



Sustainable Niagara Action Database

A Snapshot in time: December 2013



Sustainable Niagara
December 2013

Preface

In 2012 the Niagara Region released the Sustainable Niagara Phase 3 Action Plan, which describes the community's vision for what Niagara could look like in 2060, the goals to work towards, and the actions that will support the goals.

To support the Sustainable Niagara Action Plan, this Action Bank was developed to profile an inventory of actions that community members are carrying out that contribute to *Sustainable Niagara's* goals. It is used to showcase actions and best practices supporting sustainability across the region, and is a resource for organizations to identify opportunities for collaboration.

The actions are organized under the 8 goal areas identified in the Sustainable Niagara Phase 3 Action Plan (2013). This is a dynamic resource- click on partner names or resource titles to be taken to more information about this content.



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Agriculture and Food

Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Agricultural Action Plan	Niagara Region	This action plan for agricultural viability prepared by the Region of Niagara Agricultural Task Force and endorsed by Niagara Regional Council, identifies steps that can be taken to ensure that agriculture in the Region will thrive into the 21st century. While the actions identified here are by no means all that is required to support Niagara agriculture, they are, in the opinion of the Task Force, the most effective bundle to realize its goal to grow the industry at this point in its history.	Ongoing
Community Gardening	Greening Niagara	Greening Niagara assists members of the community with the establishment and maintenance of neighbourhood community gardens in order to provide residents with access to local food and encourage regional food security. As part of the local food program, Greening Niagara volunteers also provide workshops on growing local food, food storage, and canning.	Ongoing
Community Human Services Plan	Niagara Region	Niagara's Community Human Services Plan provides a framework for identifying the current and future human services and supports that Niagara residents need. The plan also provides an opportunity for social services providers in Niagara to look at new, creative ways to deliver those services and address concerns such as service access complexity, service overlaps, gaps or lack of flexibility. Goals include improved administration, funding and reporting arrangements and better integrated human services.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Community Policing Strategic Action Plan	Niagara Regional Police Service	Specific goals included establishing and promoting a meaningful community-police partnership; working together to identify, prioritize and problem-solve local policing issues; being proactive in community relations, crime prevention and communication of initiatives; researching and identifying a best methods practice in successful community policing models across Ontario and Canada; identifying strengths and weaknesses of community policing initiatives throughout the service and identifying any systemic barriers to community policing that may exist in the service.	Ongoing
Early Years Niagara Planning Council	Niagara Best Start Network	The Early Years Niagara Planning Council has a vision that positions Niagara as "...a community that ensures every child will reach optimal potential through cooperative investment in the Early Years." Early Years continually works to establish a comprehensive and sustainable integrated system of services that supports families with children from birth through their transition into school.	Ongoing
Education	Niagara North Federation of Agriculture	Niagara North Federation of Agriculture provides training and host workshops on new legislation impacting the agricultural community, growing farm profits, risk management, and communications.	Ongoing
Good Food Box	Bridges Community Health Centre	The Good Food Box is a fresh food distribution program that gives people a chance to buy local fresh fruits and vegetables once a month at affordable prices. Boxes are available for pickup at host sites across the area.	Ongoing
Grocery Store Tours	Bridges Community Health Centre	The Grocery Store Tours program is led by a registered dietitian who leads individuals on a tour for discovering how to make healthy food choices, read food labels, and shop on a budget.	Ongoing
Horticultural Production Systems	Vineland Research and Innovation Centre	Vineland Research and Innovation Centre researchers explore ways to use biocontrols tools against insect pests and the evaluation of natural agents to provide growers and landscapers with safe and effective ways to eliminate pests and weeds.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Literacy Service Planning	Literacy Link Niagara	Literacy Service Planning is a process of system coordination resulting in the more effective and efficient provision of literacy services to the community. The planning process includes participation and input of all learning and basic skill agencies (anglophone, francophone, native and deaf and deaf/blind agencies) and a wide range of key community stakeholders.	Ongoing
Local Food Action Plan	Niagara Region	Niagara's Local Food Action Plan outlines actions that will help Niagara's food industry grow.	Ongoing
Local Procurement	Vineland Research and Innovation Centre	Vineland Research and Innovation Centre events are catered by local service providers and products from Niagara Region.	Ongoing
Niagara 2031- Growth Management Strategy	Niagara Region	Adopted by Regional Council, the report Niagara 2031 – a Growth Management Strategy for Niagara includes a policy framework focused on development activity within existing urban areas and the re-use of old industrial, commercial and downtown properties.	Ongoing
Niagara Age Friendly Initiative	Niagara Region ; City of Welland; City of Welland Senior Citizens Advisory Committee; Rose City Seniors Foundation; Niagara Connects	Niagara has joined a global effort led by the World Health Organization to become an age-friendly community. The goal is to create safe and secure environments that foster community participation, personal health and well-being. Local action committees will be formed to identify and start age-friendly activities specific to their local community's needs. Input and ideas from residents are key to the success of the project.	Ongoing
Using Beet Juice to Reduce Road Salt	Niagara Region Public Works	The Niagara Region is using a sugar beet juice compound to reduce the amount of salt on the roads by as much as 30 per cent. The sugar beet juice compound, also known as "organic liquid deicing", is made of equal parts salt brine and the by-product of sugar beet juice refining. The liquid is applied to dry roads as an anti-icing agent, or as pre-wetting agent to help salt stick to the ground.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
You're the Chef	Bridges Community Health Centre	You're the Chef teaches kids 9-13 how to make healthy, tasty affordable meals. Kids will learn how to follow recipes, use kitchen equipment and handle food safely. They also get to sample to food, take home the recipes to make at home and have fun with friends.	Ongoing



