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## **Working together to protect Lake Simcoe--for our future**

As we embrace 2017 and the UN Year of Sustainable Tourism, both tourists and business operators can ask themselves "what one simple step can I take today to be more sustainable and to protect the natural environment?" The best place to start is with an action that fits easily with daily. See how local businesses are doing just that with the #nostrawchallenge.

## **ELS #nostrawchallenge launches**

*Asking customers to "rethink the straw"*

Considering that plastic drinking straws are rarely a necessity, and that restaurants see significant volumes of used straws enter the waste stream daily, businesses in the Lake Simcoe watershed enthusiastically signed on to participate in the ELS #nostrawchallenge.

[Learn More](#)

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## **Sustainability, one slice at a time at the Grilled Cheese Social Eatery**

Individual actions are the building blocks of change, but collective efforts can accelerate change and provide inspiration. On a collective level, the #nostrawchallenge has been enthusiastically adopted by 8 Barrie-local eateries. There is still time for other businesses operating in the Lake Simcoe watershed to sign up! Please contact [info@explorelakesimcoe.com](mailto:info@explorelakesimcoe.com) to find out how your business can participate.

Beyond the challenge, Explore Lake Simcoe seeks to expand the base of businesses currently working with the project to incorporate environmental initiatives. The [online toolkit](#) assessment acts as an introduction to the project and has been recently updated to be more relevant for all types of business. It **only takes about 10 minutes to complete** and we encourage you to give us your feedback on the revision.

Once you have completed the assessment, visit our [Green Resources](#) page for ideas.

## *Conserving energy, reducing waste and raising awareness*

Think comfort food and grilled cheese often comes to mind. The Grilled Cheese Social Eatery in Barrie takes this familiar sandwich to a new level with 16 mouth-watering versions, and now they are adding compostable food service ware, and environmental awareness to the menu.

[Learn More](#)

## **Donaleigh's moves forward on sustainability**

### *Challenging others to go Straw-less*

When Explore Lake Simcoe met with Don Kellett (co-owner of Donaleigh's) to discuss environmental sustainability at his popular Irish pub he said "We are constantly looking for the next step forward. It is everyone's social responsibility to make an effort. One step at a time, Donaleigh's and other restaurants must move forward on environmental sustainability."

[Learn More](#)

## **Protecting biodiversity at Sharon Creek Farm**

### *Purposefully choosing species to protect biodiversity*

Sharon Creek Farm sits in an unassuming spot atop the Nokiida Trail in the Holland Valley. This certified organic, environmentally-minded farm provides consumers in York Region nearby access to fresh, locally-grown, certified organic produce, eggs, seasonal fruits and veggies, and even organic meat.

[Learn more](#)

*Contact our Project Coordinator to assist you in implementing green initiatives suitable for your business*

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