

SNAPSHOT OF SUSTAINABILITY 2001

Produced for the Sustainability Roundtable

SEPTEMBER 2002

STRATEGIC AND CORPORATE POLICY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR
CITY OF TORONTO

RE: A Snapshot of Sustainability - 2002

What follows is a draft report outlining current sustainability initiatives at the City, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. It is called a “snapshot” because all of this information is likely to change, new information will come on-line and the way we present sustainability to a broader audience may also evolve.

This snapshot was developed with a few thoughts in mind:

- Capturing the great deal of good information out there about sustainability which should serve as a leaping off point for us.
- Providing a listing of current municipal initiatives addressing equity, environment and economy – as well as the strategic and sectoral plans
- Identifying potential partners in our sustainability work.

You will notice that many of the individual group/organization/plans are underlined. The electronic version of this report provides hyperlinks to available websites which can provide the reader with additional information.

Finally, as a work in progress, your feedback and content suggestions would be appreciated.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CITY OF TORONTO - BROAD MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES	3
CITY OF TORONTO - SECTORAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS.....	3
CITY OF TORONTO - ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES	4
CITY OF TORONTO - EQUITY INITIATIVES	6
CITY OF TORONTO - ECONOMIC INITIATIVES	8
CITY OF TORONTO - MUNICIPAL ADVOCATES	9
CITY OF TORONTO - INITIATIVES WITH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY.....	9
INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES.....	11
NATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES	14
PROVINCIAL/ REGIONAL/STATE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES.....	16
LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES	18
ACADEMIC SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES	19

A Snapshot Of Sustainability – 2001

CITY OF TORONTO - BROAD MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

[Strategic Plan](#)

Part I of Council's Strategic Plan contains a vision for the city, a mission statement for city government and goals for the community. The goals in the plan were developed around five theme areas: community, economy, environment, governance and city-building and guides all major planning initiatives, services and programs at the City. Part II of the Plan approved in 2000, sets out a series of City Directions that describe how the City can contribute to the achievement of the goals from Part I.

http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/strategic_plan/index.htm

[Healthy City](#)

The Healthy City Office supports inter-sectoral and inter-departmental initiatives which further the City's sustainability goals. The three themes of sustainability are always linked in Healthy City activities: economy, environment and equity along with the principles of good governance, civic engagement, reporting and monitoring, partnership development and innovation. The Healthy City initiative is part of the Chief Administrator's Office Strategic and Corporate Policy Division.

<http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/healthycity/index.htm>

Sustainability Roundtable

On December 14, 1999, City Council approved the establishment of a framework for sustainability. This framework incorporates a number of different components including a Sustainability Advocate, a Sustainability Lead, a Sustainability Roundtable, and Standing Committee Sustainability Representatives. The roles and responsibilities of each of these components of the sustainability framework are set out in the City's Environmental Plan "Clean, Green and Healthy". The role of the Sustainability Roundtable is to assist the City in shaping the discussion and understanding of sustainability. The Sustainability Roundtable was created to serve as an arena for high-level strategic thinking on sustainability issues as they relate to the municipality. Membership of the Roundtable were convened for the first time in June 2000, and meet quarterly.

State of the City Reporting

The State of the City report provides citizens and elected officials with meaningful information about the health of the city and sets a context for policy making and community activities which contribute to Toronto's health and sustainability. It is intended to assist Council and their constituents to draw conclusions about the state of the city's health by bringing together information the City and others collect in a succinct and readable format, and in a manner which allows the City to track progress (and decline) over time. State of the City reporting is carried out by an interdepartmental team, drawing on other municipal reporting initiatives.

CITY OF TORONTO - SECTORAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS

Culture Plan for Toronto

Council directed the commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism to create a culture plan for the City of Toronto. The plan will include strategies for cultural industries and provide guidance with respect to grants, community cultural development, a public art program, cultural facilities and heritage. The culture plan will help the City promote tourism by marketing Toronto's cultural assets and positioning Toronto as an international cultural capital.

[Economic Development Strategy](#)

The Economic Development Strategy is a framework for future action. This report lays out the rationale and approach to a new Economic Development Strategy for the City of Toronto. It provides a framework for action to support Toronto's future economic prosperity and long-term fiscal competitiveness. It is not a workplan, in that it does not assign specific tasks to specific organizations. Rather, it proposes strategic directions to focus the attention and energies of all stakeholders in a common direction, suggests priorities which should be the first focus of this effort and challenges all of us to jointly develop and implement specific action plans.

http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/business_publications/econdev_strategy.htm

[Environmental Plan](#)

The Environmental Plan sets the direction in many key areas and builds on the environmental protection and enhancement efforts being carried out by the City, other agencies and hundreds of individuals and organizations from all sectors in Toronto. The Task Force chose four key areas to work in to help move the City towards sustainability. These areas are: Sustainable Transportation; Sustainable Energy; Green Economic Development; and Education and Awareness. The report is a shared vision for how to get to a cleaner, greener and healthier Toronto.

Http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/council/environtf_clean_green.htm

[Official Plan](#)

Our new Official Plan — the first for the unified City of Toronto — will be unlike any before. Based on extensive public input and debate, it will be an expression of Toronto's collective wishes and dreams for the future of a great city. The Official Plan will be both a strategic vision for the next 30 years and an operational plan for how to get there. It will be illustrated with maps and pictures and written in language that people can understand.

<http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/torontoplan/index.htm>

[Social Development Strategy](#)

The Social Development Strategy (SDS) is the social component of the City's Strategic Plan. The SDS describes some of the challenges Toronto faces, enunciates the shared values that bind us together as a city, and describes the principles that should underlie our approach to social development. It also lays out a set of specific strategic directions to guide the City's course. The aim of the SDS is to democratize prosperity and opportunity so that all those who live in our city can lead healthy lives in a safe, socially cohesive urban environment. Movement toward this goal must be guided by five principles: equity, equality, access, participation and cohesion.

<http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/sds/index.htm>

CITY OF TORONTO - ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Air Quality Strategy Core Group

Currently meeting to develop the strategy for improved air quality for the city. This is an interdepartmental group that aims to have a preliminary draft for the Smog Summit in June 2001.

