

Sustainability: Environmental Policy

Respect for the Living Systems that Sustain Us

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

- Reduce our environmental footprint (through waste reduction, composting, recycling, water conservation, local food purchasing, toxic use reduction, etc),
- Integrate social and environmental considerations (serving Fair Trade products whenever possible),
- Support vibrant rural communities and justice, (with fair, living wages and inclusive hiring practices) and
- Reduce and eliminate greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) (through efficiency upgrades that reduce our energy consumption).

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

Our Practises:

Over the past decade, 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 footprint 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 dishwasher and kitchen. From 2005 to 2007 we reduced our electricity and oil use by 27%. Improvements continue and we will be releasing our new reduction figures soon. In spring 2012 we planted indigenous trees and plants to off-set our carbon footprint as well. In 2014 we initiated a project that will culminate in a massive retrofit for Stewart Hall, our main building. Built in 1958, in a time when conservation was not yet in vogue and efficiency wasn't on the radar. The building contains original windows and furnaces. We are currently in the planning and development phase of this project and have set a bold target to achieve net zero efficiency.



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 and by designing a smaller brochure for our annual promotional calendar. All residential buildings have signs encouraging minimal water usage, turning lights off and lowering the heat. We have recycling bins in all buildings including residences.

Toxic Products 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, apples, 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. We are developing new value-added services, which will see us offering a variety of leisure services from local operators to our guests.

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

Economics: We are an inclusive employer. We are actively seeking diversity in our hiring practises. This includes hiring members of underrepresented groups and adults with intellectual disability. We support the local economy by providing local jobs. We encourage skill 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 staff, both salaried and part time staff that wish to participate. 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. This year we initiated a plan to reduce mowing and embark on a re-naturalization of large sections of the property. We envision butterfly habitat, and maintaining a natural footpath lined with traditional First Nations plants and medicines.



Attending to Spirit, Embracing Social Justice, Building Inclusion, Encouraging Transformation, Honouring Interdependence, Fostering Sustainability



Phone 1-800-218-2220
or (902) 657-2231
info@tatacentre.ca
www.tatacentre.ca