



Trillium
Mutual Insurance Company



Two longstanding insurance companies merged in 2004 and built a central office in Listowel that adheres to the highest standards of energy efficiency. President Joe Dietrich and Director of Human Resources Pam Murray discuss their LEED certified building and commitment to sustainability.

QUICK FACTS

- **Operating since 1880**
- **Owned by community**
- **Write farm, home, commercial and auto insurance**
- **LEED certified office building**
- **60 employees**



Board of Directors



What is your business doing to reduce its impact on the environment?

Being in the insurance industry, we're keenly aware of the risks of a changing climate and we're making a big effort to lower our carbon footprint. In 2013, our new building received the Gold Standard from Canada's Green Building Council. That's the highest standard possible for a building in a rural area.

We didn't skimp on windows, roofing and insulation. Our lighting system is automatic and metered, our furniture is made with recycled and recyclable materials, we harvest rainwater for our office's grey water use and use low flow fixtures. We have a strategy to go paperless and we have A/V and web technology that helps us connect to our brokers without all the travelling. We also have hybrid automobiles in our fleet and encourage carpooling, biking and composting with our staff. Even the grounds are landscaped to require less watering.

It was a rigorous design and construction process. But the LEED certification only came once the council saw how the building was actually working years later. We want to share this space and showcase these possibilities, so meeting rooms in the building are available to community organizations on request. And we're still working to lower our emissions. It can be difficult, but you have to want to do it.

What impact will a changing climate have on your business?

Well, we've all seen these intense rains and flash flooding. There are problems with aging and under designed stormwater infrastructure with our changing climate. Stormwater management systems will be necessary for both rural and urban areas to manage the risk. Flood plain mapping may also need to be updated to reflect new rainfall patterns.

That is why mitigation is so important and we really need to broaden our thought process towards the risk management opportunities here.

