



REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO

WORKSHOP REPORT

for the Saturday, April 3, 2004

SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP

May 26, 2004

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Saturday, April 3, 2004, approximately 150 residents participated in the Sustainability Workshop conducted by the Regional District of Nanaimo.

The Sustainability Workshop was held to raise public awareness about sustainability and to obtain public feedback to be used in the development of a set of measures or indicators of regional sustainability. Public awareness about sustainability was raised through Director Bill Holdom's presentation about the current activities of the Regional District of Nanaimo to advance sustainability, Mike Harcourt's presentation about planning for long-term sustainability, and Mark Holland's presentation about how sustainability could be advanced in the region. Public input regarding the desired characteristics of a sustainable Regional District of Nanaimo was obtained through a series of individual and group assignments

Participants envision a sustainable Regional District of Nanaimo....

where the **environment** provides...

...a sufficient quantity of high quality *drinking water* for all residents....
...*healthy habitats* for organisms that live on the land and in waterbodies...
...agricultural and forestry practices are compatible with the environment....
...*less waste* is disposed....
...energy is obtained from environmentally friendly sources and *energy conservation* is commonplace...
...*clean air* for residents and animals to breathe...
...the *carrying capacity of the region is respected* and our environmental footprint is reduced....

...the **economy** is characterized by...

...well paying, meaningful *occupations* for all residents...
...respect and recognition for the importance of *resources* (agriculture, forestry, ground and surface water, Crown land, air, energy sources)...
...*vibrant downtowns*...
...small scale, locally owned *businesses*...
...its "*greenness*"...
...*communication, cooperation and creativity* establish and maintain an environment conducive to economic development....

...the **social** environment is characterized by....

...excellent *health care facilities* for residents...
...residents living in *high quality, affordable housing*, even those who are presently homeless...
...poverty is not an issue...
...*educated residents*...
...viable *transportation alternatives* to single occupant vehicular travel...
...*youth employment* and engagement in society...
...*caring citizens* that are engaged in their communities and appreciate *cultures*.

The Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee will use the information received at the Sustainability Workshop in its work to develop a report about the sustainability of the region for the Regional Board.



INTRODUCTION

On Saturday, April 3, 2004, the Regional District of Nanaimo conducted a full-day public Sustainability Workshop, as a part of its State of Sustainability Project¹.

The purposes of the Sustainability Workshop were to:

1. Raise public awareness about:
 - Sustainability;
 - The Regional District's role in advancing sustainability;
 - The Regional Growth Strategy for the region as a tool to advance sustainability; and
 - The assessment of progress towards the sustainability of the region.
2. To obtain public feedback regarding the characteristics of a sustainable Regional District of Nanaimo; and
3. To obtain information that would be helpful in developing indicators or measures of sustainability.

The Sustainability Workshop was developed and organized by the Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee² with the assistance of Regional District of Nanaimo staff members Christina Thomas (Senior Planner, Community Services) and Neil Connelly (General Manager, Community Services).

Anita Wolfe (Environment for Change) and Mark Holland (Holland Barrs Planning Group) co-facilitated the Workshop for the Regional District.



¹ For more information about the State of Sustainability Project please view terms of reference for the Project on the RDN web site at www.rdn.bc.ca, on the State of Sustainability Project page.

² The Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee is a Regional Board appointed committee of nine residents and two Board directors that has been assigned the responsibility to provide assistance to monitor the sustainability of the region. The nine residents appointed to the Committee are Gordon Buckingham, Betty Collins, Ross Peterson, Brian Anderson, Douglas Anderson, Adele McKillop, Janet Farooq, Sylvia Neden and Sharon Thomson. Director Bill Holdom is the Committee Chair, and Director David Bartram is the Committee Deputy Chair. For more information about the Committee's work please see the State of Sustainability Project page on the RDN web site at www.rdn.bc.ca.

Director Joe Stanhope (Chair, Regional District of Nanaimo Board) delivered a welcoming address. Director Bill Holdom (Chair of the Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee) provided a presentation about the Regional District of Nanaimo and its current activities related to sustainability. Mike Harcourt delivered a presentation about long term planning for sustainability. Mark Holland delivered a presentation about how sustainability could be advanced in the region.

Members of the Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee, supplemented by RDN staff and other volunteers, served as small group facilitators (*see Appendix A*) and facilitated participant discussion about sustainability through four a variety of participatory activities.

Approximately 150 residents from throughout the region (*see Appendix B*) participated in the Workshop. Any resident in the region was welcome to attend the event. Residents were informed about the event through six newspaper advertisements, advertisements during television news programs on Shaw Cable and the NewVI, information posted on the the RDN web site, Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee communications, and letters sent to over 260 different individuals and organizations with roles, responsibilities and interests related to sustainability.

This report documents the proceedings of the Workshop. The Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee will use the report as a source of information in its work to identify indicators to report about the sustainability of the region.



WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

Welcome (9:00 – 9:15)

Director Joe Stanhope, Chair of the Regional District of Nanaimo Board, welcomed participants to the Sustainability Workshop and thanked participants for dedicating a day to discussing sustainability.

Director Stanhope indicated that sustainability is an important topic for the region as it has a history of rapid population growth and it is expected that the region will continue to grow. It was noted that the 2004 population of the region (approximately 130,000) is more than double the 1976 population (just over 61,000), and that it is expected that the region will be home to over 200,000 people in 2026.

Director Stanhope noted that the region has many characteristics that make it a desirable place to live, including a moderate temperate climate, approximately 200 kilometres of ocean coastline, approximately 3000 kilometres of watercourses, mountain ranges in their natural state, a wide variety of recreational opportunities, and a variety of different types of places to live.

It was noted that the very characteristics that attract people to the region could be jeopardized if growth and development is not managed properly.

Director Stanhope indicated that the Regional District adopted a Regional Growth Strategy and is undertaking the State of Sustainability Project to make sure the region continues to be a desirable place to live and do business.

Introduction to the Day (9:15 – 9:30)

Anita Wolfe introduced the concept of sustainability, described the purpose of the Sustainability Workshop, provided an overview of the Workshop agenda, described the ground rules for the day, and invited participants to identify any specific issues they wanted to address that day for the purpose of structuring the “Open Space Issue Discussion” component of the Workshop.

Regional District of Nanaimo Context (9:40 – 9:55)

Director Bill Holdom, Chair of the Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee, delivered a presentation about the Regional District of Nanaimo and its key sustainability related initiatives.

Director Holdom provided an overview of the Regional District of Nanaimo. It was noted that the Regional District of Nanaimo is comprised of four member municipalities (the City of Nanaimo, the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach, and the District of Lantzville), and eight electoral areas (A – Cedar, South Wellington, Cassidy; B – Gabriola Island and surrounding islands; C- Nanaimo Lakes, Extension; D – East Wellington, Pleasant Valley; E – Nanoose Bay; F – Coombs, Hilliers, Errington; G – French Creek, San Pareil, Dashwood; and H – Deep Bay, Qualicum Bay, Bowser, Dunsmuir). The facts that the RDN is approximately 207,000 hectares in size, has a population of approximately 140,000 people, and that there are approximately 58,000 dwellings in the region were highlighted.

Director Holdom indicated that the sustainability of the region is important to the Regional District of Nanaimo, citing the existence of a Regional Growth Strategy and the current State of Sustainability Project as evidence.



Background information about the Regional Growth Strategy was provided. It was noted that early in the 1990's the Regional District realized that something needed to be done to respond to residents concerns about the impacts of growth in the region. It was noted that a Regional Growth Strategy was developed to respond to these concerns in recognition of the realization that the impacts of growth span jurisdictional boundaries and thus required a coordinated, cooperative approach. The Regional Growth Strategies was described as a comprehensive statement of the future of a region, that includes the social, economic and environmental objectives of the RDN Board in relation to the Regional District. It was noted that the Regional Growth Strategy is an agreement between the RDN and the member municipalities regarding actions to be taken to achieve the common vision of the region. The key components of the Regional Growth Strategy were described (vision, goals, policies, land use designation and urban containment boundary maps).

Background information about the State of Sustainability Project was provided. It was noted that the Project builds on previous Regional Growth Strategy monitoring work, and that it shifts the monitoring emphasis from one of monitoring Regional Growth Strategy vision and goal attainment, to a focus on monitoring sustainability, since the big, overall goal of the Regional Growth Strategy is sustainability.

