



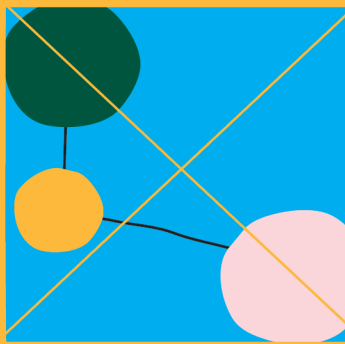
MOBILIZING THE

999

0%



BUILDING
ONTARIO'S
LOW-CARBON
ECONOMY,
TOGETHER.



SUSTAINABILITY
COLAB

35%



TRANSPORTATION

19%



BUILDINGS

28%



INDUSTRY

7%



ELECTRICITY

6%



AGRICULTURE

5%



WASTE

BY THE NUMBERS

BREAKDOWN OF ONTARIO'S
TOTAL EMISSIONS IN 2013, BY SECTOR

Source: Ontario's Climate Change Strategy, "Ontario's 2013 GHG Emissions by Sector"
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/climate-change-strategy>

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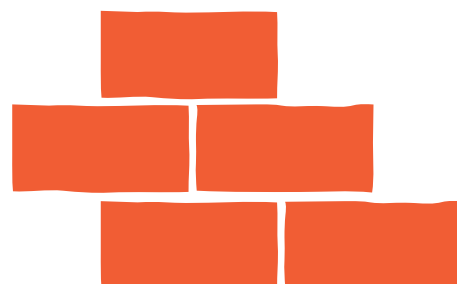
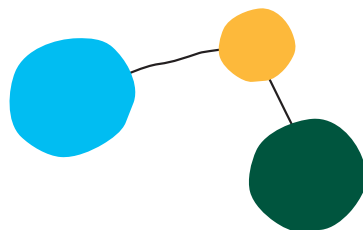
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Ways you can get involved in building the low-carbon future



THERE'S A NEW PLAYING FIELD.

Across Canada, the rules of the game are changing. Many provinces are developing strategies to reduce emissions to meet necessary climate targets and the Federal government has committed to developing a pan-Canadian climate strategy. In Ontario, cap and trade will take effect in 2017 to rein in the GHGs of Ontario's largest emitters, striving towards a decarbonized and prosperous economy.

25,000

tonnes and higher: amount of GHGs emitted by companies that fall under cap and trade legislation.

135

of businesses who reported emissions of 25,000 tonnes or greater in 2014.¹

\$1.9 BILLION

revenue projected to be generated by Ontario's government starting in 2017.²

82%

of Ontario emissions reportedly will be covered by Cap & Trade.²

**THIS REPRESENTS
139.6 MT OF CO₂e**

**THAT'S MORE THAN
THE TOTAL ANNUAL
EMISSIONS OF GREECE**

**OR THE ENERGY
CONSUMED BY OVER
12 MILLION HOMES
IN 1 YEAR**



WHAT ROLE DOES THE REST OF THE ECONOMY PLAY IN THE TRANSITION TO THE LOW-CARBON FUTURE?

99%

of Ontario's businesses are not required to report on their emissions



390,000

total # of businesses in Ontario³

88.5%

of Ontario's workforce is employed by relatively small emitters – organizations with less than 500 people.³

18%

of emissions come from individuals and smaller emitters.²

THIS REPRESENTS
30.6 MT OF CO₂e

ROUGHLY EQUAL TO THE
ANNUAL EMISSIONS OF
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

OR THE ENERGY CONSUMED
BY OVER 3 MILLION
HOMES IN 1 YEAR

**3.8
MILLION**

people employed by small
& medium sized businesses³

¹Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Facility, www.ontario.ca

²2016 Budget briefing: www.fin.gov.on.ca

³SME Research & Statistics:
Innovation, Science & Economic Development Canada



BUILDING

ENGAGING THE
99% TO TRANSFORM
BUSINESS AS USUAL

THE NEW

ECONOMY

BY MIKE MORRICE,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
& PRIYANKA LLOYD,
MANAGING DIRECTOR

2015 marked a shift in the narrative of our climate story.

Ontario announced a cap and trade system would be coming. An historic agreement was reached in Paris, breaking nearly 20 years of stalled international negotiations. Our new Federal government committed to developing a pan-Canadian climate strategy.

Slowly and all at once, the ground shifted. A new playing field began to take shape. Those who had been steadfastly working on the ground for decades on climate action exhaled. Finally.

Cap and trade will cover 82% of Ontario emissions, with regulation directly targeting the 135 or so businesses emitting more than 25,000 tonnes. A less-publicized stat: a full

99% of businesses won't be required participants in the carbon market. Some might ask: does the rest of the economy have a role to play in the transition to a low-carbon economy?

For members of the CoLab Network – each of which have cultivated passionate, connected networks of organizations working together to reduce their environmental impacts – they know the answer is a resounding yes.

And they know the real key is in answering a better question: how do we want to engage the 99% in a conversation that goes beyond the projected 4.5 cents/litre fuel cost increase in Ontario?

As their core, they know as we do: *we can go further together.*

What does this look like? Well in Waterloo Region, after eight years of germinating, plans are being hatched for businesses to co-locate in a net energy-positive building. Or in Sud-

bury after a year of community consultation their largest emitter, Vale, is proudly supporting the launch of Green Economy North.

