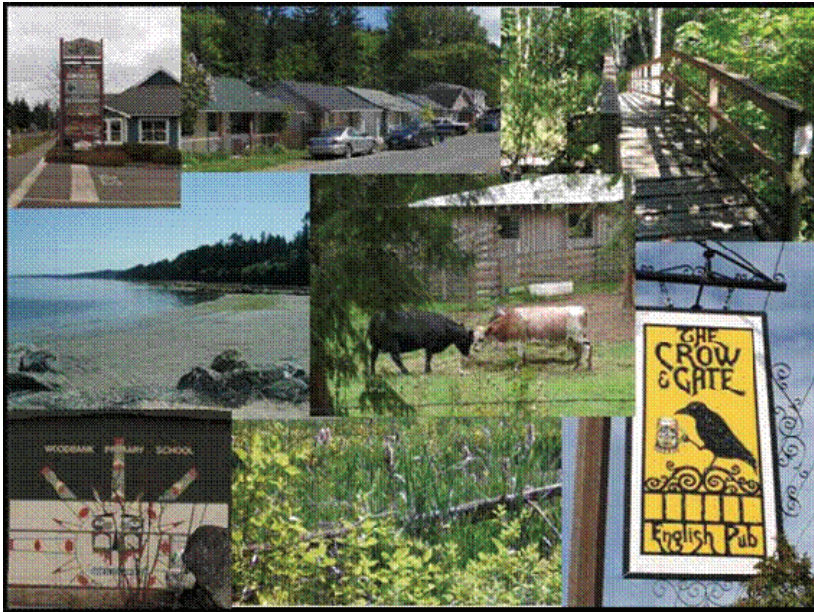


WELCOME

To the Regional District of Nanaimo
Electoral Area 'A' OCP Review,
Sustainability Principles Workshop

November 17, 2008



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AGENDA	
6:30-6:35	Opening remarks and introductions
6:35-6:45	Presentation on sustainability and sustainability principles
6:45-8:40	Group exercises
8:40-9:00	Discussion
9:00	Closing remarks

Principles, Goals, Objectives, and Policies

What are they and how are they related?

