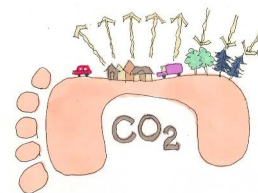




A project of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc.

Newsletter # 4
December 19, 2007

The Carbon Footprint Survey Begins in late January!



Carbon Foot printing is a "measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced, measured in units of Carbon Dioxide, CO₂." In our case, we are using individual household footprints (heating, transportation, etc.) to provide a collective result and conceptualize the impact our Village has! *The benefit of measuring our carbon footprint is that we can see exactly where we stand today, and the effect our new choices make in reducing our CO₂ emissions.*

In early December Eden Mills tested a **draft survey**, the basis for the measurement of the current carbon footprint of the Village. The test run was a success. Fourteen willing participants came to the Eden Mills Community Hall and met with four dedicated and knowledgeable University of Guelph students to fill out our "pre-survey" survey to calculate the individual carbon footprints of our homes. The evening went very smoothly. The survey took only 5-10 minutes to fill out and the participants had some good feedback for us as we prepared our final footprint calculator to be used this January. Thanks to everyone who participated, especially Richard Lay for his expertise in reviewing the draft survey.

As a result, we will revise the survey and **launch the formal process at the end of January 2008**. The final survey will be conducted by six university students, but will be supervised by fellow-villagers, Linda Melnick and Brenda Taylor. **In January, we shall contact every resident of Eden Mills to ask if you are willing to participate.** We shall schedule a practical time to meet with you to conduct the survey. You will be able to choose whether to fill out the survey at the Community Hall, or at home.

There is no pressure to participate. It is entirely voluntary. We really do want to encourage you to take part, however. We do not expect it to take up much of your time, and you will receive feedback that may actually help you save money too!

ALL of the information gathered for the survey will be kept **confidential**. The students will know who filled out what survey, and they will only use the raw data to calculate the Village's Carbon Footprint. NO ONE else, not even the Eden Mills Carbon Neutral volunteers, will know whose footprint is whose.

Detailed information about the survey, and time-saving questionnaires will be posted on the Carbon Neutral Website (www.goingcarbonneutral.ca) in the New Year. Please take a look.

We invite everyone to participate in this process and would be happy to answer any questions or concerns ourselves or via the "contact us" page on the website. **We would also welcome volunteers to help with contacting fellow-villagers!**

Brenda Taylor 519-856-4669 and Linda Melnick 519-856-9377

Charles & Anna Simon (519) 856 9921 simon.edenmills@sympatico.ca
Libby & Glenn Little (519) 856 1573 libby.little@sympatico.ca

www.goingcarbonneutral.ca