Director Holdom described the four key purposes of the State of Sustainability Project. The purposes are to: [1] assess the region's progress towards sustainability; [2] to make residents aware of the region's progress towards sustainability; [3] to provide more and better opportunities to involve residents in the assessment; and [4] to provide information for future Regional Growth Strategy initiatives (such as the reviews of the Strategy scheduled for once every five years).

Director Holdom indicated that the Board had appointed an eleven member Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee to provide advice as a part of the State of Sustainability Project. Members of the Committee were identified.

Director Holdom described the six key components of the State of Sustainability Project. The six components are: [1] today's public event to discuss what the region would look like it was sustainable; [2] confirmation of set of indicators to measure sustainability; [3] a report about the sustainability of the region; [4] a second public event to discuss the report about the sustainability of the region; [5] a report regarding how the sustainability of the region can be improved; and [6] the establishment of a regional sustainability awards program.

Sustainability: The Big Picture (10:00 – 10:45)

Mike Harcourt delivered a presentation about planning for long-term sustainability.

Mr. Harcourt's presentation emphasized the role of citizens in planning for the future of their communities, and the fact that communities are shaped by choices and consequences. It was noted that in many cases we are living with the results of choices made over a hundred years ago about development form and infrastructure.



Mr. Harcourt stated that the Regional District of Nanaimo is well positioned to become a more sustainable region. Favourable attributes of the region in this regard include:

- the existence of a Regional Growth Strategy, a strategy with a long term planning horizon,
- the region's location within the Georgia Basin,
- local experiences working with First Nations in the region,
- the relatively low level of development and population growth compared to other areas of the world (such as large urban areas in Asia),
- the relatively undisturbed state of the natural environment, and
- the high quality of life available for residents.

Mr. Harcourt suggested that consideration be given to extending the planning horizon of local plans beyond the traditional period of five to fifteen years to an integrated long term planning horizon of 50 to 100 years. It was noted that the longer term planning horizon better corresponds to the ‘life’ of decisions about development and infrastructure construction.

Mr. Harcourt described the federal government’s “New Deal” for communities in Canada, and his involvement in the initiative. The “New Deal” will result in the provision of federal money to communities to for projects that could improve community sustainability.

Sustainability: Where are we Today? (10:45 – 11:15)

Participant input regarding sustainability was collected on three sustainability continuum charts posted on the walls of the Workshop venue. One chart was provided for each of the three ‘legs’ of the ‘sustainability stool’: the economy, the environment, and the social/human sector.



Participants were asked to share their perspectives regarding the economic, environmental and social issues facing the Regional District of Nanaimo. Each participant was invited to write issues on Post-It note sheets (one issue per sheet) and stick them on the sustainability continuum chart for either the economy, the environment or the social/human sector, whichever the participant deemed most appropriate. Participants were encouraged to identify as many issues as they could within a thirty-minute period. The following provides a summary of the key themes that emerged regarding the issues identified on the sustainability continuum charts. It is not a verbatim recording of all of the issues identified on the charts.

Environment

Workshop participants indicated that the environmental issues facing the Regional District of Nanaimo are:

- drinking water protection (quality and quantity);
- habitat protection (land and water based);
- environmental compatibility of agriculture and forestry practices;
- solid waste disposal needs;
- energy conservation;
- air quality protection; and
- respecting carrying capacity/environmental footprint.

Economy

Workshop participants indicated that the economic issues facing the Regional District of Nanaimo are:

- the provision of employment opportunities for residents;
- recognition of importance of resources to economy (agriculture, forestry, ground and surface water, Crown land, air);
- downtown revitalization;
- business ownership (local versus foreign) and size;
- the greening of the economy (sustainability incentives, shift away from consumption mentality); and
- communication and coordination by government to establish and maintain an environment conducive to economic development (culture of creativity, flexibility with reduced need for rules).

Social

Workshop participants indicated that the social issues facing the Regional District of Nanaimo are:

- health care;
- housing affordability;
- poverty;
- education of residents;
- accessibility of transportation;
- youth;
- citizen engagement/attitude.

Sustainability at the Regional Level (11:15 – 12:00)

Mark Holland delivered a presentation about the challenge of sustainability for the Regional District of Nanaimo.

Mr. Holland defined sustainable development as “meeting the needs of today’s generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs”. He emphasized that economic, social and environmental health are interdependent components of sustainability, and sustainability requires long term (50 to 100 years) thinking. The concept of the “ecological footprint” developed by Bill Rees and Mathias Wackernagel was discussed as it relates to sustainability.

The presentation highlighted the following key problems facing communities and the associated sustainability goals for each problem:

Key Problem

- Climate Change / Air Quality
- Energy Supply
- Waste and resource scarcity
- Water quantity / quality supply
- Ecosystem damage
- Food supply / quality problems
- Economic inequities / instability

- Social and community health

Sustainability Goal

- Reduce emissions
- Renewable energy & efficiency
- Reducing waste & recycling
- Better water management
- Ecological design / protection
- Organic, community supply
- Diverse, local trade systems & long term accounting
- Individual health & community building and emergency response systems



Key points highlighted in the presentation include:

- Sustainability at all levels (plant, continent, nation, bioregion, province, region/census metropolitan area, city, community/neighbourhood, site, building, technology/product, activity) is linked together and contingent on the performance of the levels below it;
- There is a dynamic interplay between the three legs (economic issues, social issues, environmental issues) and the seat (institutional leadership and management) of the sustainability stool; plans will be weak or fail without all four areas being addressed;
- The word 'development' in the term 'sustainable development' involves growing wealth in the homes and businesses in the community and building economic diversity (economic capital), growing the stocks of natural resources and increasing the environmental health of the region and the planet overall (natural capital); and increasing individual and community health, and the relationships and organizations (social capital);
- Consideration needs to be given to the timeline of our decisions because our decisions have long lasting impacts (i.e. decisions about community layout, subdivision and roads last approximately 75 to 200 years, decisions about buildings last 50 to 100 years, decisions about infrastructure last approximately 20 to 100 years, landscaping decisions last approximately 10 to 100 years, and decisions about systems and equipment generally last 5 to 20 years);
- Sustainable communities are characterized by compact mixed use development (all people can live, work, play, learn and shop within a short distance or an easy transit linkage, there are higher densities and a mixture of housing types in towns and low impact development in rural areas), transportation that is human scale and clean (pedestrians, bicycles, transit, shared vehicles, cleaner fuels and efficiency), diverse richly designed open space, healthy environments and ecosystems (air, land, water, biodiversity), efficient use of energy, resources, water, waste and infrastructure, and prosperous (diversity of enterprise at all levels with access for all in the community).
- Sustainability is a direction more than a destination.
- Sustainability means trying to perform as well as we can on all accounts, including air emissions, energy usage, resource use and waste production, water use and liquid waste management, ecosystem health, food issues, community health, economic viability and prosperity.
- The Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy establishes a foundation for a made in the Nanaimo region approach to sustainability.

- Prosperity in the future will require creativity, imagination, and a willingness to do things differently.
- Sustainability requires collaboration and information sharing between residents and organizations.
- Planning is necessary so that communities can prosper from changes in the economy, the environment and society.
- Sustainability is a challenge and an opportunity.

Mr. Holland suggested that the Regional District of Nanaimo could be made more sustainable by:

- encouraging land use patterns that foster densification in existing urban areas and support village form development;
- aggressively building capacity for transportation alternatives other than single occupant vehicular travel;
- establishing new building standards for green buildings and raising public awareness about green buildings;
- conserving habitat areas;
- encouraging decentralized green energy supplies;
- developing a plan to improve air quality through emission reductions and other actions;
- supporting initiatives that would enhance water use efficiency;
- expanding programs that reduce the amount of solid waste to be disposed in land fills, such as recycling, composting, changes in business packaging;
- working with all sectors of the community to identify and fill needs;
- supporting the development of local purchasing programs and green business practices.

Mr. Holland stated that the Regional District of Nanaimo is well situated to make significant advances towards sustainability because it is one of the most beautiful places in the world to live, it has a great watershed and environment, there is limited sprawl and an ability to be compact as it grows, housing is reasonably affordable, the economy is changing and growing into new sectors, there are healthy community relationships and creativity, the region has strong cultural roots and expression, and the region is actively examining sustainability issues.

Open Space Issue Discussion (12:00 – 1:30)

During the morning participants submitted approximately 80 ideas regarding issues they wanted to discuss during the Open Space Issue Discussion.

Prior to the Open Space Issue Discussion, Anita Wolfe categorized the 80 suggested topic ideas into the following fourteen topics.