The 154 participating organizations across 8 communities in the CoLab Network know this too: not only is there significant benefit to their business, but alongside others they will be better positioned to seize the new opportunities and innovations that come in the transition to a low-carbon economy.

The minimum parameters have been set by cap and trade. Businesses participating in CoLab Network Member programs from Ottawa to Kingston to Niagara Region, are not just learning how to play by new rules, but how to thrive in the new economy.

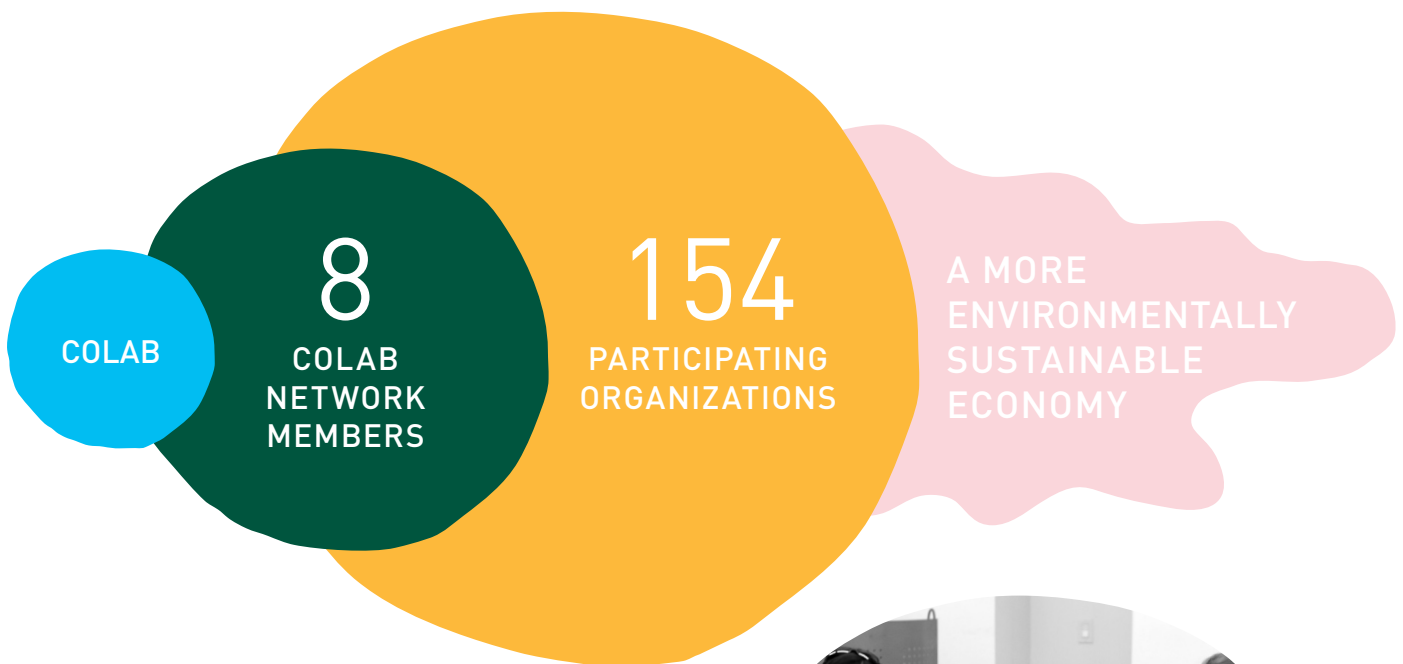
The pages of this report showcase some of these recipes for transformation. There's tremendous opportunity ahead. Let's keep building, together.

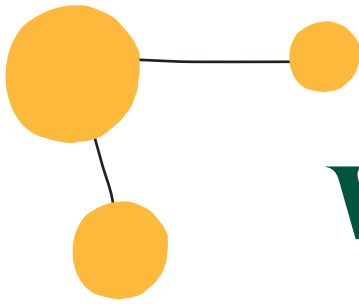
THE COLAB NETWORK

TOGETHER, WE'RE DEMONSTRATING
A MORE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY IS
POSSIBLE.

Sustainability CoLab supports a network of member non-profits that are helping businesses thrive by becoming more environmentally sustainable.

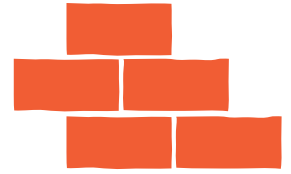
CoLab Member programs support networks of local businesses in setting and achieving sustainability targets and celebrate them for progress made.





SUSTAINABILITY COLAB

WHAT WE DO



We support

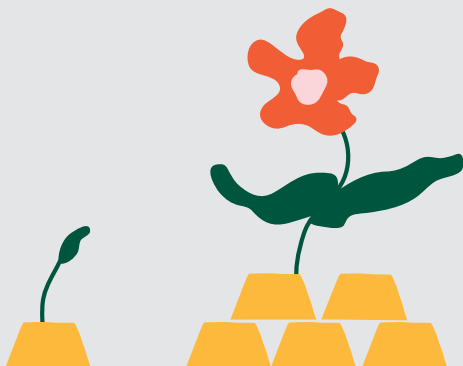
a network of non-profits to launch and grow target-based sustainability programs for businesses, providing tools, resources, 1:1 coaching, connections and partnerships that enable our members to innovate, scale, and collaborate for greater impact.