Built Environments

Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Accessible Niagara Plan	Niagara Region Accessibility Committee	This Plan demonstrates compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.	Ongoing
Building Operations	YMCA of Niagara Region	The YMCA of Niagara has implemented a number of sustainable building practices to increase the efficiency of their building operations including designing new buildings to LEED standards, motion sensor / automatic lighting, low flow shower heads, HVAC (Heating, Air Conditioning) system improvements and regular tracking of facility utility bills.	Ongoing
Campus Master Plan	Brock University	In order to ensure the efficient use of land resources, Brock University has a Campus Master Plan which guides the university's growth and development.	Complete
EcoSchools Programs	District School Board of Niagara	The District School Board of Niagara participates in Ontario EcoSchools which is an environmental education and certification program for grades K-12 that helps school communities develop both ecological literacy and environmental practices to become environmentally responsible citizens and reduce the ecological footprint of schools. To date, 40 schools from across Niagara region have chose to participate in the program.	Ongoing
E-Flyer Service	District School Board of Niagara	In order to avoid paper usage, District School Board of Niagara moved away from conventional newsletters to an electronic version that would reduce paper consumption and create an accessible tool for parents to view upcoming events and notices online.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Energy Conservation	Horizon Utilities	Horizon is a leader in delivering energy conservation programs to residential and business customers (e.g. great refrigerator roundup, peaksaver program, electricity retrofit incentive program, power savings blitz, small business lighting program).	Ongoing
Environmental Purchasing Criteria	District School Board of Niagara	On requests for proposals, the NDSB encourage vendors to showcase sustainable products and services offered by their company as a value-added component to their submission.	Ongoing
Green Cleaning	District School Board of Niagara	Each school within the NDSB is cleaned using sustainable materials and cleaners are trained on how to use green cleaning products.	Ongoing
Green Cleaning	Brock University	Currently, all members of the custodial services team uses sustainable cleaning products and have received green cleaning training and the Director of Custodial Services has received green cleaning certification from the Green Clean Institute.	Ongoing
Green Housekeeping Program	Brock University	Brock University achieved gold status in the Green Housekeeping Program following a campus audit that was evaluated and scored (89 per cent) by a third-party consultant. The cleaning process focuses not only on cleanliness and appearance (Association of Physical Plant Administrators, Level 2) but also on health and environmental stewardship throughout the university's main campus, so that the campus can be recognized as a certified green facility.	Completed January 2013
New Construction	Brock University	Brock University has prepared an architecture policy for the construction of new buildings on campus that dictates that new facilities adhere to LEED Silver Standards or better.	Ongoing
Niagara Community	Niagara Region	Annual awards to recognize and celebrate excellence in community design in Niagara region.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Design Awards			
Sustainability Building Practices	District School Board of Niagara	On an ongoing basis, NDSB retrofits building infrastructure to encourage sustainable actions and use resources in an efficient manner (e.g. water bottle refilling stations, solar panels).	Ongoing
Sustainability Reporting	Horizon Utilities	Horizon Utilities is the first electric utility in Ontario to make a filing with the global reporting initiative and also the first to seek and receive "external assurance" for an initiative filing. For the third consecutive year, Horizon has published a Sustainability-Based Annual Report, focusing on the triple bottom-line of social, environmental and economic considerations.	Ongoing
Sustainable Purchasing Habits	Brock University	When purchasing new appliances for buildings on campus, Brock University is committed to buying Energy Star compliant products.	Ongoing



