



ENVIRONMENTAL CODE

Municipality of Mille-Isles





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Introduction

Dear residents of Mille-Isles,

Living in Mille-Isles is coexisting with nature.

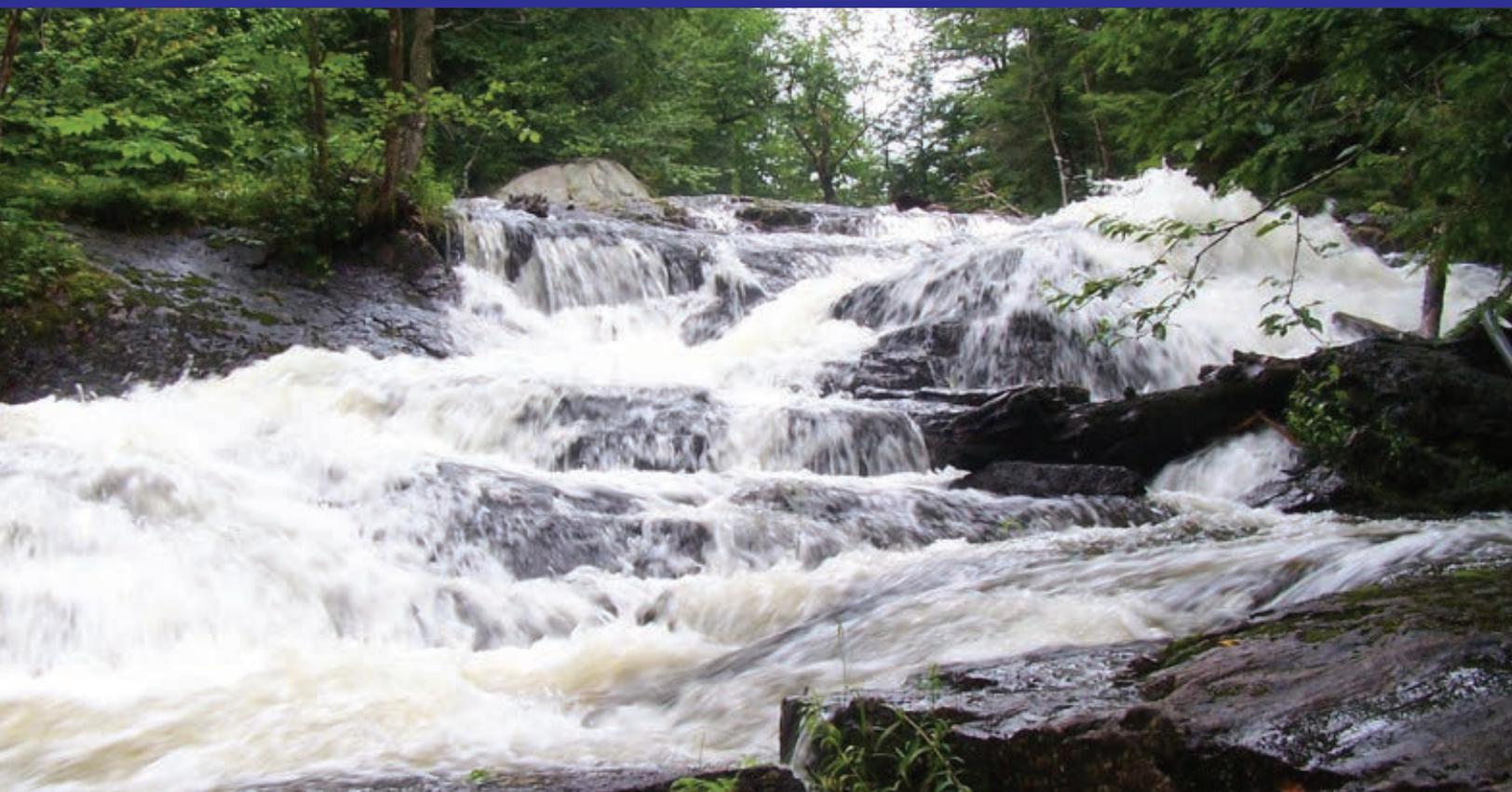
Within this perspective, the municipality has given itself an “environmental code” which proposes objectives for managing land, water and living things. Being residents of this territory rich in biodiversity and natural landscapes, the environmental code will guide our actions in order to protect it, restore it and conserve it.