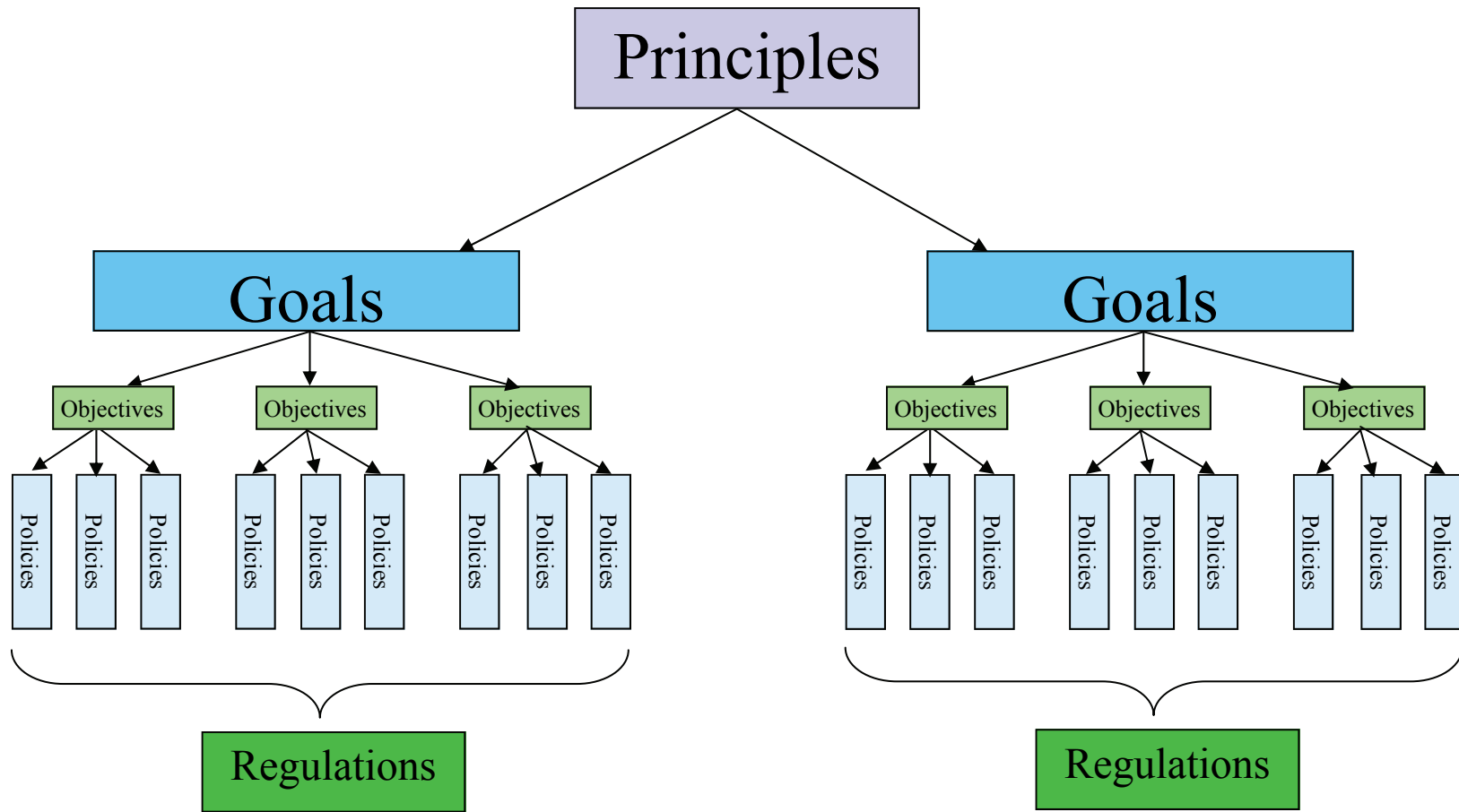
No matter your interests, age, ethnic background, or political views, all members of the community share some common interests such as the right to a healthy lifestyle, the ability to attain safe and appropriate housing, the right to a safe and secure source of drinking water, the right to a clean environment, and the need for a vibrant local economy. These are some examples of a few of the common interests that form the basis of sustainability principles.

The following provides a general description of principles, goals, objectives, policies, and regulations in the context of community planning and how they relate to each other.

	What is it?	Examples
Principle	An open ended broad statement that forms the framework for making effective decisions. Principles also provide guidance in the formation of goals.	Reduce the impact of human activities on the environment to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.
Goal	A goal is a statement that indicates a desire for something that the community would like to achieve in the future. A goal is generally broad in scope and works towards the desired outcome articulated by the community's principles.	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Objective	An objective is a measurable statement indicating how the community would like to achieve its goals. Each goal may have a number of different related objectives.	All new buildings will incorporate energy efficient construction techniques and building materials.
Policy	A policy is a statement which defines a course of action or a preferred methodology for achieving one or more objectives. A policy also provides guidance on future land use decisions, programmes, and infrastructure investment.	Rezoning applications must demonstrate that energy efficient construction techniques and building materials are used. eg. LEED certified or equivalent.
Regulation	In the context of the Official Community Plan review, a regulation prescribes the rules for development. A regulation is a means of implementing one or more policies. Land use regulations are typically included in a zoning and/or subdivision servicing bylaw.	Changes to the Zoning Bylaw, Building Bylaw, and a Development Permit Area

