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# Interconnections

Sustaining Saskatchewan's Future

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## Welcome to *Interconnections!*

Author Erich Fromm, in his book "To Have or to Be?" wrote: "When people can see a vision and simultaneously recognize what can be done step by step in a concrete way to achieve it, they will begin to feel encouragement and enthusiasm instead of fright."

The very concept of the incredible growth this project is facing, and the task that lies ahead of municipalities in preparing for it, can be a daunting one – but help is on its way. The Planning for Growth initiative introduced in June provides opportunities for communities to work together, to find solutions for common problems and to cooperate regionally in concrete ways to change the future for the better.

The program aims to help communities and regions create 'best practices' models for planning, enhance regional relationships, find the best ways to coordinate infrastructure and land use for growth, all essential building blocks for moving ahead into the future in a healthy and sustainable manner.

We look forward to hearing the success stories of communities in the province – how they are addressing the need to grow, how they are developing new planning methods, and ways in which they're using the Saskatchewan spirit of working together toward a greater goal.

Please send articles, photos and ideas to [sustainability@suma.org](mailto:sustainability@suma.org). Your ideas could be the starting point for someone else's success story!

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*"The world we have created today as a result of our thinking thus far has problems which cannot be solved by thinking the way we thought when we created them."*

*-Albert Einstein*

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## Forecast: Growth!

# New funding allows Saskatchewan's urban municipalities to plan for sustainable growth

Submitted by: Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association

While the Saskatchewan weather forecast this summer has called for rain, rain and more rain, the province's economic outlook is somewhat rosier. With steady year-over-year growth significantly greater than the Canadian average (ranked third in Canada, according to Enterprise Saskatchewan figures as of June 28, 2010), municipalities are facing a need to strategize together, to find ways to encourage and sustain economic and population growth in their regions.

Last month, the provincial government announced \$1.1 million in funding earmarked for co-operative community planning, in a program known as "Planning for Growth" (PFG). The money will pay for planning infrastructure, such as consultants and studies, and it will be administered through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The funding comes from the Gas Tax Fund (\$600,000) and Enterprise Saskatchewan (\$500,000). PFG strongly emphasizes inter-municipal cooperation, partnerships and collaboration to augment the economic, social and environmental opportunities within a region. It also teaches the value of developing the professional planning capacity needed to achieve short and long term economic growth objectives.

The program will provide cost-sharing for projects involving groups of two or more municipalities wishing to engage in regional planning regarding infrastructure and land use for growth; demonstrate best practices for planning, including processes, methodologies and planning models; build municipal and professional planning capacity within municipalities and regions; and build and enhance relationships required to support regional planning initiatives.



Recognizing the diverse needs of the province's communities, and the fact that municipalities are in various stages of readiness, the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and the Municipal Capacity Development Program have organized regional workshops to provide information on planning, developing relationships and the specifics of the PFG program.

This series of workshops is being offered across the province this summer. Each workshop will provide information on the basics of regional planning, facilitating relationships and managing projects, and the details of the PFG program itself. The workshops will be held in Turtleford,

Prince Albert, Rosetown, Swift Current, Stoughton, and Fort Qu'Appelle, with an August 19 workshop located at Manitou Beach. For more information, contact MCDP at [municipalcapacity@sarm.ca](mailto:municipalcapacity@sarm.ca).

The PFG initiative is being welcomed by communities as a positive way to forge new networks toward the common goal of sustainability. "Urban municipalities are grateful that the provincial and federal governments have responded to the call for support in promoting inter-municipal planning," SUMA President Allan Earle said. "The challenges facing municipalities are increasingly complex, and the best solutions are often found through collaboration. This program will provide the necessary resources to facilitate a collaborative planning environment between municipalities."

