

May, 20, 2006

The Bathurst Sustainable Development Newsletter

Le bulletin d'informations de Développement Durable Bathurst

Welcome to Spring!

Our organization had a very busy winter. Below we have highlighted our work and activities!

BSD Public Meeting: The next Public Meeting of Bathurst Sustainable Development will be held on June 15, 2006 at 7:00 pm at 285 St. Patrick Street, Bathurst, NB. All are welcome and the agenda will be circulated by email shortly.

Réunion Publique de DDB : La prochaine réunion publique de Développement Durable de Bathurst sera tenue le 15 Mai à 7h00 au 285 rue St Patrick, Bathurst, N.-B. Tous sont bienvenus et l'ordre du jour sera posté sur notre site Internet et par le courrier électronique bientôt.

Book Launch! As part of our Transit initiative, and with the support of the *Moving on Sustainable Transportation Program*, BSD has written a small guide entitled:
“**Public Transit: A How to Guide fro Small Urban Centers**”.

It will tell the story and history of transit in Bathurst and the recent transit initiative in our City from the feasibility study stage to the test project and provides information on resources and potential partners, it discusses the links between public transit and such current topics as climate change, economic development and social benefits relevant to life in Bathurst and Northern NB. The book is posted on the BSD web site both under the Urban Transit link as well as in our Reading Room on the web site at www.bathurstsustainabledevelopment.com. Paper copies are available for order at a cost of \$15.00 payable to Bathurst Sustainable Development. A receipt will be issued to you.

BSD Speaking Invitations:

Once again this year, BSD received several invitations on behalf of our organization and the community to both attend and present at National events. Our Community Development Coordinator, Brenda Kelley attempts to accept as many of the invitations as time allows. Here is a partial list:

October 2005: GIN- Greening of Industry Association Conference, Acadia University, NS.
Topic of BSD Presentation: “Solutions to Climate Change for Small Urban Centers”.

February 2006: Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainable Communities Conference, Chateau Laurier, Ottawa. Topic of BSD Presentation: “Funding and Solutions for Sustainable Development in Rural and Small Urban Centers”.

February 10: Dalhousie University School of Law, Halifax, NS. Topic of Presentation: “Social Justice and Environmental Law.”

May, 2006: Renewable Energy Conference, Miramichi, NB, Panel Member

June, 12, Sustainable Planning Workshop for Municipalities, Topic of Presentation: The Business Case for Public Transit and Transportation Demand Management Planning, Oromocto, NB

Other Events our Coordinator attended:

The United Nations Meeting of the Countries of the Kyoto Protocol Montreal, November 2005

Canada hosted the first meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Montreal in conjunction with the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention.

The conference was an historic event. The Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) met for the 11th time, while marking the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. At Montreal, the first ever meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP) ran parallel to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP). The United Nations Climate Change Conference was the largest intergovernmental climate conference since the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997. Some 10,000 participants attended.

The conference attracted unprecedented business interest as a result of two operation trading systems: the pan-European emissions trading scheme and the Clean Development Mechanism, a tool to promote sustainable development and combat climate change.

<http://www.globalissues.org/EnvIssues/GlobalWarming/Convention.asp>

<http://www.globalissues.org/EnvIssues/GlobalWarming/Montreal.asp>

http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_11/items/3394.php

The World Municipal Leaders Forum, November, Montreal

The 300 Mayors and senior officials representing local governments from around the world unanimously endorsed the World Mayors and Municipal Leaders Declaration on Climate Change, asserting the need for joint authority and global action.

Together they wrote and signed a declaration in support of immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change. The World Mayors and Municipal Leaders Declaration on Climate Change stresses the need for local governments to be more strongly engaged with other levels of government on this issue, calling for the international community and all Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to form greater partnerships. Deputy Mayor Nicky Gavron of London, speaking at a press conference on the Declaration, pointed out that: "Leadership by nations is key. When it comes to practical action on the ground, cities must be at center stage."