Principles, Goals, Objectives, and Policies

A Graphical Representation

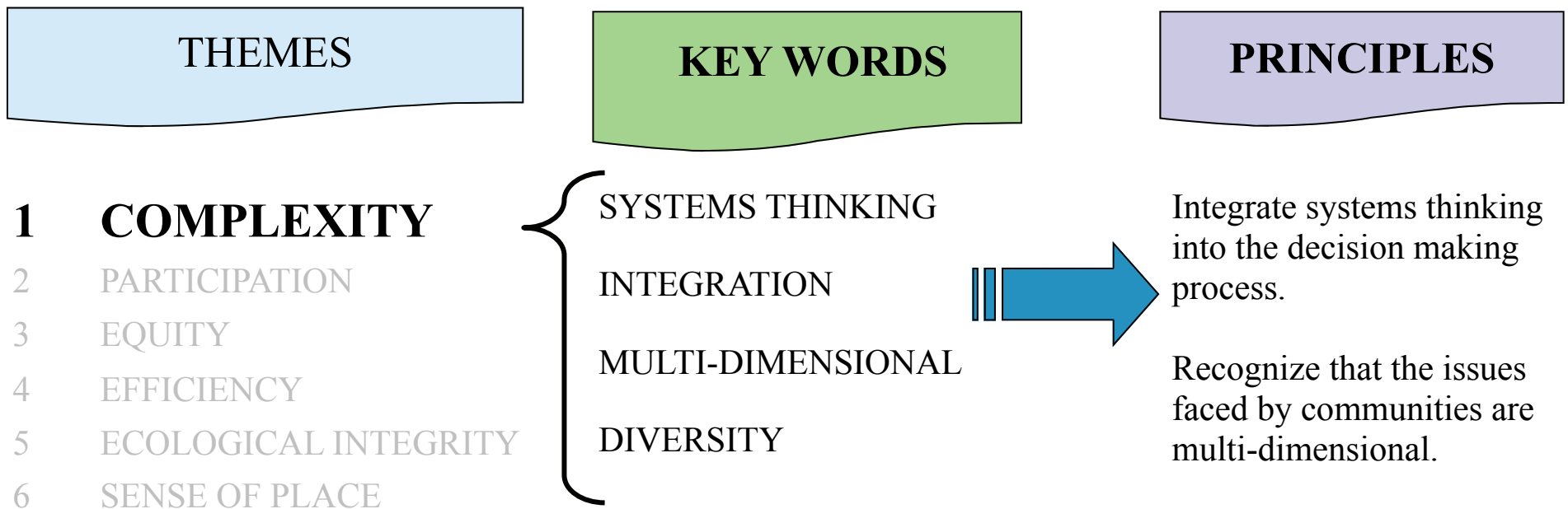


Workshop Exercise Description

A review of the current literature on sustainability principles reveals a number of themes that are commonly associated with sustainability and sustainability principles. These general themes include:

COMPLEXITY PARTICIPATION EQUITY EFFICIENCY ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY SENSE OF PLACE

For each of the themes, there are several key words that highlight what each principle tends to emphasize. Participants of the workshop will be provided with the six themes, key words for each theme, and an example of a sustainability principle related to each theme. Each theme will be discussed in small groups and ideas will be recorded, which will later be used to craft a set of sustainability principles relevant to Electoral Area 'A'.



Why Are We Here Tonight?

Why Do We Need Sustainability Principles?

We are here tonight to discuss sustainability in the context of Electoral Area 'A'. We will be going through a series of group exercises which will help us identify important traits of sustainability in a local context as well as goals, opportunities, and challenges. This information will be used to draft a set of sustainability principles, which will form the basis for making decisions on potential goals, objectives, and policies throughout the Official Community Plan review process.

The development of Sustainability Principles has a number of benefits for the community. The following diagram outlines some of these benefits.