*"Creating a better future depends, in part, on the knowledge and involvement of citizens and on a decision-making process that embraces and encourages differing perspectives of those affected by governmental policy. Steps toward a more sustainable future include developing community-driven strategic planning and collaborative regional planning; decreasing sprawl' and creating strong, diversified local economies while increasing jobs and other economic opportunities."*

*-Wingspread II Conference, Communities in Harm's Way*

## Questions and Answer

### **If a municipality wants to hire a community planner, how would we conduct the interview?**

To begin, provide your candidate with an overview of your organization and the expectations of the job. Interview questions should reflect the job requirements as advertised. It is a good practice to have your interview questions written out and to take notes of the applicant's responses. Anticipate any questions the applicant may have and be prepared to provide information and clarification. Refer to the applicant's resume and cover letter and ask them to expand on any particular aspect of interest to your hiring committee. The interview provides both the candidate and your organization an opportunity to learn more about each other. Being well-prepared and organized in conducting the interview leaves a positive impression with your job candidate.

### **Questions to Ask in the Interview:**

1. Explain how your education and work experience pertain to the requirements of this position.
2. Are you currently registered with a Professional Planners Association? Are you currently a member of the CIP or APCPS?
3. What kinds of projects have you done in the past, particularly related to Official Community Plans (OCPs), zoning bylaws, concepts plans, bylaw amendment processes, development permits and subdivision approval processes?
4. Are you willing to relocate to this area or nearby vicinity?
5. Explain the planning and approval process for land use/development within the province of Saskatchewan.
6. Explain how you would engage/consult with our community. Provide an example of your best practices.
7. Elaborate on any experiences/knowledge you have had working with intermunicipal groups or/collaborative projects.
8. Please give examples of your experience with public speaking and public consultation. Have you ever given a presentation at a public hearing?
9. Provide an example of time when you had to deal with a difficult situation/difficult people. What did you do and what was the overall outcome? What would you do differently?
10. What additional experiences/attributes do you bring to this position? Please elaborate.
11. What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses?
12. Describe your experience with timelines, multitasking, and working under stressful circumstances. needs/considerations?
13. Will you be able to meet the expectations of the job, i.e., work attendance, special
14. What are your current/future plans? Are you able/willing to commit to our community/organization to meet its goals?



15. Are you bondable?
16. Are you able to be politically neutral within the work environment?
17. What are your expectations of the job/work environment? Do you have any questions?
18. What would your previous employers say about you? May we contact your references? (Request three references with contact information if not yet provided with the resume.)

Any other questions specific to living in your community/or specific to the type of work that your community planner will be doing are also appropriate.

For further information please visit: [www.municipal capacity.ca](http://www.municipal capacity.ca)



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#### ***What Are the Aurora Borealis?***

These breathtaking displays of northern lights originate on the sun, where explosions and flares occur at frequent intervals. During explosions, large quantities of solar debris are hurled into space as plasma clouds at speeds 1000 of km/second. As the clouds near Earth, they are attracted by the magnetic fields at the Earth's poles. The lights we see are the visible effects of light particles (photons) produced when the solar particles collide with gases in Earth's atmosphere.

#### ***Did You Know?***

Although the northern lights are occasionally visible in Canada, there are better places in the world from which to see them:

- Norway – almost every clear dark night
- Alaska – five to ten times a month
- Northern British Isles- roughly twice a month
- Northern Canada – two to four times a year

source: Murphy, Angela. Blue Bike Books. *Bathroom Book of Canadian Trivia*, 2005.



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*“If we are going to carry on growing, and we will, because no country is going to forfeit its right to economic growth, we have to find a way of doing it sustainably.”*

*-Tony Blair*

## Sustainable Facts

### Did you Know?

A community sustainability plan is about integrating social and economic imperatives into the quality of place (the ecological imperative). The integration of people, place and economy into a single plan over a long-term perspective is a critical process for achieving sustainable community development. In many ways an integrated sustainable community plan is a process of reconciliation, with the three imperatives of sustainable development being brought together in an integrated policy planning and collaborative decision-making framework.