1. Next steps
2. Food and agricultural self sufficiency
3. Energy alternatives
4. Cultural awareness
5. Rural integrity (land use)
6. Transportation
7. Governance
8. Water quality and quantity
9. Development (housing, waterfront)
10. Recreation
11. Rural land use
12. Housing (affordable, sustainable)
13. Incentives for green
14. Holistic conversation.

One table was assigned to discuss each of the fourteen topics, with the exception of the holistic conversation topic for which three tables were assigned given the apparent level of interest. Participants chose the topic of interest to them and participated in a discussion about the topic at the table assigned to it. Participants expressed a wide variety of perspectives at each of the table discussions and small group facilitators recorded these perspectives on flip charts (*see Appendix C*).



Your Vision for the Future of the Regional District of Nanaimo (1:30 – 3:00)

Participants were asked to share their perspectives with their small groups regarding what the region would be like if it was sustainable. Each participant was invited to write on Post-It note sheets characteristics of a sustainable Regional District of Nanaimo (one characteristic per sheet). Small group facilitators posted the sheets on a flipchart for group reference purposes. After all of the group members had an opportunity to identify the characteristics of a sustainable region each group member was requested to ‘vote’ for the two characteristics that s/he deemed most important for a sustainable region by allocating the two green sticker dots provided to them to the two characteristics that s/he deemed most important. Once every individual had allocated their two dots, each group was requested to select the top two characteristics and put this information on the appropriate sustainability continuum wall chart. The comments below contained within the “quotation marks” constitute verbatim participant statements posted on the ‘community’ sustainability continuum charts. The statements in **bold font** summarize the key themes that emerged from the verbatim participant statements about the characteristics of a sustainable region.

Environment

Workshop participants indicated that a sustainable Regional District of Nanaimo would have the following environmental characteristics:

- **a sufficient quantity of high quality drinking water for all residents** (“protection of groundwater and aquifers”, “continue water source protection”, “water protection at source, ground water protection legislation”, “watershed protection”, “water conservation – use less water, create less sewage”, “reliable water supply”, “watersheds protected and well managed”, “highest possible water

quality”, “clean drinking water”, “RDN bulk water – develop sooner rather than later”, “get rid of continuous flow urinals”, “2 stage flush toilets mandatory”, “clean H₂O”

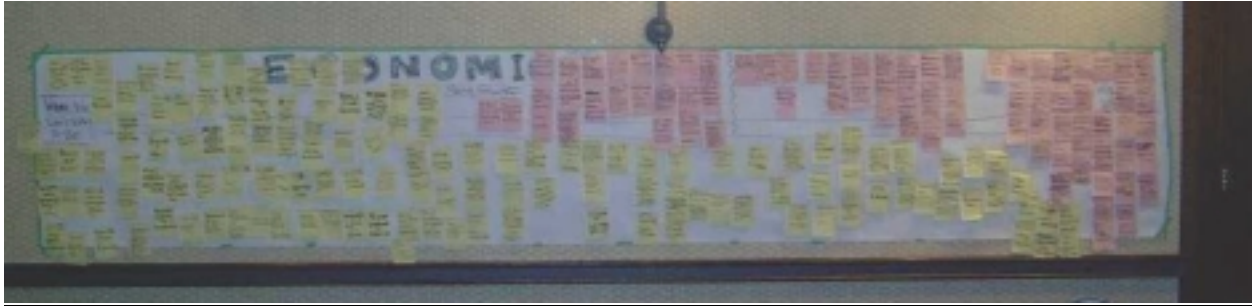
- **healthy habitats for organisms that live on the land and in waterbodies** (“greenspace and wildlife corridors in abundance”, “caring for the environment, plants” animals, insects, aquatic and riparian habitat”, “maintain environmental diversity (plants and animals)”, “restored natural habitats”, “fish streams being improved”, “agricultural land contributing to wildlife and diversity”, “protection of rare habitats”, “concern for all species”, “excellent greenspaces”, “no development within 50 metres of water”, “urban stream resurrection and rehabilitation”, “watercourse protection and repair”)
- **environmentally compatible agricultural and forestry practices** (“sustainable forest harvesting practices”, “no clear cut logging”, “plant more trees to replace those removed”, “forest resources harvested sustainably”, “no logging in any watershed”, “urban gardening, edible landscaping”, “local produce”, “agricultural land maintenance”, “support organic farmers”, “safe, ethical food production”, “community gardens”, “community garden space available”, “food production”)
- **less waste is disposed in landfills** (“organic waste pickup”, “recycling – need to expand program to include plastic materials” “efficient waste disposal”, “reduce consumption of things”, “zero waste – solid, liquid, gaseous”, “recycling is an excellent program, include more items to recycle”, “encourage fast food outlets to be more environmentally responsible, only use biodegradable materials”)
- **energy is obtained from environmentally friendly sources and energy conservation is commonplace** (“no fossil fuel power plants”, “off grid common place”, “fund research into energy alternatives for decentralized power sourcing”, “majority of energy is wind, solar, tidal, bio-energy systems”, “clean air, green energy”, “alternative energy: solar, wind, microhydro”, “replace hot water tanks with more economic heaters as used in Europe”, “public transit enhanced, efficient”, “green transportation, E&N electric commuter”, “sustainable, efficient cars”, “encouraging public transit”, “less pollution from cars”, “island rapid transit”, “enough roads already, promote public, regular, convenient transit”)
- **clean air for residents and animals to breathe** (“air pollution from industry and burning”, “air quality”)
- **the carrying capacity of the region is respected and our environmental footprint is reduced** (“growth does not exceed carrying capacity”, “citizens understand our dependence on ecosystem service”, “education on how connected we are to our environment”, “environment is the basis of the model we operate from”, “decisions based on environmental principles”, “sustainability within carrying capacity of region”, “provincial leadership for environmental sustainability”)



Economy

Workshop participants indicated that a sustainable Regional District of Nanaimo would have the following *economic characteristics*:

- **all residents are employed in well paying, meaningful occupations** (“more jobs for young people, meaningful employment”, “job creation”, “not enough jobs to attract and hold workforce”, “job opportunities”, “career opportunities”, “reduce unemployment”, “jobs for young people needed”, “need diverse employment for ages 20-45”, “need higher paying jobs in RDN as opposed to minimum wage jobs”, “too few permanent full time jobs, too many McJobs”, “diversified, full range of job opportunities, less service sector”, “meaningful jobs (not 20 hour work week with no benefits)”, “livable wages for everyone”, “living wage and living welfare for healthier people and economy”);
- **the importance of resources (agriculture, forestry, ground and surface water, Crown land, air, energy sources) to the economy is recognized and respected** (“protection of farmers”, “incentives for growing specialty food”, “farm production and processing contribute to income and employment”, “support local sustainable food production”, “groundwater management to protect agricultural needs”, “locally produced foods”, “home based agriculture for local consumption”, “non-timber forest products”, “no raw log exports”, “promote sustainable forestry (sustainable forestry is a positive)”, “viable sustainable integrated forest industry (value added forest products)”, “water quality and quantity”, “sufficient water to support today’s economy”, “economically sufficient water to support today’s economy”, “lack of Crown land for preservation of natural capital”, “resource allocation to conservation”, “green energy sources versus conventional resource based technology”, “energy – responsible and reliable”, “smaller fuel efficient busses needed and electric trolley buses”, “effective public transit to link strong downtown cores”);
- **the downtowns are vibrant** (“strong, downtown cores”, “strong downtown economic centres”, “people living downtown”, “model of economic sustainability in downtown core – ecovillage”, “provide more encouragement to redevelop the core areas of downtown Nanaimo and Parksville”);
- **businesses in the region are small scale and locally owned** (“promote local ability to provide acceptable food, waste systems”, “buy local, hire local”, “small retail encouragement”, “box stores versus local, independent merchants”, “encourage and support local business”, “support local businesses”, “provide incentives for small business development”, “promote small green businesses rather than megaprojects”);
- **the economy is “green”** (“promote green industry”, “support green building design and construction”, “only businesses that embrace sustainability”, “industry follows green practices”, ““Green” in education from Kindergarten to PhD”, “promoting eco-tourism”, “green tourism (e.g. fishing, kayaking)”, “human/animal face for corporations”, “use an economic model that isn’t faulty”, “penalty for SUV”, “consumption culture and affluenza”, “low cost financing for sustainable ventures and efficiency”, “incentives for sustainable housing, utilities, electric, water, etc.”, “promoting green industry”, “promote green development in suburbs”, “require corporate product responsibility”, “require environmental accounting practices”, “award businesses with best environmental practices”, “full cost accounting”, “industry and businesses are cost accountable for clean up of all environmental costs resulting from their activities”);
- **communication, coordination and creativity establish and maintain an environment conducive to economic development** (“all RDN to work together”, “less red tape, more communication between government departments and the public”, “less government overlap”, “political will and paradigm shift”, “develop a culture of creativity, flexibility, supporting success”, “less duplication of services”).