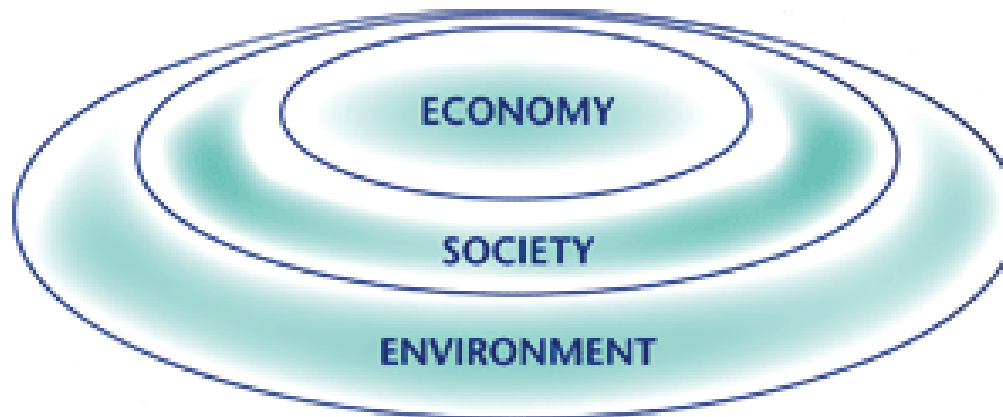
The word sustainability is just one word and yet there are so many definitions.

"Living and managing activities in a way that balances social, economic, environmental and institutional considerations to meet our needs and those of future generations."

- Fraser Basin Council

"Sustainability is about recognizing the inter-relationships between our environment, our society, and our economy. It is about recognizing that people are part of the ecosystem, and that the economic and social lives of people should be integrated into the environment in ways that maintain or enhance the environment, rather than degrade or destroy it. Put another way, sustainability seems to be about recognizing that our economy exists within society, that society is much more than economy, that society exists within the environment, and that the environment surrounds society as illustrated in the below diagram."

- Regional District of Nanaimo Strategic Plan 2006-2009



"Sustainability is a condition of existence which enables the present generation of humans and other species to enjoy social well-being, a vibrant economy and a healthy environment, and to experience fulfillment, beauty and joy, without compromising the ability of future generations of humans and other species to enjoy the same."

- BC Sustainable energy Association.

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- United Nations Brundtland Report

The Regional District of Nanaimo's vision for a more sustainable region

The RDN Board of Directors intend to make decisions and undertake projects over the next twenty-five years to achieve the vision defined below...

***“In the year 2030,
the Regional District of
Nanaimo is a socially, eco-
nomically and environmentally
healthy region, where resi-
dents meet their needs with-
out compromising the ability
of future residents
to do the same.***

**Source: The RDN 2006-2009
Strategic Plan**

*The Strategic Plan establishes
short term priorities for 2006-2009
that correspond to the Board's cur-
rent term of office, as well as the
Board's longer term priorities for
2009 and beyond.*

...OUR ENVIRONMENT

Residents have a safe, sufficient supply of drinking water. Important ecosystems and ecological features are protected, healthy, and productive. Natural resources in the region are conserved, and renewable resources continue to be available. The air is clean and safe to breathe. Greenhouse gas emission levels have stabilized and are beginning to decrease. Residents' energy requirements are reduced, and energy is obtained in ways that minimize negative impacts on the environment. Land and resources are efficiently used, and the negative impacts of land use and development are minimized.

...OUR SOCIETY

Residents in the region are healthy, and healthcare services and facilities are available when needed. Residents have education and training that qualifies them for employment in the region. Poverty in the region is minimized, and residents can meet their basic needs. Housing is affordable, and a variety of different types and sizes of housing are available to accommodate the current and future needs of residents. The region is a safe place to live, and residents care for and respect each other. There are a wide variety of opportunities for people to interact with each other and nature, and historical attributes that are important to the region are acknowledged, celebrated and preserved.