We leverage

the collective value of the network to mobilize funding and accelerate impact across Ontario.

NETWORK FUNDING

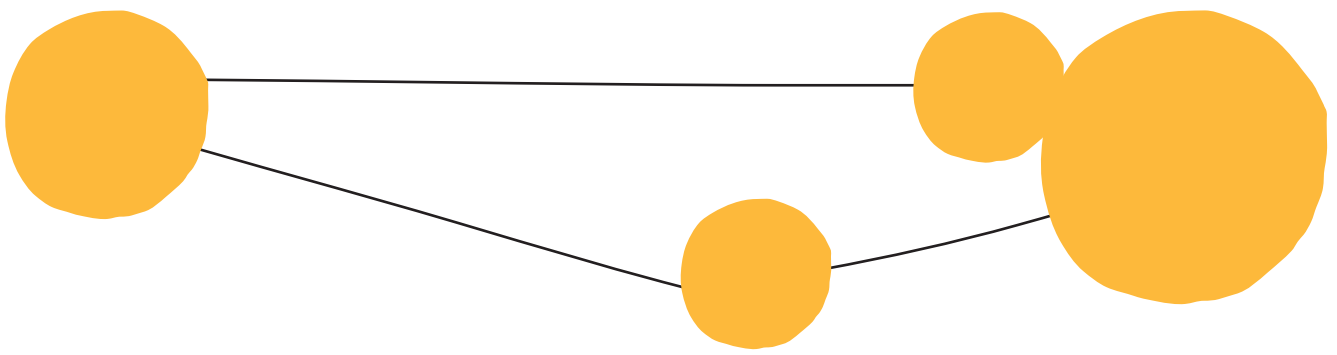
Between 2015 and 2016, Sustainability CoLab secured over \$1.2 Million in available funding for the CoLab Network: a mix of provincial funding and corporate sponsorship, representing an almost 800% increase from last year.



“We are benefiting and learning from the successes and challenges of our fellow Network Members. Our path towards launching Green Economy North was smoothed and streamlined by those came before us.”

– REBECCA DANARD,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
RETHINK GREEN





We engage

in policy discussions and consultations to advance support for the low-carbon economy and to create the space for more ambitious climate action.

We share

stories of success and build partnerships to move exciting ideas forward and scale up the impact of the network.

MOVING THE POLICY NEEDLE

In 2015, Sustainability CoLab became a member of the Clean Economy Alliance, alongside nearly 100 organizations advocating for ambitious climate policies. In addition, we've coordinated submissions to Ontario's Environmental Registry and presented to the Standing Committee on Bill 172 in response to proposed cap and trade legislation, ensuring our members have a voice at the table.



“The CoLab Network’s innovative work with community business leaders is demonstrating that a prosperous, more sustainable, low-carbon economy is possible. These partnerships are helping to transform Ontario into a thriving low-carbon economy - one that will benefit households, businesses, industry and communities across the province.”

- THE HONOURABLE GLEN MURRAY,
ONTARIO'S MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

THE NETWORK IS GROWING



Momentum is building. Over the past year, the CoLab Network has expanded to include eight non-profit organizations across Ontario, welcoming Sustainable Hamilton-Burlington as our newest Emerging Member and launching three new programs to support businesses in setting and achieving sustainability goals: Sustainable Kingston's Green Economy Kingston, reThink Green's Green Economy North, and EnviroCentre's Carbon 613.

COLAB NETWORK PROGRAMS

INNOVATING FROM THE CORE

Each program in the CoLab Network is both adapted to their local contexts while also following the four core approaches:

COMMUNITY- LED

Programs are developed and led by an organization operating within the community.

BUSINESS- FOCUSED

Programs support a network of businesses and organizations to set and achieve sustainability targets.

TARGET- DRIVEN

Programs engage participants to set and achieve sustainability goals and publicly report on progress. GHG reduction must be one option they can select.

SELF- SUSTAINING

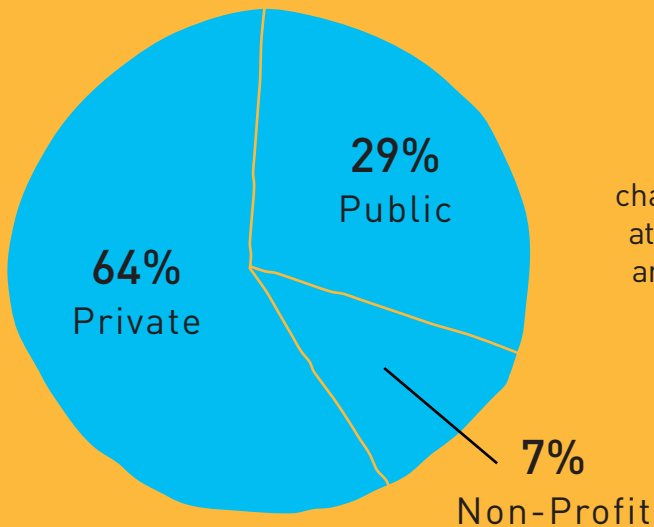
Programs work towards financial self-sufficiency. Businesses and organizations pay fees to participate which cover operating costs over time.



INCLUSIVE, CREDIBLE, SIMPLE.