Social

Workshop participants indicated that a sustainable Regional District of Nanaimo would have the following social characteristics:

- **excellent health care facilities for residents:** (“localized health facilities”, “ensure availability of appropriate health care”, “accessible health care”, “improved health care”, “high quality health care services”, “health and wellness”, “preventive health care focus”, “excellent health care”, “promoting wellness”);
- **residents live in high quality affordable housing, including those who are presently homeless** (“affordable housing”, “affordable housing – not enough”, “lack of low cost housing”, “homeless shelters/ assistance projects”, “affordable housing – not enough”, “high quality housing (long lasting buildings)”, “seniors accommodation”, “multi-generational housing”, “sustainable low cost housing”, “encourage multiple family housing”, “available housing for all”);
- **poverty is not an issue** (“poverty awareness”, “distribution of wealth from haves to have nots”, “richer poorer disparity”, “high welfare %”, “most poverty in BC”, “eliminate poverty”);
- **residents are educated** (“post secondary education”, “sustainable education topics”, “affordable post secondary education”, “education on topics of sustainable development”, “integrated educational opportunities for elders and youth”, “education system teaches children to consider how their wants serve the world as well as the personal self”, “access to quality education including health and life skills”, “ecology as a course kindergarten to grade 12”);
- **there are viable transportation alternatives to single occupant vehicular travel** (“district wide public transit”, “transportation for schools that is accessible and affordable”, “lack of recognition of other users of transportation system by drivers”, “Nanaimo continues to re-build transportation infrastructure that makes non-motorized choices difficult”, “non fossil fuel transit”, “bike trails”, “developments not planned for human scale transportation”, “mass transit (commuter trains)”, “multiple transportation alternatives”, “affordable, accessible public transit”, “human powered transport as a feasible mass choice”);
- **the youth are employed and engaged in society** (“little regard for youth needs”, “combat youth homelessness”, “youth initiatives”, “youth programs”, “youth unemployment”);
- **citizens are caring and engaged in their communities and there is an appreciation of cultures** (“wisdom and compassion”, “use of alternative systems of justice”, “community spirit”, “respect for one another”, “democratic community planning”, “citizen sense of control”, “public awareness of sustainability”, “bylaws to promote social interaction in neighbourhoods (3 car garages lead to anonymity)”, “citizen participation”, “understand world issues and involve”, “citizens are active in voting and local politics”, “cultural – heritage recognition”, “lack of aboriginal and cultural appreciation”).



Measuring Sustainability (3:00 – 3:30)

During the last working session of the day participants were asked, “What should be measured to assess the sustainability of the region?”. Each participant was invited to write on Post-It sheets aspects that should be measured. Small group facilitators posted the sheets on a flipchart for group reference purposes. After all of the group members had an opportunity to identify characteristics to measure each group member was requested to ‘vote’ for the one item that s/he deemed most important to measure to assess the sustainability of the region by allocating the one green sticker dot provided to them to the one item that s/he deemed most important. Once every individual had allocated their dot, each group was requested to select the top two things to measure and put this information on the appropriate sustainability continuum wall chart. The following provides a verbatim record of the measures suggested by participants on the sustainability continuum wall charts.

Environment

Workshop participants suggested that the following items be measured to assess whether the Regional District of Nanaimo is becoming more or less sustainable in terms of the environment:

- marine habitat quality
- air quality
- water quality
- # permits pulled/granted for greywater, alternative sewer
- measure ECO-FOOTPRINT (UBC index)
- transportation mode choice
- # & type of motor vehicles
- motor vehicle occupancy
- bus passengers
- cyclists
- % ALR protected, used for agriculture
- ongoing water analysis (stormwater, groundwater, surface water)
- water quality
- # interconnected drainage ditches
- # Ministry of Health health orders, “boil water
- amount recycled per resident
- Kilowatt hours of power generated by alternative energy as a % of whole
- Monitor changes in indicator species
- Energy consumption
- Identify population that can be sustained with current natural resources then measure in relation to current population
- Loss of ALR
- Water quality conditions
- Effectiveness of Development Permit Areas in protecting sensitive ecosystems
- Environmental carrying capacity of land for uses
- Expand on National Roundtable for the Environment and Economy indicators (air quality, freshwater quality, forest cover, extent

- advisories” issued
- waste, landfill
- recycling per capita
- amount of garbage to landfill per resident

of wetland, education of working age population, greenhouse gas emissions)

Economy

Workshop participants suggested that the following items be measured to assess whether the Regional District of Nanaimo is becoming more or less sustainable in terms of the economy:

- Actual use of agricultural land
- Income distribution and source
- Total lifecycle costs of products
- Food production per capita
- Jobs per capita
- The level of dependence on imported products
- Look at our export economy: are we shipping raw or processed goods
- # people employed in small business (needs to be defined)
- How much financial leakage
- # locally owned versus chain stores
- % of local industry that uses local resources
- activity space analysis – distance from home to work, play, school, shopping
- unemployment rate
- # business operating sustainably
- health of all ecosystems
- how much of our food is grown here
- median income
- # buildings designated LEED
- # businesses that have signed on to sustainability
- Proportion of population that is homeless
- Proportion of the population that uses foodbanks
- Proportion of the population that is unemployed
- Proportion of the population that is below the poverty line
- Residential water use
- Commercial / industrial water use
- Air quality
- Freshwater quality
- Forest cover
- Extent of wetlands
- Education of working age population
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Land development governed by environmental capabilities
- Amount of power or energy produced locally
- Production and government dollars to support alternative sources of energy
- # jobs and services in nodes
- locally produced goods unique to the area and sustainable
- employment by age profile



Social/ Human Sector

Workshop participants suggested that the following items be measured to assess whether the Regional District of Nanaimo is becoming more or less sustainable in terms of the social/human sector:

- water usage (drinkable, grey)
- population growth in comparison to the carrying capacity
- # people below poverty level
- # welfare recipients
- # unemployed
- # people with drug problems
- income differential between top 20% and bottom 20%
- volunteer participation in community oriented activities
- population demographics
- building and renovation permits for target housing
- # building permits with “green” criteria
- proportion of the population that votes in elections
- energy consumption by type, household, industry and per capita
- housing data (type, quality, quantity)
- # kilowatt hours of energy used per capita (BC Hydro)
- # internet connections
- population census data
- % of population not on a voting list
- crime rate
- health care programmes and facilities
- health and well being survey to measure quality of life
- # people living below the poverty line or on welfare
- # healthcare referrals that require travel outside the community
- cost of housing relative to income
- # of homeless people
- # foodbanks
- # households spending 30% or more of their income on housing

Next Steps (3:30 – 4:00)

Director Bill Holdom delivered a presentation regarding what the Regional District of Nanaimo intends to do with the results of the Sustainability Workshop.

He indicated that a report would be prepared to document the proceedings of the Workshop. It was noted that the report would be available to the public through the RDN web site and RDN offices. The reports use as a tool to help raise public awareness about sustainability was highlighted,

Director Holdom described the future use of the workshop participant feedback. It was noted that the Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee will use the workshop feedback as a source of information in its work to recommend to the RDN Board a set of indicators or measures of regional sustainability. Once the indicators are chosen, data will be collected for the indicators, and this data will be used to develop a report about the sustainability of the region. A second public workshop is planned to discuss the results of this report and the sustainability of the region next year.

Participants were thanked for dedicating a full day to the discussion of sustainability, and urged to ‘stay tuned’ for more information about the Regional District’s project to monitor sustainability.

CONCLUSION

The Sustainability Workshop was a successful event that generated a high degree of resident enthusiasm and support for advancing regional sustainability.

The Workshop was designed to raise public awareness about sustainability and to obtain public feedback regarding sustainability. Participant evaluation form feedback submitted by 93 of the approximately 150 participants indicates that the objectives of the Workshop were achieved.