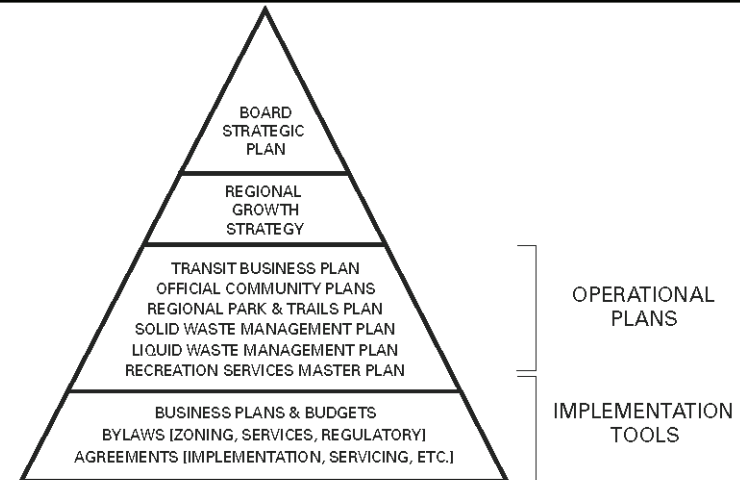
...OUR ECONOMY

Residents in the region are employed in a wide variety of interesting and rewarding occupations. Our downtowns are vibrant places, and there is a wide variety of different sizes and types of businesses in the region. The economy of the region is healthy and continues to diversify and grow. Businesses in the region are environmentally responsible, and there are systems in place to favour these businesses. It is economically viable to produce goods and services in the region that are environmentally friendly, and residents favour these goods and services over those made available from outside the region.



Regional District of Nanaimo 2006—2009 Strategic Plan

The RDN 2006-2009 Strategic Plan is entitled “Leadership in Creating Sustainable Communities”. The strategic plan sets out the short term priorities for 2006 to 2009 that correspond to the Board’s current term of office, as well as the Board’s longer term priorities for 2009 and beyond. The Strategic Plan is the most senior policy document at the RDN, and influences the direction of all new policy development (e.g. Regional Growth Strategy Review) and operational decisions.



The Strategic Plan recognizes a number of trends and issues, including but not limited to:

Environmental Protection

Protection of the natural environment within and around the communities in the RDN is critical to maintenance of its water supplies, ecosystem integrity and livability. The Strategic Plan recognizes that people are part of the ecosystem and that the economic and social lives of people should be integrated into the environment in ways that maintain or enhance the environment, rather than degrade or destroy it.

Affordable Housing & Aging in Place

Volatile construction and energy prices and population growth have contributed to a growing housing affordability problem. As our population ages, how can we provide more opportunities for people to stay within their communities if they’d like to, even if their housing needs change?

How should we respond to these and other Sustainability issues in our community planning?

Climate Change

Globally, there is a growing recognition that the climate is getting warmer, and this could have far reaching environmental, social and economic consequences. One of the key reasons the climate is getting warmer is because we are consuming more fossil fuels in transportation, manufacturing, heating, cooling and electricity generation, and this increased consumption results in increased greenhouse gas emissions which warm the earth’s atmosphere. There is a need to identify and pursue ways of reducing our consumption of fossil fuels.

The warming climate also means that winters will be shorter and warmer, resulting in less snowmelt to recharge the groundwater. Consequently, the RDN will need to monitor changes in groundwater recharge and the availability of water to residents in the region.

The RDN is working to address climate change through the Regional Growth Strategy, the BC Climate Action Charter, and the Green Buildings Project, among other initiatives.

Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)

The RGS Goals guide growth in the region towards the following vision:

- ⇒ **Outstanding quality of urban and rural life**
- ⇒ **Quality residential development**
- ⇒ **A strong and sustainable economy**
- ⇒ **Contained urban development**
- ⇒ **High standards of environmental protection**
- ⇒ **Vibrant and urban communities in a natural paradise**
- ⇒ **Reduce dependence on the automobile**
- ⇒ **Efficient, state-of-the-art servicing**

The Regional Growth Strategy Goals:

GOAL 1: STRONG URBAN CONTAINMENT: To limit sprawl and focus development within well defined urban containment boundaries.

GOAL 2: NODAL STRUCTURE: To encourage mixed-use communities that include places to live, work, learn, play, shop and access services.

GOAL 3: RURAL INTEGRITY: To protect and strengthen the region's rural economy and lifestyle.

GOAL 4: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: To protect the environment and minimize ecological damage related to growth and development.

GOAL 5: IMPROVED MOBILITY: To improve and diversify mobility options within the region – increasing transportation efficiency and reducing dependency on the automobile.