The Declaration calls for an immediate transition to renewable and alternative energy sources. In the words of Mayor Greg Nickels from Seattle, champion of the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, "Mayors across the globe are willing to take action. We ask for the tools and resources to do that."

Read the declaration here

[http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=1487&tx_ttnews\[pointer\]=4&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=91&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=1556&cHash=f94d07ac83](http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=1487&tx_ttnews[pointer]=4&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=91&tx_ttnews[backPid]=1556&cHash=f94d07ac83)

Solar News

The Solar City Project: BSD has now completed the Solar City Project, which was the first Residential Solar Grant Pilot Project conducted in Eastern Canada. With assistance and funding

from Eco Action (Environment Canada) and REDI (Renewable Electrical and Energy Initiative of Natural Resources Canada) the pilot project assisted 50 homeowners by providing them with 50 Solar Grants. 46 grants of \$590 each for a Solar Thermal supplementary home heating unit and 4 grants of \$700 for a Solar Hot Water unit were made available to NB homeowners. 7 of the grants were given to P.E.I. homeowners.

Our engineering team of 6 Certified Public Engineers in the Provinces of NB and PEI have installed and approved the installations and recorded the performance of the units and verified by third party the installation by what is called a commissioning report. Four of the units installed were supplied with data loggers to collect energy information. Natural Resources is now calculating the data to determine the pay back for the units.

Unfortunately, the REDI program and most other incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs for homeowners and businesses in Canada have now been cancelled by the Federal Government. No new grants or incentives are available at this time from National programs that we are aware of.

Northern NB Renewable Energy Program

BSD is pleased to launch our **Northern NB Renewable Energy Program**. The first initiative in this program is that BSD is continuing to take orders in North-eastern NB for the Solar Max RA 240 Thermal Heating units made by Cansolair Inc. You can obtain technical details from the Cansolair web site at www.cansolair.com and then order your unit from BSD. The cost of energy and electricity is going nowhere but up, property owners are encouraged to obtain alternative supplementary heating systems to help protect you from the coming "energy shock"!

If homeowners or business wish to purchase a unit to provide supplementary heating to their buildings please contact us at rosewod@nbnet.nb.ca. We will order the unit for you and arrange for a certified installer to install your unit. The installed price ranges from \$2800- \$3300 depending on specifics of the install.

A working Solar Max RA 240 made by Cansolair is installed and providing solar thermal heating at the Farmer's Market on Main Street. BSD is on hand on Saturday mornings at the market at the BSD Environmental Resource Center to provide interested homeowners with detailed information and a **Solar Tour** of the Max.

Watch our web site and newsletters for new renewable energy opportunities in Northern NB!

Transit News

As of March 31, the Urban Transit Test Project has completed its transit testing. During the test project the total count after 9.5 months of service was 32,679 single rides provided.

Transit services were actually ended earlier than expected due to a vote from City Council to end the project early and not continue service into next year despite the fact that funding had been secured for the project expenses until March 31, that additional partial funding had been secured for next year and despite the fact that several options for service types and costs had been presented to Council for consideration.

One of the biggest obstacles was that the City had not yet received the contract from the Federal/Provincial Gas Tax Transit Agreement and the fact that as of March the Premier of NB had not yet signed the agreement or been given assurances by the new Federal government that they were going to honour the agreements which were passed by the Senate in November 2005. The

Gas Tax Transit funding will allow Bathurst to purchase buses and rolling bus stock which then will allow us to remove close to \$100,000 in yearly operating costs from the transit budget.

Since that time, the **Gas Tax Transit Agreement** for the Province of NB has been signed by the Province and the Federal Governments and the agreement is now posted for public reading on the Infrastructure Canada Web site under **Transit Agreement** at http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/ndcc/agreements/pt_can_nb_e.shtml . The Bathurst Transit Pilot Project is specifically mentioned twice in the agreement as being eligible as well as details of the funding amount for Bathurst.