Cycling Master Plan

The city is working to develop a Cycling Master Plan to help guide efforts to encourage and promote cycling through the year 2010. The vision for the Cycling Master Plan is to create a safe, comfortable and bicycle friendly environment in Toronto, which encourages people of all ages to use bicycles for everyday transportation and enjoyment. The primary goals of the Master Plan are to double the number of bicycle trips made in the City of Toronto, as percentage of total trips, by the year 2010 and to reduce the number of bicycle collisions and injuries. The plan is structured along six key components, or the "six integral spokes". Like the spokes of a bicycle wheel all six spokes must work together to achieve the two primary goals. Bicycle Friendly Streets, Bikeway Network, Safety and Education, Promotion, Cycling and Transit Links, Bicycle Parking.

[Energy Efficiency Office](#) - Better Buildings Program - City of Toronto Works and Emergency Services

Energy Efficiency provides building owners a way to save money, conserve natural resources and protect environment - a win-win opportunity for all. The Energy Efficiency Office at the new City of Toronto has a mandate to develop and implement a comprehensive energy efficiency and conservation strategy for the city. The BBP is an innovative program which helps building owners improve and modernize buildings through energy and water retrofits.

<http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/energy/index.htm>

[Idling Control By-law](#)

The by-law is intended to reduce unnecessary idling in the City. It limits idling to no more than three minutes in a given 60 minute period. The by-law allows transit vehicles to idle when picking up or discharging passengers and also allows limited idling when transit vehicles are waiting for passengers. As well, the by-law provides for idling during extreme outdoor temperatures to ensure heating or cooling inside a vehicle.

<http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/row/idling.htm>

[Moving The Economy \(MTE\)](#)

Moving The Economy (MTE) is an initiative that works to promote and develop economic benefits, opportunities, and innovations in sustainable transportation. The City of Toronto has a proven track record of implementing sustainable transportation policies and projects. The City has been acclaimed for its transit system, named as the best city for cycling in North America, and rated by Fortune Magazine as number one in North America for quality of life. Key participation in the MTE partnership is through the City's Urban Planning and Development Department (UDS), Transportation Planning Division.

<http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/mte/index.htm>

[Pesticide Reduction Program](#)

A pesticide sub-committee has been formed to assist in the development of a City of Toronto corporate policy on pesticide reduction. The subcommittee includes representatives of business, labour, school and non-governmental environmental groups, as well as City staff.

<http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/parks/pesticide.htm>

Pesticide Sub Committee

Purpose – To phase out the use of pesticides on public green spaces in 1999 and beyond. Since inception has reduced pesticide use by 97% and developed education participation programs for pesticide free lawns. Also – info on risks of using pesticides.

[Smog Alert](#)

On June 5, 1998, Toronto City Council adopted a Corporate Smog Alert Response plan which calls for the modification of some municipal activities on Smog Alert Days to reduce emissions contributing to poor air quality. The City of Toronto Smog Alert Response Plan is the first in Canada.

<http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/health/smog/index.htm>

Smog Reduction Workgroup

SRW assisted in the preparation of a coordinated response to Council's adopted anti-smog recommendations and to oversee corporate policy and planning activities. This work is now part of the AQS Group.

[Toronto Cycling Advisory Committee](#)

The Toronto Cycling Committee is a special committee of City Council whose mandate is to initiate programs to increase the quantity and quality of bicycle trips in the City of Toronto.

http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/cycling/committee_terms.htm

Toronto Interdepartmental Environment team –TIE

TIE is a senior level interdepartmental staff working group charged with the mandate of supporting the co-ordination and strategic directions of environmental issues and

policies on behalf of the City of Toronto. TIE's inter-departmental format provides a forum for information sharing and ensures that environmental issues are considered across all departments

[Toronto Pedestrian Committee.](#)

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee provides the city with public input on issues and projects to improved pedestrian safety and better pedestrian access to public transit, schools, workplaces, shops, libraries, community centres, parks, including roads and other public spaces; provide pedestrian-oriented input to the allocation, design and use of public space; provide staff with comments and recommendations relating to standards, guidelines, and general design and to review and comment upon the standards for street and sidewalk lighting; to provide a forum for public consultation on pedestrian health and safety, including working with Community Councils on local neighbourhood concerns, and working with the TTC on transit-related issues; and to promote walking as the most environmentally friendly form of transportation, and the provision of educational programs to the general public and special needs groups.
<http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/tpc/index.htm>

Transportation Demand Management

TDM is a term used to include many types of programs which reduce the use of the car in favour of transit, walking, cycling, auto pooling etc in order to improve air quality (smog in particular).

[Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan](#) City of Toronto

The City of Toronto's Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan's goal is to develop a strategy to reduce and ultimately eliminate the adverse effects of wet weather flow (runoff that is generated when it rains or snows). When implemented, the Master Plan will make our streams, rivers and waterfront cleaner and healthier.
<http://www.toronto.ca/wes/techservices/involved/www/wwfmmmp/index.htm>

CITY OF TORONTO - EQUITY INITIATIVES

Aboriginal Homelessness Advisory Committee

Provides advice to the City and the Aboriginal community on ways to coordinate a strategy to reduce homelessness among aboriginal people in Toronto. Will: establish a process to monitor and evaluate strategy implementation; assist in resolving disputes related to strategy implementation; ensure accountability for strategy implementation to the community and all levels of government; ensure continuity in strategy implementation; search out and identify potential resources related to strategy implementation.

Access and Equity – Community Advisory Groups: Aboriginal Affairs, Disability Issues, Status of Women, Race and Ethnic Relations, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues

Five city-wide community advisory committees have been established to advise Toronto City Council on issues of access, equity and human rights. 18 community members and one City Councillor will be appointed to each committee. The mandate of each Committees is to provide guidance and advise to City Council, City departments, agencies, boards and commissions and act as a liaison with external bodies on barriers to participation in public life and to the achievement of social, cultural, and economic well-being of the City's residents. Each Community Advisory Committee will also address the specific issues facing particular communities, develop options for Council's consideration and make recommendations for positive changes that improve the quality of the lives of the members of the City's diverse communities.

Advisory Committee on Homeless and Socially Isolated Persons

A committee of city councillors, staff and community-based groups that identifies emerging issues and makes recommendations to city staff and Toronto Council.