GOAL 6: VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY: To support strategic economic development and to link commercial and industrial strategies to the land use and rural and environmental protection priorities of the region.

GOAL 7: EFFICIENT SERVICES: To provide cost efficient services and infrastructure where urban development is intended, and to provide services in other areas where the service is needed to address environmental or public health issues and the provision of the service will not result in additional development.

GOAL 8: COOPERATION AMONG JURISDICTIONS: To facilitate an understanding of and commitment to the goals of growth management among all levels of government, the public, and key private and voluntary sector partners.

Sustainability in Electoral Area 'A'

Summary of the presentations made at the Community Forum held May 10, 2008

Cedar Women's Institute (Anne Fiddick)

- ⇒ Protection of all farmland.
- ⇒ Support for farmers and local food production.
- ⇒ Maintain unique ecosystems.
- ⇒ The OCP principles must be defended by the RDN.

Nanaimo Regional Airport (Michael Hooper)

- ⇒ Support for mixed use village separated by large rural parcels and connected by transit and infrastructure.
- ⇒ Need for more sustainable planning at all levels of government.
- ⇒ Support for a sustainable food strategy and park & recreation strategy.

G & G Roofing (Jill Maibach)

- ⇒ Lot sizes appropriate to maintain ambience of rural living.
- ⇒ Preservation of parks and opens space, particularly the waterfront.
- ⇒ Integrate commerce into the community to reduce travel.

Mid Island Sustainable Stewardship Initiative (Jack Anderson)

- ⇒ Attract "Green Developers" to Electoral Area 'A'.
- ⇒ Re-establishing the citizen based Area Planning Commission.
- ⇒ Area 'A' must shift to local economy to respond to climate change and high fuel costs.
- ⇒ Enhance land within the ALR and recognise the value of small lot farming.

Nanaimo-Cedar Farmer's Institute (Joanne McLeod)

- ⇒ OCP review should discuss local food production.
- ⇒ Moratorium on land removal from the ALR.
- ⇒ Concern for the effect sprawl may have on farmland production (i.e. effects of traffic on farms).
- ⇒ "Drinking Water – Watershed Protection Action Plan" should also address water for agriculture.

South Wellington and Area Community Association (David Dunaway)

- ⇒ South Wellington could be a model of sustainable community development in the new OCP.
- ⇒ As a node it may include places to live, work and play, as well as reduce reliance on the automobile.
- ⇒ Carefully manage growth to ensure resource and land with environmental values are protected.

Snuneymuxw First Nation (Dave Mannix)

- ⇒ Need discussions on sustainability and the compromises required to meet goals.
- ⇒ Sustainability is a fundamental part of reinstating First Nations culture through self governance and also community self sufficiency.
- ⇒ Self sufficiency requires the protection of farmland and the provision of transit.



Sustainability in Electoral Area 'A'

Summary of the small group discussions made at the Community Forum held May 10, 2008

Question 1:

a. After reviewing the summary of the current Electoral Area 'A' Official Community Plan, please discuss what you would like to see included in the Official Community Plan review.

b. To what extent do you think the Official Community Plan should be reviewed? i.e. do you think that it needs a complete overhaul or just a tune up?

- ⇒ Alternative sewage disposal ⇒ Complete overhaul of OCP is needed
- ⇒ Watershed Planning ⇒ Consensus building
- ⇒ Accessible childcare ⇒ Transparency and inclusive
- ⇒ Control growth ⇒ OCP implemented in zoning
- ⇒ Environmental standards ⇒ Outdoor burning
- ⇒ Affordable housing ⇒ Alternative transportation
- ⇒ Walking paths ⇒ Enforcement of OCP
- ⇒ Incentives for sustainability

Question 2:

It is important to ensure that the Official Community Plan process meets the needs of the community. How should the Regional District of Nanaimo obtain input from the community?

How should the Official Community Plan review process be structured to encourage participation from a broad spectrum of Plan Area residents?

