



Corporate Report

NO: R118

COUNCIL DATE: May 28, 2007

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: May 22, 2007
FROM: Acting General Manager, Planning and Development FILE: 6950-30
(Sustainability Charter)
SUBJECT: Sustainability Charter - Phase I Results

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Endorse the working definition of "sustainability" for the development of the Surrey Sustainability Charter, as follows:

"Sustainability is the principle of meeting the needs of the present generation in terms of the environment, the economy and social systems while promoting a high quality of life, but without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs";
3. Endorse the scope of items for consideration in the creation of a "made in Surrey" Sustainability Charter, as described in this report, as a basis for Phase II of the Sustainability Charter process;
4. Endorse *Sustainable Surrey* as the working theme for the Sustainability Charter development process; and
5. Direct staff to proceed with Phase II of the Sustainability Charter process and to report back to Council with a draft Sustainability Charter and a list of proposed implementation options.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to report to Council with the results of Phase I of the Sustainability Charter process, to provide information on the Sustainability Fair scheduled for June 8 and 9, 2007 at SFU, Surrey Campus, and to outline the work which will be undertaken in the next phase of the preparation of a "made in Surrey" Sustainability Charter.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Surrey's Official Community Plan ("OCP") contains a comprehensive set of policies and guidelines intended to promote sustainability and protect the environment. The creation of complete, compact and energy efficient communities, supported by a range of transportation alternatives developed using sustainable design and construction practices, is a key direction in the OCP. Best environmental practices, promotion of a sustainable economy and support for social well-being in the City are also addressed in the OCP.

While Surrey has a range of high level sustainability and environmental policies, there are few guidelines and targets associated with achieving these policies. Sustainability principles are not yet systematically applied in City operations and "triple bottom line" accounting practices, which consider economic, social and environmental factors, are not always applied to City practices or projects. The adoption and implementation of a Sustainability Charter presents the opportunity to fundamentally change how we do business in many of the City's operations.

BACKGROUND

On October 30, 2006, Council received Corporate Report No. R227, entitled "Development of a Sustainability Charter", and directed staff, in conjunction with the Environmental Advisory Committee, to proceed with the following three phased process:

- Phase I – Definition of Sustainability and Charter Scope;
- Phase II – Development of Sustainability Charter/Implementation Options; and
- Phase III – Development of an Implementation Strategy.

The Sustainability Charter is intended to address three key areas:

- Incorporating sustainability practices into corporate operations;
- Adopting sustainability practices in areas under direct municipal jurisdiction, such as land use regulation, development approval, transportation planning and green buildings; and
- Promoting sustainability in areas that affect the City, but are under the jurisdiction of other levels of government or the private sector, such as provincial highways, building codes and federal/provincial infrastructure programs, and the implementation of sustainable practices in development and construction.

DISCUSSION

Work Completed to Date

The first phase of the project, including the following steps, is now substantially complete:

- An Interdepartmental Steering Committee has been formed, which brings together a comprehensive range of existing staff expertise in sustainability, including environmental and habitat management, social and cultural programming, economic

development, green infrastructure, alternative transportation systems, sustainable building design and Smart Growth land use planning practices. The Committee has reviewed the scope of a proposed Sustainability Charter, and is coordinating departmental roles and responsibilities in the process, including support for the Sustainability Fair and departmental contributions to the development of the Sustainability Charter and the Implementation Plan;