Alternative Housing & Services Committee	A group of community-based agencies that come together to share information and help City staff in setting priorities of the City of Toronto Homelessness Initiatives Fund.
Capital Revolving Fund Reference Group	Chaired by a city Councillor and made up of staff, community-based and private-sector housing representatives, housing experts, financial advisory, provincial and federal officials. The group assesses proposals for housing projects in response to the City's affordable housing strategy.
<u>Children and Youth Action Committee</u>	<p>CYAC's mandate is to demonstrably improve the well being of children in the City of Toronto. This will be accomplished by developing a civic Strategy for Children, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting investment in children as a strategic priority within the city. Evaluating the impact on children of the City's policy and budget decisions. • Ensuring that the City's range of services for children is accessible, adequately funded and effective. • Promoting inter-sectoral coordination and integration of service planning and delivery • Seeking resources from other funding sources to match or supplement the City's financial commitment to children. • Undertaking research to assess and improve outcomes for children. • Promoting public understanding and support for a children's agenda. • Involving children in the development of a more child-friendly city. • Establishing a Civic Commission on Children and Youth. <p style="text-align: right;">http://www.torontochildren.com/</p>
Commissioner's Roundtable	An ad hoc group of community-based service providers, in partnership with the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and City staff, working to address the needs of people living on the streets.
<u>Food and Hunger Action Committee</u>	<p>Works to improve food security and access to nutritious food and reduce hunger in the City of Toronto. Phase 1 will consolidate the information currently available on the state of food and hunger related issues in the City, using community consultations and internal review of material currently available and will make initial recommendations about how to proceed on these issues. Subject to the outcome of Phase 1, Phase 2 will identify policy and program changes required to improve the co-ordination and delivery of food and hunger related services, and determine the appropriate respective roles for each level of government. The Commission will report through the Community Services Committee to Council proposing a specific Phase 2 mandate, and the allocation of appropriate resources prior to initiating Phase 2.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">http://www.toronto.ca/food_hunger/food_hunger_report.htm</p>
<u>Food Policy Council</u>	<p>The proposed new mission of the Toronto Food Policy Council will be to work to develop a just and environmentally sustainable food system for all Torontonians. To reduce hunger and the need for a charitable food distribution system, to increase access to sufficient, nutritious, affordable, safe and personally acceptable foods and to promote equitable food production and distribution systems which are nutritionally and environmentally sound. Achieving these goals means that food policies must be developed to ensure that food is available, accessible, affordable, acceptable, and sustainably produced.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/health/tfpc_index.htm</p>

Homeless Health Reference Group	A group of health care providers working to identify pressing health issues for homeless people. The group develops key strategies for action based on the health recommendations of the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force.
Rental Housing Advisory Committee	An ongoing group of city staff and community agencies that meet to identify the information and advisory service needs of tenants and landlords.
Seniors Assembly	In June, 2000, City Council approved the establishment of a Toronto Seniors Assembly to act as a citizen advisory committee assisting Council's designated Seniors' Advocate, Councillor Anne Johnston to better inform seniors of City initiatives and help shape issues within the City from a critical seniors perspective and to: act as a citizen advisory committee to Toronto's Seniors Advocate; consult with respective communities on City issues and bring forward community issues to the attention of the Seniors Advocate/City; and provide expert advice, representing respective community perspectives on City issues impacting on seniors.
Social Development Strategy Steering Committee	Guides the design of the consultation process and the development of the final version of the Social Development Strategy. In addition to the Council Members, the Children's and Youth Advocate, Senior's Advocate, Sustainability Advocate , Chair of Community Safety Task Force and the Chair of Community & Neighbourhood Services, and other community representatives participate as members.
Task Force on Community Safety	In March 1999, Toronto Council approved the final report of the Task Force on Community Safety, which identified community safety as a top concern of Toronto's residents and an issue that affected Toronto's quality of life. The report proposed a community safety strategy for the City of Toronto, and challenged City departments to address community safety through the strategic directions of strengthening neighbourhoods, investing in children, youth and families, promoting community policing and justice, informing communities and coordinating actions, and implementing, evaluating and monitoring progress. A reconstituted Task Force on Community Safety was established to monitor implementation of the strategy respond to crime prevention issues as they arise and promote a coordinated approach among all partners in the crime prevention field. http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/council/tfsafety_index.htm

CITY OF TORONTO - ECONOMIC INITIATIVES

Economic Development	<p>The Economic Development division works to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and monitor the implementation and performance of the City's economic development initiatives; • Attract new businesses to Toronto, and retain existing businesses; • Help to create a positive and competitive environment for business and economic growth in Toronto; • Ensure effective tourism marketing and liaison with tourist operators <p style="text-align: right;">http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/depts/econdev.htm.</p>
Moving The Economy (MTE)	<p>See above in Municipal Environment Initiatives</p> <p style="text-align: right;">http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/mte/index.htm</p>

CITY OF TORONTO - MUNICIPAL ADVOCATES

Children and Youth Advocate	Child Advocate duties are to prepare and present to Council a children's strategy; form a sub-committee to implement recommendations of First Duty report; bring together various sectors dealing with children's issues to develop an action plan for co-ordinating children's services; monitor Council's budget and policies to ensure that children are first priority and comment on these matters to Council. Youth Advocate mandate is to assist in developing programs assisting youth to become employed; spearhead and chair Mayor Lastman's Task Force on Youth Employment; explore and expand apprenticeship programs by working with the private sector, youth employment service agencies and different levels of government; advocate for federal, provincial and municipal funding for youth; provide a forum to address youth issues; and establish appropriate municipal jobs for youth, with support from the private sector.
Diversity Advocate	Role of Advocate being developed. A report is pending from CAO. A Striking Committee Report outlines the mandate of the Diversity Advocate to act as City's primary spokesperson on diversity issues; consult with Advisory Committees on Access and Equity; co-ordinate activities in conjunction with Council to the Advisory Committees; work with institutions, community organizations, the private sector and the non-profit community to promote diversity principles and equity; and inform Council on diversity issues and assist in organizing an annual report on diversity initiatives.
Seniors Advocate	Final Report of the Senior's Task Force recommended the appointment of a Seniors Advocate from City Council who "would speak for seniors' issues, ensure the involvement of seniors on issues of importance to them and to the City, and encourage a dialogue".
Sustainability Advocate	The Sustainability Advocate co-chairs the Sustainability Roundtable; ensures that sustainability is promoted throughout the City of Toronto; monitors the incorporation of sustainability into the policies and activities of the civic government, on behalf of the Sustainability Roundtable; consults with members of the public promoting sustainable activity; presents to Council, on behalf of the Sustainability Roundtable, the Roundtable's annual report; and reports to Council and its Standing Committees on any issues related to sustainability.
Tree Advocate	Tree Advocate works to identify publicly-owned locations for tree planting (e.g. along transportation corridors) within the City of Toronto.

CITY OF TORONTO - INITIATIVES WITH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

[Association of Municipalities of Ontario AMO](#)

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) works with and for municipal governments. AMO's traditional activities include inter-government relations and policy development; information gathering and disseminating on all issues affecting municipalities. AMO also develops and delivers new and innovative products and services for municipalities.

