

Rural-Urban Relations: Building Alliances (8 suggestions)

6. Make Interdependencies Visible

The fates of rural and urban regions and people are strongly linked. They need to be made visible. A good strategy is to work from those things that urban people are already concerned about.

Food:

- The Prairie Swine Centre near Saskatoon holds interpretive tours for high school children and their parents.
- Several provinces have established programs of farm visits and vacations that allow urban people to gain first-hand experience with the growing of food.
- Citizens in St-Damase are actively involved in direct marketing of their products to nearby Montréal

Water:

- The Canadian government provides teachers' kits that provide information about the strong relationship between urban habits and water quality.
- Many urban communities paint pictures of fish near storm drains that empty into sensitive water courses

Environment:

- The availability of geothermic heating in Springhill has inspired a learning centre that showcases the resource.
- The 'Green Community' network provides support for communities that would like to develop awareness and good practice for a sustainable environment (<http://www.gca.ca/indexcms/>)
- Our research shows that rural people already reuse but they are often limited by the availability of programs for recycling. Developing such programs in your community is likely to yield a positive response.

