

# Healthy, Sustainable and Resilient Waterloo Region

## Election 2014

Dear Candidate,

Climate change, reducing fossil fuel usage, conserving and protecting our water supply, preserving green space, transportation, public policy, and reducing toxic pollutants are just a few of the issues Waterloo Region's environmental groups and NGO's address every day. If elected, your active support of our initiatives can play a critical role in creating the kind of community we all want to live in. Here's a little bit about us, and how you can help.



**The Grand River Environmental Network (GREN)** is the proactive voice for the environment in the Grand River Watershed. GREN members are activists, watchdogs, guardians, stewards and concerned citizens who support each other by sharing information and expertise, foster environmental awareness and literacy, and promote respect for our natural world and our place in it. GREN members prefer to be proactive, rather than reactive, requiring earlier inclusion in the government planning process to share our collective community expertise and experience.

[www.gren.ca](http://www.gren.ca) Contact: John Jackson [info@gren.ca](mailto:info@gren.ca)



**REEP Green Solutions** is an environmental charity and social enterprise, serving Waterloo Region since 1999. We focus on energy and water sustainability programs, by providing practical tools to the community such as home energy evaluations, RAIN home and business visits, demonstration sites, workshops and the REEP House for Sustainable Living. Our mission is to empower our community with the tools, knowledge and capacity for action to make sustainability the norm. Municipalities support REEP through core funding that helps keep the lights on while we develop, seek funding for and implement community programs. Municipal

councillors support homeowners in living more sustainably by voting for innovative approaches such as Local Improvement Charge financing for home energy retrofits, stormwater upgrades and well decommissioning.

[www.reepgreen.ca](http://www.reepgreen.ca) Contact: Mary Jane Patterson [mjpatterson@reepgreen.ca](mailto:mjpatterson@reepgreen.ca)



We are a dedicated team, motivated by a shared passion for progress towards sustainability across Waterloo Region. Together we are working to foster collaborations that enable local organizations to convert their sustainability interest into action.

Local politicians can help with the work we do by keeping the environment top-of-mind among local stakeholders including municipal government council, for-profits, not-for-profits, MUSH sector members and other members of the business community. We ask for support in areas such as the creation of

municipal infrastructure for electric vehicles, supporting the development of green buildings, and incentives for sustainable business practices.

[www.sustainablewaterlooregion.ca/](http://www.sustainablewaterlooregion.ca/) Contact: Lisa Chapman [lisa.chapman@sustainablewr.ca](mailto:lisa.chapman@sustainablewr.ca)



**The Tri-Cities Transport Action Group** is a volunteer group founded in 2009 to advocate for better walking, biking, and transit in Waterloo Region, with a focus on practical infrastructure and solutions. Since then, TriTAG has engaged with the public, the media, and government on a wide range of transportation issues, so people can get around Waterloo Region on foot, by bike, and by transit easily and with dignity.

TriTAG is conducting a survey of city and regional candidates about transit, walking, bicycling, and development issues, the results of which can be found at <http://tritag.ca/election2014>.

Contact: [hello@tritag.ca](mailto:hello@tritag.ca) if you missed an invitation to participate in our survey.



**MISSION - COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY WATERLOO (CREW-WR)** is a local non profit all volunteer organization dedicated to making conservation and renewable energy options accessible to the citizens of Waterloo Region, helping the Region of Waterloo **GO GREEN**.

**VISION** - is to be a network of knowledgeable advocates, early adopters and interested citizens who initiate, resource and support all local projects that encourage energy conservation and sustainable use of energy or materials from naturally regenerating sources, such as wind, solar and earth energy.

*CREW is looking for municipal leadership that is willing to share a hopeful, positive vision, collaborating in helping transition our community and society as a whole from high carbon to a thriving, sustainable, low carbon economy with all the accompanying benefits.*

QUESTION to municipal candidates: How will **you** be that kind of leader?

[www.crewzone.ca](http://www.crewzone.ca) Contact: Glen Woolner [glen@crewzone.ca](mailto:glen@crewzone.ca)



**Community CarShare**

Community CarShare was founded in 1998 as Ontario's first CarSharing organization. We now operate a fleet of over 50 vehicles, and serve over 1,300 members in Kitchener, Waterloo, Elmira, London, Guelph, Hamilton, St. Catharines, and with service pending for Burlington and Brampton in 2014. In Waterloo Region we have existing agreements with the Township of Woolwich, City of Water-

loo, City of Kitchener, City of Cambridge, and Region of Waterloo. If elected, please commit to meeting with a representative from the co-op in order to learn about the current relationship we have with your municipality and how we can continue to work together.

[www.communitycarshare.ca](http://www.communitycarshare.ca) or call a local staff person at 519-578-1895



**Charitable Research Reserve**

The **rare Charitable Research Reserve** is a community-driven 900+ acre urban land trust in the heart of Waterloo Region, home to an incredible array of flora and fauna, with species that are ranked significant or at risk regionally, provincially, nationally and even globally. The vision of **rare** is to preserve the property intact and in perpetuity for the community to enjoy in a natural state because it is vital to both the population health of local species, and the physical, social, and economic health of the community. rare is also a research and educational centre with eight kilometers of trail free

and open to the public, nature programs, and the region's largest community gardens project. Political support is essential for both funding and as an endorsement of the importance of protecting our natural environment.

[raresites.org](http://raresites.org) Contact: Stephanie Sobek-Swant [stephanie.sobek-swant@raresites.org](mailto:stephanie.sobek-swant@raresites.org)