- This extensive internal staff expertise has been supplemented by research into how sustainability policies are currently being addressed in other jurisdictions and organizations, how best practices in sustainability have been implemented and which indicators and sustainability checklists are in common use;
- Two workshops have been conducted with the Environmental Advisory Committee (the "EAC") to review the definition of sustainability, the scope of the Sustainability Charter, and the overall process, including public and stakeholder involvement in the development of the Sustainability Charter. The EAC recommended that a public steering committee for the process involve the EAC, representatives of key City advisory committees, representing economic, social and cultural interests, and a community group involved in sustainability. It was decided that feedback from other community stakeholders, on the various process phases, would be solicited through questionnaires and that the general public should be involved through an open house to review proposals for the Sustainability Charter;
- Presentations on the Sustainability Charter process have been made to the City' advisory committees and their initial input has been sought;
- A webpage for the process and an e-mail address for feedback has been created on the City's website;
- A list of community stakeholder groups has been compiled, a letter introducing the Sustainability Charter process and soliciting feedback on Phase I scope issues has been issued to over 65 community groups, organizations and interest groups, and 25 of these community organizations have provided written responses; and
- A Sustainability Fair has been organized for June 8 and 9, 2007, at SFU, Surrey Campus, to provide the public with background information on sustainability issues, to engage the community in a discussion on a vision for a sustainable City and to solicit feedback for the development of the Sustainability Charter and implementation options.

Summary of Public Feedback

Over 65 community associations, business associations and stakeholder groups with social, environmental and economic interests were asked to provide their organization's interest in sustainability, what definition they use for sustainability and what scope the Sustainability Charter should address. Twenty-five of these community organizations provided written responses. A summary of these responses is included as Appendix I to this report.

Several groups indicated that they were somewhat familiar with sustainability issues, but required more information on how these issues would affect them. To address these concerns, it is proposed that a newsletter be prepared on the process to clarify background information and provide information on the process progress.

Of particular note, in the responses received, was the wide range of issues related to social, environmental and economic sustainability that local groups are involved with and feel should be considered in the development of the Sustainability Charter. Feedback on the definition of sustainability was largely consistent with the current working definition, although some groups suggested an expanded, comprehensive definition, as opposed to the concise definition supported by most stakeholders. Some respondents felt that implementation methods, such as monitoring and triple bottom line accounting, be written directly into the definition. Given that policies and implementation are to be developed in Phases II and III, it was not considered appropriate to include these in the definition. Suggestions received on the proposed scope of the Sustainability Charter have been incorporated into the current working list of scope items described in this report.

Definition of Sustainability

The result of Phase I consultation was that the definition should include a preamble that summarizes the need for a Sustainability Charter and that the commonly used United Nations Brundtland Commission definition of sustainable development be adapted as the basis for Surrey's Sustainability Charter to specifically identify the three main aspects of sustainability and to stress that the achievement of sustainability should be done in the context of improving the quality of life. The preamble would emphasize the importance of sustainability issues and would specify the municipal role in achieving sustainability.

The working definition of sustainability to be used for Surrey's Sustainability Charter development is:

"Sustainability is the principle of meeting the needs of the present generation in terms of the environment, the economy and social systems while promoting a high quality of life, but without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

Identification of Scope

Based on discussions with City advisory committees, community stakeholders and staff, the following scope items, broken down by social, economic and environmental areas, have been identified for consideration in the Sustainability Charter process:

Social

- Corporate Operations:
 - Personnel policies/staff training and awareness; and
 - Promotion of Cultural Diversity in the workplace.
- Municipal Jurisdiction:
 - Plan for Social Well Being of Surrey Residents- Continue to address areas under municipal responsibility;

- Municipal Outreach/Public Education and Awareness (Empowering communities of interest and neighbourhoods, e.g., Nature Matters);
- Support Food Security through local food production;
- Support the preservation of historical and heritage assets;
- Facilitate affordable housing initiatives;
- Public safety and security;
- Undertake initiatives to adapt to the City's demographic changes; and
- Creating a fully accessible City.
- Influencing Others
 - Social Infrastructure and Services - Plan for Social Well Being of Surrey Residents - Continue to seek support for areas under responsibility of other governments;
 - Implement Crime Reduction Strategies;
 - Seek funding for social and special needs housing to meet Surrey's needs;
 - Promote Community Economic Development initiatives; and
 - Coordination with School District 36 - Education on Surrey's Sustainability Issues.