COLAB NETWORK IMPACT

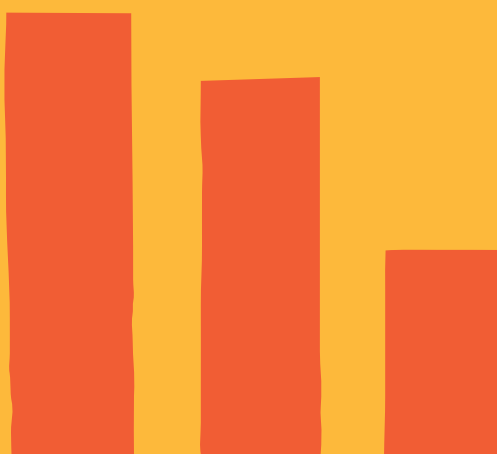
SECTORS ENGAGED BY COLAB NETWORK PROGRAMS



Inclusive

Designed with input from businesses in the community, programs reflect local interests, challenges and opportunities. As a result, programs attract a diversity of organizations. Program designs are then shared across the CoLab Network so other communities don't have to start from scratch.

154 PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS IN COLAB NETWORK PROGRAMS



61
Small

55
Medium

38
Large

SMALL
<100 employees

MEDIUM
100-500 employees

LARGE
500+ employees

8.9%*

average of local
workforces engaged

90.3%

Annual Rate of
Member Retention

*Of Durham, Waterloo, and Niagara Regions.

IN 2015:

50,164

tonnes of CO₂e
reductions committed

23,545

tonnes of CO₂e reduced



Equivalent to approx.

5,285

cars off the road



Equivalent to

2.6

million gallons
of gasoline



Electricity use of

3,119

homes for one year

Credible

Businesses in the CoLab Network work towards setting environmental impact reduction goals and publicly report on progress. This sets a minimum bar to join the program, and raises sustainability expectations for industry peers.

“As a small company, we wanted to join early to learn from others on how to reduce our impacts as we grow and scale up. It makes you more comfortable as a business that you’re a part of this network of like-minded people that will help you when you ask for help.”

- ILYA PESKOV,
PRESIDENT & CTO, FOCUS21 INC.
REGIONAL CARBON INITIATIVE MEMBER,
SUSTAINABLE WATERLOO REGION



Simple

Programs make it easy for businesses to take action by supporting and guiding them on their sustainability journey. They learn how to measure their impact, set goals, and implement sustainability practices by learning from a network of other businesses on a similar journey.

FUNDING SPOTLIGHT

SUPPORTING THE FRONT LINES



The Ontario Trillium Foundation has been a crucial supporter of the CoLab Network since 2014, investing \$1.22 Million just this past year to support the launch and growth of CoLab members – most recently carrying Green Economy Kingston over the finish line and ensuring the Climate Wise Business Network in York Region can launch in 2016.



TD Bank Group has championed Sustainability CoLab and the CoLab Network since it launched in 2014, and now supports our eight members across Ontario in their efforts to engage local businesses in sustainability action: a total investment of \$110,000 to date.



Staff of Sustainability CoLab, EnviroCentre, Niagara Sustainability Initiative and Sustainable Kingston celebrate the launch of Green Economy Kingston.

A stylized map of Southern Ontario is shown in light blue. Several red circular callout markers are placed across the map, with thin black lines connecting them to text boxes. The text boxes are in two colors: orange and yellow. The initiatives highlighted are: Rethink Green (top left), Windfall Ecology Centre (top right), Sustainable Waterloo Region (middle left), Sustainable Hamilton Burlington (bottom left), and a fifth initiative (bottom right) which is not fully described in the provided text.

RETHINK GREEN

GREEN ECONOMY NORTH

On Earth Day 2016, reThink Green launched Green Economy North with a CoLab Network record of four participating organizations signed on at the time of launch – a strong signal of the momentum building north of the 45th parallel.

WINDFALL

ECOLOGY CENTRE

CLIMATE WISE BUSINESS NETWORK

Primed for launch in September 2016, ClimateWise is in the midst of designing York Region's unique target-based sustainability program for businesses. To kick-start their efforts, they secured an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant for \$422,500 in the spring of 2016.

SUSTAINABLE

WATERLOO REGION

THE REGIONAL CARBON INITIATIVE

In 2015, the Regional Carbon Initiative continued to drive the greatest GHG reductions across the network, having engaged 70 members comprising 14% of the local workforce to set targets to reduce over 47,000 tonnes of GHGs – and have achieved reduction equivalent to taking over 4,000 cars off the road.

SUSTAINABLE

HAMILTON BURLINGTON

SUSTAINABLE ACTION INITIATIVE

The newest member of the CoLab Network, Sustainable Hamilton Burlington joined in January 2016, bringing a network of 15 local businesses along with them who are already taking action to reduce their environmental impacts, GHG and beyond.

DURHAM SUSTAINABILITY DURHAM PARTNERS IN PROJECT GREEN

Since their launch of a target-based sustainability program in January 2015, an impressive 26 local businesses have signed on to the DPPG program, including St. Mary's Cement and GM Canada.

ENVIROCENTRE CARBON613

Carbon 613 launched in June 2015 in our Nation's Capital and now has ten participating organizations including the City of Ottawa, Hydro Ottawa, the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, the Museum of Nature and the Ottawa-Carlton District School Board in their membership.

