

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What is the Muskoka Envirocredits Program?

- The Muskoka Envirocredits Program is an opportunity for individuals and businesses to invest in local programs that enhance watershed health, protect wilderness and wetlands, build community stewardship and an environmental ethic, promote sustainable forestry practices and reduce the impact of your carbon dioxide emissions.

2. What do I get for my voluntary contribution?

- You support a program that will protect and strengthen the natural heritage of one of Canada's special places.
- You help to improve watershed health while reducing the impact of carbon dioxide emissions; promote biodiversity; protect wetlands and forests; and support sustainability and stewardship initiatives.
- You get a tax-deductible receipt from the Muskoka Heritage Foundation.

3. I want to buy now. How much should I contribute?

- Each Envirocredit is worth \$10 and you can buy as many as you like to support programs that strengthen our watersheds; or
- You can use the calculators on our web site to estimate your carbon dioxide emissions. \$30 will remove 1 tonne of carbon dioxide.

4. Where does the money go?

- 60% of the proceeds will add stock to new growth forests on protected lands and promote sustainable forestry.
- 25% of the proceeds will acquire, manage and protect large forested areas and wetlands.
- 10% of the proceeds will support sustainability initiatives and promote stewardship and a conservation ethic among private landowners and the general public.
- 5% of the proceeds will go to administration costs.

5. Why is the program important for Muskoka?

- Our natural environment is vulnerable to development pressures due to our proximity to major population centres in southern Ontario.
- Our forests are becoming increasingly fragmented.
- We are losing wetlands.
- Local carbon dioxide emissions are contributing to climate change, which is stressing watershed health.

6. How will Muskoka Envirocredits offset the carbon impact?

- Envirocredits will plant new growth forests, which is a relatively low cost option to remove carbon dioxide from the air and store it as wood.
- On average, 98 trees capture and store 1 tonne of carbon dioxide per year (Tree Canada), which offsets the carbon dioxide produced by driving approximately 5,400 km.

7. Who can invest in Muskoka Envirocredits?

- Both individuals and small businesses can invest in the Muskoka environment. As well, there are sponsorship opportunities for corporations.

8. How do I know I will see results?

- Muskoka Envirocredits is managed by five trusted non-profit organizations.
- Forest management is provided by Ontario's only community-based non-profit forest authority.
- Results will be reported in newsletters and posted on our web site.
- Sites will be clearly signed.

9. Who created and who manages Muskoka Envirocredits?

- In 2008, leaders within the Muskoka Heritage Foundation, Muskoka Heritage Trust, Westwind Forest Stewardship, Parry Sound – Muskoka Stewardship Network and Muskoka Watershed Council conceived the made-in-Muskoka Envirocredits program. The unique and different abilities of each organization complement each other ensuring effective program delivery.
- A group comprised of representatives from each organization manages delivery of Muskoka Envirocredits.
 - The Muskoka Heritage Foundation** was founded in 1987 as a registered non-profit corporation that provides a broad range of services related to the protection and enhancement of Muskoka's cultural, built and natural heritage. The Foundation enables the work of the Muskoka Heritage Trust and the Muskoka Watershed Council. The Foundation will hold and administer the Muskoka Envirocredits fund. www.muskokaheritage.org
 - The Muskoka Heritage Trust's** mandate is to preserve significant natural lands and built heritage in Muskoka through permanent land protection. The Trust currently owns 1,044 acres in 9 nature reserves and holds 78 acres in 6 conservation easement agreements. The Trust will hold wetlands and forests acquired with Muskoka Envirocredits funding. www.muskokaheritage.org/heritage-trust
 - Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc.** manages the diverse and intensively used French-Severn Crown land forest on an ecologically sustainable basis. Westwind plans timber harvest; tree planting; tree marking; gathering, recording and assessing forest information; annual reporting to the public; preparing forest management plans; training and educating forest workers; and inspecting all forest operations to ensure they comply with strict government rules and regulations. Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. will plant and manage all tree planting programs supported by the Muskoka Envirocredits Program. www.westwindforest.ca
 - The Parry Sound – Muskoka Stewardship Network** is a community-based initiative that brings together landowners, associations, resource agencies and individuals who share an interest in responsible land care and sustainable resource use. The program advocates stewardship as an effective tool for land management. The network will lead landowner stewardship programs.
 - The Muskoka Watershed Council** champions watershed health. The Council evaluates watershed health through science-based programs, advocates for planning and management practices that sustain and improve watershed health, develops public information and education programs and promotes best practices that support an environmentally sustainable economy. The Council will report program activities and achievements to the public. www.muskokaheritage.org/watershed

For more information, visit: www.muskokaheritage.org/me