Prepared in collaboration with us, the members of the Urban planning advisory committee (UPAC), and other citizens committed towards protecting a quality environment, this document will both be used to communicate the common values to which Mille-Isles citizens adhere to and to inform newcomers as well as all the other interveners called on to work here.

Every day, our way of life has an impact on us and future generations. Yet, we only need to perform simple actions in our daily lives to contribute in preserving our wildlands and protecting our lakes, forest and fauna.

Enjoy your reading and thank you for your everyday involvement in making our municipality evolve towards a harmonious, sound and agreeable living environment!

Urban planning advisory committee – Mille-Isles Municipality





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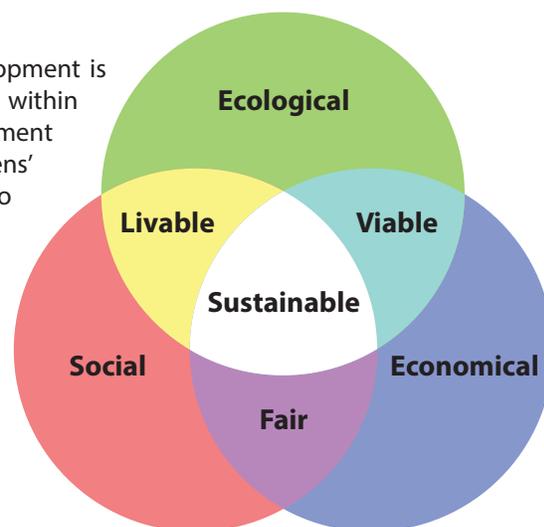
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Sustainable development, a vision for the future

More and more throughout organizations, the concept of sustainable development is becoming essential. A commonly-accepted definition of sustainable development reads as follows: *“a development method which answers the present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to answer theirs”*.¹

This concept is the actual basis of efficient and respectful growth. Sustainable development is development that implies economic as well as sociological and environmental aspects within the assessment of actions to be taken. Thus, a municipality wanting to ensure development that is economically viable, respectful of the environment and in line with citizens' objectives must take the time to adequately plan its moves and actions which it wishes to set up in order to attain this objective.

Within this perspective, the Municipality of Mille-Isles, in collaboration with its population, believed it should develop its own “Environmental Code”. This “environmental code” presents itself as a planning document, but also as a kind of implicit contract between the municipal organization and the municipality's citizens. The directions which are laid down are the reflection of the community's concerns and summarize the commitments the municipality wishes to formulate regarding its development.



Mission

The main mission of this environmental code is to establish a reference tool which will enable the municipality to plan, direct and especially ensure the monitoring of the different actions to be taken in guaranteeing sustainable development. Not only will the municipality be able to refer to this document in order to align its policies, programs, by-laws and whatever else, but especially, it will be able to assess its performance over time to ensure continuous improvement in the efficiency of the actions laid down in it. Indeed, this isn't about a static tool but a progressive one, which will need to be readjusted and improved as the municipality goes along with its development.

“To build an exceptional living environment, a collectivity that develops harmoniously within its natural environment and with respect for its distinctive patrimony, so as to inspire a profound sense of belonging within its population.”

Collective Tool

The environmental code also wishes to be an awareness and accountability tool, as well for the municipal administration as for the citizens, present and future. It will be used to bring together all of the citizens' concerns but as well, to inform newcomers of the common values to which the population of Mille-Isles adheres to. Mille-Isles' municipality wishes that its environmental code reflect collective choices.

The more the citizens commit in following this tool's conveyed values and actions, the more powerful its scope will be!

¹ Brundtland report



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Directions

Many directions in this document aim at long-term actions and it is obvious that many challenges are impressive. Nonetheless, it remains essential to establish such objectives in order to ensure logical, coherent and directed actions. Furthermore, this environmental code also aims to integrate eco-responsible behaviour within all daily and routine actions. The famous maxim *"think globally, act locally"* takes on all of its meaning in such an exercise.