<http://www.amo.on.ca/>

[Canadian Urban Institute](#)

The Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in urban areas in Canada and internationally. As an independent body the Institute meets the need for a think-tank committed to improving policy making and management in urban regions by encouraging a better understanding of contemporary urban issues among business, government and other key institutions. The CUI is actively engaged in applied research and training for public and private sector clients. It stimulates debate and fashions solutions through policy research, publications, seminars and conferences. In the past ten years, the Canadian Urban Institute has earned a reputation in Canada for identifying emerging economic and social issues that relate to social development, housing, sustainability, the environment, urban infrastructure and economic development.

<http://www.canurb.com/>

[Design Exchange](#)

The Design Exchange, or DX, is a non-profit, educational organization committed to promoting an understanding of design by business and the general public. DX is the only design promotion centre of its kind in North America promoting the ways by which design contributes to the economic and cultural vitality of the country as well as Canadian expertise internationally.

<http://www.dx.org/>

[Heritage Toronto](#)

Heritage Toronto is an agency of the City of Toronto with responsibilities for the presentation of heritage programming with a city-wide perspective, for the advocacy of heritage issues to City Council, senior governments and other agencies, organizations, groups and individuals and private-sector bodies and for fundraising. Heritage Toronto is an arms-length agency of the City of Toronto.

<http://www.heritagetoronto.org/>

[Ontario Social Development Council](#)

The Ontario Social Development Council is a province-wide, charitable organization, which proposes and responds to social and economic policies and programs to ensure the protection and enhancement of fundamental human rights, dignity and well being. The Council uses a collaborative approach to promote individual and community empowerment and to strengthen the capacity of communities to mobilize their own resources in support of sustainable social development.

<http://www.web.net/~osdc/>

[Toronto Atmospheric Fund](#)

The Fund was created to help Toronto meet its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2005. It provides loans and grants to a variety of group and organizations, which take action to stop greenhouse gases and climate change.

<http://w3.city.toronto.on.ca/taf/index.htm>

[Toronto Board of Health](#)

The Board of Health for the City of Toronto Health Unit is accountable to the citizens of Toronto for sound decision-making on the health of the City. More specifically, the Board of Health determines and sets public health policy, advises City Council on broad policy issues, which affect health, and carries out the statutory responsibilities set forth in the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

http://www.toronto.ca/health/boh_index.htm

[Toronto District Health Council](#)

District Health Councils (DHCs) are advisory, health planning organizations located throughout the province and provide the local voice in health planning. People who use and deliver health and health related services come together through the DHCs to provide advice to the Minister of Health. DHCs advise the Ontario Minister of Health on health matters in each Council's geographic area. They make recommendations on resource distribution to address health needs in their community. They provide advice on the integration of health services in their community. They address health planning needs identified by Council and perform any other duties assigned by the Minister of Health. City Councillors, the MOH and Commissioners sit on the Toronto DHC.

<http://www.tdhc.org>

[Toronto Economic Development Corporation \(TEDCO\)](#)

City of Toronto Economic Development Corporation is a business corporation owned by the City of Toronto. TEDCO was incorporated in 1986 to pursue industrial development, and to attract and retain jobs in the city. It is a self-financing, arms length agency supported by a ten-person board of directors appointed by City Council, including two councillors. The corporation has a two-track approach to economic development - assisting small business development through support of a number of small business incubators and developing real estate: TEDCO owns over 400 acres of land in the Port Area of Toronto.

<http://www.toronto.ca/abc/affiliates.htm#tedco>

[Toronto Regional Conservation Authority TRCA](#)

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority is a provincial/municipal partnership established in 1957, under the Conservation Authorities Act and its regulations, to manage the renewable natural resources of the region's watersheds.

<http://www.trca.on.ca/>

[Toronto Transit Commission TTC](#)

The Commission is responsible for the consolidation, coordination and planning of all forms of local passenger transportation within the urban area of Toronto, except for railways incorporated under federal and provincial statutes, and taxis. The Commission's functions are to construct, maintain and operate a local passenger transportation system, and to establish new passenger transportation services where required. The Commission may also operate parking lots in connection with the transit system, and may enter into an agreement with municipalities or persons situated within 40 kilometers of Toronto, to operate a local transportation service.

<http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/ttc/index.htm>

INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

[Agenda 21](#)

Agenda 21 is the global action plan for 'sustainable development' and is recognized as the most important document to be signed at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. It contains 40 chapters and is divided into four sections (Social and Economic Dimensions; Conservation and Management of Resources for Development; Strengthening the role of major groups; and Means of Implementation). Most of the world's nations have signed and are committed to the implementation of Agenda 21. Many are producing or have produced national strategies for implementation. The Commission for Sustainable Development has been established by the United Nations to ensure that Agenda 21 is implemented by its signatories. Part of Agenda 21 encourages local authorities to work with local communities to develop their own 'Local Agenda 21' action plans.

<http://www.unep.org/>

[Canadian International Development Agency](#)

CIDA adapted the Brundtland definition to its own mandate in 1991, in establishing a framework for sustainable development, it identified several cross-cutting characteristics, and five "pillars" or dimensions, that are integral to the way the Agency delivers its programs. These characteristics involve: taking a long-term perspective, fostering respect for diversity and pluralism; conceiving integrated solutions to problems and issues which take into account all factors and their interrelationships; promoting equity and justice; and assuring the participation of beneficiaries and partners. The five pillars - the environmental, economic, political, social and cultural dimensions of sustainability - should not be seen as independent of each other. They are closely linked, and efforts to promote any one of them must take explicit account of the implications for the others. Sustainable development can only be reached if development efforts respect all five. Viewing sustainable development this way increases the understanding of how environmental, economic, political, social and cultural systems interact. In turn, this understanding helps CIDA ensure that Canada's aid addresses root problems – through policy and program proposals, by influencing and supporting policies and institutions that promote sustainable development, and by fostering increased awareness among their partners about the conditions necessary for sustainable development.

<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/issues-e.htm>

[Commission for Sustainable Development](#)

In 1992, more than 100 heads of state met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Earth Summit was convened to address urgent problems of environmental protection and socio-economic development. The assembled leaders signed the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity; endorsed the Rio Declaration and the Forest Principles; and adopted Agenda 21, a 300-page plan for achieving sustainable development in the 21st century. The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was created in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of UNCED; to monitor and report on implementation of the Earth Summit agreements at the local, national, regional and international levels. The CSD is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), with 53 members. At the Earth Summit + 5: The Special Session of the General Assembly held in June 1997 the programme of work of the Commission for 1998-2002 was adopted. Over 50 ministers attend the CSD each year and more than one thousand non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are accredited to participate in the Commission's work. The Commission ensures the high visibility of sustainable development issues within the UN system and helps to improve the UN's coordination of environment and development activities. The CSD also encourages governments and international organizations to host workshops and conferences on different environmental and cross-sectoral issues.

