

**Community Survey on Sustainability Issues
For West Hants, Kings, Annapolis, and Digby Counties
Winter 2007**

Dear Neighbour!

The Annapolis Valley is one of first regions in Canada to have created a shared sustainability vision, linking the principles of Environmental Stewardship, Economic Opportunity, Social Responsibility, Fiscal Responsibility, and Good Governance. We are now in the process of discovering how to get there and we are asking for your input. The municipalities in the Annapolis Valley have retained Jacques Whitford consultants to prepare a joint Background Study on sustainability issues, as part of the Federal requirement for an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP), to be eligible for 'green municipal' funding. The following survey questions are part of this Background Study and we hope you will take the time to complete and return it to us.

Below you will find three headings – Environmental, Social and Economic. Under each you will find a list of things that could be done to make our community a better, more responsible, liveable, and sustainable place to live. Imagine that you are a key decision maker for your community (such as a warden, mayor or councillor). Under each of the three headings, **what are the top three things you would do to enhance your community?** Please indicate this by putting the numbers 1, 2 and 3 next to your top three choices (1 indicating your highest priority).

Environmental

- Protecting environmentally sensitive areas such as rivers, marshes and species habitat
- Upgrading or expanding municipal water services
- Upgrading or expanding municipal sewer services
- Helping residents on private wells and septic systems to protect water quality
- Focusing on pest control and invasive species
- Creating a watershed management plan
- Looking for and assisting opportunities for alternative and renewable energy
- Protecting agricultural land
- Protecting air quality and reducing greenhouse gases
- Promoting environmentally friendly methods in primary industries (fishery, agriculture, forestry, live-stock operations)
- Protecting and expanding green space within the towns
- Protecting and enhancing coastal areas and the marine and freshwater environments
- Adapting to climate change
- Other (please specify): _____

Social

- Preserving the rural character and heritage of the community
- Protecting and enhancing beauty
- Fighting child and adult obesity
- Building opportunities for active recreation (bike lanes, trails, skate parks, golf course) and promoting active living for all ages
- Making a range of housing, especially smaller and more affordable housing, available
- Addressing the problems with local traffic
- Expanding the public transit system and/or carpooling opportunities
- Making the community welcoming to immigrants
- Increasing health care facilities and services
- Increasing opportunities for adult education to meet the needs of local economy

- Addressing the problems with youth smoking, drinking, and using drugs
- Encouraging volunteerism and promoting a sense of community
- Other (please specify): _____

Economic

- Making town centres more exciting with a better mix of uses (retail, housing, parks etc)
- Expanding industrial parks
- Promoting the valley and its products for its quality of life
- Putting up better signage and tourist information
- Supporting local entrepreneurs through education and business mentoring
- Providing grants or tax incentives to help businesses stay and survive in the area
- Reducing poverty and unemployment
- Developing new and creative forms of tourism such as ecotourism and agro-tourism
- Supporting knowledge workers and new industries (e.g. IT and environmental technologies)
- Strengthening the primary industries (agriculture, forestry, fishery)
- Developing a renewable energy industry
- Investing in transportation infrastructure (roads, bridges, ferries, highways, airports etc)
- Other (please specify): _____

Now think about the choices you have made above and write down **the overall number one initiative you think would make the biggest positive difference to your community's well being.**

Number one priority:

A few follow up questions:

- 1) What is your postal code? _____
- 2) What is your age range? under 15, 15-25, 25-45, 45-65, above 65
- 3) Do you feel that your community has a long term vision of where it wants to go? Yes, No, Don't Know
- 4) If it does have a vision, are you generally supportive of it? Yes, Partly, No, Don't Know
- 5) Are you interested in being consulted in the future on the topic of community sustainability planning?
 Yes, No (If yes, please provide a phone number, address or email for future invitations.)

- 6) In your opinion, what is the best way for local governments to consult citizens? Surveys, Interviews, Community Discussions, Open Houses, Town Hall Meetings, Websites
- 7) Please feel free to add any other additional comments you have:

Thank you for your interest in this project. The input you have provided will help us identify which sustainability issues are most important to the community of Annapolis Valley, and will shape the way that we plan for the region. There will be many other opportunities to provide input into this project. Please continue your involvement in this important process which is about the future of our community and our children.

Please return this survey at the location where you picked it up, or return to Erin Beaudin, Kings Community Economic Development Agency, 35 Webster Street, Kentville Nova Scotia B4N 1H4, Phone: (902) 678-1340, Fax: (902) 678-2324. This survey is also available on line at: <http://www.solutions.ca/AnnapolisValleySurvey>