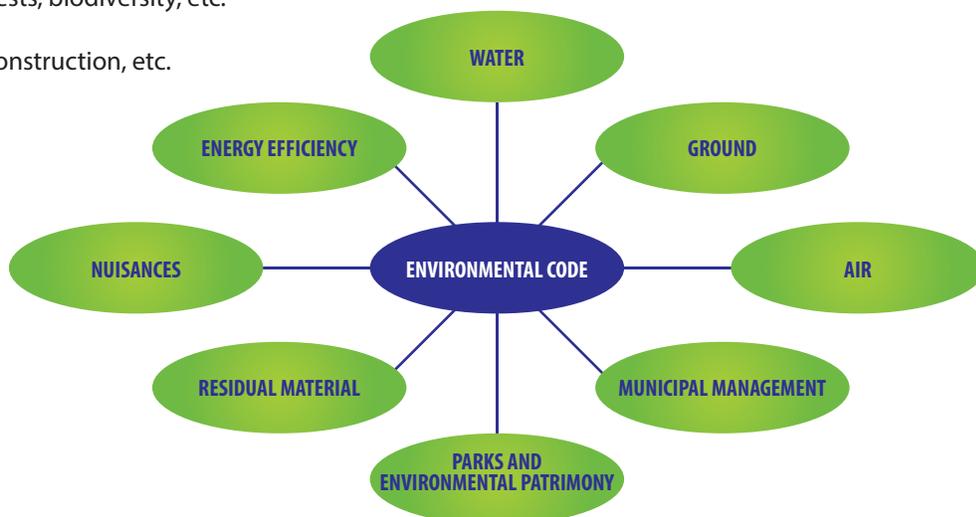
With this document, the municipality of Mille-Isles wishes to put forth the following directions:

- **Ensure public health and a good quality of life through efficient citizen services**
- **Protect the territory's sensitive areas, its biodiversity and its resources**
- **Favour all the collectivity's participation and create consensus and collaboration amongst partners**
- **Reduce the source of pollutants and their environmental impact**
- **Give the example, serve as a model, innovate**

Objectives and means

In order to ensure the environmental code's monitoring, the municipality has decided to split the concerns into **8 themes**. These themes are presented as tables in the following pages of the environmental code. In each one, the targeted objectives per theme and the different actions to be set up are indicated. Some of those are already set up, others are being achieved and some are to come...

- **Municipal Management:** The municipal administration's actions and programs
- **Air Management:** Air
- **Water Management:** Lakes, rivers, drinkable water, etc.
- **Ground Management:** Ground, slopes, erosion, etc.
- **Residual Material:** Waste, recycling, etc.
- **Parks and Environmental Patrimony:** Forests, biodiversity, etc.
- **Nuisances:** Noise, light, etc.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Buildings, sustainable construction, etc.





MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT

- Establish, within the city, conditions favourable to protecting the environment
- Make the city's personnel aware of the Environmental Code
- Institute an environmental culture within the municipal organization
- Ensure the reduction of the municipal buildings' ecological footprint
- Establish environmental and sustainable management of municipal equipment and properties

MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT 	established	being achieved	to be achieved
Establish, within the city, conditions favourable to protecting the environment			
Hire or appoint an environment and sustainable development coordinator		●	
Define the role and responsibilities of the City regarding environment		●	
Free sufficient funds to ensure proper functioning of the environment department	●		
Favour and encourage volunteer action and citizen involvement			●
Adopt the environmental code		●	
Assess the municipal takeover of periodic trash			●
Establish a priority list according to environmental impacts			●
Make the city's personnel aware of environmental policies			
Distribute the environmental policies to each member of the personnel, council and UPAC and produce an electronic format; make it accessible to citizens (ex.: the newcomer's jacket, etc.)		●	
Promote the involvement of different departments for implementing the environmental code	●		
Encourage municipal employees to follow improvement training regarding the environment		●	
Hold information sessions on environmental good practices			●
Institute an environmental culture within the municipal organization			
Implement an energy-efficiency improvement program for municipal buildings			●
Demand that personnel stop the motors on their vehicles when they are at a standstill		●	
Ensure the reduction of the municipal buildings' ecological footprint			
Ensure continuous monitoring of sanitary facilities		●	
Minimize the use of a paper format		●	
Favour the purchase of energy-efficient equipment (ex.: Energy Star, etc.)			●
Prioritize the use of sodium bulbs for lighting			●
Establish water-saving measures (Low-flow toilets, water savers, etc.) **STANDARD**			●
Establish environmental and sustainable management of municipal equipment and properties			
Prioritize, within the city's layout, the planting of Indigenous plants consuming and absorbing large quantities of CO ₂			●
Revitalize the village hamlet with the help of environmental horticultural layouts (Fleurons du Québec, etc.)			●
Prioritize developments ensuring the environment's protection and enhancement		●	
Use municipal properties to configure demonstration sites for technical and/or green layouts		●	
Set up adequate environmental measures for municipal road maintenance			●