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd.htm>

[International Centre for Sustainable Cities – Canada - BC](#)

The International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization based in Vancouver, Canada. The mandate of the International Centre for Sustainable Cities is to promote sustainable urban development around the world through demonstration projects using Canadian experience and technologies. Working through national governments and Canadian embassies, ICSC assists local governments in identifying their sustainable development priorities and formulating practical demonstration projects. ICSC acts as a broker to ensure the project moves forward, seeking outside funding and sources of expertise. Projects are centered on obtaining physical, tangible outputs such as a new or upgraded physical plant, a public education campaign or an improvement in physical conditions. The main evaluation criterion used is whether the living conditions of a specific group of individual citizens are improved or made more sustainable.

<http://www.icsc.ca/>

[International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives - ICLEI](#)

ICLEI is an association of local governments dedicated to the prevention and solution of local, regional and global environmental problems through local action. More than 300 cities, towns, countries, and their associations from around the world are Members of the Council. ICLEI was launched in 1990 as the international agency for local governments under the sponsorship of the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), and the Center for Innovative Diplomacy.

<http://www.iclei.org/>

[International Institute for Sustainable Development](#) –Canada

Their mission: To champion innovation, enabling societies to live sustainably. IISD promotes the transition toward a sustainable future, seeking to demonstrate how human ingenuity can be applied to improve the well-being of the environment, economy and society. They use policy research, information exchange, analysis and advocacy to develop action recommendations, knowledge networks to build the capacity of civil society and other organizations in both South and North, and report on international negotiations critical to the sustainability of the planet particularly in the area of: international trade and investment, economic instruments, climate change, measurement and indicators, and natural resource management to make development sustainable.

<http://www.iisd.org/default.asp>

[Sustainable Communities Network](#)

The Sustainable Communities Network connects citizens with the resources they need to implement innovative processes and programs to restore the economic, environmental, and social health and vitality of their communities. It addresses a wide range of issues related to community sustainability, including creating communities, smart growth, growing a sustainable economy, protecting natural resources, living sustainably, and governing communities. In addition it gives case studies, resources, related Web sites, links to relevant sites, events calendars, and suggested reading.

<http://www.sustainable.org/information/aboutsuscom.html>

[The Earth Charter Initiative](#)

An Earth Charter Commission was formed in 1997. In March 1997, at the conclusion of the Rio+5 Forum in Rio de Janeiro, the Earth Charter Commission issued the Benchmark Draft Earth Charter. The Commission also called for ongoing international consultations on the text of the document. Between 1997 and 1999 over forty national Earth Charter committees were formed, and numerous Earth Charter conferences were held. Comments and recommendations from all regions of the world were forwarded to the Earth Council and the Drafting Committee. The Earth Charter Commission issued a final version of the Earth Charter in March 2000 at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The principles of the Earth Charter provide a conception of sustainable development and set forth fundamental guidelines for achieving it. The Earth Charter recognizes that humanity's environmental, economic, social, cultural, ethical, and spiritual problems and aspirations are interconnected. It affirms the need for holistic thinking and collaborative, integrated problem solving. They propose that Sustainability is about freedom, justice, participation, and peace as well as environmental protection and economic well-being. The four principles of the Earth Charter: respect and care for the community of life; ecological integrity; social and economic justice; democracy, nonviolence, and peace.

<http://www.earthcharter.org/>

[The International Society for Ecological Economists](#)

ISEE is a nonprofit, member-governed, organization dedicated to advancing understanding of the relationships among ecological, social, and economic systems for the mutual well being of nature and people. The Society assists its members and ecological economists generally, regional societies of ecological economics, related societies, and other organizations in such matters of common concern as can be dealt with more effectively by united action. To this end, the Society publishes a research journal, books, and other materials; holds and sponsors scientific meetings; develops educational materials; and facilitates a voice for ecological economists in public forums.

<http://www.ecoeco.org/>

[WHO Centre for Urban Health Healthy Cities Project](#)

The WHO Healthy Cities project is a long-term international development project that aims to place health high on the agenda of decision-makers in the cities of Europe and to promote comprehensive local strategies for health and sustainable development based on the principles and objectives of the strategy for health for all for the twenty-first century and local Agenda 21. Ultimately, the Healthy Cities project seeks to enhance the physical, mental, social and environmental wellbeing of the people who live and work in cities.

Two phases of implementation of the project have now been completed and the new phase, Phase III, will run from 1998 to 2002. The Healthy Cities project in the European Region has shown the value of a holistic approach. It is an effective and popular mechanism for promoting policies and programs based on health for all at the local level through a process that involves explicit political commitment, institutional changes and intersectoral partnerships, innovative actions addressing all aspects of health and living conditions and extensive networking between cities across Europe and beyond.

<http://www.who.dk/healthy-cities>

NATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

[Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development](#) – US

US department of Energy initiative providing information on best practices, municipal and state examples of sustainability in action, indicator projects and information sources on issues such as Green Buildings, Green Development, Land Use Planning, Measuring Progress, Disaster Planning, Municipal Energy, Transportation, Sustainable Business, Financing, Rural Issues, Resource Efficiency, Air, Water, and Materials.

<http://www.sustainable.doe.gov/>

[European Society for Ecological Economics](#)

The aims of the European Society for Ecological Economics are to: foster transdisciplinary discourse and research among the social and natural sciences regarding problems of nature and the environment; provide an European network for activities in ecological economics; produce and disseminate information on policies for sustainability globally, nationally, and locally through electronic, printed, oral and other publication means; and promote education, graduate research and research funding in ecological economics. The Society insists its raison d'être be on the infusion of the social dimension, including cultural diversity and intergenerational preoccupations, into all ecological-economic analyses. The Society has also, through this, the ambition to promote an innovative research agenda in Europe and a wide reflection that can help decision-makers and citizens in the implementation of policies for sustainable development.