Culture Learning and Social Development

Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Alternative Dispute Resolution	Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc.	The Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc. actively works with families to resolve family conflict and issues in a compassionate manner.	Ongoing
Annual "Day of Reflection"	Niagara College	Each year, the Sustainability Committee at Niagara College invites staff to participate in a day of reflection where they can collectively brainstorm new ideas for helping the College become more sustainable.	Ongoing
Awareness	Vineland Research and Innovation Centre	Vineland acts as an advocate for the agricultural community.	Ongoing
Awareness/Education	Niagara College	The Environmental Coordinator develops and leads environmental awareness campaigns to encourage staff and students to reduce waste and energy consumption.	Ongoing
Be a Great Parent	Niagara Region Public Health	Be a Great Parent is a positive parenting campaign targeting parents, grandparents and caregivers of children (preconception to 18 years of age). Be A Great Parent focuses on various parenting styles and the fundamentals of positive parenting: communication, guidance, and relationships.	Ongoing
Business Development Office	Vineland Research and Innovation Centre	The Business Development Office (BDO) is focused on intellectual property and the rapid commercialization of new technologies and discoveries so that Canadian horticulture has timely access to tools that can help with its competitive position, whether it be a grower or agri-business operation.	Ongoing
Business to Business Networking	Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce	The Chamber hosts regular networking and social events to raise awareness about local manufacturers, producers and suppliers in Niagara Region.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Camp Programming	YMCA of Niagara Region	YMCA Day Camps are offered for children and youth over the Summer, Winter and March Break holidays. Camps are available for children of all ages across Niagara Region. Day Camp programs include active games, swimming, creative activities, special events, camp songs, arts and crafts, sports and more!	Ongoing
Caregiver Support Network	Bridges Community Health Centre	Bridges Community Health Centre offers a monthly drop-in caregiver support network meetings to help those caring for a loved one and is in need of personal support.	Ongoing
Chronic Pain Support Group	Bridges Community Health Centre	Bridges CHC hosts a chronic pain management support group to discuss techniques and strategies to successfully manage pain, along with other coping with chronic pain issues.	Ongoing
Cooking Classes for Youth	United Way St. Catharines and District	United Way works along Kernahan Park Secondary School Hospitality and Tourism Program to providing cooking classes for students with special needs. The food produced at the cooking classes is provided to teens participating in Resource Association for at Risk Teens programs.	Ongoing
Cultural Learning / Awareness	Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc.	Staff at the Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc. provide regular programming to help individuals from the aboriginal community regain their sense of identity and create a shared sense of belonging with other members from the community. Specifically, programs focus on language training, cooking, hosting talking/healing circles and clan building.	Ongoing
Early Years Centres	YMCA of Niagara Region	Early Years Centres are a place where parents and caregivers can get answers to questions, information about programs and services that are available for young children, and an opportunity to talk to early years professionals, as well as other parents and caregivers in the community.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Eco-Conferences	District School Board of Niagara	Yearly, District School Board of Niagara hosts an eco-conference where 5-10 students per school can come together to hear environmental speakers and talk about ideas for reducing their schools ecological footprint.	Ongoing
Education	Greening Niagara	Greening Niagara hosts regular "ecoworkshops" at local schools to educate students about vermiculture, permaculture, plant propagation, land stewardship, tree health assessments, etc.	Ongoing
Education/Training	Niagara Home Builders Association	The Niagara Home Builders Association provides education and training to builders, renovators, suppliers, contractors and related industry professionals (e.g. workshops on building code changes, seminars on energy efficiency).	Ongoing
Education/Training	Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc.	Upon request, the Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc. will provide cultural awareness and sensitivity training to non-aboriginal individuals through presentations, "lunch and learns" and public workshops.	Ongoing
Education/Training	Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce	The Chamber provides education and training seminars for business owners and managers (e.g. management training, workshops, and seminars).	Ongoing
Educational Programming	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority	The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority offers a diversity of environmental education programs for youth including tree planting at area schools, working with kids on the importance of natural species and environmental protection, and participating in the Niagara Water Children's Festival.	Ongoing
Geospatial Niagara	Geospatial Niagara	Geospatial Niagara seeks to promote geo-literacy in education and community participation through geography to create, promote and attract a geospatial economic sector to Niagara.	Ongoing
Just for You - Women's Group	Bridges Community Health Centre	Bridges Community Health Centre runs a monthly women's group where activities are focused on nurturing creativity, building self knowledge and encouraging the expression of identity.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Knowledge Transfer	Vineland Research and Innovation Centre	Vineland Research and Innovation Centre collaborates with agricultural research centres from around the world, transferring of knowledge and expertise from one agricultural community to another.	Ongoing
LINC Language Assessment Centre	YMCA of Niagara Region	YMCA Newcomer Services provide language assessment for adult newcomers to Canada who are Permanent Residents or Convention Refugees. Learners are then referred to a language instruction class or program. Classes and assessments are offered throughout the Niagara Region and are free of charge for eligible adult newcomers.	Ongoing
Local Food Lunches	Vineland Research and Innovation Centre	Staff at Vineland are able to participate in local food "lunch and learn" sessions where they can learn how to cook and prepare locally grown food by a Niagara Chef.	Ongoing
Men's Social Group	Bridges Community Health Centre	The men's social group offers a space for men to make time and friends over coffee and conversation.	Ongoing
Newsletter	Niagara South Federation of Agriculture	NSFA regularly distributes newsletters to educate their membership about changes to government regulations that impact the agricultural community, funding/incentive programs (e.g. heritage barns, stewardship programs), and social events.	Ongoing
Newsletter	Niagara North Federation of Agriculture	NNFA regularly distributes newsletters to educate their membership about changes to government regulations that impact the agricultural community, funding/incentive programs (e.g. heritage barns, stewardship programs), and social events.	Ongoing
Newsletter	Greening Niagara	Greening Niagara regularly distributes newsletters to notify their membership about upcoming community events and to provide current information related to environmental sustainability and climate change.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Niagara Children's Charter	Early Years Niagara	Niagara was one of the first regions in Canada to adopt a charter of rights for children. The Niagara Children's Charter, which was endorsed by all 12 municipalities in 2003, states that "children from birth to 18 years, like other human beings have basic rights and freedoms. Adults and communities have a responsibility to our children to ensure that these rights and freedoms are respected."	Ongoing
Niagara Culture Plan	Niagara Region Culture Committee	The plan works to enhance and coordinate many existing cultural assets and activities in a shared vision and action-plan for culture in Niagara through 16 specific actions under four categories; Creative Economy, Creative Places, Creative People, Creative Identity.	Ongoing
Niagara Prosperity Initiative	Partnership with Private, Voluntary, and Public Sector	Niagara Prosperity Initiative was established to address poverty at the neighbourhood level.	Ongoing
Niagara Recess Project	United Way St. Catharines and District	United Way trains and places volunteers in the schools to lead an array of team-building games.	Ongoing
ProKids	Niagara Region	Through partnerships with over 200 recreational and cultural service clubs that provide participants with placement opportunities, Niagara's ProKids program supports the participation of eligible children and youth in the recreational or cultural activity of their choice. The program is based on research that indicates the many benefits to children and youth of regular involvement in physical and recreation activity. Subsidized recreational and cultural programs help to reduce the economic hardships felt by families in providing these opportunities for their children.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
School Composting	District School Board of Niagara	Select schools across NDSB participate in school-wide composting to increase school waste diversion.	Ongoing
Science and Environmental Consultant	District School Board of Niagara	NDSB's Consultant for science and environmental studies researches and provides training to teachers to help them integrate new curriculum and environmental awareness into their lesson plans.	Ongoing
Training and Capacity Building	United Way Niagara Falls and Greater Fort Erie	United Way hosts regular workshops, round table discussion, and networking events for those in the non-for-profit sector related to proposal writing, media training, managing volunteers, leadership development, measurement training, etc.	Ongoing
Training and Capacity Building	United Way South Niagara	United Way hosts regular workshops, round table discussion, and networking events for those in the non-for-profit sector related to proposal writing, research, measurement training, data analysis, etc.	Ongoing
Youth Action Program	YMCA of Niagara Region	The YMCA of Niagara's Youth Action program is offered across Niagara Region for all youth in grades 4-8 (age 9 to 14). The program offer youth a safe and positive environment in which they can learn new skills, participate in physical activities and socialize with friends while having a positive role model to assist and guide them and build their Developmental Assets.	Ongoing
Youth Leader Corps Program	YMCA of Niagara Region	YMCA Youth Leader Corps programs help youth build skills and responsibility for the well-being of others. It is a program that provides a sound foundation of formal and supervised in-service training that prepares youth for future volunteer and employment opportunities. YMCA Youth Leader Corps Programs feature three components: values based leadership training, volunteerism, and self-government.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Youth Scholarship Program	Niagara South Federation of Agriculture	Niagara South Federation of Agriculture offers an annual scholarship of \$2000 to area youth pursuing post-secondary education in an agricultural related field.	Ongoing