AIR MANAGEMENT

- Promote and develop public transit
- Favour public transit and alternative modes
- Establish programs and activities favouring the improvement of the quality of air
- Make the population aware of environmental measures and of the impact of air pollution

AIR MANAGEMENT 	established	being achieved	to be achieved
Promote and develop public transit			
Encourage carpooling within the territory			●
Support and promote the development of public transit		●	
Develop new waiting stations			●
Achieve a study, in collaboration with TACMRCA, on the population's actual needs regarding travel requirements			●
Favour public transit and alternative modes			
Establish a master plan of non-motorized trails	●		
Favour pedestrian displacements along the main thoroughfares and within the hamlet			●
Perform studies on the needs and potential as regards cycling networks			●
Demand linear outlines within new housing developments		●	
Establish programs or activities favouring improvement of the quality of air			
Follow up and improve the programs for the annual day of the environment		●	
Regulate the installation of wood stoves			●
Adopt control measures for open-air fires	●		
Establish and publish a list of plants absorbing large quantities of CO ₂			●
Make the population aware of environmental measures and of the impact of air pollution			
Make people aware of highly-polluting combustible materials			●
Hold an information session regarding the quantity of CO ₂ emanating from slow-combustion stoves			●
Inform the population on the advantages of environmental fuels			●



GROUND MANAGEMENT

- Reduce the risks of ground motion and erosion
- Ease the risks of contamination
- Make the citizens aware of the environmental impact

GROUND MANAGEMENT		established	being achieved	to be achieved
Reduce the risks of ground motion and erosion				
Adopt new by-laws requiring the revegetation of banks		●		
Control and oversee the cutting-down of trees on the territory		●		
Minimize the authorizations for clearing and filling		●		
Require that contractors set up mitigation measures with ongoing construction			●	
Ease the risks of contamination				
Control the use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides on the territory				●
Offer information on alternative environmental measures (compost, natural fertilizers, etc.)			●	
Set up and update an inventory of contaminated lots and those that can be potentially contaminated				●
Perform control and rigorous monitoring regarding the emptying of septic tanks			●	
Ensure the control of abandoned and/or off-road vehicles				●
Make the citizens aware of the impact of environmental problems				
Inform the citizens of the environmental impact of dated septic facilities			●	





WATER MANAGEMENT

- Favour accessibility to quality drinking water for citizens
- Favour saving drinkable water
- Protect and highlight waterside sectors
- Make the population aware of the “water” resource



WATER MANAGEMENT	established	being achieved	to be achieved
Favour accessibility to quality drinking water for citizens			
Establish a program for monitoring the quality of water (sampling station, analyses, diagnostics, etc.)		●	
Promote the annual analysis, by the owners, of the quality of water coming from individual and collective wells			●
Make the owners aware of where the different water outputs (pools, spas, etc.) end up			●
Favour saving drinkable water			
Develop a strategy for saving drinkable water		●	
Promote the saving of water with citizens and businesses (installation of water-saving equipment, low-flow toilets, etc.)			●
Register with the “Programme d’économie d’eau potable” (PEEP) (“Saving-drinking-water program”) and promote the “drop-by-drop” day			●
Set up measures favouring the recovery of rainwater for all-around use (grass watering, pool filling, etc.)			●
Protect and highlight waterside sectors			
Adopt a new stricter by-law regarding protection of banks, shorelines and floodplains	●		
Tighten the standards relating to lot planning for new developments within the waterside zones (surface, banks, distancing of buildings and private vehicle paths)	●		
Reduce the number of accesses to lakes and favour collective accesses		●	
Assess acquisition opportunities of waterside properties in order to offer public accesses to water points			●
Make the population aware of the “water” resource			
Demonstrate the beneficial effects of the renaturalization of banks on the quality of water		●	
Make all the residents aware of the interconnectivity of hydric links with the catchment area concept (water table, etc.)			●
Organize an annual water-analysis clinic		●	
Make the citizens aware of the long-term impacts of bad practices in water management			●