<http://www.euroecolecon.org/Introduction.htm>

[National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy - Canada](#)

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) is an independent advisory body that provides decision-makers, opinion leaders and the Canadian public with advice and recommendations for promoting sustainable development. The NRTEE, legislated by Parliament in 1994, explains and promotes sustainable development. Working with stakeholders across Canada, the NRTEE identifies key issues with both environmental and economic implications, examines these implications and suggests how to balance economic prosperity with environmental preservation. Activities are organized into programs; each is overseen by a task force of NRTEE members and representatives from business, government and non-profit organizations. The responsible task force commissions research, conducts national consultations, reports on agreements and disagreements, and recommends how to promote sustainability. The NRTEE reviews these reports and recommendations before approving them for public release. The NRTEE members meet quarterly to review progress, establish future priorities and start new programs.

The NRTEE has adopted a round table format that helps overcome entrenched differences by: analyzing environmental and economic facts and trends; asking key stakeholders for their input; assimilating research and consultation to clarify the debate; pinpointing the consequences of action and inaction, and making recommendations.

Current program topics include: Sustainable Development Indicators Initiative Eco-efficiency Economic Instruments; Ecological Fiscal Reform; Green Budget Reform; Sustainable Development Issues for the New Millennium Health, Environment and the Economy; Aboriginal Communities and Non-renewable Resources Development.

<http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/>

President's Council on Sustainable Development – US

The President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD) was established by President Clinton in June 1993 to advise him on sustainable development and develop "bold, new approaches to achieve our economic, environmental, and equity goals." The Mission of the PCSD was to:

- Forge consensus on Policy by bringing together diverse interests to identify and develop innovative economic, environmental and social policies and strategies;
- Demonstrate Implementation of policy that fosters sustainable development by working with diverse interests to identify and demonstrate implementation of sustainable development;
- Get the word out about sustainable development; and
- Evaluate and report on progress by recommending national, community, and enterprise level frameworks for tracking sustainable development.

[Stockholm Environment Institute](#)

SEI an independent international research organization addressing sustainable development, including but goes far beyond environmental sustainability. Key scientific and policy questions addressed by the programme are: How can different types of knowledge be integrated in an effective way to reveal essential interlinkages and provide useful perceptions of the systemic nature of sustainable development issues? What kinds of new concepts and theories need to be developed to that end? What are the truly systemic attributes/variables of the interacting socio-economic and ecological systems that need to be identified and understood in the search for sustainable development? What are useful approaches to address complex and "messy" real life issues of sustainable development and to explore the future of those systems? What are effective ways to communicate, train and deploy practical systems perspectives in policy making, merging scientific and non-scientific relevant perspectives?

<http://www.sei.se/sustdev.html>

[Sustainable Cities](#)

An on-line information module on sustainable urban development created from a partnership of five leading organizations (International Institute for Sustainable Development, Development Alternatives, Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN), The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Stockholm Environment Institute, Environmental Development Action in the Third World) in the field of sustainable development, located all across the world. The focus of the information is urban sustainability, which is highlighted both from a general (globally applicable) as well as from a more focused (local, regional) context. Their Sustainable Cities initiative has a great deal of information, description and definitions of sustainability, and discussion on the characteristics, challenges, barriers and benefits of achieving sustainability at a local level.

<http://www.rec.org/REC/Programs/SustainableCities/>

[The Sustainability Report](#) – Canada

The Sustainability Reporting Program is a Canadian initiative which compiles and reports on key existing information on economic, social, and ecological development in the areas of concern, and present it in an integrated manner that reflects the trends in sustainable development. They communicate the results of the Sustainability Report to targeted groups for use in policy and program development, lectures, seminars, and workshops and work to raise public awareness of the current state of sustainability within Canada. The Sustainability Reporting Program is a collaborative network of experts from government, industry, the non-government sector and academe. While the report focuses on the national scene, it includes global issues that affect Canada, and regional or local issues of national significance.

<http://www.sustreport.org/home.html>

PROVINCIAL/ REGIONAL/STATE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

[Center for Livable Communities](#)

California, US

The Center for Livable Communities is a national initiative of the Local Government Commission (LGC). A nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership organization of elected officials, city and county staff, and other interested individuals throughout California and other states, the Local Government Commission helps local governments identify and implement solutions to today's problems. The Center for Livable Communities helps local governments and community leaders be proactive in their land use and transportation planning, and adopt programs and policies that lead to more livable and resource-efficient land use patterns. Center programs can help jurisdictions expand transportation alternatives, reduce infrastructure costs, create more affordable housing, improve air quality, preserve natural resources, conserve agricultural land and open space, and restore local economic and social vitality. Their mandate includes improving and maintaining the economic health of communities and involving residents in deciding how to make their communities more livable.

<http://www.lgc.org/center/index.html>

[Great Plains Sustainability](#)

The purpose of IISD's Great Plains activities is to study the relationship between economic development, societal needs and the environment and to apply sustainable development concepts to the region. The Great Plains study includes the interaction between humans and the environment using an ecozone approach. The ecozone approach is a holistic and integrative approach to solving the interlocking problems of poverty, environmental degradation, and disintegration of rural communities. It takes into account the scale of sustainability and recognizes that comprehensive development interventions must be taken at a level, which will have lasting consequences. The appropriate scale is seen as one in which there is a critical mix of environmental, economic, socio-cultural and socio-political factors. At this level, communities are woven into complex networks across diverse ecosystems; production, marketing and

communications systems; and political administrative units. They aim to integrate all aspects of community adaptation, trade, business, communications, and measurement to prove that sustainable development is more than an abstract concept.

<http://iisd.ca/agri/default.htm>

[Nova Scotia Environment & Development Coalition](#)

The hope of the Nova Scotia E&D Coalition is to promote a vision of communities that are ecologically, economically & culturally diverse, and increasingly self-reliant. "Sustainable Community Development" links issues of environment, economics, health and culture through a democratic community process.

www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/SCN/SCN_home.html

[Ontario Centre for Sustainability](#)

The Ontario Centre for Sustainability was founded in 1996 as a research and information centre on environmental strategies. Its mission is to promote and support the transition to environmentally sustainable economic and social development in Ontario. The OCS is an independent venture founded by Chris Winter. Their expertise is "in strategic planning and the ability to assess current initiatives within the context of an overall environmental strategy."

<http://www.web.net/ocs/>

[Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition](#)

The Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition seeks to achieve social, environmental, and economic health and well being for individuals, communities and local governments by bringing together a broad-based group of communities and provincial organizations, spanning the social, environmental, economic, and political spectrums. Coalition members share a common goal of creating healthier communities, and they actively support the Healthy Communities movement by building networks and establishing new methods for planning and decision-making. The Coalition:

- Supports local initiatives through education and training, facilitation, media relations, electronic networking, community mobilization, and partnership building through a community animation project.
- Develops networks to train, problem-solve, and exchange information among communities.
- Operates a central office to co-ordinate the Coalition, maintain a clearinghouse of information and produce Healthy communities resources, maintains a database and resource inventory.
- Encourages communities to work with local government on issues that affect community well being.

