



Eco-industrial networking in action might involve:

Businesses share materials and energy (waste of one company becomes the feed for another; district energy systems). This results in financial savings through avoided treatment costs and increased efficiency, increased revenues through the sale of by-products, and reduced environmental impact.

Buildings use land, energy & materials efficiently and with minimized impact. Ecological concepts are incorporated into 'green' buildings, designed to use local materials; take advantage of natural heating and cooling opportunities; and adapt to a wide-range of tenant needs that change over time.

Infrastructure is greener, cheaper, and efficient. Traditional infrastructure can be replaced using alternative and renewable energy strategies; water and stormwater management; and innovative site design, thus reducing the demands on existing energy systems and water usage.

Communities can develop a targeted economic development strategy in which companies will be drawn to the community to take advantage of potential synergies with the existing businesses; in the longer-term, the town can work to attract other businesses to fill niches left when industries change.

The surrounding ecology is protected and even incorporated into business operations. By incorporating green spaces and preserving ecologically sensitive areas, the natural environment that forms an important part of the identity of all Canadian cities and towns can be maintained while strengthening economic performance.

Benefits of eco-industrial networking:

Community	Local Businesses	Environment
Dynamic, diverse, stable economic base	Increased profitability and competitiveness	Improved environment and habitat
Increased local business opportunities	Enhanced market image	Continuous environmental improvement
Improved tax base	Cost savings through shared services	Reduced exposure to pollutants
Increased community pride	Cost reductions due to improved efficiency of materials and energy use	Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
Tax savings since tax breaks aren't required to attract new business	Access to public funding programs and private financing	Innovative environmental solutions
Recruitment of higher quality, greener companies	Higher value for developers	Preservation of environmentally significant areas
Increased and sustained property values	Reduction of disposal costs	Increased protection of natural ecosystems
Partnership with business	Income from sale of by-products	More efficient use of natural resources
Reduced impact on infrastructure, including waste disposal	Reduction of environmental liability	Improved environmental management systems
Improved aesthetics	Improved public image	
Stable, diverse job-base	Increased employee productivity	

Modified from Deppe and Cohen-Rosenthal,
Handbook of Codes, Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions for Eco-Industrial
Development,
Work and Environment Initiative, Cornell University, 1999.