- 78% of the participants that submitted evaluation forms strongly agreed or agreed that the Workshop presentations increased their awareness about sustainability;
- 86% of the participants that submitted evaluation forms strongly agreed or agreed that the Workshop presentations increased their awareness about the Regional District of Nanaimo's activities to advance sustainability;
- 98% of the participants that submitted evaluation forms strongly agreed or agreed that the Workshop provided them an opportunity to share their perspectives about the sustainability of the Regional District of Nanaimo;
- The most liked aspects of the Workshop include the speakers, the amount and variety of different opportunities to express personal perspectives and learn about the perspectives of other participants, and logistics;
- The most disliked aspects of the Workshop include noise and the relatively low number of participants under the age of 35 in comparison to the number of participants over the age of 35, and logistics;
- The aspects of the Workshop that participants would like to see changed the most include noise (reduce the number of participants, use break-out rooms for small group work, rent a facility with better acoustics), and length (shorten, lengthen).

The Sustainability Workshop is one of the key 'deliverables' of the State of Sustainability Project. Participant perspectives received at the Workshop will be used as a source of information in the Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee's work to develop indicators of regional sustainability.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: SMALL GROUP FACILITATORS

The small group facilitators at the Sustainability Workshop included Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee (RGMAC) members, Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) staff, and other volunteers. The following provides a list of the small group facilitators.

| Last Name | First Name | RGMAC/ RDN / Volunteer |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Anderson | Brian | RGMAC |
| Anderson | Douglas | RGMAC |
| Bartram | Director David | RGMAC |
| Buckingham | Gordon | RGMAC |
| Chow | Jeff | Volunteer |
| Collins | Betty | RGMAC |
| Connelly | Neil | RDN |
| Crowder | Jean | Volunteer |
| Daniels | Kelly | RDN |
| Farooq | Janet | RGMAC |
| Holdom | Director Bill | RGMAC |
| Lapham | Bob | RDN |
| Mason | Carol | RDN |
| McKillop | Adele | RGMAC |
| Peterson | Ross | RGMAC |
| Thomas | Christina | RDN |
| Thomson | Sharon | RGMAC |



APPENDIX B: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| Last Name | First Name | Municipality or Electoral Area |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Abbey | Norman | Nanaimo |
| Alix | Jim | Nanaimo |
| Antonelli | Alice | H |
| Aquino | David | Nanaimo |
| Avis | Councillor Barry | Qualicum Beach |
| Backhouse | Doug | Nanaimo |
| Bakker | Joanne | Lantzville |
| Barltrop | Barbara | D |
| Bibby | Director Pauline | E |
| Bigg | Michelle | Nanaimo |
| Bintner | Bernard | Nanaimo |
| Bolin | Ron | Nanaimo |
| Bolin | Greg | Nanaimo |
| Bolin | Inge | Nanaimo |
| Bonner | Lynne | Other |
| Boyle | Savanna | Nanaimo |
| Buckingham | Stephanie | E |
| Campbell | Mary Ellen | Parksville |
| Carpenter | Donna | Parksville |
| Chandler | Dale | F |
| Clermont | Holly | E |
| Coles | Mindy | Nanaimo |
| Cooper | Sheila | Nanaimo |
| Cooper | Glen | G |
| Copas | Anne | H |
| Corbett | Tracy | Other |
| Cormie | Susan | Lantzville |
| Cornish | Carol | Parksville |
| Crossley | Jim | Parksville |
| Crucil | Frank | Nanaimo |
| Currie | Tim | Nanaimo |
| Dabb | Sallie | F |
| Dagsaan | Ed | Nanaimo |
| Dalgaard | Darcy | Qualicum Beach |
| Dawe | Neil K. | Parksville |
| Douville | Kevin | Nanaimo |
| Eddy | Diane | H |
| Eddy | Nelson | H |
| Elmore | Joyce | Nanaimo |
| Eno | Dustin | Qualicum Beach |
| Feick | Betty | Lantzville |
| Forrington | Lisa | Nanaimo |
| Fuller | Ron | Nanaimo |
| Funk | Dolores | Nanaimo |
| Garnish | Frank | A |

APPENDIX B: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS – CONT.

| Last Name | First Name | Municipality or Electoral Area |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Geselbracht | Mike | Nanaimo |
| Gesner | Kelly | Other |
| Gourlay | Jock | A |
| Gourlay | Shelagh | A |
| Green | Martyn | Nanaimo |
| Griffin | Dorothy | Qualicum Beach |
| Haddock | Peter | Nanaimo |
| Haddock | Mavis | Nanaimo |
| Haddow | Wayne | Other |
| Hamilton | Director Elaine | C |
| Hargrave | Connie | Nanaimo |
| Hawryzki | Allan R. | Nanaimo |
| Hedges | Maurice E. | E |
| Heikkila | Rick | Nanaimo |
| Henderson | Marilyn | E |
| Hendrickson | Dave | Nanaimo |
| Hood | Theresa | Nanaimo |
| House | Kerri | Nanaimo |
| Humphreys | Shirley | E |
| Humphreys | Reg | E |
| Humphries | Amelia | F |
| Huston | Shelagh | Nanaimo |
| Jackson | Barb | Nanaimo |
| Jessen | Michael | G |
| Kofoed | Sharon | Nanaimo |
| Kreiberg | Director Henrik | A |
| Kruyt | Councillor Anton | Qualicum Beach |
| Kuhn | Egon | G |
| Lambert | Mike | Nanaimo |
| Laughland | John | Parksville |
| Lawry | Paul | Nanaimo |
| LeBlanc | Gerard | Other |
| Lefebvre | Councillor Marc | Parksville |
| Legg | George | Nanaimo |
| Lemmon | Will | H |
| Levesque | Claude | Parksville |
| Lewis | Larry E. | E |
| Longmuir | Director Randy | Parksville |
| Mansell | John | F |
| Mansell | Barbara | F |
| McKay | John | Nanaimo |
| McNabb | Director Larry | Nanaimo |
| McWhinnie | Carolyn R. | Nanaimo |
| Mohamed | Kirk | Nanaimo |
| Morrow | Susan | E |
| Moss | Jack | Lantzville |
| Mueller | Brent | Other |

APPENDIX B: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS – CONT.

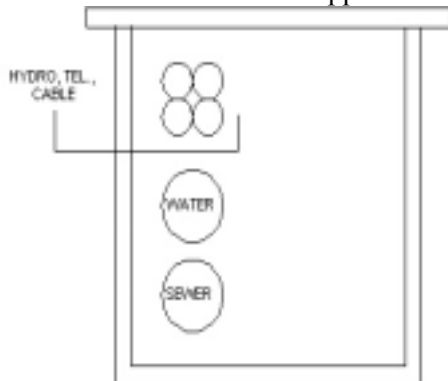
| Last Name | First Name | Municipality or Electoral Area |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mussell | Jay | Other |
| Osborn | Andrea | Nanaimo |
| Osborn | Louise | Nanaimo |
| Oud | Kathie | Nanaimo |
| Paterson | Daphne | Nanaimo |
| Pavan | Carlo | Nanaimo |
| Robinson | Robin | G |
| Robinson | Sandy | Parksville |
| Roi | Larrie | F |
| Rose | Jane | Nanaimo |
| Salkeld | Matthew | Parksville |
| Schmidt | Sarah | Nanaimo |
| Scott | Dave | E |
| Scott | Councillor David | Lantzville |
| Shepherd | George | Other |
| Sherry | Director Loyd | Nanaimo |
| Smith | Faye | Qualicum Beach |
| Spears | Greg | E |
| Spotswood | Mel | E |
| Spyce | Tera | Nanaimo |
| Strand | Linda | Parksville |
| Tak | Leo | Lantzville |
| Tanner | Councillor Scott | Qualicum Beach |
| Tanner | Annette | Qualicum Beach |
| Taylor | Greta | H |
| Telfer | Andy | Qualicum Beach |
| Tennent | Gary | H |
| Thompson | Dave | Nanaimo |
| Turk | Karen | E |
| Turner | H.J. (Jim) | Qualicum Beach |
| Van Eynde | Frank | E |
| Veenstra | Roberta | Nanaimo |
| Vincent | David | A |
| Whelan | Nancy | Qualicum Beach |
| Wicks | Trevor | F |
| Wytenbroek | Lynn | Nanaimo |
| Young | Craig | Qualicum Beach |

APPENDIX C: OPEN SPACE ISSUE DISCUSSION – DISCUSSION RESULTS

Participant comments regarding fourteen sustainability topics were received as a part of the “Open Space Issue” component of the Sustainability Workshop. Small group facilitators recorded the perspectives expressed by individuals about the topic being discussed at each table on a flipchart. The following provides a verbatim transcript of the flipchart notes. Each bulleted item represents the perspective of one or more of the discussion participants and does not constitute a consensus perspective of all the participants involved in the discussion at the table.

