

**A SHARED COMMUNITY VISION
ELECTORAL AREA 'A' OCP REVIEW
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP # 3
ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY RESULTS**

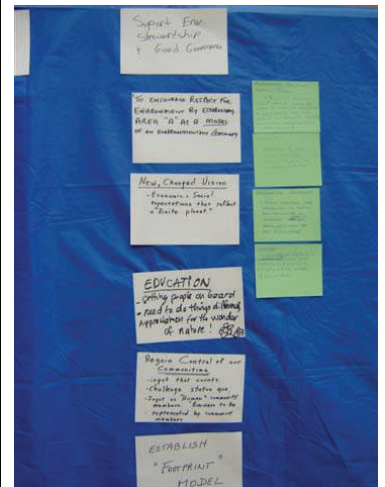


Community Workshop # 3 - Environmental Integrity Results

A workshop was held on February 21, 2009 from 9:00am - 12:00pm. The purpose of workshop 3 was to develop goals and objectives related to **environmental integrity** which help us achieve the Community Vision. Participants were asked respond to 4 questions provided in a workbook both individually and then in small groups. Then their ideas were shared with the larger group. The results are presented in this document.

Participants worked with Regional District of Nanaimo staff to organize their goals into five main categories including Agriculture, Environmental Stewardship and Good Governance, Environmental Protection, Water Resources Protection, and Development Accountability. The first part of this document presents the goals and objectives developed by participants for each category while all other comments received at the workshop are provided at the end of this document. Please note, a summary of all the completed workbooks will be provided in a separate document.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Goals</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Agriculture	Develop an agricultural plan to encourage local food production and local distribution on a sustainable and profitable scale for growers.	Support an agricultural area plan,
	Support and Encourage Agriculture.	Buy local and support farmers markets.
	Provide buffer zones to accommodate incompatible use of adjacent properties.	Support and encourage education in agriculture and farming/farm tourism.
		Support and encourage community gardens.
		Support alternate land tenure options on ALR land.
		Support and encourage organic farming.



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<i>Category</i>	<i>Goals</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Environmental Stewardship and Good Governance	Support environmental stewardship and good governance.	Establish an environmental stewardship education program. (A community advisory group would be funded by RDN to bring in presenters to our community that would educate the community regarding environmental issues and creating a green community).
	Encourage respect for the environment by establishing Area 'A' as a model of an environmentally friendly community.	Have time to learn, process, and develop more of what we see is needed in the OCP.
	Create a new changed vision that specifies economic and social expectations that reflect a 'finite planet'.	Provide incentives for landowners to support and participate in stewardship initiatives. Landowners must be held accountable.
	Support environmental education to get people on board and to do things different. There needs to be an appreciation for the wonder of nature.	The language we choose (eg Area 'A' OCP to be a green community) will express the philosophy and the actions of our residents.
	Regain control of our communities. (input that counts, challenge the status quo, input as 'Human' community members. Business to be represented by community members)	
	Establish a footprint model.	

<i>Category</i>	<i>Goals</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Environment	Preserve, protect, and enhance the environment.	Provide incentives for environmental stewardship (tax breaks, conservation covenants, preserving trees and wetlands, fallow lands in agriculture).
	Increase biodiversity (in every sense of the word, natural vegetation, most varieties can only be supported in healthy environments, greatest viability and resilience is found in diversity be it social, economic, or environmental, everything overlaps and everything is interconnected).	Use full development cost accounting from cradle to grave.
	Maintain the local habitat for flora and fauna .	Inventory, preserve, and protect local parks and trails and provide incentives to establish more green space including residential and industrial areas.
	Pass a tree cutting bylaw. (No trees and brush cut)	Inventory essential ecological systems and identify rehabilitation needs before further development.
	Inventory, preserve, and protect local parks and trails and establish more green space. Including residential areas.	Monitor and enforce regulations.
	Ensure that the environment is healthy (It is crucial above all else, social and economic needs are secondary)	Retain a full range of habitat required to maintain and re-establish indigenous and endangered species.
		Support community involvement (education, buy in to community plan by business and new residents, consultation process not 'open house' format for new developments.
		Change expectations accept responsibility move from consumer to conserver society. Personal rights may be superseded by community needs.
	Adopt a tree cutting bylaw to protect habitat.	