Economy

Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Benchmarking Report	Niagara Workforce and Planning Board	The Niagara Workforce and Planning Board benchmarking report compares the St. Catharines-Niagara CMA to 34 other CMAs across Canada to provide a clear assessment of Niagara's performance from 1996-2010. The purpose of this report is to not only highlight Niagara's opportunities and challenges, but to work towards solutions with community partners that will build a stronger and better Niagara.	Ongoing
EcoFest	Greening Niagara	Greening Niagara hosts Niagara's greenest trade show local producers/suppliers of sustainable products can showcase their work and network with others who have a passion for sustainability.	Ongoing
Employment for Homeless Individuals	United Way St. Catharines and District	United Way provided guidance and funding to establish a cleaning company for RAFT (Resource Association for at Risk Teens) facilities. The individuals employed by the company are chronically homeless and they share the earnings of the company to host neighbourhood BBQs and events.	Ongoing
Employment Research and Reporting	Niagara Workforce and Planning Board	NWPB prepares research and reports that showcase Niagara Region's employment statistics, industry profiles, and the state of economic/business development across the area. Some examples of reports completed include Examining Niagara's Labour Force Through the Creative Class Lens, Hiring Immigrants Makes Good Business Sense and Examining Workforce Needs of Niagara subject matter experts.	Ongoing
Get a Job Niagara	YMCA of Niagara Region	YMCA Employment Services offers individuals help getting the training, skills, and experience required to gain meaningful employment in Niagara Region. The program "Get a Job Niagara" also provides mentorship to individuals seeking employment - whether recently laid-off, seeking alternative employment, or new to Ontario.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
GoBidNiagara.com	Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce	GoBidNiagara.com is the one-window portal to connect local businesses to public sector purchasing opportunities.	Ongoing
Internship Programs	YMCA of Niagara Region	YMCA of Niagara Region provides internships program for 20 week internships to help individuals gain on the job training and mentorship as they enter the job market. In particular, the YMCA utilized the Environmental Internship Program to identify facility/operations improvements that could be made to become more sustainable.	Ongoing
Labour Market Planning	Niagara Workforce and Planning Board	NWPB provides current labour market information that supports solution development to address Niagara's labour force challenges. Links to relevant reports, websites, and data analysis on workforce demographics and market conditions are collected and made available online.	Ongoing
Newcomer Employment Assistance Program	YMCA of Niagara Region	The YMCA Newcomer Employment Assistance Program is an extension of the Employment Assistance Program. Those who are new to Canada, are in receipt of Social Assistance and hold a valid work permit qualify to participate in this program. The program offers enhanced job search services through workshops on finding a job, interview skills, understanding employer expectations, and success on the job.	Ongoing
Innovate Niagara	Innovate Niagara	Innovate Niagara is a hub for interactive digital media projects and business development in Niagara. Innovate Niagara works to create an innovative business incubation and generation model to help jump-start and grow new enterprise. This initiative is helping to build an interactive digital media cluster in the Niagara region.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Niagara Immigrant Employment Council	Niagara Workforce and Planning Board	NIEC works to enhance Niagara's diversity and economic prosperity by strengthening its capacity to attract, recruit and retain internationally trained immigrants who have chosen Canada as their destination. NIEC provides a forum to develop innovative and sustainable employment strategies, mentorship to newcomers and recent immigrants, awareness of Canadian equivalency of credentials held by internationally trained individuals, and immigrant employment friendly policies at the corporate, government, and community level.	Ongoing
Research	Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce	The Chamber conducts research on the Regional economy, local talent pools, and new economic development opportunities.	Ongoing
Research and Innovation	Vineland Research and Innovation Centre	Research is at the heart of Vineland's mandate and is shaped by four goals, developed as part of an industry-based annual strategy and priorities setting process. The four research goals are: explore different ways to create new and differentiated horticultural products, driving down production costs, delivering the health and environmental benefits of horticulture, and safeguarding horticultural crops against environmental stress.	Ongoing
Youth Employment/Training	Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc.	The Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc. works alongside aboriginal youth to help them discover training and career opportunities available to them. The main office is a place where aboriginal youth can get support applying for post-secondary education and finding meaningful employment.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Youth Retainment Strategy	Next Niagara	NEXTNiagara is a regional initiative led by a panel of next generation community leaders (ages 15-35) who want to see Niagara grow as a prosperous community. The panel is working together to create a retention and attraction strategy to support and help coordinate the efforts of local government, education and community organizations, to make Niagara a region of choice for Niagara's emerging generation.	Ongoing