1. NEXT STEPS

- Recognition that both economic and social (health) systems only exist upon environmental systems.
- Baseline information and monitoring of all ecosystems are the primary indicators for state of sustainability.
- Clearly defining the carrying capacity of the subject environment is fundamental to giving direction to sustainability as a goal.
- Need commitment that resources will be made available for obtaining good information on food supply, habitat to maintain biodiversity, water supply.
- Better understanding of roles of the various levels of government relating to areas of responsibility.
- Redistribution of areas of responsibility.
- Storm water management practices.
- Infrastructure / service line approach to include all services within conduit.



- Need to inventory human resources / expertise that is available locally.
- Review / restructure systems to reflect sustainability goals, e.g. improve accountability, clarify roles province, RDN.
- Public education on best practices, e.g. business practices blended with environment / sustainability perspectives.
- Environmental and social values taken into account in cost/benefit analyses.
- Comprehensive “green” building strategy.
- Influence federal government, e.g. repackaging and recycling.
- Need models for sustainability that work for different groups / communities.
- Review what communities in the region are undertaking relative to sustainability.
- Adoption of the “precautionary principle” as government policy.
- Need to recognize that “we are all in this together” and the need to recognize mutual benefits.
- Need to better understand the linkages / relationship between the environment and social and economic systems with a recognition of the fundamental importance of the environment to life.
- Communities need to take control from governments that may have different agendas.

- Need on-the-ground examples of best practices.
- Need to recognize natural limiting factors, carrying capacity.
- Solutions to fix one problem, creates other problems in different areas.
- Need to revise building codes, water saving devices.
- Big picture approach and agreement on which values, environmental economic and social should take precedence, e.g. lighting, fertilization.
- Lack of accountability on enforcement of rules.
- Short-term goals relate to profitability, how does the RDN advance long-term sustainability goals that may conflict with shorter-term economic interests?
- Long-term process, takes time for buy in, education, benefits to be recognized and for change to take place, e.g. recycling, Power Smart.
- Need to embrace the concept of “green tax shifting”.
- Improve education and awareness, public and elected officials, bureaucrats, staff.
- Decisions based on sustainability values, not political, shorter-term interests.
- Replace RDN senior managers.
- Figure out how to share resources.

2. FOOD / AGRICULTURAL SELF SUFFICIENCY

- Fruit trees and food production species to be used for landscaping in new developments, i.e. fruit trees in medians.
- Promote:
 - Farmers markets
 - Local groceries to buy local
 - Encourage consumption of local products
 - Accessible markets wrt (?) time / location
- Promote local processing of local products.
- Agricultural courses at schools; gardens at schools.
- Local food production = local employment.
- Do Not Rezone Agricultural Land (honour Urban Containment Boundaries).
- Less golf courses (i.e. uses ALR land).
- Enforce / honour Urban Containment Boundaries.
- Inventory available Agricultural land.
- New Farming is different (knowledge based).
- Farming is unaffordable.
- Make farming economical.
- Encourage farm use on smaller acreages closer to urban areas.
- Competition for water.
- Encourage use of non-potable water alternatives for agricultural uses.
- Awareness of water conservation to ensure sufficient water for agriculture.
- Promote community gardens.
- Public ownership of large agricultural lands to preserve/promote agriculture.
- Fitting gardens into seniors’ developments.
- Generate/encourage waste composting to create soils.
- Create Agricultural Advisory Committee for RDN (refer Comox/Strathcona model).
- Government is accountable to honour urban containment boundaries.
- Aging farming population.
- Linking land to younger farmers (sharing) (depend on college, schools, seniors, volunteers).
- Urban agriculture – integrate seniors/youth (addresses social concerns).
- Look at tax concessions (incentives) for farms, hobby farms.
- Incentives for urban developments with growing / garden area (i.e. raised beds).
- Density bonusing.
- Make agriculture a separate component of RGS – recognize agriculture separately.

- Raise percentage of agricultural land and/or local food supply each year.
- Create farming cooperatives.
- Proper proportion of land size (acres) and ALR exemptions.
- Stronger relationship between ALR and RDN.
- *** Agriculture MUST be * in RGS.**
- Improve process / relations between jurisdictions.
- Energy efficiency and diversity in agriculture and agriculture production.
- Encourage energy friendly activities.
- Keep land in production / encourage local ownership.
- Have DCC's used positively for agricultural lands.
- Generate awareness of relationship between health and agriculture (connection).
- Relationship between agriculture and disaster planning.
- Allow chickens on lots less than an acre in City.

3. ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

- Wind, solar water, geothermal – needs financial incentives; expensive for individual homes.
- Orientation of buildings.
- Use of common day/night transit bus at all times.
- Photo voltaic(?) – Sun.
- Geo exchange * similar for heating.
- Zero emission steam technology – high end of scale.
- Net metre – self generated energy – gets info system and bill reduced.
- Wave energy.
- Tidal energy.
- How much wind do we really have?
- Wind energy – Holberg – NVI energy projects.
- Biomass – Cold River.
- (Nuclear power) No! Too short-lived and explosive.
- Small scale hydroelectricity – N.B. 100 homes on water supply – China Creek, Port Alberni – not large, new infrastructure from mainland.
- BC Hydro vested interest.
- Deregulation effects – government role.
- Natural gas plant - needed
- not needed
- Meters – use times, peak times pricing.
- We have enough energy sources to satisfy our needs if used.
- Capture methane from waste processing plants, mix with natural gas to generate electricity – Nanaimo landfill facility.
- Energy is too cheap now to stimulate alternatives.
- Small water heaters in homes – heat as use.
- Passive solar building design to maximize use of own heat. – Building Code issue.
- Lower energy use equipment in homes, etc.
- No energy exploration in Georgia Straits.
- Power factor correction – large scale OK. Small scale?
- Tax or incentive for fuel efficient vehicles.
- Alternative fuels, ethanol, etc., etc.
- Imperative to make transition from gas/oil to other forms of energy (agreed by group as ‘urgent’).
- Need education on energy alternatives feasibility, e.g. solar energy use in Germany with less sun than here.
- Load management system per house to detect when energy ↓, switch off equipment.
- User pay system – too cheap now?

- Heat exchange systems in buildings and houses.
- BC Hydro requires liability insurance for new hydro-electric projects - too high barrier to new development – for connection to grid.
- Energy generation never to use – less loss on route.
- Methane generation from landfills.
- Green roofs.

4. CULTURAL AWARENESS

- Individual awareness.
 - Information / learning.
 - Stimulate cultural memory
 - evocation of communities
 - ↓
 - will assist understanding of sustainability.
 - Biosphere centre to be vehicle for this – tell the story.
 - Schism among ages – need more mixed income neighbourhoods.
 - Biosphere centre can help (opportunities for student initiatives)
 - N.B. Biosphere centre (proposed)
 - links with schools / MUC, post secondary institutions, 1st nations, environmental organizations, governments
 - assist economic development
 - focus for influencing regional policy.
 - Biosphere centre:
 - Become a regional cultural asset – attract and stabilize businesses
 - Recreation / education
 - Can assist regional sustainability.
 - *Educational leadership needed for cultural sustainability.
 - e.g. MUC – horticultural sustainability
 - *Need more than traditional education system to effectively integrate different ages and cultures into community.
 - Need to reinforce meaningful identify
 - “It takes a neighbourhood to raise a child”.
 - *Introduce into schools, more local content for:
 - environment
 - culture
 - history.
- e.g. * Involve students in data collection for cultural / history research.

5. RURAL INTEGRITY (LAND USE)

- Rural planning and open space.
- Land use enforcement.
- Rural land use for agricultural purposes.
- Servicing to rural residential land.
- How do you protect rural integrity? (quality of life)
 - Green belts between clusters.
 - Respect property owner rights.
 - Form and function.
 - Stop further subdivision.
 - Carrying capacity of land.
 - Educate people to acceptable land use.

- Size of urban containment boundary for services.
- Protect Crown Land.
- Protect Agricultural Land Reserve.
- Purchase public owned parkland.
- Economic conditions can encourage changes to rural integrity.
- Affordable seniors housing.