There are a number of stages when developing a Plan:

**1. *Pre-Planning Stage:***

The initial stages of plan development are not to start creating plans or policies but to identify the processes and critical stakeholders that will inform the process.

**2. *Mapping the Community- Understanding the Place:***

A comprehensive audit of the community's current ecological, social and economic capital base line provides a baseline against which to measure progress, and provides invaluable information to the community.

**3. *Engaging the Community- Getting People involved in the process:***

Communities, regardless of scale, are amalgams of interest, values and sectors. A deliberative process will identify and engage key stakeholders—from business, community organizations, conservation groups, developers and government agencies within the community.

**4. *The Plan- Creating a framework for future development and change:***

The community plan should reflect the desired nature of the community which is also linked to the timeframe for the ICSP. This broader and integrated vision reflects the values the community places on things like diversity; self-sufficiency, accessibility to services, livability, the nature of its development, current and future.

For further details on the above information, please visit:  
<http://www.municipalcapacity.ca/assets/File/whatisaplan.pdf>

Source:

Drs. Chris Ling, Ann Dale, Kevin Hanna .Royal Roads University. *Integrated Community Sustainability Planning Tool*, March 15 2007.

## Community Best Practice: Town of Kamsack, Sask.

### Reverse Osmosis Water System

**Submitted by: Laura Lomenda, Economic Development Officer**

*Project Scope:* The scope of the project was two-fold. It included changing the water supply for the Town from a surface water supply (river) to a ground water supply (well system) and construction of a new water treatment plant which uses reverse osmosis technology.

*Project Timelines:* The project was initiated in 2004-5 and completed in February 2009.

*Regulatory Issues:* As with any water treatment facility there were numerous federal and provincial regulations to be adhered to. The water treatment staff worked collaboratively with the engineering firm and the regulatory agencies to ensure all standards were met or exceeded. On-going monitoring and testing processes and procedures were documented and are strictly adhered to.



*Community Buy-in:* Discussions over the town water supply have been on-going with numerous Town Councils going back to 1982. Following the Walkerton Water Tragedy and the announcement of new regulations regarding water treatment, Council of the day initiated this project. Public forums were held with residents to ensure buy-in of the community. Water quality from the new system also increased community buy-in, post project.



*External Funding:* A grant from CSIP (Canada Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program) was received. Funding from the Federal Gas Tax under the new deal for cities and communities was also utilized.

*Lessons Learned:* Two key lessons were identified. Firstly, the collaborative involvement of all stakeholders, throughout the entire project is key to the success of the project, and secondly, communications back to the community is important. Regular updates on the status of the project reduces the speculation within the community. Also noted was the need for contingency in the project timeline as construction of the system was greatly impacted by adverse weather conditions.

For more information: Contact Dennis Wishnevetski  
Director of Utilities  
Town of Kamsack  
306-542-2034



Well and Pump House



Water Treatment Plant

## **Green Ice Arena Project**

**Submitted by: Laura Lomenda, Economic Development Officer**

*Project Scope:* Replace the conventional heating and refrigeration system with a geothermal system that would provide heating and cooling power for the arena. Also upgrade the lighting system to energy efficient lighting.

*Project Timelines:* The project was initiated in April 09 and should be completed by July 1, 2010.

*Regulatory Issues:* Initially there were some concerns regarding Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety. These concerns were eventually dismissed when the geo-thermal system was deemed exempt.

*Community Buy-in:* There was much speculation about the geo-thermal system, especially when project timelines slipped and the rink was unable to open at the traditional time. Although the jury is still out, the expected reduction in utility costs to operate the arena and the quality of the ice during the previous season are starting to sway public opinion.

*External Funding:* A RinC grant through the Canada's Action Plan assisted with funding this initiative.

*Lessons Learned:* Start Early! The project took longer than expected. When retro-fitting an arena the technical challenges are significant. During this project, there were several key problems encountered that were not anticipated and planned for. These were all resolved, but did impact project timelines.

