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Tiny Cottagers thanks for a great season!

As you prepare to close up for the winter, don't forget to update your Penetanguishene Public Library membership. With your library card you have access to thousands of digital titles and other e-resources, from anywhere there's an internet connection.



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Tiny's Climate Change Action Plan by VICTORIA ERVICK



Climate change is widely recognized as the most urgent problem facing humanity. We know that human activity is warming the Earth, and we know that we have both the knowledge and resources to correct the climate crisis. But did you know that Sustainable Severn Sound is working with local municipalities to mitigate climate change?

Last year in collaboration with seven municipalities, Sustainable Severn Sound released the area's first Local Climate Change Action Plan*. This plan filled an existing gap within area municipalities, and provided a framework to develop individual climate change action plans for each municipality committed to the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program. The PCP program is a national network of municipal governments that are committed to addressing climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Joining this program in January 2018, Tiny has achieved milestones 1, 2 and 3 out of a 5-milestone framework.

On April 30, 2019, the Township of Tiny approved Sustainable Severn Sound's recommendation to adopt a township administration GHG reduction target of 30% fewer tonnes of CO2 equivalent below 2015 levels by 2028, and a community target of 6%. Some other highlights in the plan include:

- sources of GHG emissions in the community sector 56% transportation, 32% residential, 10% waste, and 2% commercial and institutional
- sources in the administrative sector 76% fleet, 19% building and facilities, 4% water and wastewater infrastructure, and 1% solid waste
- 14 actions to reduce GHG emissions that would help the township meet its 6% community and 30% administrative emission targets

The township itself has already implemented a number of actions that are helping to reduce administrative GHG emissions. In 2015, Tiny upgraded 390 streetlights to light-emitting diodes (LEDs), reducing their energy consumption by an estimated 70%. The township was also the first municipality to join Ontario's Blue Communities Project, which phased out the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities. Moving forward and with guidance from Sustainable Severn Sound, the township will continue to look for opportunities to reduce administrative GHGs and encourages residents to do the same.

What we do today can significantly affect the sustainability of our environment and communities. Making a conscious effort to conserve energy and rely less on fossil fuels reduces GHG emissions and contributes to a healthier economy and environment for future generations.

Victoria Ervick is Sustainable Severn Sound's Climate Change Coordinator; 705-526-1371 x 111. To read more about the work that Sustainable Severn Sound is doing, visit www.sustainablesevernsound.ca

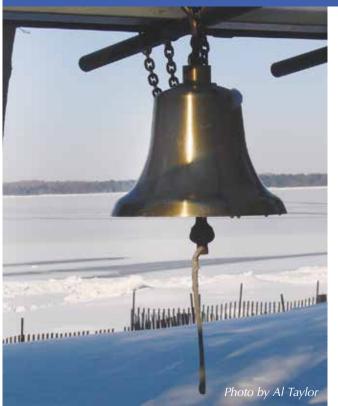
*www.sustainablesevernsound.ca/cli-mate-change/ local-climate-change-action-plan/

7 Ways to Reduce GHGs from Driving

- **1. Drive less.** Avoid emitting GHGs by combining errands to make fewer trips. Better still, walk or ride your bike, carpool, and use public transportation where available.
- 2. Drive a low carbon vehicle. When purchasing your next vehicle, choose one with a high kilometres-per-litre rating. Electric cars emit no CO2 if charged with clean electricity, such as solar.
- 3. Don't buy a minivan or SUV if you only occasionally need the extra space.
- **4. Avoid roof-top boxes,** which increase drag and decrease fuel economy. Instead, get a hitch-mounted cargo rack.
- 5. Adapt your driving style. Speeding and unnecessary acceleration reduce mileage by up to 33%, waste gas and money, and increase your carbon footprint. Use cruise control on long drives.
- **6. Keep your vehicle tuned.** Properly inflated tires improve gas mileage by up to 3%. Use the correct grade of motor oil, and keep your engine tuned. Some maintenance fixes, like correcting faulty oxygen sensors, can increase fuel efficiency by up to 40%. Remove excess weight from your car.
- **7. Avoid traffic.** Being stuck in traffic wastes gas and creates CO2. Use traffic websites and apps to find a better route.

Adapted from Carbon Offsets To Alleviate Poverty (COTAP). Check out other GHG-saving tips a thttps:// cotap.org

Bell Weather



by AL TAYLOR, KINGSWOOD ACRES

The most precise weather predictor ever is a brass ship's bell hanging in front of my cottage. All I have to do is look out my window and I have an up-to-the-minute prognostication. The accuracy is spot on every time.

Here are just a few examples:

- If bell is shiny, it's sunny
- If bell is dull, it's overcast
- If bell is wet, it's raining
- If bell is white, it's snowing
- If bell is icy and has icicles, it's freezing rain
- If bell is moving, it's windy • If bell is warm, it's hot; if it's cool, it's chilly
- If bell can't be seen, it's dark
- If bell looks hazy, it's foggy

Well, you get the picture. There are 22 other variations and combinations that are also dead on. Oh, if bell is swinging wildly and gonging, head for safety.

If you don't have access to a bell you can hang a rock from a highly visible location. Be careful not to place it under an overhang. This zero cost solution will save you checking professional meteorologists who end up with entirely different forecasts, usually at Pearson Airport. This solution will likely put the weather channel out of business.