Environmental

- Corporate Operations:
 - Energy efficiency and waste reduction;
 - Vehicle fleet and employee trip reduction programs; and
 - "Green" Procurement Policies – including consultants and contractors.
- Municipal Jurisdiction:
 - Development of Engineering Standards and Practices (e.g., drainage, sewers, water);
 - Land Use Planning and Development (e.g., Transit Oriented Development, Liveable and Walkable Communities);
 - Climate Change Action Plan;
 - Fish and Wildlife Habitat Protection – Bio-diversity strategy; and
 - Public Realm Design: parks, streets, sidewalks, greenway/trail systems.
- Influencing Others:
 - Transit, cycling, HOV Funding from TransLink, Province, Federal Government;
 - Land, water and air quality management;
 - Bio-diversity, Wildlife and Fisheries - Habitat Management Tools and Technical/Financial Assistance; and
 - Urban Forestry Management Programs.

Economic

- Corporate Operations:
 - Infrastructure maintenance and replacement;
 - New and retrofitted buildings and facilities standards; and
 - Sustainable fiscal management practices, e.g., Triple Bottom Line Accounting.
- Municipal Jurisdiction:

- Business Licensing requirements, which promote sustainability;
 - Influencing and educating the Building Industry;
 - Promoting new energy sources and energy security;
 - Promoting high quality of design and development, including integration of energy efficiency and alternative heating and cooling systems into design;
 - Promoting Green Technology development and businesses; and
 - Develop an Economic/Employment/Industrial Lands Strategy.
- Influencing Others:
 - Taxation policies and financial incentives (e.g., Tax Shifting, Carbon Taxes, Energy Efficiency Rebate Programs, Fuel Efficient Vehicle Standards, Distance Based Car Insurance);
 - Retain the Viability of Agricultural and Employment Land Base – Supply Management Instruments;
 - Building/Energy Codes and Standards; and
 - "Green" Infrastructure Grants.

Additions and modification to the proposed Scope of the Sustainability Charter may emanate from the feedback provided at the upcoming Sustainability Fair and from future meetings with City advisory committees and key community stakeholders.

It should be noted that the Sustainability Charter process is to identify and address gaps in sustainability and not to replicate existing initiatives; in particular, the many social, cultural and environmental sustainability initiatives that are currently underway. These initiatives include the Plan for Social Well Being of Surrey Residents, the Crime Reduction Strategy, the Surrey Urban Enrichment Initiative, the implementation of the Surrey Homelessness Fund, the Nature Matters initiatives and Parks, Recreation and Culture 10 Year Master Plan.

Process Theme

Sustainable Surrey is proposed as the working theme for the Sustainability Charter development process and a distinctive logo and graphics for the process has been created.

Key Elements of Background Research

Staff have conducted extensive research on sustainability policy models and practices and have identified a number of key common themes that will be explored in the development of the Sustainability Charter, which include:

Indicators and Targets - Indicators are representative measures, such as the amount of energy used per capita in buildings or the percentage of trips taken by alternative transportation modes, which are in widespread use and allow the monitoring of the progress of sustainability measures. Targets are often associated with the indicators, which allows an organization to look at best practices and decides which are the most appropriate over a defined time period. These could include targets related to the City being "carbon neutral".

"Triple Bottom Line" Accounting Practices – "Triple Bottom Line", which considers social, economic and environmental factors in decision-making processes, as opposed to the traditional "cost benefit" approach.

Sustainability and Smart Growth Checklists - In order to ensure that sustainability practices are implemented, checklists that include a wide range of sustainability factors are becoming a common practice. These can apply to specific sites, major developments or area and City-wide plans.

"Backcasting" - The opposite of "forecasting", many organizations undertake a visioning process that identifies where they would like to be at a point in the near, medium and distant future in order to shape their sustainability policies and practices. They then identify activities that would be undertaken in order to achieve their vision. The GVRD Cities PLUS project, and the Kyoto Agreement, which will lead European Union countries to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions 5% below 1990 levels by 2012, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors agreeing to work towards making building in their cities carbon neutral by 2030, are examples of this approach.