For more information: Contact Paul Keys  
Recreation Director  
Town of Kamsack  
rec.kamsack@sasktel.net  
306-542-2044



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**If your community has a successful story, here's your chance to have it heard!**

We are asking Municipalities to write a description of their local or area-wide Sustainable projects. These case studies should be approximately two pages in length and include the following points:

1. When was the project initiated, and by whom?
2. Were there any regulatory obstacles? If so, how were they overcome?
3. How did you achieve buy-in from council and/or the community?
4. What external funding, if any, did you receive?
5. Lessons learned
6. Photo of the project

Examples of Sustainable Projects can include: Town Beautification projects, Housing projects, Waste Water Improvements, Water Distribution Systems, Community and Economic Development Leadership initiatives, Collection and Recycling Programs, Bicycle Network Plans, Protective Services Programs, Health Programs, Community Engagement Processes and the list goes on and on... We encourage communities to provide this information so that everyone can learn from it!

If you would like us to showcase your sustainable projects, please forward the information to Dana – [dschmalz@sarm.ca](mailto:dschmalz@sarm.ca) or any of the newsletter editors no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of each distribution month.

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*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

*-Margaret Mead*



## Biodiversity and Agriculture

### Long Live Sustainable Lifestyles!

Agriculture provides people with a host of consumer goods – from the rich diversity of fruits, vegetables, roots, tubers and nuts to the multitude of fibers, fuels and timber. Human health, nutrition and well-being relies on biodiversity for most agricultural goods and a multitude of others—medicines and supplements, cosmetics and biochemicals. Pollution, land conversion and over-extraction of resources from biodiversity and the environment, damages ecosystem services that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.

Sustainable lifestyles for you, your family and friends are essential for safeguarding natural resources and conserving biodiversity for future generations. Sustainable lifestyles and practices in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and manufacturing need to be maximized so that pollution and waste will be minimized. Exploration and education for sustainable production and consumption play an important role in adopting sustainable practices into our everyday lives.

### SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION FOR A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The choices people make in their everyday consumption for food and other agricultural goods have an ecological footprint and often, larger ramifications that they are unaware of, such as the polluting factor of transporting goods to markets. A person's ecological footprint is the land and resources necessary to produce what they use and to recycle their wastes.

Sustainability is the capacity to “meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”<sup>1</sup> Developing sustainable lifestyles and practices requires finding workable solutions to imbalances through more responsible consumer behavior.

“Many people in the world need to consume more just to survive. Many others may need to make more responsible choices. In the end, this will mean that fewer resources are needed and fewer emissions are generated, while still serving the needs of the world's population.”<sup>2</sup>

Sustainable consumption is not just an environmental issue but also one that promotes a dignified standard of living for everyone. Consuming sustainably is a key challenge for many, as it requires clear information, access to sustainable products and services and adequate infrastructure for their provision. Look for sustainable alternatives—such as organic foods, fair trade products or free trade organic products and certified sustainable goods—that are available to you and that you can adopt within your budgetary constraints.

But don't be fooled by imitation products! A green label doesn't necessarily mean it is sustainable. And don't get caught by hidden factors when looking for sustainable alternatives! For example, organic production is sustainable at a local level but transporting these products to distant markets creates pollution. Another hidden factor is that food processors often discard “ugly-looking” or unattractive but perfectly edible produce. So, when you can, buy directly from the farm!

### STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

There are several simple habits that consumers can adopt to become more sustainable and to reduce their ecological footprint. Start by rethinking consumption patterns and needs to curbing unnecessary consumption. Reducing wastage, for example by buying products with little packaging, is a key component of sustainability.

Also, fresh foods are healthier than eating processed foods. Reuse products before recycling. Buying sustainably made products is a key part of creating a sustainable lifestyle. It takes many resources to produce some foods, especially meat. Minimizing consumption of high-energy input foods reduces your ecological footprint. Recycling wastes, such as composting food wastes like potato skins and orange peels, is part of nutrient cycling. As you explore and adopt sustainable alternatives share the information with others!

