



Environmental Sustainability Committee

Monday, May 1, 2017

10:30 am

Council Chambers, Town Hall

359 Main Street

Agenda

- 1. Approval of the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting, March 6, 2017
- 3. Report of Issues from Informal Meeting April 3, 2017**
- 4. Business arising from Previous Meeting, March 6, 2017:**
 - a. Committee Work Plan
 - b. Ecology Action Centre (EAC) – Sea-Level Rise Workshop
 - c. The Natural Step (TNS)
- 5. Roundtable Discussion**
- 6. Question Period**
- 7. Next Meeting: Monday, July 3, 2017**
- 8. Adjournment**



Reference: www.naturalstep.ca

The Natural Step Canada is a dynamic non-profit organization with over a decade of experience helping organizations and individuals understand and make meaningful progress toward sustainability.

Our vision is a sustainable society – one in which individuals, communities, businesses and institutions thrive within nature’s limits.

Our mission is to accelerate the transition to a sustainable society.

We are part of a global network of non-profit organizations that share the same brand, core identity and purpose and that has been at the forefront of sustainable development internationally for more than twenty years. The science-based framework that we employ (called the [Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development](#) – FSSD) has been used successfully in hundreds of [forward-thinking organizations](#) around the world.

The Natural Step has received a number of awards over the years including: Mikhail Gorbachev’s Green Cross Millennium Award in 1999 and The Blue Planet Award (considered the “Nobel Prize of the Environment”) in 2000. The Natural Step’s founder, Dr. Karl-Henrik Robèrt, has been honoured with numerous international distinctions including the first Laureate Medal for Social Responsibility issued in 2005 by the Global Centre for Leadership and Business Ethics and, in 2009, as an Ashoka Fellow and Globalizer. In 2006, The Natural Step’s [“Sustainability 101” eLearning course](#) was awarded the Brandon Hall Silver Medal for Excellence in Learning.

Originally founded after a formative meeting of Canadian sustainability leaders in Orangeville, Ontario in 1996, it took a few years for The Natural Step Canada to take off. Early work in Whistler, BC eventually led to the launch of a national NGO based in Ottawa in 2003.

The Natural Step Canada has since built a solid track record in Canada supporting the emergence of role models for sustainable communities and business. We have worked with dozens of organizations to help them embed sustainability into their strategies, operations, products, services and community plans. We have fostered commitment and competence in thousands of leaders and practitioners through our learning programs. We developed The Natural Step’s Sustainability 101 eLearning course and published numerous case studies and [toolkits](#) to help others learn from The Natural Step’s experience.

In so doing, The Natural Step Canada has become a leader within the international Natural Step network and a respected contributor in the Canadian sustainability field. To read about The Natural Step International’s story please visit <http://www.thenaturalstep.org/our-story>

Sustainability

Our approach is collectively called the “Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development” – it is a comprehensive model for planning in complex systems. It is openly published and free for all to use. The Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development has helped hundreds of different organizations around the world integrate sustainable development into their strategic planning and create long lasting transformative change. It is constantly being used, tested, refined and developed.



The Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development is based on systems thinking; recognizing that what happens in one part of a system affects every other part. Think of a soccer team. We can't understand why the team lost the game until we look at how each player – the goal keeper, defenders and forwards - all worked together on the field. We won't learn much if we just study one member of the team. The Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development gives an organisation the tools to look at the whole team, understand the rules of the game, define success, and move towards it together.

Any successful team must have a common language and understanding in order to facilitate cooperation. The Framework provides this shared mental model of sustainability by helping people across organisations, disciplines and cultures to communicate effectively, build consensus and ultimately move toward their vision. We use an upstream approach that anticipates and avoids problems before they occur, rather than reacting to their downstream effects.

This scientifically rigorous Framework gives organisations the tools to perform a gap analysis using the lens of sustainability, and then work toward closing the gap. Furthermore, The Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development complements other sustainability tools and methodologies, such as life cycle analysis or environmental management systems, by providing the context and strategic vision that makes them more effective.