- ⇒ Door to door/ telephone surveys ⇒ Meeting held throughout area
- ⇒ Workshops ⇒ Tax incentives for participation
- ⇒ Facilitated meetings ⇒ Steering committee
- ⇒ Community associations ⇒ Presentations to secondary schools
- ⇒ Community social functions ⇒ Community blog
- ⇒ Youth advisory committee ⇒ Coffee table meeting
- ⇒ Invitations to interest groups ⇒ Design charrette
- ⇒ ⇒ Caution with surveys

Question 3:

The efficient flow of information between the Regional District of Nanaimo and community is vital to the success of the Official Community Plan review. One of our goals is to ensure that every Plan Area resident is well informed about the Official Community Plan review.

What are the most appropriate methods of sharing information about the Official Community Plan review and how can we (the RDN and the community) best ensure that all Plan Area residents are informed of Official Community Plan related activities?

- ⇒ Shaw cable ⇒ Community bulletin boards
- ⇒ Youth radio station ⇒ Information tables at community events
- ⇒ Internet ⇒ Notification system
- ⇒ Community groups ⇒ Email list
- ⇒ Volunteers for telephone survey ⇒ Direct mail
- ⇒ Take 5 magazine ⇒ Newsletter
- ⇒ Steering committee run OCP review process

05.10.2008 8:55 pm





Summary of Regional District of Nanaimo Sustainability Initiatives

Drinking Water Protection

Access to safe and adequate water allows us to make the most of our lives, promotes healthy communities and, if managed properly, preserves the environment in which we live. The Regional District has developed a Drinking Water – Watershed Protection Action Plan aimed at improving our understanding of the region’s watersheds and leading to increased protection of the ground and surface water resources that sustain our communities.

This November the Regional District will be asking residents if they are in favour of establishing a service area for this purpose.

Green Buildings

Green buildings are buildings that require less energy to operate, contribute fewer emissions to the environment, conserve water, generate less solid waste, and provide more comfortable and productive environments for their inhabitants. The RDN has a number of initiatives underway to support the construction of green buildings.

State of Sustainability Project

The State of Sustainability Project uses 47 indicators to track the region's progress towards sustainability, including energy use, water use, modes of transportation, and environmental impacts. Results and recommendations from this project provide direction on how the region could be more sustainable.

Regional Transit

The Nanaimo Regional Transit System is undertaking initiatives designed to reduce emissions. These include a biodiesel fuel program, a transit service review and an updated transit business plan. Plans for more frequent service and extended routes are also underway.

Zero Waste

Garbage – we all generate it to varying degrees and most of us are happy to know that someone else will take it off our hands and deal with it. We put it at the curb and away it goes. But changes are happening in how garbage is collected and managed. The RDN is focussing on reducing the region's environmental footprint by minimizing the amount of waste that must be landfilled through reduction, reuse, recycling, redesign, composting, and other actions.

The Regional Landfill has a methane gas collection system in place. This network of pipes and wells under the landfill channels the gas to a facility which currently flares the gas (burns it off) thereby reducing the greenhouse gas effects. By the end of 2008 this system will be generating electricity, turning harmful landfill gas into energy.

And keeping with turning waste into something useful; almost 2,000 homes in the Regional District have been separating their kitchen food scraps and compostable waste. It is collected weekly and sent to a composting facility where it is processed into useful fertiliser and compost. Over 750 Area A homes are included in the project. Over the past year more than 230 tonnes of material has been kept out of the landfill. The Regional Board has directed staff to continue with food waste collection and to start planning for expanding the collection across the region.

Action on Climate Change

The RDN and its member municipalities have voluntarily embraced developing climate change and energy plans for their respective operations and the region-wide community. These initiatives reflect an integrated approach to environmental protection and sustainability. They emphasize the linkages and coordination of regional and municipal services and the role of local governments in reducing GHG emissions through:

- Land-use, energy and transportation planning
- Infrastructure design
- Purchase and use of sustainable products and services
- Building retrofits
- Water conservation
- Solid waste diversion
- Use of renewable energy

The RDN and its member municipalities have adopted, or are in the process of adopting corporate climate change programs. A draft community climate change program is expected to be presented to the community this fall.