Sustainability Leadership - In organizations where sustainability has become institutionalized, a common theme is the existence of some form of an ongoing oversight structure. This structure can take many forms, such as a network of departmental sustainability committees, annual sustainability monitoring reports, a sustainability coordinator or, in some cases, an entire division dedicated to achieving sustainability in the community.

Sustainability Fair

The Sustainability Fair, planned for June 8 and 9, 2007, at SFU, Surrey Campus, will mark the end of Environment Week. The Sustainability Fair is the public open house for Phase II that will incorporate a number of elements to inform and engage key stakeholders and the general public on sustainability issues in the City. Feedback from the events being held during the Sustainability Fair will be used to inform the development of the Sustainability Charter and implementation options.

The agenda for the Sustainability Fair, which is attached as Appendix II, includes a Friday evening "town hall" event. This event will bring together leading local organizations promoting sustainability to explore visions for a Sustainable Surrey, including representatives of the David Suzuki Foundation, the Fraser Basin Council, the International Centre for Sustainable Cities and VanCity. There is also a full Saturday of events, including a drop-in open house and a series of sustainability workshops on social, environmental and economic themes. A Youth Sustainability Forum will be a highlight of these workshops and will provide an opportunity for youth to express their vision of what a Sustainable Surrey could look like in the future.

A list of the proposed displays and examples of the display materials to be used for the events is included as Appendices III and IV.

Next Steps

The next steps in the process include:

- "Sustainability Fair"– June 8 and 9, 2007 at SFU, Surrey Campus;
- Consultation with related City advisory committees and departments and outreach with key stakeholder groups, such as business, social and environmental groups and external agencies;
- Compilation and analysis of feedback;
- Retention of a consultant with expertise in sustainability to work with staff in the formation of the Sustainability Charter document and implementation strategy;
- Report back to Council on a draft Sustainability Charter, implementation options and the proposed process for Phase III, which is the implementation plan for the Sustainability Charter; and
- Public open house on the draft Sustainability Charter and implementation options.

It is anticipated that Phase II, which includes a proposed Sustainability Charter, will be completed during in September, 2007. Phase III - the implementation strategy for the Sustainability Charter, will be completed by the end of this year.

CONCLUSION

The development of Surrey's first Sustainability Charter is well underway, with Phase I substantially complete, resulting in a definition and scope for the Sustainability Charter, as well as the completion of a public consultation plan that has engaged a wide variety of community stakeholders. With the Sustainability Fair at the beginning of June, Phase II of the process will begin and result in the preparation of a draft Sustainability Charter and the identification of a number of potential implementation options. It is anticipated that the Sustainability Charter and an Implementation Plan will be completed later this year.

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Planning and Development

MA/kms/saw

Attachments:

- Appendix I Summary of Responses from Community Stakeholder Groups
- Appendix II Agenda for Sustainability Fair
- Appendix III List Proposed Display Materials for Sustainability Fair
- Appendix IV Sample of Sustainability Fair Displays

Sustainability Charter – Responses from Community Groups

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS WHO RESPONDED

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT
Nicomekl Enhancement Society	Mr. Ole Rannaoja
A Rocha Canada	Ms. Markku Kostamo
Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society	Dr. Roy Strang
Friends of Semiahmoo Trail	Mr. Ralph Gardner
Surrey Association of Sustainable Communities	Ms. Rosemary Zelinka
Cloverdale Business Improvement Association	Mr. Paul Oraziotti
Community Action Network of White Rock & South Surrey	Ms. Pat Petrala
Cloverdale District Chamber of Commerce	Mr. Ben Wevers
Newton Business Association	Mr. Chris Nelmes
The Green Timbers Heritage Society	Mr. Wady Lehmann and Mr. Peter Maarsman
Surrey Access for All Committee	Mr. Leroy Mickelson
Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society	Ms. Margaret Cuthbert
Fraser Valley Real Estate Board	Ms. Debbie Jay
R.E.S.C.U.E. - Elgin Creek Stewards	Mr. Larry Ramsell
Cloverdale Community Association	Ms. Velma Wilson
Vibrant Surrey	Ms. Louise Hara
Urban Development Institute	Mr. Gordon Dickson
Whalley BIA	Ms. Lesley Tannen
Surrey Environmental Partners	Ms. Deb Jack
Port Kells Community Association	Ms. Darlene Bowyer
Little Campbell Watershed Society	Mr. David Riley
Fraser Heights Community Association	Mr. Ian MacPherson
David Suzuki Foundation	Mr. Panos Grames
Semiahmoo Residents Association	Mr. David Cann
Robson Creek Streamkeepers	Ms. Jannette Maedel