SUSTAINABLE KINGSTON GREEN ECONOMY KINGSTON

Sustainable Kingston launched in March 2016 and already have 4 participating organizations on board, including Rogers & Trainor Realty, Western Landscape and the Kingston Frontenac Housing Corporation.

NIAGARA SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE THE CARBON PROJECT

In February 2016, NSI hosted the Green Energy Summit in Niagara Falls, bringing over 200 together to discuss business-led solutions to climate change. In 2015, 23 businesses in the Carbon Project represented over 9% of the local workforce.

GAINING GROUND

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS THE COLAB NETWORK

It's been a year worth celebrating. In 2015/16, nearly 50 businesses of all sectors and sizes joined programs in the CoLab Network. Programs have launched in Kingston, Sudbury and Ottawa, and Windfall Ecology Centre's Climate Wise Business Network is expected to launch later this summer in York Region. We're going to need a bigger map.



Affiliate Member (Program launched)



Emerging Member (Working towards launching a target-setting program)

BLUEPRINTS FOR THE LOW CARBON ECONOMY

Before cap and trade legislation was on the table, businesses have been voluntarily reducing their GHG impact and helping to prove the business case for decarbonization. Complimentary to new policies, businesses in programs across the CoLab Network are demonstrating the three-fold value of climate action: increasing the vitality of our environment, strengthening our economy, and setting new sustainability standards in the communities where we live.



“Through these programs, we’re able to participate in the local communities’ efforts in greening business, network with local businesses to trade best practices, form innovation partnerships, and to leverage the expertise of Durham Partners in Project Green and The Carbon Project to help our company become more sustainable.”

- Simon Guan, Sustainability,
Programs Manager, GM Canada,
Carbon Project & Durham Partners
in Project Green member

The carbon piece is a challenging one for us – it’s very large and very comprehensive. The Carbon Project provided us with a structure for reporting and a great opportunity to share best practices with others in our local community.

- Taryn Wilkinson,
Niagara College of Canada,
Carbon Project member



“Working with Green Economy North our business is finding ways to lead by example. As a home improvement firm, we help homeowners be more sustainable, and we are learning there are many ways to reduce our costs and our carbon footprint.”

- Dave Murray,
EcoLife Home Improvement, Green Economy North member (Sudbury)

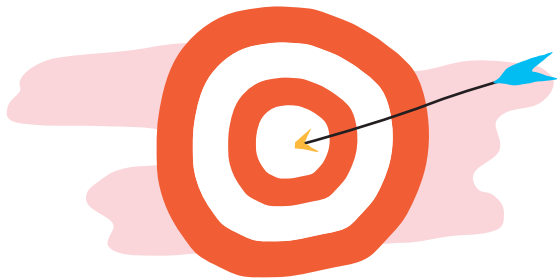


ON TARGET

VERIFORM

Sustainable Waterloo Region
Regional Carbon Initiative, Cambridge, ON

Since becoming a member of the RCI in 2009, VeriForm has lowered their carbon footprint by more than 70% of their 2006 baseline year. While doing so, they've grown their business by 145%, doubled their profitability and accrued actual savings of \$135,000 per year. Through the purchase of carbon offsets, VeriForm reached carbon neutrality in 2016 and are now setting their sights on further reducing their impacts in terms of other metrics like water and waste through Sustainable Waterloo Region's Regional Sustainability Initiative program, set to launch in September 2016.



**ACHIEVED 100%
CARBON NEUTRALITY
IN 2016**

VISION ON THE HILL

THE MUSEUM OF NATURE

EnviroCentre
Carbon 613, Ottawa, ON

A member of newly-launched Carbon 613, The Museum of Nature has recently created an approved Greening of Operations Plan for 2016 that includes corporate wide objectives on seven focus areas including procurement, transportation, building energy, water quality, sustainable sites, indoor air & environmental quality, and waste management.

“EnviroCentre’s Carbon 613 initiative is the result of many years of great work in the field of sustainability. Their carbon tracking software is the perfect tool for us to benchmark all potential corporate activities to measure environmental footprints; to establish goals and objectives and create attainable action plans.”

- Martin Leclerc, Director, Facilities
& Protection, Canadian Museum of Nature



THIS SNAPSHOT OF CASE STUDIES FROM ACROSS THE COLAB NETWORK OUTLINES A FEW OF THE MANY PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES THAT PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO TRANSFORM THEIR OPERATIONS.

NIAGARA COLLEGE OF CANADA

Program:
Carbon Project

Type:
Academic Institution

Target:
20% below 2009/10 baseline

Project:
Niagara on The Lake Campus
Lighting Control – Motion sensor
installed on all main hallways.