<http://www.opc.on.ca/ohcc/ohcc.htm>

[Provincial Sustainability Indicators Initiative – Manitoba](#)

This Web site is part of the Sustainability Indicators Initiative undertaken by the Manitoba government in 1998. The purpose of the initiative is to develop a set of sustainability indicators that, when tracked over time, will provide Manitobans with timely, accurate information on important sustainability issues and trends. It is anticipated that reporting regularly on these indicators will help facilitate the establishment of provincial targets and policies for sustainable development, as well as provide a measure of performance in achieving provincial goals and objectives.

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/susresmb/indicators/index.html>

[Sustainable Calgary](#)

Sustainable Calgary's goal is to promote, encourage and support community level actions and initiatives that move Calgary towards a sustainable future. They define sustainable development as the process of working towards the long term health and vitality of the city and its citizens with regard to ecological, social, cultural and economic processes. Good sustainable development should: maintain or enhance ecological integrity; promote sustainable economic development, which equates to economic viability within the constraints of ecological limits and social equity goals; promote social equity; encourage democratic participation in decision-

making that affects peoples lives; judge development strategies for their impact on the ability of future generations to meet their needs and aspirations, and not just for their short-term gains; promote the understanding that sustainable development is about change, and that it calls for human behavioural change, and structural and institutional change.

<http://www.sustainablecalgary.ca>

LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

[Arlington Community Sustainability Roundtable](#)

The Arlington Community Sustainability Roundtable is a non-profit organization of Arlington civic activists, business representatives, government officials and staff. The group has been meeting over the past year to discuss ways Arlington and other Northern Virginia communities can find creative methods of making themselves more sustainable for the next century by balancing economic, environmental, and social factors.

<http://www.smartplace.org/news/news.html>

[Chattanooga Institute for Sustainability](#)

The Chattanooga Institute has developed their principles for moving both communities and companies towards the realization of a more sustainable and competitive future. Their principles for sustainability include: viewing business, the environment and society as one integral subject; considering waste, in any form as bad for business and the environment and promoting the Goal of Zero; involving all citizens in community processes and encouraging the formation of public/private partnerships; supporting the education and empowerment of people to enable effective change; and promoting the intelligent use and stewardship of all our natural, economic, cultural and historical resources. The Institute's primary focus is to identify and develop communities of interest around the concept of sustainable development--helping local communities, government officials, educators and business leaders better understand and apply the principles of sustainability.

<http://www.csc2.org/>

[Sustainable City](#) - San Francisco

Sustainable City is a non-profit organization dedicated to achieving a sustainable future for San Francisco. Sustainable City's advocacy for a sustainable future -- one that provides for the needs of the present without sacrificing the ability of future generations and the natural world to provide for their own needs -- is embodied in the Sustainability Plan for the City of San Francisco. Over 350 San Franciscans -- community activists and people representing many city government agencies, over 100 businesses, and academia -- gathered in working groups in 1996 to draft the first phase. In July 1997, the goals and objectives of the sustainability plan became policy of the City and County of San Francisco. The sustainability plan is described as "an invitation to all San Franciscans to think about a common future, and an opportunity to make a choice of the routes to that end." The plan included San Francisco's many environmental advocacy, service and municipal organizations. Issues contained in their plan include: Air Quality, Biodiversity, Energy, Climate Change and Ozone Depletion, Food and Agriculture, Hazardous Materials, Economy and Economic Development, Environmental Justice, Human Health, Parks, Open Spaces and Streetscapes, Solid Waste, Transportation, Water and Wastewater, Municipal Expenditures, Public Information and Education, Risk Management (Activities of High Environmental Risk).

<http://www.sustainable-city.org/>

[Sustainable Community Roundtable](#) – US

The Sustainable Community Roundtable seeks to build consensus on becoming ecologically, economically and socially sustainable in South Puget Sound. The Sustainable Community Roundtable facilitates dialogue, vision, action, and celebration

to help create sustainable community. The Roundtable was initiated by the City of Olympia in 1991 and incorporated as an independent nonprofit organization in 1992. The Roundtable has now completed its review of Sustainability Indicators for the Economy. The Roundtable has released its 1999 update of the State of the Community report, with data on 14 indicators of progress, and added a new section, "In Search of Better Measures," that analyzes our measures with an aim to improving them.

<http://www.olywa.net/roundtable/>

ACADEMIC SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

[Environment and Sustainable Development Research Centre](#)

The Centre was established in 1994 with initial funding from Environmental Trust Fund. It is staffed by a Director and Chair in Sustainable Development. The objective of the Centre is to make available the human and physical resources at UNB, as they relate to the environment and sustainable development, to the industry and society. The Centre provides a focal point between the university, the private sector, government and the public. It is independent of the traditional academic departments thus reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of sustainable development and the necessary integration of economic development with environmental protection. The Centre represents the University on a number of boards and committees related to the environment and sustainable development. The Environment and Sustainable Development Research Centre at the University of New Brunswick was established in 1994 with initial funding from New Brunswick's Environmental Trust Fund. The Centre makes available the human and physical resources of the University of New Brunswick to industry and society. There is a strong link with the educational mandate of the University to ensure that the knowledge and skills of our graduates reflect society's needs. The Centre operates in three main areas: education, research and outreach.

<http://www.unb.ca/web/enviro/>

[Environmental Studies Association of Canada](#)

The Environmental Studies Association of Canada (ESAC) is a Learned Society formed in 1993 to further research and teaching activities in areas related to environmental studies in Canada. ESAC is a non-profit, federally incorporated, bilingual organization open to members from across Canada and elsewhere. Members are welcome from educational institutions, government agencies, and private sector and non-profit organizations.

ESAC members are primarily (though not exclusively) interested in social science and humanities approaches to environmental issues and problems. Issues include: critical environmentalism; environmental thought; ecofeminism; deep ecology; social ecology; environmental education and communication; biological conservation; natural and environmental history; human ecology; environmental ethics; risk policy and perception; environmental policy and law; social movements and political ecology; environmental sociology and psychology; native studies; animal rights and welfare; environmental justice; technology and cultural studies; gender, labour, race and the environment; international development; sustainability and development; public participation; ecocriticism; and environmental literature.