Sustainable Future Awards

The RDN Sustainable Future Awards Program is a program to acknowledge the good work being done in the region, to raise public awareness on sustainability, and to inspire citizens to contribute to the sustainability of the region.

The Regional District of Nanaimo is in the process of establishing a Sustainable Future Awards Advisory Committee to coordinate the program. More information is available at the RDN administration building located at 6300 Hammond Bay Road in Nanaimo or on our website at www.rdn.bc.ca.



Official Community Plan Review Citizen's Committee Update

Overall, the community's interest and response to the Electoral Area 'A' Official Community Plan Review Citizen's Committee was good. A total of 21 applications were received which, when combined, represent a broad range of community interests and geographic locations.

In response to the number of applications received and to ensure a diverse range of interests and geographic locations are represented, the Board has amended the Committee Terms of Reference by increasing the number of Committee Members from 12 to 17.

A total of 17 members have been appointed to the Official Community Plan Review Citizen's Committee by a special Committee of the Board.

The purpose of the Committee is to participate directly and actively in the OCP review process. In addition, the Citizens Committee will:

1. identify key issues relating to the community, future development, and growth management;
2. share information about the OCP review with the community;
3. review and provide comments on the Technical Background Report to ensure that the information in the report is correct and complete and to identify additional issues and information that should be considered in the Plan review;
4. identify issues and questions from the community and bring them to the Regional District of Nanaimo;
5. respond to ideas and proposals from the RDN prior to presenting them to the community;
6. make non-binding recommendations to the RDN on various components of the draft OCP throughout the review process;
7. assist in the public consultation program, advertising, and scheduled events;
8. review and provide comments and recommendations on each version of the draft Official Community Plan;
9. review and provide comments on any other issues of relevance to the Plan referred from the Regional District of Nanaimo;
10. assist Regional District of Nanaimo planning staff in identifying and evaluating potential alternatives to key issues relating to the community, future development, and growth management; and,
11. provide information about the OCP review process to the community and encourage community involvement.

Citizens Committee Member Contacts

Name	Email	Location
Michael Hooper	mhooper@nanaimoairport.com	Cassidy
Chris Pagan	chris_pagan@hotmail.com	Cassidy
Donna Sweeney	dsweeney@island.net	Cedar by the Sea
Anne Fiddick	fiddick@island.net	Cedar by the Sea
Brian Collen	bdcollen@gmail.com	South Wellington
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Gary Laird	grlaird@shaw.ca	Yellow Point

What Are The Next Steps?

The information gathered at the Sustainability Principles Workshop will be compiled, analyzed, and then used to derive draft Sustainability Principles. The draft principles will be reviewed by the Official Community Plan Review Citizen's Committee before being released to the general public for review and comment.

Following the review and comment period, the sustainability principles will be finalized and then presented to the community at the Visioning Session scheduled for December 6th. The sustainability principles will frame the discussion during the Community Visioning Session.

The Community Visioning Session is an important component of the Official Community Plan review. The purpose of the session is to ask the participants "*What do you want your community to look like in 25 years?*". The Public Workshops scheduled for January 2009 will help us identify goals, objectives, and policies that will assist the community in reaching the desired future identified during the visioning session.

Electoral Area 'A' OCP Review Schedule of Events

Date	Event	Location	Address	Time
Nov 17, 2008	Sustainability Principles Workshop	Cedar Community Hall	2388 Cedar Road	6:30-9:00 pm
Dec 6, 2008	Visioning Session	Cedar Secondary School Library	1640 Macmillan Road	TBA
Jan 2009	Community Workshops	TBA	TBA	TBA

For more information or if you have any questions or comments about the material presented at the Sustainability Principles Workshop or within this program, please contact the Regional District of Nanaimo Planning Department at:
(250) 390-6510
or go to the Regional District of Nanaimo website at:
www.rdn.bc.ca