

Sustainability: Environmental Policy

The Tatamagouche Centre is a leader in the hospitality industry leader in pursuing ambitious, thoughtful, and comprehensive environmental initiatives that:

- reduce our environmental footprint (through waste reduction, water conservation, sustainable food purchasing, etc),
- integrate social and environmental considerations,
- support vibrant rural communities, justice, and
- reduce and eliminate greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).

All initiatives will be in keeping with our mission, values, community, context, and will support and enhance the long-term vitality of the Centre.

Our Practises:

Over the past six years, we have worked hard to bring our values into practise in a number of environmental areas.



Green House Gas Reduction: As a residential facility, we are deeply concerned about our carbon foot print generated by heating many buildings. Over the past five years, we have conducted environmental audits on each of our buildings and are steadily making improvements. We have installed four solar panels which heat the water used in the dish washer and kitchen.

From 2005 to 2007 we reduced our electricity and oil use by 27%. We have continued improvements and will be releasing our new reduction figures soon.

The spring of 2012, will see the planting of indigenous trees and plants to off-set our carbon footprint as well.

Waste Reduction: We buy in bulk as much as possible. We have eliminated over packaged items such as individual butter containers. All containers are recycled. We have our own compost facility, using the converted waste on our grounds. We consciously reduced the amount of printed office material by switching to electronic files. In 2011, we will be switching to a smaller brochure from our promotional yearly calendar. All residential buildings have signs encouraging minimal water usage, turning lights off and lowering the heat.

Toxic Use Reduction: We switched to using only Green Link Certified cleaning products for housekeeping and maintenance of all buildings.



We buy local: We are continually seeking to economically support our local area by buying local. This includes: professional web design services, computer technical support, food purchases (veggies, meat, maple syrup, honey, chicken) from local farmers, and selling local arts and crafts in our store. We strive to purchase as much organic food as is available.

Fair Trade: We serve only Fair Trade coffee, mostly the Breaking the Silence organic coffee that supports indigenous people in Guatemala. We offer Fair Trade teas. We also sell Fair Trade products in our store which includes olive oil, coffee, tea and chocolate.

Economics: We are an inclusive employer. We are actively seeking diversity in our hiring practises. This includes hiring adults with mental disabilities. We support the local economy by providing local jobs. We encourage skills building of local employees by provide paid training opportunities. We have researched wages locally and at similar institutions across Canada and our wages are fair. We provide health benefits for all salaried staff. Every three years we are accredited regarding employee health and safety factors.

Social: Our business is social and personal transformation. We work on issues of social inequality, racism, exclusion, sexism, and ageism. We have a bursary program to support participation by segments of the population who are unable to afford our programs. We are a social enterprise.

Our Environment/Setting:

Tatamagouche Centre sits on 15 acres of rolling lawns, flower gardens and huge oak trees just west of the Village of Tatamagouche, on Nova Scotia's North Shore. The local village and surrounding area offers all the amenities your group may need. The Tatamagouche Bay and the French River border the property and the Cobequid Hills are a ten minute drive away. Outdoor activities provide a welcome break from indoor meetings. Depending on the season, your team can enjoy hikes along the Trans Canada Trail, canoeing on the river, snowshoeing through the local winter wonderland, a reflective stroll through the outdoor labyrinth, or simply a leisurely stroll around the property.