Ecosystems and Natural Areas

Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Battery Recycling	Ingredion Canada Inc.	Our facility has recently expanded our on-site battery recycling program to allow all employees to bring in their spent batteries from home.	Ongoing
Carbon Footprint	Walker Industries	Calculate the carbon footprint of the Walker Industries group of companies.	Ongoing
Community Climate Action Planning	Niagara Region	Working with community members, the Region facilitated the development of an Action Plan to address climate change in Niagara.	Completed March 2013
Conservation Areas	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority	NPCA operates and maintains over 30 conservation areas which represents 7,091 acres natural and recreational lands. The conservation areas offer opportunities to explore natural history, culture, and trails.	Ongoing
Ecosystem Restoration	Niagara Parks Commission	The Niagara Parks Commission actively works to protect natural lands in Niagara Falls and works to restore lands through prescribed burning and natural species planting.	Ongoing
Environmental Land Management Plan	Niagara Parks Commission	In order to effectively manage NPC lands, an Environmental Land Management Plan has been prepared to guide the management and use of natural areas and golf courses.	Ongoing
Environmental Management and Planning	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority is responsible for the review of planning applications affected by natural environmental hazards and/or natural heritage features to ensure they comply with local and Provincial regulations. It also provides advice to municipalities or others on environmental impacts related to watershed and water resource management.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Good Forestry Practices	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority	NPCA administers and enforces Niagara Regions Tree and Forest Conservation By-Law to ensure that tree cutting is carried out in accordance with Good Forestry Practices.	Ongoing
Heritage Tree Hunt	Greening Niagara	The Heritage Tree Hunt is a program that encourages awareness about urban forestry. Residents are able to send in photos of the best trees around Niagara and the trees are then assessed for their age/health.	Ongoing
Land Management and Acquisition	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority	Through support of donations and alternative funding mechanisms, NPCA purchases parcels of land that assist the Region in protecting valuable natural communities and ecological corridors.	Ongoing
Leave No Trace	Niagara Parks Commission	NPC adheres to the ethical standards and principles for "Leave No Trace Canada"	Ongoing
Native Seed Nursery	Greening Niagara	As part of the school planting program, Greening Niagara hosts regular native walks where they train volunteers to collect seeds for their native seed nursery.	Ongoing
Native Species Centre	Niagara Parks Commission	Niagara Parks Commission staff provide educational programming and outdoor activities related to natural species at local parks.	Ongoing
Neighbourhood Committees	Greening Niagara	Upon completing a school yard planting program, Greening Niagara establishes neighbourhood liaisons to take care new plants over the summer months while students are no longer at school.	Ongoing
Niagara Environmental Awards	Niagara Region	Annual awards for individuals, businesses, community groups, non-profits, schools and families who have made significant contributions to safeguarding Niagara's natural environment.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Niagara River Remedial Action Plan (RAP)	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority	The Niagara River Area of Concern is one of a number of environmental hotspots around the Great Lakes as a result of historical pollution. The river was designated an area of concern in 1987 on both the Canadian and American sides but these areas are being managed separately. All area of concerns are required to develop a RAP, which is a three-stage process. The Niagara River (Ontario) AOC extends along the entire length of the Canadian side of the Niagara River (including Niagara Falls) and it also includes the Welland River watershed (which makes up 80% of its area). The Remedial Action Plan (RAP) is being implemented to address the remaining environmental issues (referred to as Beneficial Use Impairments) and restore the area of concern so that it may be “delisted”, i.e. removed from the International Joint Commission’s list of degraded areas.	Ongoing
Project Tree Cycle	Niagara Parks Commission	In collaboration with the City of Niagara Falls, the NPC recycles trees to use as bark on trail systems.	Ongoing
Restoration, Stewardship and Naturalization Grants	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority	NPCA works with land owners to encourage sustainable use and management of land. It provides technical and financial support to individuals exploring ways to manage their land in a sustainable manner (e.g. water well decommissioning, watershed restoration, manure storage facilities, buffer strips, tree planting, etc.)	Ongoing
School Yard Landscape Planning and Implementation	Greening Niagara	Upon request, Greening Niagara works with local schools to complete 5 year design plans for local school yards.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Shoreline Restoration	Albert Zappitelli	In collaboration with the NPCA, the Zappitelli family restored their property's shoreline by planting trees, creating watershed buffers, and implementing other erosion control methodologies.	Complete
Sustainability Report	Walker Industries	Publish a Walker Industries Sustainability Report by 2014.	Ongoing
Terrestrial Restoration	Albert Zappitelli	In collaboration with the OPA, the Zappitelli family naturalized a significant portion of the 44 acres of land as part of the OPA's Forest Management Plan.	Ongoing
Water Footprint	Walker Industries	Calculate the water footprint of the Walker Industries group of companies by 2013.	Ongoing
WaterSmart Niagara	Niagara Region/ Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority	WaterSmart guides the protection and conservation of Niagara's water resources. The program targets government, businesses and residents across the Niagara region and parts of the City of Hamilton and Haldimand County. It includes 340 actions over the next 30 years.	Ongoing