6. TRANSPORTATION

- All of us arrived here by ??
(incl. Our lunch) _____
Common theme of building _____
A nation is transportation _____.
- Decline of fossil fuels reallocation – hydrogen fuel cells.
- Pollution tax – vs congestion tax, i.e. more polluting vehicle – pay more.
- Care free core.
- Transportation corridors dictate development.
- Impact of technology.
- Technology affects our usage of transportation.
- This will affect the development of our communities.
- Today's decisions determine tomorrow's transportation modes.
- Electric urban transit (trams, trolleys) on dedicated routes.
- Save the E&N Railroad and develop for electric (or other efficient) energy uses for goods and people.
- Movement of students to and from their institutions, e.g. School District 69.
- Also all the goods and services.
- Rethink the transportation syndrome (think out of the box).
- Raise public awareness of the actual subsidies and true costs – triple bottom line: social – ecological – economic.
- Government incentives to make the right purchase.
- Technology – newer, lighter, lower horse power vehicles – personal choices.
Make the right choices (non-SUV, low pollution, not travelling, etc.) (may be less costly), the easy choices:
 - lower cost
 - less congestion/frustration/more enjoyable
- This will take affirmative action:
 - replacing car lanes with bike lanes and sidewalks
 - making car (SUV) drivers pay proportionately more
 - not increasing the number of car lanes.
- Educating people to make the right choice and healthy public policy (affirmative action).
- Reduce propaganda on independent, big, powerful fuel inefficient cars (SUV's and trucks).
- Pro-active policies – public transportation should serve the population centres

7. GOVERNANCE

- Knowledge of how governance works (or doesn't).
- Who is responsible? Provincial? Regional? Municipal?
- Governance is not just 'government'.
- How do citizens fit into the process?
- How can we have influence into the process?
- How do we get information on what's going on?
- Continuing mechanism for communication, input and obtaining information.
- Elected officials must communicate with the public regularly on ongoing development projects/and be knowledgeable.

- Government decision doesn't always seem to reflect community input.
- Government decision-making not always transparent.
- Need dialogue and full explanation of why decisions have been made – feedback loop to encourage dialogue.
- Good to have planner within community during OCP process in electoral areas.
- Prefer ongoing presence of planner in community (e.g. once/week) for continued communication.
- Should the presence in community by Director?/vs staff planner.
- Directors are most responsible level of elected official (Regional District), more so than municipal elected officials.
- Need lots of information early in the process for land use application.
- Must build a network of ongoing relationships with all levels of government/agencies within communities before large issues arise.
- More information on long-term plans/existing amenities should be communicated by real estate agents prior to transaction.
- Shared responsibility for 'buyer beware'.
- Buyers should be able to access long-term plans, should know where to look for information.
- How do we mobilize government, i.e. local government → influence provincial government → influence federal government to affect change – example → compostable toilets?
- What is the role of public servants vs elected representatives?
- What is the role of the citizen in facilitating sustainability?

8. WATER – QUALITY AND QUANTITY

- How much have we got?
- When is it available (seasonable)?
- Water is a constraint to growth.
- Should not build industry on aquifer.
- Look ahead at our needs in the next 50-100 years and set aside land.
- Protect water supply areas (from contamination).
- Are dams the answer? (No!)
- Evaporation, air pollution, spraying.
- Restrict industry with high water demand.
- Reduce consumption – provide incentives.
- Charge for actual cost of water – meters – price.
- Substitution factor. Industry may drill well if charged too much for surface water.
- #1 *groundwater legislation is needed*.
- Define water treatment – not just chlorination.
- Encourage water recycling with buildings, e.g. 2-pipe system at Kingfisher Resort and New Mt. Washington Lodge.
- Alternative wastewater treatment techniques, e.g. solar aquatic systems ← mobile home park near Englishman River.
- Alternative stormwater management.
- More innovative rules – change legislation – health agencies – for alternatives (should be results based) in wastewater treatment, e.g. no coliform
- Identify risk factors in water supply.
- Water testing should be more comprehensive, e.g. not just coliform.
- What is quality of water we are putting back into the ocean?
- What is impact of coastal development on marine environment?
- Need more comprehensive watershed management.
 - not just source to tap
 - need to look at whole cycle, e.g. source to tap to discharge to recharge
 - land use impact

- impact of recreation uses
- monitoring of septic systems and fields is needed → inspection?
- Should be regulation on wheels
- Educate public about local water cycle and impact of development – personal actions of fertilizer, dog poop, etc. – non-point sources.
- Protect water supply - intakes above habitation.

9. DEVELOPMENT (HOUSING / WATERFRONT)

- Too much tree clearing (development).
- Commercial / industrial buildings next to lakes (Long Lake / Diver). Pressure on Westwood Lake.
- Project height vs view corridors and green spaces.
- High density vs low density.
- Density's affect on neighbourhood.
- Planning of land use to fit needs and nature.
- Waterfront access for industry vs actual waterfront.
- Comprehensive plan for waterfront vs spot development.
- Environmentally sound.
- Use indigenous plants.
- Community groups – Streamkeepers.
- Protection of waterfront / lakes / oceans for public access.
- Cannot develop for one purpose only – multi-use – mix.
- Limited transportation by design for mixed uses.
- Conflict – use of cars vs space / sprawl.
- NIMBY^{“ism”}
- Is high density ahead of its time?
- Density development means a loss of personal freedom.
- SFD's tax base (SPRAWL) does not support infrastructure upgrades.
- Performance based regulations prescriptive based regulations stymie innovation – keep status quo.
- Innovation – adaptation is not encouraged.
- Changes drive up costs.
- Leadership needed to further the plan where it may be unpopular but be the right thing.
- Shift from the letter of the law to the intent of the law.
- Strive for demographic mix.
- Vitality.

10. RECREATION

- Equal opportunity for urban and rural participation / access.
- Redistribute the taxes.
- Transportation for kids to access recreation facilities (in urban centres).
- More spaces (e.g. baseball) for non-organized use, i.e. not booked by groups – open to all.
- Need to run Parks & Recreation programmers outside urban areas.
- Information to encourage use of local hiking and biking trails.
- Cedar area (for example) needs better transportation (more buses) and lower cost (free) for seniors to access recreation.
- Some level of government to take recreational programmers out to rural communities.
- Often recreation is not sustainable because we drive so far to reach it.
- All outdoor recreation is important for social health → sustainable community.
- Recreation leads to more time outdoors, which leads to better awareness of nature and environment → sustainability.
- More sustainable to maintain and repair existing facility than to build new ones.

- Don't waste money by "saving" on initial construction when the result cannot be used much of the winter.

11. RURAL LAND USE

- Growth Strategy – names and functions changed; RGS map should be changed.
- Where is land used for agriculture (map). Not necessarily ALR land (i.e. ALR land not necessarily used for agriculture; has potential for agriculture. Initial designation was 'course'.
- ALR land acted as boundary for urban growth; therefore served useful control.
- Opportunity to use land for food productions; important to look down road – reserve space for food production.
- Purchase of ALR land, then one house built – not used for agriculture.
- Development having effect on rural land which is significant for aquifer recharge: narrow land development along coast all dependent on aquifer recharge.
- Rural land use (control) important in maintaining water quality in aquifers (e.g. dumping waste).
- Ground water not managed.
- Need more observation wells.
- Existing land uses that need to be improved to protect water quality and streams.
- Crown land inventory underway.
- Community watershed protection bylaws by local government would be important to protect supply.
- Re point on last page – **important** --: need to implement land use controls / practices that protect surface and ground water.
- Recreate provincial water management program.
- Implement guidelines for protection of streams (distance of development from creek; practices).
- How to help decision makers re ALR use (change):
 - agriculture advisory committee to local government.
- Help farmers with increased knowledge (education) among urban residents of value/opportunities for agriculture.
- Good things: (example) urban containment boundary.
- Wildlife corridors around between communities.

12. HOUSING (AFFORDABLE / SUSTAINABLE)

- Realistic:
- Should we increase the setback requirements from streams?
- Should people living beside environmentally sensitive areas be expected to provide some stewardship?
- Building a house – with renewable resources, not environmentally hazardous materials.
- How to we reward those who build responsibly? (Now, they are paying a penalty.)
- Use sustainable utilities in homes – more affordable – hot water (solar) -- waste water (recycled).
- Trades training and retraining programs should include sustainability training. Also public sector services (to engineering departments.)
- Respond to climatic changes – build into buildings.
- Consider controlled burns, as in Australia, to prevent uncontrolled fires.
- Do we need a large model of a sustainable housing development to reveal its advantages? (Has to pay for itself.)
- Education programs required for builders / developers.
- Examine and revise legislation prohibiting use of "grey water". – recycling of all domestic excess and sewage water.
- Issue brochure of alternative (green) building materials at time of issuing building permit.
- Consider tax relief / fee relief to those building more responsibly.
- Secondary suites may be an example of affordable housing – may also contribute to SUSTAINABILITY.