The Bathurst Transit pilot project is also specifically mentioned twice again as being eligible for funding under the regular **Gas Tax Agreement** with the Province and funding provided to Bathurst which you can also read under **Gas Tax Agreement** at http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/ndcc/agreements/gt_can_nb_e.shtml.

BSD is awaiting notice from the City that they have actually received the specific contract to be signed for Bathurst. At that time the City and BSD will review the details of the contract, terms and conditions and propose the detailed plans and proposal to Infrastructure Canada and the Province of NB. If the proposal is agreed to, and if the City still refuses to financially assist the transit service through next year, applications to other funding sources to cover the rest of the operating budget will have to be prepared. This process can take several weeks to months.

Our Community Development Coordinator will again have to volunteer her time to write these extensive applications since there is no funding in place or any commitment from the City to provide funding for project proposal writing for transit. If the applications are approved, City Council will then have to decide if the City intends to accept the Gas Tax Transit funding and allow transit to resume operating or if the City intends to refuse the transit funding. We must notify the government of the City's decision and submit the Transportation Demand Management Plan by November 1, 2006. If transit is not restarted by December 31, 2006, our City loses the transit funding.

Part of the criteria for accepting the Gas Tax Funding is that the City, in partnership with its citizens, will need to write two long term planning documents: An Integrated Sustainability Plan and a Transportation Demand Management Plan. The Transportation Demand Management Plan would be written as part of the Transit Pilot Project Phase III work.

BSD has completed our **Final Report** for the Transit Test Project. It can be read on our web site at www.bathurstsustainabledevelopment.com . Click on Urban Transit and then the Urban Transit Test Project.

The final report answers many questions posed by the public such as vehicle selection, the need for public transit and other information.

In order for many people to be able to continue living in Bathurst we must have standard, minimum level public City services such as public transit. The disruption of Transit Service to our riders and in the City in general has been devastating. Considering that the average yearly wage of a single mother with one child in our City is only \$18,000, (Canadian Census Data) considering that many minimum to middle wage earners only earn between \$13,520 and \$19,000 per year and that they can easily spend 30% to 40% of this income on their transportation costs if no bus service is available, that many citizens can no longer pay out the soaring fuel and insurance costs to own a car, that some citizens are no longer able to drive, affordable public transit for our citizens is not a luxury item we are requesting, it is considered to be critical that minimum bus service be available in this City. It is a fundamental basic service that should be available in all communities with City status.

Did you know that according to Canada Mortgage and Housing, property values in Cities that have public transit can increase by as much as 20% in resale value?

Selection of Vehicles: In order to keep expenses down for next year using a larger transit bus like the ones used this year which seat 42 passengers is recommended. The reason is that now that we are going to hourly service instead of the 30 minute service type that was being conducted the last few weeks of the project, riders have half as many times during the day when they will be able to catch the bus. Since our current riders are committed regular riders, are much more experienced riders now and understand the service much better, they will adapt their transit travel to the available scheduled times of service in their area. This will result in more riders on the bus each trip.

Considering that during some of our busier days we already were carrying between 18 – 24 riders during certain hours, in order to allow for rider growth next year, as was the pattern each month during the test project, and to keep our expenses down, we should be using a bus that has the capacity to allow us to grow without costing transit double operating costs.

If we use a smaller 20 seat bus, on the very busy days and hours especially towards the end of each month we will not have enough seats for all passengers and would end up having to drive by some riders waiting for the bus. Riders would then begin to complain about this “lack of service”. Transit would then have to request from Council that they allow us to put a second bus on each day which would double our operating expenses.

With a smaller bus, we still need to pay a driver a competitive wage, we still need to pay the same rate of public liability insurance, the larger buses have an excellent fuel efficiency rating and they are designed for use on rugged roads and heavy work demands so there would be minimal to no savings.

Any small savings on these items would be lost when you calculate that going to a smaller bus means being unable to carry the additional 22 extra passengers the larger bus could have carried which would mean that as the service grows next year in rider numbers transit could loose carrying an additional 56,100 passengers over the 12 months and loose \$168,300 in potential new rider revenue.

