



Sustain Your Community | Community Development for Sustainability |
A project funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation |

Delivered by EnviroCentre in collaboration with various community partners

| Evaluated by Effective Measures of the Social Planning Council of Ottawa

www.envirocentre.ca/initiatives/sustain-your-community

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Sustain Kanata North | Evaluation Report

Purpose

This evaluation report examines the findings for the final period of the three-year project (2014-2017) carried out by EnviroCentre to support environmental sustainability at the local level and expand assets for sustainability.

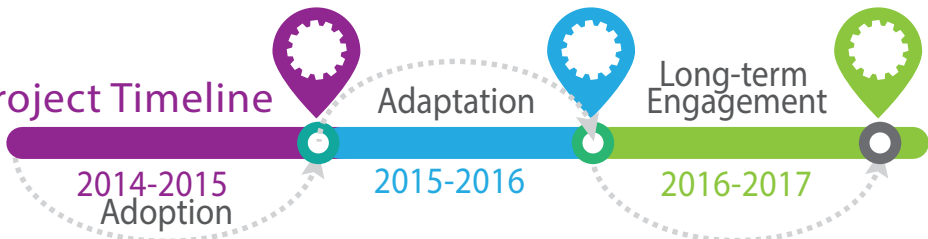


Focus of the Project

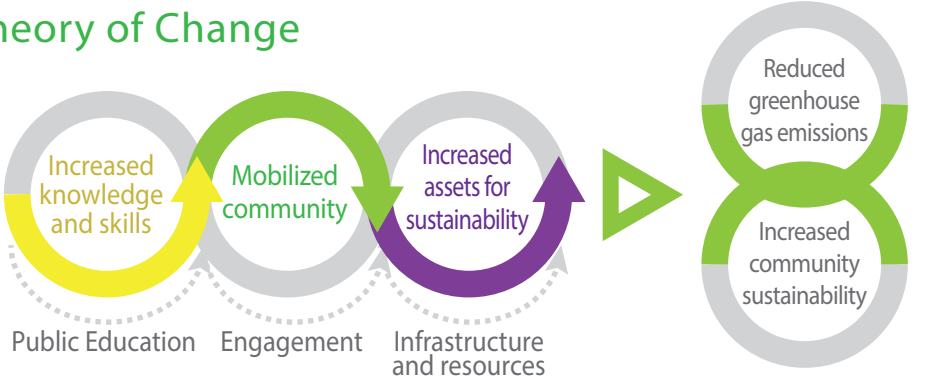
Develop community-led initiatives that engage residents and volunteers in projects that increase local sustainability practices and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in targeted communities.



Project Timeline



Theory of Change



Sustain Kanata North | Themes: Energy, Transportation and Food

Resources used / participants getting involved, raising awareness and taking action to increase community sustainability

OUTPUTS

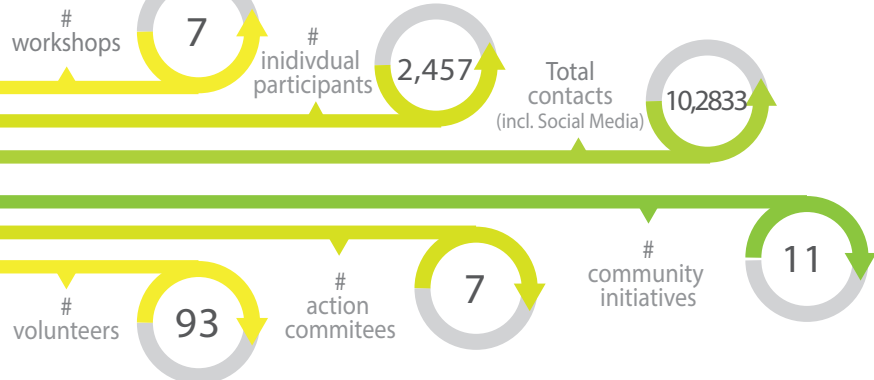
How much did we do?

1

QUALITY

How well did we do it?

