

## Building a Better and Sustainable Colchester

### “Act Locally - Think Globally”

The climate is changing, the economy is changing, and our demographics are changing. Everything is changing except for one thing - Colchester is a great place to live, work and play!

Colchester Council wants to make sure our community remains a great place and if it does change, it changes for the better. We want to make Colchester a vibrant, healthy and sustainable community.

### What is Sustainability?

Sustainable is a commonly used expression today, but what does it mean? The United Nations has put a lot of effort into sustainable communities and development. In 2002 they developed a vision statement and guiding principles for sustainable communities known as the “Melbourne Principles”. The vision statement goes something like this:

“To create environmentally healthy, vibrant and sustainable community where people respect one another and nature, to the benefit of all and the needs of future generations are considered in decisions that are made today”.

In order to achieve sustainability, communities must plan with an understanding of the consequences of its actions today on the future. Municipalities are encouraged to consider the “four pillars” of community sustainability to provide a holistic approach. The four pillars of community sustainability are:

- Economic Viability
- Environmental Responsibility
- Social Equity
- Cultural Vitality

We cannot do it alone. We need to know what you as an individual or a family like about Colchester and what we could change to make our community even better.

Perhaps you are involved in a community organization that offers a service or program that fits within one of the Four Pillars listed above. If so, we want to know who your group is and what you are doing. Maybe there is a way that we can help **your** group to fulfill **our** goals.

### Where do we go from here?

Check out our website at [www.colchester.ca](http://www.colchester.ca) to find out more about Sustainable Colchester. You might be surprised to find out that sustainable principles have already crept into many of our programs and projects.

There are ways to become involved as well. There is a short questionnaire to help you to register your comments, or you can just send us an email with your ideas. The website will be updated throughout the year so keep coming back.

If you would like to become more involved, please let us know by contacting Crawford Macpherson at 897-3170 or by email at [cmacpherson@colchester.ca](mailto:cmacpherson@colchester.ca).

Sustainable communities is a new way of thinking but it is an idea that is here to stay.