

# INVOLVING YOUTH

## PLANNING SMART MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



### Integrated Community Sustainability Plans

Getting participation from the community can be a challenge.

One of the groups that is a challenge to engage is youth as they do not respond well to traditional engagement methods.

By changing how you engage to include youth, you will greatly enhance your planning exercises. You won't regret it!

Can we help you with your Integrated Community Sustainability Plan?

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## **The Importance of Youth Involvement**

- Our youth are an important part of the community and future leaders
- Youth have great, fresh ideas
- Combine youth's ideas with elders and we often are surprised at what happens
- Youth are fun and have energy when approached correctly

### **Suggestions:**

- Go to them – schools and special events (sports & recreation) or places they hang out
- Use language youth understand
- Use Social Media
- Graffiti walls is one way to get their ideas (check with the Town of Fort Smith approach profiled)
- Art – music and drawings – use their talents at events as ways to express their ideas
- Invite students to Community Council as part of a class project or Civic week
- Recognize their school projects when it is community focused
- Consider appointing a youth member of Council. Consider contributing to a post secondary bursary.
- Have contests with prizes like i-pods and free use of Recreation Facilities (ie/ free skate or pool party)

**HAVE**



**FUN!!**