**Table 1: Elements of a sustainable lifestyle and sustainable practices that you can explore**

Sustainable Lifestyle	Sustainable Practices
<b>CURBING UNNECESSARY CONSUMPTION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rethinking consumption platforms</li> <li>➤ Do I already have this product?</li> <li>➤ Do I need this product?</li> <li>➤ Can I find a sustainable alternative?</li> </ul>
<b>REDUCE WASTAGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Avoid buying good with throwaway parts, instead buy products with recyclable packaging</li> <li>➤ Use cloth or reusable bags when shopping</li> </ul>
<b>BUY SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ organic free trade goods</li> <li>➤ certified sustainable products, such as wood and paper</li> <li>➤ when buying foods with throwaway parts bring your own! (Such as a mug, cutlery and food container)</li> </ul>
<b>EAT DIVERSE SUSTAINABLY-PRODUCED FOODS FOR A NUTRITIOUS DIET</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Eat local organic foods, including produce and meats when they are available</li> <li>➤ Do not eat too much meat as it requires more resources to raise animals</li> <li>➤ Do not consume species in decline or endangered</li> </ul>
<b>RECYCLE WASTES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Compost food wastes</li> <li>➤ Recycle plastic, metal and other materials according to the facilities that exists in your region</li> </ul>

**Source:**

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/bioday/2008/ibd-2008-factsheet-05-en.pdf>

1. United Nations, World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987. *Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development*, United Nations, New York, published as Annex to General Assembly document A/42/427. World Commission on Environment and Development, Our Common Future, also published 1987 by Oxford University Press, Oxford.

2. UNESCO-UNEP, 2002. Youth Xchange: training kit on responsible consumption—the guide. UNESCO-UNEP, Paris. <<http://www.unep.org/pc/sustain/reports/youth/YXC%20clean%20dec%202004.pdf>>

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## Communities of Tomorrow

Communities of Tomorrow is a public-private partnership with the mission of making Saskatchewan a global leader in the field of innovative sustainable municipal infrastructure.

Communities of Tomorrow works with industry, municipalities and researchers to find innovative solutions to infrastructure challenges. Capitalizing on the trillion-dollar global infrastructure market, Communities of Tomorrow assists in the development of more cost effective, longer-lasting and environmentally friendly infrastructure products and services, in turn creating jobs, growing businesses and generating economic activity for Saskatchewan.

Our strategic focus is on the areas of water, roads and transportation, and remediation.

Communities of Tomorrow operates with four core business strategies:

### Technology Innovation Brokerage and Facilitation

Communities of Tomorrow builds partnerships between the key sectors: municipalities, industry, and researchers. We seek to discover needs and match them with suppliers, and assist in the development of products and services from concept to field-testing to commercialization, as well as the development of innovative solutions and best practices.

### Funding

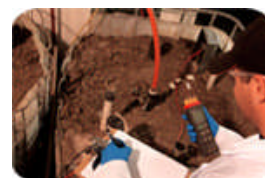
Communities of Tomorrow provides project funding to assist companies, municipalities, and researchers to prove out and demonstrate innovative technologies and processes. Over 100 projects have previously received funding.

### Capacity Building

Communities of Tomorrow is assisting industry and municipalities to develop expertise and create capacity, and as a result become innovative leaders in the infrastructure sector.

### Economic Development

Communities of Tomorrow works with industry players, associations, regional economic development authorities, and other stakeholders to create economic development in the private sector. CT focuses on the expansion of existing enterprises and the creation of new enterprises to drive economic growth and maximize return on investment in innovation.



For more information on Communities of Tomorrow please visit: <http://www.communitiestomorrow.ca/>.