Governance

Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
A Sustainability Policy for Brock University	Brock University	Brock University has adopted a sustainability policy that supports both the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserves principles as well as the 8 Sustainable Niagara goals.	Completed June 27, 2013
Advocacy	Niagara Workforce and Planning Board	NWPB advocates and lobby's the government to prepare plans and policies that support employment growth and economic diversification.	Ongoing
Advocacy	Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc.	The Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc. advocates to all levels of government for policies and programs that preserve aboriginal culture, provide resources to address aboriginal social issues, promote aboriginal history in Canada and dispel racism toward aboriginal people in Canada.	Ongoing
Advocacy	Greening Niagara	Greening Niagara encourages local governments to implement policies and plans that seek to address issues related to urban forestry, climate change, and active transportation.	Ongoing
Advocacy	Albert Zappitelli	Albert Zappitelli is a community advocate for renewable energy in Niagara Region. He lobbies local politicians to improve subsidies for renewable energy and raise awareness about the viability for businesses, residents, and organizations to gain self-sufficiency.	Ongoing
Advocacy/Lobbying	Niagara South Federation of Agriculture	NSFA advocates on behalf of local farmers to ensure public policy and planning supports a prosperous agricultural community. In addition, the organization assists farmers where needed with legal issues, obtaining permits, and advocating for agriculture-based economic development.	Ongoing
Advocacy/Lobbying	Niagara North Federation of	NNFA advocates on behalf of local farmers to ensure public policy and planning supports a prosperous agricultural community.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
	Agriculture		
Advocacy/Lobbying	Niagara Home Builders Association	The Niagara Home Builders' Association is a network of professionals who use strategic alliances to advocate on behalf of residential development and construction issues within Niagara Region. The association lobbies local governments to ensure that taxes and development charges are fair and help encourage growth and development across the Region.	Ongoing
Advocacy/Lobbying	Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce	The Chamber advocates on behalf of the business community to local governments to implement policies and plans that support business development, prosperity, and inclusive approaches to planning.	Ongoing
Awareness	Greening Niagara	Greening Niagara delivers presentations and workshops on the impacts of climate change on the community.	Ongoing
Awareness and Advocacy	United Way Niagara Falls and Greater Fort Erie	Leads awareness and advocacy campaigns related to the importance of social work and addressing social problems and community needs.	Ongoing
Awareness and Advocacy	United Way South Niagara	Leads awareness and advocacy campaigns related to the importance of social work and addressing social problems and community needs.	Ongoing
Community Awareness	Niagara North Federation of Agriculture	NSFA raises awareness about the importance of agriculture and the challenges the industry faces at community fairs, events, and education days.	Ongoing
Community Funding and Participation	Horizon Utilities	As part of a commitment to community sustainability, Horizon funds and participates in local Niagara sustainability initiatives.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Community Research	Niagara Connects	NRPC conducts research on an ongoing basis to assess community priorities and needs for action. As part of the organization's mission, NRPC builds community capacity for Niagara-wide research and planning and facilitates coordinated stakeholder action toward developing a stronger Niagara.	Ongoing
Corporate Environmental Policy	Niagara College	Niagara College has a corporate environmental policy that acknowledges the organization's commitment to sustainability and meeting regulatory requirements (e.g. ISO 14001, Ministry of Environment waste regulations, etc.)	Complete
Employee Energy Conservation Committee	District School Board of Niagara	The Employee Energy Conservation Committee meets bi-monthly with representatives from department to track and manage energy use across local schools. The committee explore opportunities for efficiency upgrades, creates energy efficiency educational campaigns, and tracks energy consumption for each school.	Ongoing
Encouraging Collaboration	United Way South Nigara	United Way works to bring together community organizations to work together to solve community issues/challenges.	Ongoing
Environmental Policy / Committee	District School Board of Niagara	NDSB established an environmental policy and subsequent environmental committee to guide the ongoing work of the school board to explore ways to reduce the ecological footprint of school facilities.	Ongoing
Funding Community Programs	United Way St. Catharines and District	Provides not-for-profit agencies with funding to deliver programs and services address priority issues in St. Catharines and District, including access to food, shelter and removing barriers for marginalized groups.	Ongoing
Funding Community Programs	United Way Niagara Falls and Greater Fort Erie	Provides not-for-profit agencies with funding to deliver programs and services address priority issues in Niagara Falls and Greater Fort Erie, including but not limited to access to food, shelter, and removing barriers for marginalized groups.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Funding Community Programs	United Way South Niagara	Provides not-for-profit agencies with guidance, funding, and accountability to deliver programs and services address priority issues in Pelham, Port Colbourne, Wainfleet, and Welland. United Way also collaborates with other funding bodies across the Province.	Ongoing
Green Committee	Niagara Parks Commission	The NPC Green Committee is an interdepartmental committee that meets bi-monthly to discuss strategies for reducing the organization's environmental footprint. The committee also explores ways to encourage employee buy-in for corporate sustainability initiatives.	Ongoing
Inter-Agency Partnerships	Vineland Research and Innovation Centre	Vineland Research and Innovation Centre creates value chain linkages and a governance structure that encourages public-private collaboration.	Ongoing
Living in Niagara Report	Niagara Connects	The Living in Niagara Report is an inventory of critical indicators of quality of life in Niagara. To prepare the report, the Niagara Research and Planning Council works collaboratively with organizations from across Niagara and hosts community engagement sessions to include stakeholders in the planning and reporting process.	Ongoing
Participatory Budgeting	United Way St. Catharines & District	To address budgetary challenges openly, United Way included community partners in preparing program budgets to build capacity, encourage integrated problem solving, and community collaboration.	Ongoing
Program Management	United Way St. Catharines & District	United Way manages the delivery of programs funded by the organization by bringing together community partners to discuss best practices and performance measurement.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Sustainability Advocacy	Sustainable Niagara	Sustainable Niagara investigates, promotes and support programs initiatives that support sustainability in Niagara Region (e.g. website, participation on municipal committees, publications in local newspapers, Carshare Niagara, Downtown Food Co-op).	Ongoing
Sustainability Committee	Niagara College	Niagara College has an interdepartmental sustainability committee that focusses on improving sustainability on campus through education/awareness, monitoring, and operational efficiency.	Ongoing
Sustainability Coordinating Committee	Brock University	A interdepartmental (academic and administrative) committee is established which examines policies and programs that focus on improving campus sustainability.	Ongoing
Sustainability Policy	Horizon Utilities	Horizon Utilities has a sustainability policy which guides the ongoing work of the organization. The policy applies to every department and staff member within the organization.	Complete
T. Roy Adams Humanitarian of the Year Award	Niagara Region	An annual award to a Niagara resident who is dedicated to community service and sees volunteerism as an integral part of their life.	Ongoing