- Who takes the lead in building affordable housing?
- Must be demonstration projects as part of the education. Where? Downtown? Rural?
- Many Australian examples – “Sustainable House: Michael Mobbs.
- Energy issues in housing:
 - PowerSmart
 - Solar panels – sell excess to grid (if any)
 - Store in battery.
- Set targets NOW. Include a timetable of implementation.
- Housing policies should reduce traffic and address social / health issues (respiratory, etc.)
- We are still sprawling – transit doesn’t work.
- Densification is good for environment.
- Current housing takes up too much space, is energy inefficient, and uses non-renewable materials.

13. INCENTIVES FOR GREEN

- Industrial incentives.
- Individual incentives – the way you live.
- Waste management incentives.
- Regional and financial support for ‘green’ businesses.
- Reduction of taxes for emerging green industries.
- Recycle ‘everything’.
- Waste management in the home and in the community - incentives to streamline.
- Improve social and economic areas so that focus can be on green.
- Promote less use of packaging by identifying that to businesses, e.g. leaving excess packaging there.
- Provide financial incentive to residents that build to use solar, gray water systems, e.g. no hydro tax or base rate for non-usage.
- RDN to allow / develop ‘pilot projects’ for green possibilities – gray water residential, alternate sewer systems, greenhouses.
- Neighbourhood recycle efforts rewarded by RDN-reduced garbage cost.
- Tie employment, business starts green and financial incentives.
- Eliminate subsidies for petroleum industry.
- Incentives for developers / construction to use GREEN improvements, e.g. 6 litre toilet.
- Supply items like 6 l. toilets vs spend \$\$ on new treatment facilities.
- Make manufacturers responsible for product for its entire life cycle.
- Cost items include disposal.
- Have periods where a resource isn’t available.
- Efficient street lights to reduce usage / cost – hooded, solar, infrared sensors.
- Encourage industry to take ownership of their products / usage, e.g. buy carpet / replace / company takes away old. Same with computers. Manufacturer is recycling.
- Paradigm shift for industries from production of tangibles to intangibles.

14. HOLISTIC CONVERSATION

- Consider steady state vs growth based model.
- If our water supply supports 30,000 people don’t let more than this come.
- Psychologically there are limits to growth – there’s a bias to growth.
- What is wrong with steady state.
- No wealth generated, no work in steady state.
- No wealth, making a living that’s it – wealth I’m talking about is quick, speculative wealth (e.g. 20 acres subdivide – you gambled that population would increase).
- Why do we have to have growth?
- Recycling, roads, etc. is only necessary if we grow.

- Growth? ~ or ----- which is realistic?
- We don't support the people we have now on the island, they're supported by Ottawa.
- Tourism is the industry here.
- Tourism = selling something.
- Need to sell more than beaches.
- Need beaches for tourism.
- Need trees for tourism.
- Growth can be maintained at a certain level.
- We need to be more self-sufficient on the island, e.g. food.
- More people managing resources – forest companies, control resource. Province does not let municipalities control.
- Encourage forestry companies to interact with communities.
- Water supply dependent on rainfall – unable to control dry years.
- Can't grow without bringing water in to local areas. Can only build so many houses. Could use less water / grow but what if drought.
- People can move if resources limited in local areas.
- May not have single-family houses in future – only for the rich.
- If standard of living is good around world population growth may stabilize.
- What kind of waste management systems will we need to accommodate growth?
- Interest in high tech treatment plants for individual homes.
- Density match site capability – some septic systems work, some don't.
- Interest in biological treatment of waste with plants.
- Change way we make decisions; more cooperation in decision-making – based on issues.
- Change culture.
- Growth model not cooperative model.
- Not partisan political model – cooperative entrepreneurship – smaller scale.
- Individual woodlots vs large forest units – evergreen policy.
- Symbiosis and cooperation vs “survival of the fittest”.
- Major social issues on streets in Nanaimo - gap between rich and poor.
- Lack of mixed communities – based more on income levels.
- Gated or segregated communities will increase gap.
- Can you achieve sustainability with capitalism.
- Poverty is sustainable. Capitalism? Is it sustainable? (Jack London's *Iron Heel*, 1902).
- More internal flows, less export of raw logs, more greenhouses on Island, export less.
- Reclaim natural resources.
- Buy back watersheds.
- Should we have to buy back our Crown Land? Don't sell all of the Crown Land.
- Buffer protect settlement areas.

15. HOLISTIC CONVERSATION

- Aspects like spirituality – more nebulous aspects of sustainability.
- How balance; fit pieces together.
- Proportions are critical - economics has to be a subset – economy cannot be big driving piece.
- Work often done in silos – N.B. to merge and mesh.
- Require leadership to sell to public and to integrate 3 legs of stool.
- Communities will differ → need to find own balance → will be different points on spectrum.
- Define where we are now, e.g. percent on welfare; structural issues – serious economic problems.
- Becoming more polarized.
- Divergence of sub-communities, e.g. retired, stop further growth once I've moved in.
- Community needs to examine needs → social, environmental, economic.
- Community has to have diverse choices for lifestyles.

- Need grants for alternative transit, energy.
- Need to educate to be happy with less quantity and more quality.
- Malaspina → huge asset.
- Show the repercussions and start with young people to increase awareness of consequences, e.g. computer model.
- Success of recycling program.
- Get young people involved → not enough here today at workshop – 20-35 year olds.
- What is market? Business will target community economic status.
- What can city do – big stores versus local business.
- What examples as citizens + how are our leaders leading.
- Challenges with unlearning our behaviour, e.g. want curbs and gutters.
- Dominated by cars.
- Costs globally – on community wide basis – impacts; cost savings.
- Bring tax to protect environment but educate why doing it.
- World economy – our standard of living is not sustainable or fair.
- Definition of quality of life.
- Doing nothing is not an option – we must take action.
- “I’m okay” – How are we going to make sure everyone is okay (plus the planet)?
- Our kids have to leave our community for work.
- Need a livable wage.
- Too much unemployment, under-employment.
- Recreation in community.
- Multi-generational housing (European example).
- Communities have experience in mobilizing.
- Green housing, e.g. shopping, office, housing all in one unit; solar and water efficient – garden on roof.
- Revitalize downtown Nanaimo with green, affordable housing (cut down on transportation, have food).
- Economy – attract capital focused on jobs; entrepreneurs.
- Stimulate local economy – focus on local business – keep money circulating in community.
- Human capital – have a lot to offer – engage them.
- Vision, goals will help attract the entrepreneurs – what do we want to attract – “creatives”?
- Financial investment in home based business – need a community commitment.
- Find ways to stimulate.
- Co-op homes; co-op transportation; co-op work – could this be a theme? A tool?
- Do a pilot; education people.
- Habitat for Humanity example.
- If RDN has policy – grants, tax incentives to encourage.
- Recognize and encourage economic drivers to bring new money to community.
- RDN needs to recognize what these look like and facilitate.
- Be pro-active not reactionary – e.g. can’t re-use grey water.
- Educate Council.
- RDN can control environment - covers whole area → all of the above has to tie into environment → balance.
- Look at development and bylaws.

16. HOLISTIC CONVERSATION

- Must find ways of accommodating growth and preserving what was there before.
- Why do we have to continue to accommodate growth and when do we stop?
- We need the hard data on impacts of development in order to make choices.
- We must distinguish between “liveability” and “sustainability”.

- We must re-evaluate all our assumptions on human settlement, the way we live and how we define liveability and devise a new paradigm
- We must define the carrying capacity of our region.
- We must have more sophisticated info / data on the impacts and sustainability of our choices before decisions are made that impact our long-term sustainability.
- Growth Management Plan assumption of managing growth needs to change to understanding the sustainability of the region and then defining the level of population we should sustain in the region.
- Indicators in growth strategy should focus on indicators of sustainability.
- Focus on educating the young in understanding the importance of understanding impacts of our decisions on sustainability.
- We need to understand that we have a responsibility to the planet as a whole.