<http://www.thegreenpages.ca/esac/default.htm>

[Institute for Social, Economic and Ecological Sustainability \(ISEES\)](#) US University of Minnesota

The Institute for Social, Economic and Ecological Sustainability (ISEES) was initiated in July 1996 to strengthen the University of Minnesota's capacity to analyze sustainability issues and recommend options for moving toward sustainability. Their vision is based on the fundamental idea that sustainable relationships between the social, economic and ecological spheres of the world are possible and desirable. ISEES brings together people from the natural and social sciences and practitioners to analyze sustainability issues and recommend options for moving toward sustainability. They

believe that the development of options for sustainability requires integrating social, economic, and ecological factors. To address these themes, the research, education, and outreach goals of ISEES include: Generate a new transdisciplinary synthesis of concepts and methods for research on sustainability issues; Understand forces influencing sustainability at local, regional, and global scales; Develop and evaluate techniques for assessing conditions for sustainability; Generate policy options for moving communities toward sustainable conditions; Facilitate information exchange between scholars, practitioners, and citizens.

<http://www.fw.umn.edu/ISEES/>

[Sustainable Development Research Institute \(SDRI\)](#)

SDRI fosters research on sustainable development issues that is policy-relevant, interdisciplinary and involves non-academic partners. In its research, the Institute recognizes the linkages between environment and development issues, the increasing importance of environmental issues in the decisions of governments and industry, and the need to connect environmental imperatives directly to economic and social priorities. SDRI focuses on these linkages, seeking ways to integrate the environment, the economy and social institutions. The Institute also seeks to develop research "tools" that provide users with the capability to make up their own minds about the complex issues surrounding sustainable development. It fosters multi-stakeholder and collaborative research processes and workshops to put current understanding from the research community in the hands of the user community.

<http://www.sdri.ubc.ca/>

[Sustainable Toronto](#)

A Community-University Research Alliances (CURA)

The Community University Research Alliance (CURA) is a consortium between two academic units: the Environmental Studies Program of Innis College, University of Toronto; and the York Centre for Applied Sustainability, York University. It also links the following key agencies:

City of Toronto, the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP), and the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) with the two universities in a unique and innovative partnership. This CURA initiative addresses the issue of sustainability and how academia can better link with the non-profit sector and local governments to ensure that scholarly research agendas reflect community needs, and to encourage action initiatives in collaborative promotions of community sustainability. The relevance of sustainability can be attested to by its prevalence in policy discourses, private sector strategic planning, university curricula and the marked growth in recent years of environmental non-profits aiming to achieve sustainable communities. This initiative therefore seeks to encourage and support collaborative efforts between these sectors with special emphasis on non-profits, local government and universities. It proposes to achieve this objective through a series of nine complementary projects, each of which aims to link research and action. These projects will focus on: (1) assessing capacity for urban food growth; (2) environmental monitoring; (3) disseminating pollution information to the public; (4) promoting education and awareness of the links between health and the environment; (5) professional development for sustainable learning; (6) building the management capacity of the environmental non-profit sector; (7) assessing and expanding the role of non-profits in environmental governance; (8) building effective environmental leadership, and; 9) creating a model sustainability charter and by-laws.

<http://www.sustainabletoronto.ca/>

[York Centre for Applied Sustainability](#)

The York Centre for Applied Sustainability promotes the application of sustainability principles and practices throughout society, including in the public sector, the private sector, the civil sector, and in education. At the end of the Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy's (ORTEE) second mandate (17 November 1995), the York Centre for Applied Sustainability (Y.C.A.S.) at York University was established.

<http://www.yorku.ca/ycas/index.shtml>

CITY REPORTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

[In Diversity Our Strength: New mobility for the new millennium -](#)

Draft report of The Sustainable Transportation Working Group

Toronto City Council formed the Environmental Task Force (ETF) in March of 1998. A major activity of the Task Force is to recommend an Environmental Plan for the City of Toronto. Early in the process, the ETF recognized the importance of transportation and land use to the city's ecology, economy, and quality of life. The ETF requested that a chapter be prepared for the Environmental Plan on Sustainable Transportation.

http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/council/environtf_report_index.htm

[The Green Economy Plan](#)

This report by the Green Economy Workgroup for the Environmental Task Force of the City of Toronto recommends policies, actions, and strategies that should be undertaken by the City. These recommendations will help the City to promote:

- a Healthy Environment- by lowering the emissions of greenhouse gases and a host of other pollutants, and encouraging businesses to reduce their input of resources and output of wastes;
- a Vital Economy- by increasing the city's competitive advantage globally; and
- Social Equity- by preserving and creating gainful jobs, providing healthy working environments, and planning for communities with quality of life in mind.

http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/council/environtf_greenecomony.htm

[The Sustainable Energy Plan for Toronto](#)

This plan, as part of the Environmental Task Force's recommendations to Council, is directed primarily towards energy use in the built environment. This draft report:

- Presents an overview of sustainable energy and what would comprise a sustainable energy infrastructure when it is fully built out,
- Shows how Toronto can meet its near-term target for emission reductions, both at the corporate level and city-wide,
- Offers recommendations and next steps to achieve the interim targets and build a foundation for further development,
- Provides information on the financial options available to the city to stimulate investment in components of a sustainable energy infrastructure, and
- Presents case studies of innovative undertakings in other cities in Europe and North America.

http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/council/environtf_sustainable_energy.htm

[Air Strategic Directions Report](#) [Land Strategic Directions Report](#) [Water Strategic Directions Report](#)

"Air: Strategic Directions", "Land Strategic Directions" and "Water Strategic Directions" Reports and their related Background Reports for the City of Toronto's Environmental Plan are part of a series of background and strategic documents on Water, Land and Air prepared for the Environmental Task Force. The key strategic directions and recommendations provided to address air, land and water quality are derived from the review of the background information collected on the conditions of the environment. These reports serve to provide part of the foundation for an integrated environmental policy framework that is currently being developed by the Environment Impact Assessment & Policy Development Unit.

http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/eia/air_strategy.pdf

http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/eia/land_strategy.pdf

http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/eia/water_strategy.pdf

[Education and Awareness Workgroup Report](#) [Final report - The City of Toronto Environmental Task Force](#)

This report provides an umbrella under which a broad range of environmental/sustainability education and outreach activities can be developed to complement recommendations made in other chapters of the Environmental Plan—sustainable energy, sustainable transportation, green economic development, governance, air, land, and water. Education was broadly defined to include formal, nonformal, and informal modes of instruction and learning. This workgroup found that environmental education and public outreach programs are currently being delivered by the City, non-governmental organizations, agencies, businesses, the

academic community, and others. The report suggests that many of these programs could be improved through stronger partnerships, strategic marketing and promotion, and increased accessibility.

<http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/council/awareness.htm>