

Community, Education, Change: The Kingston Sustainability Centre

- DAN HENDRY

There has been immense growth at the Kingston Sustainability Centre (KSC) since it opened its doors in July 2009. From what began as an empty retail space, has quickly developed into a thriving hub of local sustainability solutions and opportunities for participation. The Kingston Sustainability Centre is a youth led, community education centre where Kingstonians can learn, teach and ask about solutions, processes & actions that inspire them to join the journey to achieve the city's vision of becoming "Canada's Most Sustainable City".

The Kingston Sustainability Centre's mission is to educate and encourage the community to embrace and apply sustainable consciousness in the vari-

ous aspects of life. The Centre operates with a two-fold model: promoting sustainable solutions and offering a community classroom with education outreach.

Information offered at the KSC spans many sustainable solutions, products and services. From the kindergartener to retiree, tourist to politician, anyone can learn something new and contribute to a sustainable Kingston. As the KSC partners change or update their information, the KSC is continually offering fresh and timely information for the public.

The Community Classroom, sponsored by Seaway Document Solutions and Xerox Canada, is launching February 1st, 2010. This classroom is available to the community, partners, and other interested parties to teach or take classes, to provide or receive educational workshops, hold dialogues and find opportunities for involvement. The KSC's staff will also be developing programming to run out of the classroom, such as guided tour of the centre with an energy awareness presentation, and documentary and film nights. With the creation of the classroom and various sustainability programs in

2010, the KSC aims to see 10,000 visitors through its doors this year. To achieve a sustainable future, a change in our modern lifestyle is required. The KSC aims to provide the necessary education to ignite individuals to use reason, responsibility, and awareness when taking part in any activity or event. From brushing teeth to making business deals, the Kingston Sustainability Centre strives to inspire people to consider the impact of their daily choices. As this change spreads, and solutions become more widely available, we can realistically foresee a sustained future for Kingston and the greater world.

The Kingston Sustainability Centre encourage you to come by. The Centre is located on the corner of Princess Street and Montreal Street. The Centre is always looking for more partners and opportunities to engage the public around issues on sustainable development.

Visit www.kingstonsustainabilitycentre.com or phone the Centre at (613) 544-6660. Dan Hendry is currently working as a Sustainability Programs Manager at the Kingston Sustainability Centre in downtown Kingston. Contact Dan at: danieljameshendry@gmail.com