# Intangible Asset Mapping: It's all about People

Submitted by: Tayah Hanson, Municipal Capacity Development Program

The individuals in your community are your richest resource, the importance of which should not be overlooked when Community Asset Mapping. Asset Mapping involves taking account of everything your community contains. “Human assets” impact the use and development of resources, and the ongoing and changing needs in and around your community. When we talk about municipal “capacity building” and “sustainability,” we are really talking about people; these are hollow concepts when separated from the people who use, create, expand, and enjoy the resources of the community. When mapping your “human assets,” it is not just as simple as counting heads. It requires recognizing the “intangibles:” why someone lives here, how they benefit, what they give, how they engage, and how they affect/are affected by the tangible assets in your community. Taking stock of the “intangibles” or “human assets” requires considering individual lifestyles, skills, habits, talents, interests, ideas, involvement, time, and abilities. Human assets are also extended to include the networks of people in your community, their present and historical relationships to each other, the larger community or region, the land and other physical resources.

How can we seek and find these intangibles resources? Your community members can provide both the information and the action you need for Community Asset Mapping. Capitalize on the diversity within your community. Look for individuals with vision, willing to lead, talk, share, and ask questions. Seek out the hidden, the quiet, and the introspective; they will ask different questions and draw out overlooked information. Look for those who like to organize, gather, and present information. Make a sweeping effort to gather information from your youth, adults, seniors, new and long-term residents, visitors, and/or potential investors to get an all-round perspective of present and future needs and a broader view of your area. MCDP’s *Municipal Guide to Comprehensive Asset Mapping* provides survey templates for focused questionnaires and a comprehensive individual survey, as well as surveys for local institutions, clubs, interest groups, and cultural affiliations to get you started.

There are two types of people—those who come into a room and say “Well, here I am!” and those who come in and say, “Ah, there you are.”

– Frederick L. Collins

Who can help? MCDP’s *Municipal Guide to Comprehensive Asset Mapping* suggests engaging your community members in the asset mapping process at the outset, regardless of where the drive for asset mapping is coming from (i.e. municipal government, community group, etc). It is important to ensure everyone with a vested interest in your area is encouraged to contribute, ask questions, and make suggestions. Maintaining openness and transparency in addressing current or future challenges and

potential benefits of the asset mapping exercise will improve your access to quality information. When you engage individuals in your community, you are increasing your knowledge base (and man-power!) creating a more comprehensive and complete Asset Map.

Asset mapping can seem to be a daunting and complex undertaking; however, as the saying goes, “More hands make for lighter work.” There are a number of ways to get your community members involved and informed:

- Use a variety of media: radio, newspapers, flyers, meetings, mailing lists, billboards, local bulletin boards, etc. to raise awareness and interest.
- Enlist help from volunteers, community organizations, special interest groups, schools, seniors, and stay-at-home parents. Offer an incentive for those who help: a free pass to a local recreation site or festival; get local businesses to sponsor the effort.
- Think of creative, fun, and/or visual ways to publically share your Asset Mapping progress.
- Focus on promoting expectations of positive outcomes and potential benefits.
- Provide ongoing access to the public and encourage a variety of ways people can provide information or volunteer. Offer different points of interaction such as a telephone phone contact, email, website, mail, head office, etc.)



To download a copy of MCDP’s *Municipal Guide to Comprehensive Asset Mapping* and to access additional resources, visit our website at [www.municipalcapacity.ca](http://www.municipalcapacity.ca), or email us at [municipalcapacity@sarm.ca](mailto:municipalcapacity@sarm.ca).

## In the Land of Plenty...

Submitted by: Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

In the midst of such an overwhelmingly wet spring and summer, the important message to conserve water is figuratively “drowned”. We get captured in the events of today and find it hard to recall that only a few short years ago we were experiencing one of the worst droughts of the century. In the most recent drought between 2000 and 2003, 2001 was recorded as the driest year in more than a century. In fact, historical climatic evidence of Saskatchewan shows a number of severe and prolonged drought periods that are likely to repeat themselves in the future. The impact of drought on society and the economy in Saskatchewan is extensive. Too little water can be just as damaging as too much, negatively impacting agriculture, water supplies and ecosystems.

