

The focus on climate change by the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance will be the following:

By Susan Linkletter

1. We need to help citizens of the province personally reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by providing a rural transportation system. With a province where more than half of our citizens live outside of a municipality, and a large percentage of them are seniors, it would be nice to have bus service in rural NB. A bus service in rural NB would provide the following:
 - A. It would allow some seniors to live in their own homes longer. ‘
 - B. It would allow the working poor to save some money.
 - C. It would allow some people to give up their car or at least minimize the amount of time that they spend in it – reducing personal greenhouse gas emissions and if the buses had internet service, people could start working as soon as they got on it.
 - D. It would reduce the number of cars on our streets – reducing pressure on urban infrastructure.
 - E. If the rural bus system linked up with the municipal bus system, it would increase ridership in the municipal system making it more profitable. Alternatively, an electric municipal carshare program could be set up so that rural folks could still have access to a car if they need one once they get to the City. Smaller municipalities could also be part of the carshare program so that if a person had to work late, they could drive a carshare car to the municipality closest to their home and get picked up from there.
 - F. Before we decide that we cannot afford such a thing, consider the fact that we already have one. The school bus already goes to every home in the province. What if Mom and Dad could get on the school bus with their kids. These paying adults would subsidize the cost of providing bus service thus freeing up some cash for other educational opportunities. There would be fewer problems with children misbehaving on school buses.
2. Another way that we could help citizens reduce their personal use of fossil fuels is by providing electric car recharging stations so that purchasing a car with an electric engine instead of a gas engine becomes a viable option. One way that the government could encourage this is by providing funding for municipalities to turn municipal parking spots into recharging spots or alternatively fund businesses that want to provide charging stations for their employees.