Photo: Nathalie Bouchard



RESIDUAL MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

- Attain governmental objectives relating to the enhancement of residual material
- Make the population aware of the importance of reducing the amount of residual material



RESIDUAL MATERIAL MANAGEMENT	established	being achieved	to be achieved
Attain governmental objectives relating to the enhancement of residual material			
Inform the population, businesses and organizations regarding municipal objectives		●	
Ensure a recyclables collection service covering all the territory	●		
Establish the use of 360-liter recycling containers	●		
Promote the use of domestic composters			●
Assess the progressive set-up of an organic-waste collection system (brown containers)			●
Set up collection of hazardous household waste (HHW)			●
Establish intermunicipal agreements for accessibility to an Ecocentre for the municipality's citizens	●		
Offer the branch-shredding service		●	
Make the population aware of the importance of reducing the amount of residual material			
Inform the population, businesses and organizations regarding the 3RV principle			●
Promote the services offered within the municipality			●
Periodically inform the population about recyclable products and the related pick-ups		●	
Inform the population on the location of deposit areas for hazardous household waste			●
Hold information sessions and practical workshops on domestic composting		●	
Promote grass recycling (using mowed grass for composting)			●
Register with and promote the RECYC-FRIGO program (recycling of old refrigerators by Hydro-Quebec)			●
Assess setting up a municipal grant program for reusable diapers			●
Promote the waste-reduction week			●



Photo : Ingimage - Photostock



PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PATRIMONY

- Recognize the value of exceptional wooded areas and forest stands
- Protect fragile ecosystems
- Ensure access to quality public spaces



PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PATRIMONY MANAGEMENT	established	being achieved	to be achieved
Recognize the value of exceptional wooded areas and forest stands			
Require an authorization for cutting trees on private properties and for forest cuts	●		
Limit deforestation and excessive cuts	●		
Develop a tree policy			●
Encourage tree planting and the regeneration of deforested areas			●
Protect fragile ecosystems			
Recognize and protect sensitive environmental areas and sites offering important environmental services		●	
Establish an exhaustive large-scale mapping of zones to protect and of wetlands	●		
Target conservation areas with a view to establishing biodiversity corridors		●	
Develop compensation and reinforcement strategies and mechanisms for important environmental sites			●
Assess compensation mechanisms linked to the environmental value of services rendered			●
Encourage the establishment of integrated projects favouring pooling of services and reduction of deforestation	●		
Transpose conservation principles and targets within a regulatory framework			●
Limit uses within targeted areas while ensuring enhancement (interpretation, trails, etc.)		●	
Ensure access to quality public spaces			
Study the possibility of acquiring spaces of great environmental value with a view to ensure their permanent conservation			●
Keep the parks and green spaces fund for acquiring sites with high environmental value			●
Demand that 10% of new developments be paid to the city for the purpose of parks and green spaces	●		
Increase the number of public and natural parks and green spaces within the territory			●
Establish a master plan of non-motorized trails within the municipality	●		
Connect the different parks and green spaces by non-motorized trails			●



NUISANCE MANAGEMENT

- Ease the sources of noise and visual nuisances
- Improve the esthetics of the hamlet
- Control biological nuisances

NUISANCE MANAGEMENT		established	being achieved	to be achieved
Ease the sources of noise and visual nuisances				
Bring the by-law on nuisances up to date			●	
Assess a change to the allowed hour range for noise and work during weekends				●
Set up standards for the maintenance of abandoned and/or damaged buildings and ensure a follow-up with owners			●	
Control poster display and avoid sources of visual pollution			●	
Set up standards for controlling luminous sources				●
Improve the esthetics of the hamlet				
Establish special standards relating to building architecture and implementation through a site planning and architectural integration program (PAIP)		●		
Set up a special revitalization program of the Village hamlet				●
Control biological nuisances				
Monitor the propagation of invasive or nuisance plants within the territory				●
Provide citizens with information on invasive or nuisance plants and on eradication methods				●
Establish an information and eradication day for ragweed				●
Monitor and display information on poison ivy along non-motorized trails			●	