In every Canadian community that has public transit there has been a steady increase in rider numbers and population progressively each year.

A big concern for some Councillor’s and citizens appears to be the issue of risk to property tax payers if the rider fares next year do not materialize. Considering that our City has 5300 residential properties and another 3000 commercial properties or businesses who directly benefit from door to door pick up and drop off of their customers, the risk to each property or business next year equals the cost of 1 or 2 cups of take out coffee and 1 or 2 donuts each property which is a total property cost of between \$5.00- \$15.00 each property per year. This is not a daily amount. It would be the total cost per property for the entire fiscal year.

The Regional Fleet Assessment Project

BSD has received funding from Moving on Sustainable Transportation to conduct what is called “A Regional Fleet Assessment”, in which we will identify the potential, conduct consultations, prepare service options and route options as well as cost projection on the topic of the potential for a transit link to five municipalities near Bathurst where many of the citizens of these Municipalities work and come for appointments to the City of Bathurst. Family and Community Services have expressed a great interest in us extending future bus services to these areas.

A Transit link between these neighbouring communities used to be available back in 1973 when Northshore Transport was operating. If we consider the prosperity that was gained by Riverview once Codiac Transit began providing a transit link between Moncton and Riverview, the surrounding communities could be very interested in supporting this initiative.

Two meetings were held one with the Mayor's Forum and one with representative of the various Municipalities to introduce the Transit Link idea to them and to gain insight as to their interest and support for this idea.

We have received a letter of unanimous support from the Mayor's Forum from all five Municipalities along route 134 (which is a straight line route) near Bathurst for this initiative.

The Regional Fleet Assessment Project begins May 1, 2006 and will be completed March 31, 2007.

One-tonne Challenge News! We have completed our One-tonne Community Challenge. We wish to thank citizens of this region for their participation and support of this initiative and the City of Bathurst for being our partner on the Challenge! During the Challenge we:

- ~ Provided 3475 incentives to citizens (CFL light bulbs, free transit passes, discounted transit passes, OTC bags, rain barrels, one solar hot water system, 50 solar grants, 500 OTC Fridge magnets
- ~ Conducted 11 Climate Change/ OTC kiosks and display information tables
- ~ Encouraged and assisted 32, 697 citizens to use public transit
- ~ Conducted 59 presentations and a total of 1370 attendees
- ~ Conducted 14 special events (included two surveys and one high school day of presentations) 2500 in attendance throughout the challenge
- ~ Visited 117 businesses with OTC materials and we conducted a first level introduction to Climate Change and OTC
- ~ Distributed 8,000 OTC booklets and provided energy efficiency information to citizens
- ~ Obtained 603 OTC pledges from citizens
- ~ Had 161,085 visitors from October 2004- March 31, 2006 to the BSD web site
- ~ Has 5866 internet visitors to the specific OTC pages

Our web site now has a new section entitled: Take Action on Climate Change!

Take Action on Climate Change Tips!

<http://www.bathurstsustainabledevelopment.com/english.html>

Septic Upgrade Program: Stay tuned for a news announcement!

Request for Volunteers: BSD is in need of a volunteer to offer to assist in the translation of this news letter. If you have some free time and wish to assist with this task please let us know!

Summer Reminders:

- ~ Shop local and support local farmers and businesses!
- ~ Try to use only harvested rain water for garden use
- ~ conserve potable drinking water
- ~ Minimise your GHG emissions- Vacation in your own region!

Thank you! Merci! Brenda Kelley on behalf of the BSD Board of Director's.

Brenda Kelley, Transit Manager for the Urban Transit Test Project and Community Development Coordinator for Bathurst Sustainable Development (BSD), 285 St. Patrick Street, Bathurst, NB, E2A1C9 Tel: 1-506-548-2106 Fax: 1-506-545-7838 www.bathurstsustainabledevelopment.com

Take Action on Climate Change Tips!