Level of satisfaction reported by participants who completed surveys



82% Yes

18% No

% of people involved in food initiatives who increased consumption of local veggies

88.2% Yes

11.8% No

% satisfied

"Sustain" was very positive for Kanata North and it exceeded expectations. I thought it could maybe get a couple of initiatives going, but it did a lot more than that. It showed that with the right coordinator in place and a little bit of funding you can get sustainability initiatives moving forward in Kanata North and get people involved.

- President,

Kanata-Beaverbrook Community Association

Positive changes and progression reported by participants, volunteers and coordinators

OUTCOMES

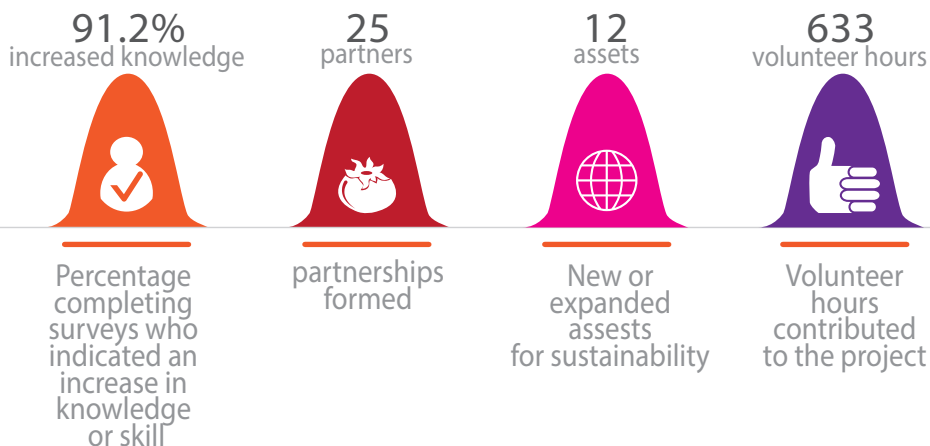
How is the community better off?

3

LEARNING

Feedback for improvement

Lessons learned that will help us move forward on GHG reductions and/or sustainability actions



Lessons learned...

A critical success factor is local people deciding what will work in their community

Project enabling factors were staff from the community to coordinate, a little bit of funding for initiatives & building on what exists

Creating sustainability-related infrastructure is very effective in supporting involvement in the long-term

Context and challenges...

Bigger forces have a significant impact, e.g. cycling impacted by lack of separated bike lanes & children no longer necessarily attending a local school because of the reorganization within the school boards

Suburbs, with their car-oriented design, are "ground zero" for addressing GHG reductions at the local level

Trends in volunteering have implications for mobilization strategy – hesitation for on-going commitments but interest in periodic engagement and family volunteering

Sustain Kanata North | 2017 Highlights

Most Significant Change

The most significant change has been the big impact on sustainable transportation. The "Cycle In" report from year 2 supported a collective effort by the City Councillor, the BIA and the Transportation Action Committee Kanata to raise awareness of the need for better cycling and public transit infrastructure in Kanata and other suburbs. The efforts led to improved public transit and over a million dollars for infrastructure (including for cycling). The two "Pedal Play" bike rodeos had great attendance and reviews, and increased people's confidence to bike around Kanata North. The cycling map – upgraded in year 3 – is seen as a model for other communities. The bike repair station will provide on-going benefit.

Increased Knowledge & Skills

Whether face-to-face or on-line, training is a great way to get people involved and interested while they learn new skills.

Kanata North held 6 workshops in Year 3 with 218 participants, and created an on-line video of the energy efficiency workshop.

50 volunteers were trained in safe biking.

A downtown neighbourhood used the experience from Kanata North's "Pedal Play" to develop their own bike rodeo.



Mobilized Community

"It's hard to get the attention of busy residents, but Sustain has been good at having things people could get involved in and things that people could do as families." - Councillor Marianne Wilkinson

"The added value of Sustain Kanata North has been the oversight and collective advocacy. With the dedicated focus, they have been able to move things forward. They listen to what the challenges are and develop actions around them with the community." - President, Kanata North BIA



Increased Assets for Sustainability (Year 3)

- Cycling Map and Bike Repair Stand
- Trailing Edge Community Garden Solar Water Pump
- Farm Stand, Good Food Box and Community Supported Agriculture
- Tom Thomson Park Improvements



SUSTAIN
KANATA
NORTH