will cause temperatures to rise by as much as 6.4 degrees Celsius by the end of the century?
- Satellite data since 1978 reveal that the extent of Arctic sea ice has shrunk by 2.7% per decade on average?
- On the Great Lakes, the season of ice cover has been shortened by about 1 to 2 months during the last 100 to 150 years.
- Toronto is already experiencing an increase in the number of days with high or extreme UV readings.
- Rising seas claimed the first inhabited island off the coast of India, Lochahara Island, in 2006. Other islands, such as the Maldives and Vanuatu, are at risk of meeting the same fate.
- The Wilkins Ice Shelf in Antarctica, a platform 2.5 times the size of PEI, was, as of March 2008, held in place by a thin finger of ice - but satellite images from November 2008 show that about half of that finger has disappeared, putting the entire shelf in danger of crumbling.

“All vehicles leave a carbon footprint. However, by maintaining our vehicles and purchasing new vehicles, we are constantly updating our fleet, investing in newer technology and reducing our company’s emissions.”
"In Orbit" Fun Zone

Test Your Knowledge!

1: How much methane (in litres) are cattle capable of producing every day?
   a) 100 litres
   b) 500 litres
   c) 800 litres
   d) 75 litres

2: If you combined all the leaks in your home how big of a hole would you have?
   a) A hole the size of a basketball
   b) A hole the size of a baseball
   c) A hole the size of a volleyball
   d) A hole the size of a golf ball

3: How much gas would you burn a year if you idle your car for 10 minutes per day?
   a) 20 litres
   b) 50 litres
   c) 100 litres
   d) 250 litres

4: One ton of recycled paper can save:
   a) 9 trees, a cubic meter of landfill space and 10,000 litres of water
   b) 17 trees, a cubic meter of landfill space and 28,000 litres of water
   c) 19 trees, 2 cubic meters of landfill space and 20,000 litres of water
   d) 12 trees, a cubic meter of landfill space and 23,000 litres of water

5: A computer that is left on uses the same amount of energy that it would if it were left on stand-by mode since in both are plugged into the wall.
   a) True
   b) False

True or False

1: More energy is needed to make paper from raw materials that to recycle it.
   a) True
   b) False

2: The average meal travels 2,400 km (1,500 miles) from field to table.
   a) True
   b) False

3: Water heating accounts for 60% of the energy used by your washing machine.
   a) True
   b) False

4: A computer that is left on uses the same amount of energy that it would if it were left on stand-by mode since in both are plugged into the wall.
   a) True
   b) False

5: A lawnmower can emit the same amount of pollution in one hour as a car can travelling 32 to 320 kilometers.
   a) True
   b) False

Answers

1: True! 70% less energy is needed to recycle paper compared with making it from raw materials. Recycle paper at home and make sure your friends and family recycle the paper they use at work too! A potent greenhouse gas, every day mostly through belching. If gas costs 70 cents a litre, you will save $70 per year, just by turning your key.

2: True. Food usually travels a great distance to get to your plate and that adds up to greenhouse gas emissions. The less distance travelled the better. Buy as much as you can locally which will reduce the GHGs emitted and the chemicals used to protect foods while they travel. That will help to conserve farmlands and wildlife.

3: False! Water heating actually accounts for 90% of the energy used by your washing machine.

4: False! A computer that runs 24 hours a day uses between $75 and $120 worth of electricity each year – more than the $10 to $15 it costs to run a PC in standby mode. In standby mode, your PC’s energy use is cut by 90%, that’s the same as 700 to 1200 W of electrical power. By turning off your computer and unplugging it when it’s not in use you can save up to 30% on your electricity bill each month. In standby mode, your PC’s energy use is cut by 90%, that’s the same as 700 to 1200 W of electrical power. By turning off your computer and unplugging it when it’s not in use you can save up to 30% on your electricity bill each month.

5: Answer: Depending on the year, make and model, lawnmowers emit as much pollution in one hour as a car can travelling 32 to 320 kilometers.
Where to Get Help

Want to learn more about what you can do for the environment and save money? Check out the resources below for more tips, incentives and information about GHGs and climate change.

The Blue Mountains
- Environmental Initiatives Coordinator, 1-888-BLUMTNs ext. 264
- www.thebluemountains.ca
- gghguide@thebluemountains.ca
- www.thebluemountains.ca

EcoAction Teams (a program of Earth Day Canada)
- www.ecoactionteams.ca
- 1-888-283-2784 ext. 106

Partners for Climate Protection
- www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca/Partners-for-Climate-Protection
- Senior Project Officer (613) 907-6370

Climate Change Connection
- www.greenlearning.ca/climate/science/human-influence/2

Government of Ontario
- Public Information Centre (800) 565-4923

David Suzuki Foundation
- www.davidsuzuki.org
- (800) 453-1533

Pembina Institute
- www.pembina.org
- (416) 644-1016

Elora Centre for Environmental Excellence
- www.ecoel.ca
- 1-866-865-7377 (REEP)

Pollution Probe – Green Power Resources
- www.pollutionprobe.org
- 416-926-1907

Government of Canada
- GHG inventory
- www.ec.gc.ca/pdb/GHG/inventory_e.cfm
- Climate Change Resource Center (Pembina)
- www.greenlearning.ca/climate/science/human-influence/2

Commit to Change!

Sending us your commitment card will tell us that your household is dedicated to reducing GHGs – and we want to show where your pledge comes from. In lieu of shouting out from the top of “The Blue Mountains,” the Town will post your household or family name (as signed on the card) on the Town’s website and add you to the list of “GHG Reducers” in the community.