



“Sustainable Conservation – Heading for Harmony”

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***How Citizen Action is Changing Our Relationship with Energy:
Permaculture, Transition Towns and Natural Building***

All across the planet, people are coming together at local levels to reverse the tide of environmental, social and economic degradation brought about by humankind’s unsustainable use of energy resources.

The dangers we face from global threats like climate change can create a sense of despair. But in a growing number of communities, people are responding by finding innovative ways to couple more sustainable old technologies with contemporary culture to lighten our impact on the Earth, such as the Transition Towns movement, permaculture design, and natural building practices.

The Transition Town movement has inspired thousands of people world wide to develop locally-based plans to make their communities more resilient in the face of climate change. Practitioners of permaculture take a holistic approach to how humans can live on the land, and in community, in ways which increase biodiversity, and enrich our lives and the environment.

Natural building practices have been a vehicle for much of this positive change. These methods take into account local resources, the embodied energy represented by design choices for materials, systems, size, and site opportunities, and match their findings with contemporary best building practices for minimizing energy and materials use.

Bright spots like the Deanery Project on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia are emerging across Canada, creating hubs of activity where people explore how we can work locally to bring about positive change in our relationship to energy. The importance of these demonstration sites as learning centres and inspiring models for creative change cannot be understated.