Cost
\$37,500



**Payback period
(estimated)**
0.3 Years



**Energy
Savings:**
1,179,692 kWh



Cost savings:
\$153,000/year

GENERAL MOTORS OF CANADA COMPANY

Program:
Carbon Project

Type:
Manufacturer

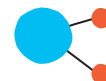
Project:
Chiller Project –
Using Gravity Fed Canal
Water to cool processes



**Energy
Savings:**
8,600 MW/year



Cost savings:
\$2,000,000/
year



GHG reduced:
6 MT/year

NIAGARA INA GRAFTON GAGE VILLAGE

Program:
Carbon Project

Type:
Housing development

Project:
Co-generation – 100%
complete install of 5
co-generation units



Cost
\$1.5 million



**Payback period
(estimated)**
6 Years



Cost savings:
\$200,000 /year

DEER CREEK GOLF & BANQUET FACILITY

Program:
Durham Partners
in Project Green

Type:
Recreational facility

Project:
Veridian Connections 'Save
on Energy' Lighting retrofit



Cost
\$0
Energy
conservation
program



Payback period
Instant
(incentive
program)



Cost savings:
\$3,280/year

CITY OF WATERLOO

Program:
Regional Carbon Initiative

Type:
Municipality

Target:
22% from 2011 Baseline

Project:
RIM Park Refrigeration Controls
and new Dehumidification System



Cost
\$547,024



Energy
Savings:
600,000 kWh/
year



Cost savings:
\$105,000
savings
Annually

CRAWFORD & COMPANY

Program:
Regional Carbon Initiative

Type:
Financial

Target:
40% from 2009
Baseline

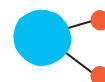
Project:
Summer boiler shutdown
& boiler replacement



Cost
\$8,000



Payback period
(estimated)
5 Years



GHG reductions
to date:
194.16 tonnes

A CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCE IN WATERLOO REGION

Planned to be Canada's largest multi-tenant, net-positive building, the project is a prime example of collaboration for greater impact by Sustainable Waterloo Region (SWR). The project was envisioned through the organization's member-based sustainability programs. Long standing Regional Carbon Initiative (RCI) member, EY Canada is a critical contributor to the building's development and will relocate their regional offices as the anchor tenant. The project has helped to build up the network, attracting new members the Cora Group and The David Johnston Research + Technology Park, who are the developer and land owner, respectively. The SWR and RCI members are behind the project in many ways including as Enabling Supporters of the project, including the City of Waterloo, the Region of Waterloo, the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation and the United Way of Kitchener Waterloo & Area.

"Everyone's working collaboratively towards the same goal, which is imperative to see a project like this succeed. I want us to continue to push the envelope of what is feasible in sustainability and to motivate the rest of the industry to come along with us."

- Adrian Conrad, Chief Operating Officer,
Cora Group

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

THE BENEFITS OF PROGRAMS IN THE COLAB NETWORK MOVE BEYOND STRICT IMPACT REDUCTIONS AND THE INCREASED COMPETITIVENESS OF BUSINESSES. PROGRAMS CREATE NETWORKS OF SUPPORT THAT BUILD TRUST, INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY, AND SHIFT THE NORM OF BUSINESS AS USUAL TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY.

Building Trust

Programs connect businesses to share challenges, opportunities, and engage in friendly competition to continually raise the bar. As a result, businesses come to know and trust one another, creating the space for collaboration, innovation, and even greater shared impact.

Increasing Accountability

Through public reporting, businesses are held to account for their involvement in target-based sustainability programs. Across the CoLab Network, momentum builds when sector peers get involved.

Shifting the Norm

Programs celebrate successes of businesses in their networks and raise the profile of best practices, encouraging others to follow suit. Over time, a critical mass of local businesses are operating more sustainably. Media coverage, public events, and recognition events build public support and drive a transformational shift in the community.



“Over time, members of the Regional Carbon Initiative have built a lot of trust together, and are now collaborating on common goals. You begin to rely on the richness and diversity of support at the table. It’s the place to be.”

- Anna Marie Cipriani, The City of Waterloo, RCI member with a 22% Reduction Target (intensity)

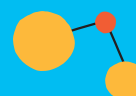


INSPIRING COMMUNITIES

When organizations take bold steps to build sustainability into their bottom lines, people notice. Programs work to share the successes of businesses in their network and demonstrate what’s possible to others in the community.



18,265 TWITTER FOLLOWERS OF COLAB NETWORK PROGRAMS



2,000+ ATTENDEES AT PROGRAM EVENTS ACROSS THE COLAB NETWORK



17 MEDIA MENTIONS IN LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

“More and more businesses are standing up to say that we must invest and support sustainability progress in Niagara Region. We believe this is a small but powerful shift in the conversation and it aligns perfectly with the path NSI envisions for our community.”

- Tikvah Mindorff, Executive Director, Niagara Sustainability Initiative

“The Regional Sustainability Initiative meets and pushes forward the ambitious goals of our community. We are evolving so we continue to lead. This program will further reduce our business community’s environmental impact.”

- Matthew Day, Regional Carbon Initiative Program Manager

2016/17 Preview: A Fund to Accelerate our Collective Impact

In March of 2016, Ontario's Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change invested \$1 Million from the Green Investment Fund to support the development of a fund to accelerate the growth of the CoLab network and drive greater GHG reductions and commitments from businesses across the province.

Based on the achievement of key performance milestones, such as GHG targets set and reduced, this fund aims to incentivize CoLab Network members and equip them with greater capacity, resources and tools to engage small and medium businesses in the low-carbon economy and drive greater GHG reductions in communities across the province.

The incentive fund will be available to members of the CoLab Network in the summer of 2016.

