

Activity 14

Sustainability Tour

Goals:

- Inform participants of local projects and initiatives related to sustainability.
- Provide an enhanced learning environment through the use of kinaesthetic learning activities.
- Elicit a sense of individual responsibility to living sustainably.

Outcomes:

- A heightened awareness of local processes and issues.
- An understanding of the importance of local action.

Background: By getting your group outdoors or involved in an interesting local environmental or social initiative, you can help to create meaningful, long-lasting personal connections and, as a result, more of a personal commitment to working towards sustainability.

Suggested Time: 1-3 hours

Place:

- A) Any local building of innovative sustainable design that is open to visitors. Some examples include:
- Ecology Action Center: Guided tour of Fern Lane, their innovative new office building, held every second Friday. For more information: <http://www.ecologyaction.ca/newhome/project.htm>.
 - Faculty of Management: Kenneth Rowe Building.
 - Solar Nova Scotia: Guided sustainable home tour. For more information: <http://www.solarns.ca/events.php>.
 - In 2010, Dalhousie will offer interactive visual tours of sustainability features of the new building on Coburg and LeMarchant and of sustainability upgrades.

B) Local waste management site, particularly one incorporating innovative management techniques. Some examples include:

- Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility: Located at Exit 3 off Highway 103
- Materials Recycling Facility: Located at 20 Horseshoe Lake Drive, Bayers Lake Park
- A local enviro-depot: examples listed at <http://www.halifax.ca/wrms/collection.html>.

People:

- Your sustainability team, friends, community members
- A professional or designated tour guide

Materials:

- Transportation to and from the site
- Eco-friendly promotional materials if required

NOTES:

STEP 1

- Contact appropriate group regarding time, recommended group size, and availability of tours.
- Promote event through environmentally friendly media such as online staff notice board, Facebook

If enough interest is shown, you may choose to arrange a trip to the same location at a later date for new participants.

STEP 2

- Hold a brief meeting or send out an email to team members and other potential participants to confirm attendance.
- Discuss transportation methods that reduce air emissions.

Provide resources and links on built environment issues and green building design to brief participants and stimulate interest.

STEP 3

- Enjoy tour!

Follow-Up:

- Hold a lunch and learn session (see Activities: Learning Sessions) to discuss lessons learnt and interests sparked. How can you green your building or home?
- Participate in the Great Nova Scotia Pick-me-up (details at <http://www.clean.ns.ca/default.asp?mn=1.377.389.434.436>) or perform a waste audit (see Activities: Audits)