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Visit our Information Center at the Bathurst City Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings to view our "Solar Showcase and Demonstration" , to enter your name for draws and contests, for information on backyard composting, harvesting rain water, renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable living ideas!

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Nouvelles Solaire

Le projet de ville solaire : DDB met clôture au Projet Solaire de la ville, qui est le premier projet pilote de subvention solaire résidentielle à être accompli dans l'Est du Canada dans lequel 50 subventions, de 25 % du prix installé étaient disponibles pour aider des propriétaires avec le prix d'installer un système de chauffage solaire Solar Max pour fournir le chauffage supplémentaire à votre maison.

Le projet est maintenant fini.

Les systèmes de chauffage solaires Solar Max sont toujours disponibles pour l'achat direct au DDB à un prix d'environ \$2800- \$3300 (l'estimation du N.-B.) installé. Les fournisseurs sont aussi les installateurs des unités, en représentant Cansolair Inc et vous aideront à évaluer la conformité de votre maison, l'orientation au soleil et à l'espace disponible pour l'unité. Ils sont aussi disponibles pour avoir des discussions techniques avec vous et répondre à vos questions à propos des spécifications de l'unité. Les informations de contact pour tous les commerçants sont sur le site Internet Cansolair à : www.cansolair.com

Le Secrétariat de la Convention Climat remet en service la version française de son site web.

http://unfccc.int/portal_francohone/items/3072.php

Le 11 octobre dernier, le Secrétariat de la Convention-Cadre des Nations Unies sur les Changements Climatiques (CCNUCC) a procédé à la remise en service de son nouveau site web . Ce site comporte des éléments d'information ainsi qu'une conception améliorés destinés à mieux servir ceux qui sont impliqués dans le processus intergouvernemental des changements climatiques. Ci-dessous est présentée la version française de ce nouveau site qui est la principale source d'informations sur la Convention, le Protocole de Kyoto et leur mise en application.

Avec ses diverses options de navigation, cette nouvelle structure offre aux utilisateurs des possibilités de trouver plus rapidement les informations recherchées tout en sachant toujours où ils se situent au sein du site.

Le portail de langue française du site web du Secrétariat de la CCNUCC n'est pas une reproduction littérale de la version anglaise. Il a pour but principal de faire ressortir les principaux centres d'intérêt des pays francophones, notamment des pays en développement et des [pays les moins avancés](#) sur l'information relative aux changements climatiques. De plus, le nombre de documents disponibles en français étant relativement limité, et il est techniquement impossible de reproduire tous les documents du site anglais. La version française du site est, entre autres, composée des rubriques suivantes :

Les "[Informations Introductives](#)" fournissent un aperçu détaillé sur les changements climatiques et la réponse globale qui y est donnée. Des liens aux documents officiels y sont également fournis, tels que les textes téléchargeables de la Convention et du Protocole de Kyoto.

La [documentation](#) contient tous les documents officiels et d'autres encore. Ses pages de recherche, simples à utiliser, guideront les visiteurs vers les documents officiels, les décisions, les communications nationales, les documents des ateliers ainsi que les produits audiovisuels (webcasts).

Les journalistes et toute autre personne souhaitant se tenir au courant des nouvelles dans le domaine des changements climatiques apprécieront la section de la presse.

Cette initiative du Secrétariat constitue un premier pas d'une série d'améliorations devant se poursuivre au cours de l'année 2005 visant à toujours améliorer l'accès à l'information sur les changements climatiques. Concernant cette version française du site, la tâche du secrétariat sera de rendre disponibles, autant que les moyens le permettront, des documents en langue française.

Réunion Publique de DDB : La prochaine réunion publique de Développement Durable de Bathurst sera tenue le 15 Mai à 7h00 au 285 rue St Patrick, Bathurst, N.-B. Tous sont bienvenus et l'ordre du jour sera posté sur notre site Internet et par le courrier électronique bientôt.

Thank-you ! Merci!

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