Photo : Nathalie Bouchard

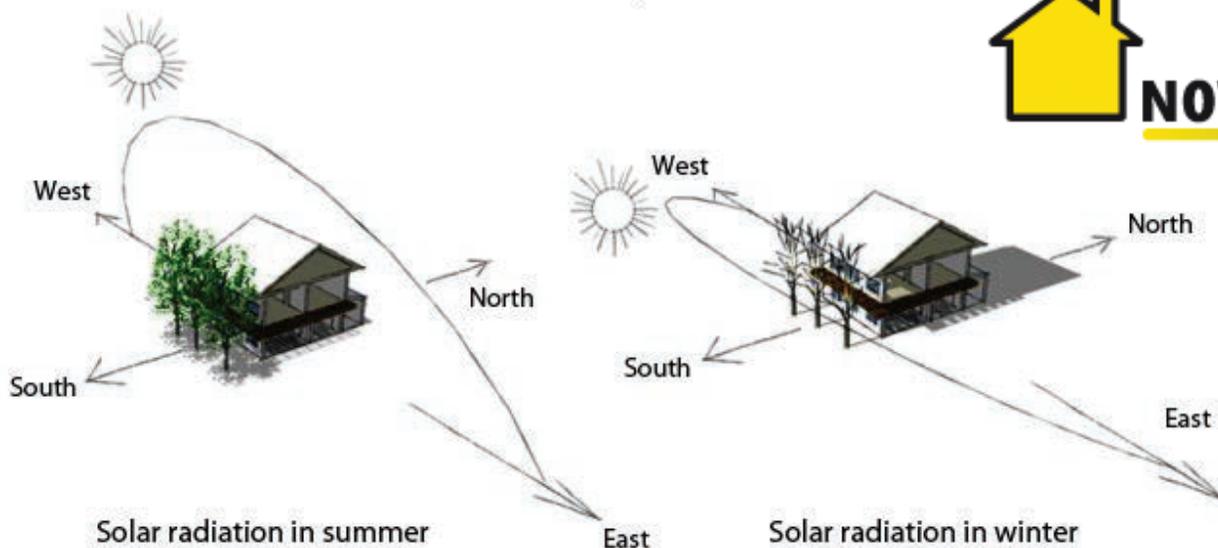
ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Establish energy efficiency standards and measures
- Make aware and inform about new environmental technologies
- Set up programs and incentives favouring renewable energies



ENERGY EFFICIENCY	established	being achieved	to be achieved
Establish energy efficiency standards and measures			
Set up by-laws authorizing the installation of environmental equipment (solar panels, geothermal energy, wind turbines, green roofs, etc.)	•		
Ensure new-building implementation according to solar direction		•	
Encourage the use of automatic lighting (movement detectors, etc.), certified windows and other energy-efficient measures		•	
Integrate green obligations in the construction by-law		•	
Make aware and inform about new environmental technologies			
Provide information on new green and sustainable technologies in residential construction			•
Develop internal expertise on the new green technologies with the help of the urban planning advisory committee			•
Promote the use of free tools for the assessment of building energy performance (Hydro-Quebec's appraisal, etc.)			•
Set up programs and incentives favoring renewable energies			
Assess the establishment of various financial incentives for new certified constructions (LEED, NovoClimat, etc.)			•
Make promoters aware of the competitive advantages of environmental projects and certifications		•	

Sun, seasons and passive house





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Conclusion

The appraisal of the previous years shows that many efforts were put forth to ensure harmonious protection of the environment. In the years to come, the municipality hopes that the involvement of the citizens, the municipal organization as well as different partners which could be involved in the process will be able to create an efficient and lively synergy. We wholeheartedly hope that this document will bring on concrete results and that the impact of the achieved improvements will be able to reflect upon all the population.

This document will also be put online on our internet site as well as being systematically sent to new citizens to adequately inform them of the values and measures being put forth within our municipality.

We will proceed with updates to this document, with the help of the municipality's citizens, by organizing work sessions to, on the one hand, assess achieved progress and, on the other hand, to propose new solution possibilities which could lead this process further still. We hope this environmental code will become a productive and unifying exercise, with the common objective of ensuring sustainable development in the Municipality of Mille-Isles!



Photo - Celia Sayers

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Photo - Nathalie Bouchard

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