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<i>Category</i>	<i>Goals</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Water	Protect water and watersheds.	Encourage water collection.
	Preserve natural habitat including wetlands and parklands—no exceptions.	Protect the edges of streams and ponds (even nature trails destroy a lot of the life that uses its edges.
	Protect watersheds and groundwater (Only allow development [residential, commercial, and/or industrial] if they have demonstrated and sustainable water onsite.	Create tougher guidelines for industry and ensure that there are systems to recycle water to the same quality as what is was when they used it.
	Ensure that there is no depletion of groundwater beyond the natural recharge rates, and consider high standards for energy and water conservation Development Permit Areas.	Encourage less polluting organic farming.
		Restrict how much water can be taken out of a certain site.
		Systems to recycle gray water should be more widely used and incentives to use them.
		Support public control over watersheds and water delivery systems.
		Protect watersheds.
		Use a different way so that water from a watershed doesn't rush to the ocean but stays to irrigate lands of the watershed.
		Form coalitions (citizen's and government) to protect our watershed.
	Monitor, measure, and regulate use of groundwater and aquifers and publicise reports.	
	Enforce protection of riparian areas and increase the minimum setback. (monitor edges so they keep healthy)	
	Government needs to be tougher on industries that endanger creeks, etc. (i.e paying a fine is not a good detriment)	

Category	Goals	Objectives
Economy	Ensure that development is held accountable.	Provide clear definitions of what is required in the Official Community Plan, Development Permit Area, and related documents.
	Quantify what we know so we know what is sustainable.	Establish language and checklist within by-laws to minimize interpretation.
	Reduce greenhouse gases by encouraging and providing non-polluting vehicles and public transit and prohibiting all slash burning for development and providing incentives to eliminate residential burning (fireplaces and garden waste).	Establish consistent definitions between jurisdictions.
	Establish incentives for green cottage industry.	Establish a performance requirement that provides substantive penalties for non-performance.
	Establish a sustainability checklist to evaluate all development proposals based on environmental fiscal and socially responsible patters.	
	Tighten up, simplify, and clarify language.	

The following pages include a list of all ideas and input provided at the workshop (not including the workbooks).

Remove homeowner's liability for damage caused by 3rd party.

In sample goal 1 - deemphasize economic criteria.

How are our goals meshed with our neighbours?

Stream management needs to be the same on each class of stream regardless of use.

Goal 2 on page 8 - can only be met with cooperation of adjoining areas.

We support goal 3 on page 8 but, need to look at the cost to individuals and impact on the environment. How do we prioritize? We need to study the cost, expanded bus service schedule based on cost justification. Based on real no sub. Cost. So long as capital and operating costs are reasonable. Need coordination of modes of transportation.

Goal 4 page 8 - We question whether just reduction of greenhouse gas is the way to go. We should look at footprint model.

Reduce use of sprays and pesticides.

Need to look at real costs.

Need language associated with buffer zones in Development Permit Areas.

Quantify what we already have.

Ensure that there is no depletion of groundwater beyond natural recharge rates and consider high standards for energy and water conservations (Development Permit Area).

Preservation of natural habitat and wetlands and parks no exceptions.

Develop an agricultural plan to encourage local food production and local distribution on a sustainable and profitable scale for growers.

A healthy environment is crucial and above all else. Social and economic needs are secondary subsets to environment.

Need input from wider segment of the community. All input counts and is valued. Energy and time investment is returned. Create goals applicable to community needs. Change the system from top down to bottom up. Too much cynicism and hope.

New Vision: Economic growth that reflects a finite planet. Change expectations. Environmental protection costs included in economic development costs. Developer responsible for costs. The economic bubble is bursting and it hurts wait until the environmental collapse.

Increase biodiversity - everything overlaps and is interconnected in every sense.

Regain control of the community, challenge status quo, think outside the box, build community spirit.

To reduce greenhouse gases by providing non-polluting vehicles and public transit.

Prohibit all slash burning for development and provide incentives to eliminate residential burning (fireplaces and garden waste).

Preserve and protect local parks and trails.

Establish more green space including in residential areas.

Protect watersheds and groundwater. For example only allow development (residential, commercial, and/or industrial) if they have demonstrated and sustainable water on site.

Maintain the local habitat for flora and fauna by passing a tree cutting bylaw

Encourage respect for the environment by establishing Area 'A' as a model of an environmentally sustainable community.

Ensure that development is accountable.

Provide clear definitions of what is required in Official Community Plan, Development Permit Area, and related documents.

Consistent definitions between jurisdictions.

Need to get language checklist in bylaws to minimize interpretation.

Establish a performance requirement that substantially penalize non-conformance.

Preserve, protect, and enhance the environment—full development cost accounting cradle to grave. Regulations need monitoring and enforcement.

Use incentives in the form of tax breaks for environmental stewardship/ i.e. conservation covenants, leaving trees, fallow land. Community input.

Support an agricultural area plan.

Support alternate land tenure options on ALR land.

Support and encourage community gardens.

Support and encourage education in agriculture and farming.

Buy local and support farmers markets.

Support environmental stewardship.

Education—Regional District of Nanaimo facilitates 5 community wide presentations—Advisory Committee Area 'A'.

Incentives for land owners to support and participate in stewardship (accountability).

Green language will reflect language.

We support goal 5 on page 8.