

EarthCare Sudbury FAQ



What is EarthCare Sudbury?

EarthCare Sudbury was formed in 2000 to involve the community in actions to benefit the environment and sustain a healthy community. It is a unique partnership between the City of Greater Sudbury and over 100 local organizations and businesses who have formally committed to helping Greater Sudbury become cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable.

What is the EarthCare Sudbury Action Plan?

The 2010 EarthCare Sudbury Action Plan was created to guide our efforts in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and becoming a more sustainable community. The overarching goals of the EarthCare Sudbury Action Plan are to enhance the environmental health of Greater Sudbury, to encourage members of the community to take environmental responsibility, and to share with others the knowledge and experience we've gained.

An earlier version of the Plan was released in 2003, after Greater Sudbury was selected to be one of the first Canadian municipalities to complete a Local Action Plan through the Partners for Climate Protection Program (www.sustainablecommunities.ca/partners-for-climate-protection). Both the original and updated versions of the Plan are available at www.greatersudbury.ca/earthcare.

Who is responsible for implementing the EarthCare Sudbury Action Plan?

The organizations and businesses that form the network of EarthCare Sudbury Partners have all committed to initiate and sustain implementation of the EarthCare Sudbury Action Plan. The Plan contains actions for EarthCare Sudbury Partners, including the City of Greater Sudbury, and also suggests actions that individual citizens can take.

Who are the EarthCare Sudbury Partners?

The EarthCare Sudbury Partners represent a cross-section of community interests including industry, private enterprise, government, community groups and health and educational institutions. Businesses or organizations wanting to become EarthCare Sudbury Partners must commit to fulfilling the goals of the EarthCare Sudbury Action Plan by signing EarthCare Sudbury's Declaration of Community Partners. The Declaration and the current list of EarthCare Partners are available online at www.greatersudbury.ca/earthcare.

How is implementation of the EarthCare Sudbury Action Plan assessed?

The activities and accomplishments of the EarthCare Partners in implementing the 2003 Action Plan were recorded in detailed Partner Profiles. The profiles were then used to generate a Progress Report covering the key issues addressed by the Plan. A more quantitative monitoring strategy is currently being developed for the 2010 EarthCare Sudbury Action Plan. However, the individual success stories of the EarthCare Sudbury partners are still very important in gauging progress.

What are some examples of actions that have been undertaken by EarthCare Sudbury Partners?

The EarthCare Sudbury Partners have taken a variety of approaches to their environmental actions. Some have focused primarily on making their internal operations more sustainable through technological advancements and infrastructure improvements. Others have developed education or behaviour change programs for employees and the general public. Many Partners have initiated both operational and educational projects. For specific examples, see the EarthCare Sudbury Partner Profiles and the 2008 Progress Report posted online at www.greatersudbury.ca/earthcare.

What support does EarthCare Sudbury give the Partners?

The City of Greater Sudbury employs a full-time EarthCare Sudbury Coordinator to facilitate the implementation of the EarthCare Sudbury Action Plan in the community. EarthCare Sudbury staff can provide resources to assist Partners with their initiatives, as well as substantial opportunities to promote the impact of their efforts. For projects that are especially aligned with the EarthCare Sudbury Action Plan, EarthCare Sudbury occasionally issues letters of endorsement to Partners upon request. EarthCare Sudbury acts as a hub for communication among the Partners by circulating event notices on their behalf, organizing networking events, and connecting Partners planning complementary projects. Through EarthCare Sudbury, Partners also have an outlet to provide input on the direction of environmental action in Greater Sudbury.

What else does EarthCare Sudbury do?

Planning

Every 5 years EarthCare Sudbury, in consultation with the EarthCare Sudbury Partners, reviews and updates the EarthCare Action Plan.

Monitoring

EarthCare Sudbury keeps track of a series of progress indicators relevant to the objectives of the EarthCare Sudbury Action Plan. In some cases, individual EarthCare Sudbury Partners track indicator data and provide it to EarthCare Sudbury upon request. Success stories from Partners are actively collected.

Internal Coordination

By linking with various municipal departments, EarthCare Sudbury assists with 'greening' municipal operations and ensures that the municipality participates in broader initiatives such as Earth Hour, the Power Pledge Community Challenge, and World Car Free Day.

Project Development

Sometimes EarthCare Sudbury applies for funding to initiate special projects. These projects generally focus on public education and behaviour change and may or may not directly involve EarthCare Sudbury Partners. However, any project launched under the EarthCare Sudbury umbrella will align with the objectives of the EarthCare Action Plan. The Efficient Sudbury Campaign and the Greater Sudbury Anti-Idling Campaign are examples of projects led by EarthCare Sudbury. Information about both of these programs is available on the EarthCare Sudbury website at www.greatersudbury.ca/earthcare.