Health and Security

Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
After School Matters	United Way St. Catharines and District	Through consultation with the community, United Way designed after school programming for youth that is delivered by local service providers (e.g. Big Brother / Big Sister, Dance Schools, YMCA, local trips). The program has been particularly successful within the Manchester housing complex and United Way helped coordinate the establishment of dedicated youth programming facility. Programs include but are not limited to homework days, Friday cooking classes, smoking prevention campaigns, and sports activities.	Ongoing
Awareness	United Way South Niagara	Through regular fundraising campaigns, United Ways works to raise awareness about the impacts of poverty and the need for intervention.	Ongoing
Backpack For Kids	United Way St. Catharines and District	Backpack for Kids is an annual program provides free backpacks filled with school supplies to 2,300 less-advantaged youth throughout the region at the beginning of the school year.	Ongoing
Brokering Relationships	United Way Niagara Falls and Greater Fort Erie	United Way facilitates community relationships and resources in a neutral manner ensuring that organizations work collaboratively to solve community issues/challenges.	Ongoing
Chronic Pain Management	Bridges Community Health Centre	The chronic pain workshop is available for anyone to improve their understanding of pain management treatments and a broad range of coping strategies to help individuals manage pain in their life.	Ongoing
Craving Change	Bridges Community Health Centre	Craving Change is a how-to workshop focused on helping people change their relationship with food. At the workshops, individuals learn to understand why they eat the way they do and how to better	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
		control what they eat.	
Days of Caring	United Way St. Catharines and District	Day of Caring is a partnership between United Way, community agencies and employee groups wanting to provide a 'hands-on' day where employees complete various projects for charitable or non-profit organizations.	Ongoing
Diabetes Education	Bridges Community Health Centre	The Bridges Community Health Centre Diabetes Education Program provides education and support to people with diabetes, their families, friends and community agencies. The goal of the program is to facilitate and encourage self-management of diabetes.	Ongoing
Domestic Violence Report Card	Coalition to End Violence Against Women	The Coalition to End Violence Against Women is a collective voice of 24 organizations from the Niagara Region that are working toward ending violence against women by raising public awareness, educating, sharing information, networking and identifying and breaking down systematic barriers that perpetuate violence. In June 2010 the coalition completed "Starting a Conversation, Engaging a Community" – Niagara's first report card on domestic violence detailing the strengths and weaknesses of Niagara's response to domestic violence. In the fall of 2012 the second report was released called 'The System Matters'. This current report card builds and expands on the previous reports to highlight the struggles, challenges and strengths of the current system. Both reports were followed up with a secondary report card and can be found of CEVAW's website.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Health Promotion	Bridges Community Health Centre	On an ongoing basis, Bridges CHC works to enable people to increase control over and improve their health while also encouraging social and political organizations to improve individual and public health through strong planning and public health policy (specifically for seniors, youth and children, immigrants, and individuals who have low incomes).	Ongoing
Health Story of Niagara	Niagara Region Public Health	The Health Story of Niagara tells the story of those who live, work, and play in Niagara. The story features a collection of health information and data. Through this collection, Niagara municipalities and community stakeholders can apply the data and analysis to planning for their programs and services to achieve a healthier Niagara.	Ongoing
Healthy from the Start	Bridges Community Health Centre	Healthy from the Start is a drop-in program that promotes prenatal well-being for healthy term infants. It provides healthy lifestyle and nutrition information for pregnant women with nutritional, social, financial needs.	Ongoing
Healthy Kids Centre	YMCA of Niagara Region	Niagara Healthy Kids Centre is an active learning space that provides lifestyle programs for children and their families to teach healthy living focusing on physical activity and nutrition.	Ongoing
Healthy Living Niagara	Healthy Living Niagara	Healthy Living Niagara is a partnership of community groups working together to promote healthy and safe living, primarily among children, youth and people living in poverty. Funded by the Ministry of Health, the collaborative is focusing on priority areas that include healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco use and exposure, injury prevention and substance and alcohol misuse and mental health.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Healthy You - Weight Management Program	Bridges Community Health Centre	The Health You - Weigh Management Program helps individuals take a lifestyle/non-diet approach to managing weight and offers group classes for sharing experiences.	Ongoing
Homelessness Outreach	Niagara Region , Community Care St. Catharines and Thorold	The Niagara Homelessness Initiative, funded by Niagara Region and administered by Community Care St. Catharines and Thorold, is a rapid-response, emergency outreach support service for the street involved/absolute homeless, providing direct front-line services to the hardest to serve population through community outreach, basic needs, counselling, information, advocacy, and emergency/crisis referral to emergency shelters, while maintaining contact with those who remain outdoors throughout Niagara.	Ongoing
I am a Kind Man	Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc.	I am a Kind Man is a conflict resolution / management program for men to learn how to control their emotions in a constructive manner.	Ongoing
Mindful Living	Bridges Community Health Centre	Mindful Living is a program that focuses on gentle and compassionate ways of being with our bodies, emotions and challenging mind states through meditation, body awareness and relaxation, yoga, learning to ground oneself, and learning how to work with uncomfortable mind states/body sensations.	Ongoing
Niagara Region Children's Safety Village	Niagara Region , Niagara Regional Police Service , local fire services, Niagara EMS	The Niagara Region Children's Safety Village is an educational centre with a miniature village located on land provided by Niagara College. Its purpose is to teach children in kindergarten to grade 8 about safety and injury prevention. The Village's learning environment provides a hands-on experience for children so they can put into practice all they have learned inside the classroom.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Primary Care	Bridges Community Health Centre	Bridges Community Health Centre provides a full range of client-centred primary care services, particularly to those with limited access to health services. Primary care services are provided by an interprofessional team which includes physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, a registered dietitian, and a social worker.	Ongoing
Safe Cycling for Fun and Health	BikeNiagara	BikeNiagara is a new organization that has developed a program called Safe Cycling for Fun and Health that is offering a series of free, two hour bicycle education sessions called Getting Started, Cycling Safely and Training. The goals of the program seek to encourage more cycling at all interest and competence levels by improving the capability of cyclists and promoting bicycle safety.	Ongoing
Side by Side	Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc.	Side by Side is a program that brings together aboriginal women who have experienced violence in their life to receive support and counselling. The program is led by members of the aboriginal community.	Ongoing
Smoking Cessation	Bridges Community Health Centre	Bridges Community Health Centre offers one-on-one smoke cessation counselling to registered clients. Bridges CHC also offers smoke cessation group counselling to all residents of Fort Erie, Port Colborne and Wainfleet who are thinking about quitting.	Ongoing
Take Charge!	Bridges Community Health Centre	Take Charge! is a workshop that helps people with any chronic or ongoing health conditions to better manage their symptoms. The program offers individuals the opportunity to learn how to set goals that get positive results, add exercise to your daily life, make healthier food choices, manage your stress, and talk about your treatment decisions.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Think About It!	Bridges Community Health Centre	Think About It! is a new 10-week group program for girls aged 14-18 who use alcohol or drugs and/or have mood issues. The program helps participants learn how thinking patterns affect behaviours and choices, as well as healthier ways to cope.	Ongoing
Walking Group	Bridges Community Health Centre	The walking group meets twice weekly and is intended to help encourage health living and self-management of diabetes.	Ongoing
Winter Warmth	United Way St. Catharines & District	Winter Warmth provides energy grants to families and/or individuals living at/or below the poverty line. United Way acts as a trustee of the grants and collaborates with community partners administering the Winter Warmth program.	Ongoing
Youth Gambling Program	YMCA of Niagara Region	The Youth Gambling Program is a prevention and education program designed to reduce the harm associated with youth gambling. The program offers community awareness sessions, presentations to schools and organizations, educational workshops, and referrals to gambling treatment services for youth aged 8 to 24 and people who influence and work with youth living in the province of Ontario.	Ongoing



