

Irish Loop Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) Initiative

Program Description

The Irish Loop Integrated Community Sustainability Initiative was developed to assist local municipalities in meeting their ICSP requirements through 2009 and 2010. Potential supports included the following:

- Providing input on key regional economic development strategies to external planners undertaking ICSPs on behalf of towns
- Working with individual municipalities on their stand-alone ICSP
- Facilitating groups of municipalities toward a collaborative ICSP
- Managing ICSP processes on behalf of towns

Our objective was to assist local governments in the Irish Loop, both individually and collectively, to make the most informed and cost-effective decision on the type of ICSP they required while linking regional economic strategies to local community sustainability planning.

Program Implementation

Beginning in 2008, the Irish Loop Development Board facilitated updates to local governments, through our engagement in the Southern Shore and St. Mary's Bay Joint Councils, on overall ICSP implementation. Following the release of the ICSP Guidelines and the announcement of financial incentives for municipalities undertaking Collaborative ICSPs in April 2009, the Board facilitated discussions among potential clusters of municipalities interested in pursuing a collaborative option. These supports extended to preparing overall collaborative ICSP agreements on behalf of participating municipalities and in four instances entering into project management agreements with towns to oversee ICSP development and compliance with ICSP guidelines and relevant milestones. The Board in turn sub-contracted ICSP plan development out to external consultants.

Program Outcomes

- Fifteen of fifteen (100%) municipalities in the Irish Loop participated in a Collaborative ICSP process
- All municipalities accessed Collaborative ICSP incentives from the Department of Municipal Affairs, leveraging in excess of \$35,000 to offset the costs of their ICSP
- Thirteen of fifteen municipalities entered into Project Management Agreements with the Irish Loop Development Board to oversee ICSP development across four separate collaborative ICSP processes.
- Conservatively estimating the cost of individual ICSP development utilizing external consultants at \$10,000/municipality, the Project Management approach enabled municipalities to save an estimated \$70,000 overall in ICSP expenses –

Linkages to Regional Economic Development

The Board's ICSP Initiative has enabled us to satisfy a key requirement under our core functions, in relation to both supports for local governments and in building capacity within the region. As the ICSP implementation process moves forward, the Board remains engaged in providing critical facilitation supports to existing collaborations, again through the Southern Shore and St. Mary's Bay Joint Councils. The experience has truly positioned the Board to fill a vacuum that exists in relation to regional planning capacity.