BOLDLY FACING THE FUTURE

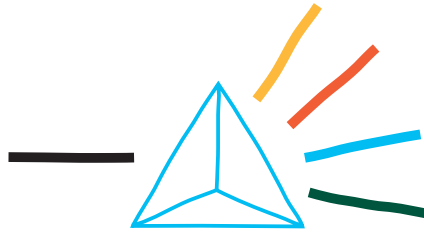
So much can change in a year. Since the release of our first annual report, the term 'low-carbon economy' has moved from fringe to mainstream. Stars are aligning at multiple levels of government. Closer to home, our Network has expanded. New programs have launched and business participation has grown by almost 50%, with more joining every month, inspired by the leadership and successes of their peers.

As a Network, we stand today on the precipice of the possible. As programs take root in cities across Ontario and more and more businesses see the value in reducing their impacts and engaging in Ontario's low-carbon economy, we can't wait to see what the future might bring.



A FULL SPECTRUM OF SUSTAINABILITY

NETWORK PERSPECTIVES BEYOND CARBON



All things in life evolve. They shift, grow, change, and adapt to meet the environments they are in. This is not only true of living things, but of programs that are alive and dynamic.

The Regional Carbon Initiative is ready to evolve. This program, which has spurred so much change in our community of Waterloo Region, as well as beyond our borders through Sustainability CoLab, is poised to evolve to encompass a fuller spectrum of sustainability.

The future of our program is keeping and tweaking many of the elements that have been foundational to our success. We are ready now to meet greater need and make greater impact in our community through the inclusion of target setting in the areas of waste and water, as well as carbon. The program evolution also includes a system to report and measure the ways that sustainability is inte-

grated into an organization's operations, through a Benefit Environmental Impact Assessment we are rolling-out in partnership with B-Labs.

It is our distinct pleasure to introduce you to this new program, the Regional Sustainability Initiative. Through this program we are striving to work with more member organizations, create greater impact and real change, and reduce the overall environmental footprint of Waterloo Region. We hope to inspire our members and community to take action and become a part of the green economy, working alongside member organizations to support their transformation, and bringing the business case for sustainability to life for them. Like all evolutions, we will be continually working to improve and are excited by what the future might hold through the Regional Sustainability Initiative.

- Tova Davidson, Executive Director,
Sustainable Waterloo Region

Sustainability is more than reducing our carbon footprint. The work being done at Sustainable Waterloo Region to pilot a customized B-Lab scoring will help Green Economy North to implement more holistic assessment that goes beyond easily measurable metrics such as energy, waste and water. Holistic sustainability will support members with less ability to directly reduce their carbon, to reap the benefits of becoming more sustainable in other ways.

- Rebecca Danard,
Executive Director, reThink Green

Durham Region is predominantly small businesses, who may lack the capital or capacity to invest in large sustainability projects, or as tenants, are unable to significantly reduce their GHGs. But that doesn't mean they aren't working toward a more sustainable future. To make target setting more accessible, we're looking at sustainability from a GHG emission perspective and a more holistic perspective through the B-Lab tool, allowing smaller business to operate more sustainably.

- Shawna Mutton,
Executive Director, Durham SustainAbility



CoLab Connects 2015 brought over 250 public, private, and non-profit leaders together in Toronto to spark conversation on how to accelerate Ontario's low-carbon economy.

CONVENING VOICES OF THE LOW-CARBON ECONOMY



Green Economy: Ontario, co-presented with CCSR, The Natural Step and Sustainable Prosperity in November 2015. The Innovators panel included insights from Susan Jantzi, SunLife Canada (Regional Carbon Initiative Member and CoLab Corporate Partner) and David Paterson, GM Canada (DPPG & Carbon Project member).



In 2015/16 the Green Economy Perspectives speakers series featured conversations with a wide variety of thought-leaders including Ontario's Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Glen Murray, President of the Ivey Foundation, Bruce Lourie, TD Bank's Chief Environmental Officer Karen Clarke-Whistler (pictured), and Mike Wilson, Executive Director of Sustainable Prosperity.

Stay tuned for future events:
sustainabilitycolab.org/subscribe

VISION FOR A CANADIAN CLIMATE STRATEGY

TYLER HAMILTON

Momentum leading up to the Paris climate conference was almost tangible and momentum since that historic gathering of world leaders is equally so.

Looking through the lens of climate action, 2015 was a turning point for Canada and the world. Nearly 200 countries agreed to limit global warming to “well below” 2 degrees C. Fossil-fuel divestment campaigns caught fire, and coal investors got burned. Technologies, such as solar, hit price points that, in the words of climate crusader Al Gore, “should give us cause for joy and celebration.”

At home, new federal and provincial governments intent on walking the emissions-reduction talk were elected, and here in Ontario, work began on the country’s most ambitious climate action plan, including a carbon cap-and-trade program. The plan was released in June, and it didn’t disappoint.

It may sound cliché, but stars really have aligned. “We’re going to win this,” Gore said last year in Toronto. “We just have to speed up the victory.”

Speeding up the victory means connecting those bright dots in the sky. Doing so requires better coordination between all levels of government, and strengthened collaboration between

public and private sector organizations that see the journey toward a low-carbon economy as an opportunity to be seized. This is where Sustainability CoLab and programs in the CoLab Network have and will continue to play an essential role.

Ontario’s soon-to-be created green bank, for example, must work to pull in both federal and private investment to support clean energy projects and technologies. Ottawa and the provinces need to partner more on green infrastructure, and plan for where we expect to be in 30, 50 or 70 years, not just for the needs of today.