Infrastructure Systems

Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Active Transportation	Greening Niagara	Greening Niagara participates in local transportation planning and hosts workshops on active transportation in Niagara.	Ongoing
Anti-Idling for Police Services	Niagara Parks Commission	In partnership with the Ministry of Government Services, four NPC enforcement vehicles have been retrofitted with a battery assisted module that eliminates idling while vehicles are not being operated.	Complete
Building Operations	Brock University	Brock University is committed to continuously the operating efficiencies of campus buildings through the implementation of their Energy Conservation Plan. Specific actions focus on reducing electricity and water usage (e.g. lighting retrofits, low flow faucets, etc.).	Ongoing
Bulk Waste Compactors	Brock University-Director of Custodial Services	Brock university purchased and installed two bulk waste compactors (28 cubic yards and 8 cubic yards) to reduce the frequency of removal trips from daily to every two weeks. The units reduce odours and prevent wildlife entry.	Completed
Carbon Footprint Measurement	Niagara College	In collaboration with the Niagara Sustainability Initiative, Niagara College completed a baseline analysis of the campus's carbon footprint.	Ongoing
Co-Generation Plant	Brock University	In the early 1990s, Brock University built a co-generating plant uses recovered heat for building heating and cooling and surplus electricity generated is pushed into the local utility's grid.	Complete
Electric Cars	Niagara Parks Commission	In partnership with the Ministry of Government Services, NPC has a 100% electric car that employees can use to travel to area meetings and events.	Complete



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Environmental Management System	Niagara College	Niagara College uses an environmental management system to monitor, assess, and measure its environmental impact (including waste, energy, and resource consumption).	Ongoing
Environmental Management System	Horizon Utilities	Horizon has established an Environmental Management System which is in compliance with the international environmental standard, ISO 14001. Horizon Utilities continues to manage, control and mitigate environmental risks by conducting monthly site environmental inspections, ongoing training and communication efforts.	Ongoing
Hybrids and Fleet Management	Horizon Utilities	By the end of 2010, 10 per cent of Horizon's fleet was comprised of hybrid vehicles - one of the largest fleets of hybrid vehicles of any LDC in Ontario.	Ongoing
Multi-Modal Transportation	Brock University	Brock University advocates for improved transit in the community and each student is provided with transit passes. In addition, there is a carpooling program for employees in the parking services division.	Ongoing
Niagara Region Transit	Niagara Region	A pilot project offering service for intermunicipal transit between Welland, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Thorold, Port Colborne and Fort Erie.	Ongoing
Smart Grid Planning	Horizon Utilities	Horizon has provided its customers with smart metres as part of their participation in smart grid planning.	Ongoing
Solar Trash Compactors	Niagara Parks Commission	To help increase the efficiency of waste collection, the NPC purchased solar trash compactors to reduce the number and frequency of waste collection trips.	Ongoing



Action Name	Action Lead	Description	Status
Strategic Energy Plan	Niagara Parks Commission	The Strategic Energy Plan was established to track utility usages over time, conduct building/lighting retrofits, and effectively manage energy use on Niagara Parks Commission properties. In the past 3-4 years, electricity consumption on Niagara Parks Commission properties has decreased by 7%.	Ongoing
Sustainable Energy	Albert Zappitelli	To reduce utility costs and their overall environmental impact, the Zappitelli family installed the following on their property: 10 kW microfit solar system, 10 kW Net-Metering Solar System, a Geothermal Heating/Cooling System, and a demonstration Wind Turbine. The Zappitelli's also offer regular tours of their property for those interested in renewable energy.	Complete
Waste Management	Brock University	In order to minimize waste on Brock's campus, regular waste audits (annual and spot checks) are conducted to ensure that university is exceeding minimum waste diversion rates. Recently the university has purchased a cardboard bailing facility to improve cardboard recycling on campus.	Ongoing

