

Our Committee is interested in **Community Engagement** from two perspectives:

1. Community engagement as a key element of a sustainable community

Through a facilitated visioning session and looking through the four spheres of sustainability, we came to nine outcomes for what will make our community sustainable:

- Self-Sufficient Neighbourhoods
- **An Engaged Community**
- Unique, Vibrant Downtowns
- Green, Efficient People Friendly Transportation
- Natural Green Space
- Accessible and Integrated Trails
- An Attractive Business Environment
- Healthy, Accessible Waterfronts
- Strong, Sustainable Agricultural Base

When our Facilitator asked our Committee: What are you most passionate about? The response: **Engaged Community**

What do we mean by “Engaged Community”? Our Committee said that in our community it means:

Opportunities for youth to interact with seniors
Lots of people communicating and connecting with one another – all ages
Opportunities for youth to be involved in recreation and employment
Initiatives for residents to participate
Engaged citizens following local social media
Residents identify that they live in Clarington (increases community)
Youth engaged in volunteer work
Front porches that encourage community engagement

2. Our Committee's engagement with the community

We're now inviting municipal staff and community leaders in to discuss each of these nine outcomes. We're asking them:

1. What should this particular goal look like (in measureable terms)? (We've looked at six other communities' measures)
2. Where are we now as against that vision?
3. What are the gaps between the vision and the current reality and what strategies should be taken to close the gap?

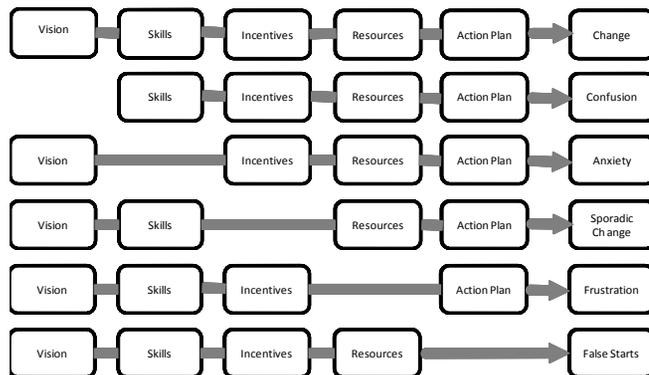
We're inviting about 15 different community representatives in to discuss these three questions for each of our nine outcomes. From anglers, to cyclists to farmers to our three BIAs, to the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, to our Board of Trade and our Tourism Marketing Board.

On "An engaged community", we've invited: Rotary; Lions; Ratepayers Association; Older Adults Association; Firehouse Youth Centre

Early Observations:

- It's all connected
- Key is finding the common ground – and finding a place for the community to grow together to create a sustainable community
- Build confidence, leadership skills, provide opportunities for leadership- esp. for youth
- It's a big change management exercise – so we need the 5 ingredients

Getting Successful Change



Source: Linkage Corporation