

# **Carbon Footprint Initiative Framework**

**Date: April 25, 2018**



## **OVERVIEW:**

The Carbon Footprint Initiative is a not-for-profit alliance of public and private sector entities. Our members represent local government, agribusiness, forestry, insurance, seed, automotive and electrical supply sectors.

We have formed this initiative because we share a common interest in finding ways to reduce our carbon footprint, especially the use of fossil fuels. We are also interested in planting trees, shrubs and plants that will remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it in the land.

We are dedicated to developing ways to reduce our carbon footprint and subsequent use of fossil fuels. Our initial interest is in tracking fossil fuel use and identifying ways to reduce our use and in time identify alternative energy sources to use.

Our focus area at the present time is to develop carbon footprint strategies and share what we have learned with other businesses, municipalities and community groups and to encourage them to develop their own carbon footprint strategies.

We have identified two community projects in the Municipality of North Perth that we will support by providing trees as part of our carbon sequestration efforts.

## **CARBON SEQUESTRATION:**

A tree can absorb as much as .02 tonnes (48 pounds) of carbon dioxide per year and can sequester 1 ton of carbon dioxide by the time it reaches 40 years old.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Climate change presents a major threat to the present and future prosperity and well-being of the communities and businesses located within the Maitland watershed. In this watershed, the economy is largely based upon the prosperity of three major sectors: agriculture, seasonal recreation along the Lake Huron shoreline and forestry. These sectors rely on a stable and predictable climate and the health of soil, rivers, Lake Huron and forests. However, climate change is reducing the stability of the climate and making it difficult for these sectors to continue using the same approaches to the management of the resources they rely on. The primary cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels and the subsequent accumulation of carbon

dioxide in the atmosphere. There is growing recognition that civilization needs to eliminate its dependency upon fossil fuels and transition to carbon free energy sources. There is also a growing understanding that we need to planting native vegetation in order to reduce carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere to levels that will stabilize the climate.

The transition away from using fossil fuels will pose unique challenges and solutions in rural communities and businesses due to our dependency upon these energy sources for transportation.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To demonstrate how businesses and communities can measure & reduce their carbon footprint.
2. To demonstrate how businesses and communities can sequester carbon through the planting of trees and restoring natural areas.
3. To encourage businesses and communities to measure and develop a strategy for reducing their carbon footprint .
4. To encourage businesses and communities to plant trees in order to sequester carbon and restore natural areas.

#### **COMMUNITY PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE CFI:**

1. **The Listowel Memorial Park Rehabilitation Project.** This project will help to restore the river and flood plain through the planting of trees, shrubs and wildflowers in the park. The project is also aimed at improving the health of the river.
2. **The Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration Project:** The objective of this project is to restore approx. 300 acres of flood plain and river valley lands as a natural buffer along the Middle Maitland River from Listowel upstream to its headwaters located in Mapleton. This work will help to restore the health of the river by improving stream flow and water quality in the Middle Maitland River.

#### **COMMITTMENT:**

Each member agrees to develops a carbon footprint strategy and provides annual updates on their progress in reducing their carbon footprint and in their efforts to sequester carbon.

#### **CARBON FOOTPRINT INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM:**

**Deb Shewfelt, Chair, MVCA; Kriss Snell, CAO, Municipality of North Perth; Richard Keeso, President, J.H.Keeso and Sons Ltd.; Joe Dietrich, CEO, Trillium Mutual Insurance Company; Tim Macdonald, CEO, Ideal Supply Co. Ltd.; Ron Coghlin, Chairman, Molesworth Farm Supply Ltd.; Chet Calhoun, Plant Supervisor, Corteva Agriscience, Wingham Parent Seed Plant, Rachel White, Walter Johnston, County of Huron.**