The question is, “Why do we need to worry about conserving water now when we are quite literally ‘swamped’?” In a study by DeOreo (2008) a modelling approach shows that water conservation technological measures “can play a significant role in helping most water systems manage all but the most serious droughts. The key to the success of the water conservation approach is that it is implemented ahead of time, and increased storage levels in the raw system are in place before the drought’s onset.” This model compares scenarios where water conservation is planned and implemented well ahead of the drought (at a cost of \$100 million) to water conservation implemented as a response to drought (at a cost of \$400 million).

Who benefits when there is no drought? Using water more efficiently reduces pressure on municipal systems and can delay the need for costly expansion. This translates into savings to the end user, the taxpayer. Reducing water use also builds sustainability into our ecosystems, which will benefit us today and during future drought events. In areas where flooding has resulted in damage to wells, increased pressure is being put on alternative water sources to meet the needs normally served by the damaged wells. Reducing water waste, particularly through the use of water efficient technologies, would ensure that capacity exists to deal with these emergencies.

Over the past few years, Humboldt has been working to reduce water waste in their community. Their example demonstrates the benefits of implementing water efficient technologies and practices. Implementation of an extensive leak detection and repair program has resulted in a reduction of water loss due to leaks from 29% to 9%. Associated revenue losses were reduced by approximately \$300,000 annually.

Municipalities have many opportunities to implement water conserving technologies and practices that reduce the impacts of drought on our communities and the associated watershed, including, leak detection and repair; pricing water to reflect the full-cost of water delivery; promoting water sensitive urban design to reduce outdoor water use and infrastructure expansions while leaving dollars to repair older, leaky systems; and, partnering with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority’s Provincial Toilet Replacement Rebate Program. These are just a few ways that communities can be better prepared for the inevitability of drought.

**The #1 Water Saving Device Is *you!***

# Grant and Funding Opportunities

SUMA Website:

<http://www.suma.org/index.php?p=Grants>

Planning for Growth Northern Program:

<http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/Funding/PlanningForGrowthNorth>

Planning for Growth Funding:

<http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/Funding/PlanningForGrowth>

Building Canada Fund:

<http://www.infcc.gc.ca/ip-pi/bcip-picc/bcip-picc-eng.html>

Government of Saskatchewan: Municipal Affairs Website

<http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/Funding>

Community Development Program, Building Rural and Northern Partnerships, Government of Canada:

<http://www.rural.gc.ca/RURAL/display-afficher.do?id=1244146341952&lang=eng>

## Sustainable Web links

Information on Sustainable Governance:

<http://www.iisd.org/governance/>

The Municipal Capacity Development Program:

[www.municipalcapacity.ca](http://www.municipalcapacity.ca)

Rural Urban Regions:

[http://www.plurel.net/images/PLUREL\\_Newsletter\\_No1\\_screen.pdf](http://www.plurel.net/images/PLUREL_Newsletter_No1_screen.pdf)

Saskatchewan -based suppliers that offer green products or services:

<http://www.saskatchewangreendirectory.org/>

Government of Saskatchewan, Municipal Affairs

Website: Information to help build your community:

<http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/Growth-Development/Planning-Growth>

A list of Renewable Energy and Sustainable Energy Links:

<http://www.appro.org/links.html>

United Nations Development Program:

<http://www.undp.org/>

### The Newsletter Editors

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Municipal Capacity Development Program (MCDP)

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Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA)

Email: [sustainability@suma.org](mailto:sustainability@suma.org) website: [www.sumasustainability.org](http://www.sumasustainability.org)

**Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)**

Email: [sarm@sarm.ca](mailto:sarm@sarm.ca) website: [www.sarm.ca](http://www.sarm.ca)



# Sustainability