Climate policies should be more aligned. The private sector needs to be better engaged. Decision-making silos must be dismantled. We hit a turning point, yes, but the hard work is just beginning.

The fruits of our labour will be jobs, prosperity and a thriving 21st century economy that’s more sustainable than the one that got us here.

Tyler Hamilton moderated the Speakers Forum at CoLab Connects 2016 and is an award-winning journalist, author and former editor-in-chief of *Corporate Knights* magazine. Tyler was the Climate and Economy Reporter for the *Toronto Star* in the lead-up to the Paris climate conference in December 2015.

THE LOW-CARBON PARTNERSHIP

A NATIONAL COLLABORATION
FOR CLIMATE ACTION

There's no doubt this is a unique moment in time.

We each realize this, as do our organizations and our Boards. And we're not alone. There's a cross-section of political leadership right across the country – provincially and federally – ready to take decisive action on climate change.

Meanwhile our four organizations – CoLab, QUEST (Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow), Climate Smart and The Natural Step (TNS) – each have proven programs that collectively engage more than 1,200 businesses and over 200 communities across the country. From Climate Smart Businesses in British Columbia cutting their costs by \$35M while reducing their GHGs by 90,000 tonnes, to TNS' Energy Futures Lab in Alberta working with 40 senior cross-sector fellows, to the work of the CoLab Network documented in this report, to QUEST's 8 caucuses that are advancing Smart Energy Communities in provinces and regions including New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, and Canada's North.

In light of this, we've teamed up to form The Low Carbon Partnership – a national collaboration that brings each of us together to help Canada meet our ambitious emissions targets.

Together, we are aligning, accelerating and unlocking the collective potential of our respective programs, tools, and networks. Stay tuned for more details to be released in the coming weeks.

Onwards,

Mike Morrice,
Sustainability
CoLab

Brent Gilmour,
QUEST

Chad Park,
The Natural
Step

Elizabeth
Sheehan,
Climate Smart



Pictured, left to right: Brent Gilmour, Executive Director, QUEST; Elizabeth Sheehan, President, Climate Smart; Mike Morrice, Executive Director, Sustainability CoLab; Chad Park, Executive Director, The Natural Step

Stay in the loop by signing up to receive
email updates at lowcarbonpartnership.ca

CALLS TO ACTION

HOW YOU CAN HELP BUILD
THE NEW ECONOMY

Get involved

Volunteer your time and talents in one of the CoLab Network Member programs! We're always looking for great people to join our teams.

Support the Cause

If you're a grantor or potential sponsor, funding CoLab Network Member programs is a great way to translate dollars into meaningful impact. Funding provides more capacity for Network Members to support businesses in taking measurable action.

Sign Up

If you own a business or work in an organization that is not yet part of an existing program, consider joining. If you're already part of a program, encourage other organizations to do the same. If no program currently exists in your community, learn how you can support or start one.

Stay in the Loop

Stay connected and cheer on the Network! Join our mailing lists, and follow us on Twitter. Attending CoLab Network events and spreading the news of what's happening across the Network is a great way to show support.

To learn more about any of these ways to get involved, contact info@sustainabilitycolab.org.

"Sustainability has become essential for Ottawa businesses who want a competitive edge. Carbon 613 and its members are at the forefront of this push to install sustainability as a driver of corporate success."

- Michael Murr,
Executive Director, Enviro Centre

I am inspired by the enthusiastic support we have received from stakeholders as the ClimateWise Business Network readies for launch in York Region. As Ontario's second largest business centre we are keen to begin the real work, helping businesses enhance their success through sustainability initiatives.

- Brent Kopperson,
Executive Director, Windfall Ecology Centre

We anticipate our growth – and our impact – will accelerate over the next year with the help of the extensive resources, coaching and connections available to us through the CoLab Network. We're inspired by the knowledge that together, we're driving greater progress toward a sustainable economy."

- Sandi Stride, Executive Director,
Sustainable Hamilton Burlington

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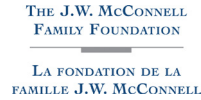
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Network Coordinator*

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Design Lead*

*Volunteer position

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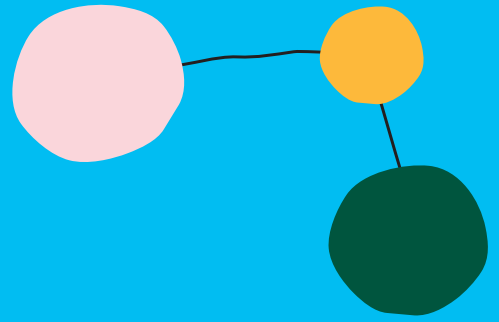
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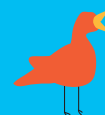
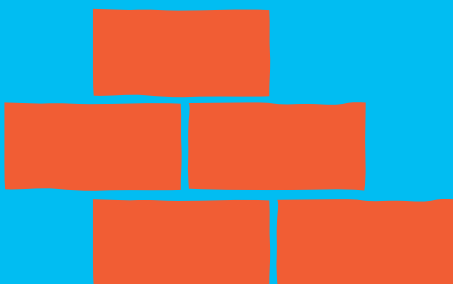


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Footprint of this Report:**

176 pounds 100%
Recycled Paper

Impact:

141 kg CO₂e
3,876 L of Water



@Sustaincolab
#CoLabnetwork

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