ORGANIZATION'S INTERESTS IN SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

A summary of Comments Received:

Fish Habitats

- All fish and wildlife issues, especially in terms of groundwater, surface water, aquifers and extraction issues
- Restoring wildlife-Coho salmon and trout and water sheds
- Wildlife conservation and habitat maintenance... greenways which provide for both human and wildlife movement
- The primary goal...is to preserve and enhance the fish bearing streams in our neighbourhood.

Environmental Sustainability

- Interested in environmental sustainability
- Environmental protection initiatives which are balanced with the need to provide housing and employment opportunities to citizens.
- Umbrella organization comprised of Surrey community groups and citizen volunteers concerned with the health and well-being of Surrey's environment...retention of environmentally sensitive areas
- ...we have defined "sustainability" in our constitution as "using environmental, economic and social resources in such a manner as to allow future generations to use resources in a similar manner"

Economic Sustainability

- Primarily focused on economic sustainability. Has a number of committees that deal with...economic development, beautification, communications, special events, government liaison, and safety, security, and crime prevention.
- Support growth that encourages economic vitality
- Goals are closely related to the initiatives of the City of Surrey's Park, Recreation, and Cultural Department to promote environmental sustainability in Surrey
- Sustainability encompasses aggregate economic viability within a healthy civil social that practices responsible environmental stewardship. Our intersection and interest in sustainability will be carried out in the context of our guiding principles...business is a vital part of the greater community
- ...we have defined "sustainability" in our constitution as "using environmental, economic and social resources in such a manner as to allow future generations to use resources in a similar manner"

Watershed / Water Supply/Quality

- ...are the "Watershed Stewards" of the Nicomekl River within its 3 municipal jurisdictions.
- Water supply and quality in these water sheds
- Air and water quality

Natural Areas / Park Space

- Natural areas...Park space issues...Biomass in the city...Biodiversity in the city
- Saving park land for future youths...food-fish in the pond, tree cover, quiet areas-away from people because of development in other areas (for wildlife)
- Natural areas retention and restoration

Quality of Life

- Members are committed to improving the quality of life in our communities.
- Long-standing supporter and proponent of municipal policy that aims for a higher standard of living for citizens.

- Goal to encourage and facilitate collaborative efforts to reduce poverty and the issues related to poverty, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all who call Surrey home

Transportation

- Traffic.
- *Transportation.* Moving people and products is essential to a vibrant community. Transit locally is weak, leaving most to use their cars on crowded roads. The bike paths are improving rapidly, but still have limited reach.

Land Use

- Appropriate land use
- Land use. Community planning plays an important role in the success of a community.

Industry Standards

- LEED practices
- Industry Standards. With a broad base of different businesses to draw from we feel we could offer valuable input on this topic.
- Quality of construction types

Social Sustainability

- Goals are closely related to the initiatives of the City of Surrey's Park, Recreation, and Cultural Department to promote social...sustainability in Surrey
- Public education, among other matters
- ...we have defined "sustainability" in our constitution as "using environmental, economic and social resources in such a manner as to allow future generations to use resources in a similar manner"

Community

- Regarding healthy communities and sustainability...importance of connected people

Heritage

- ...have and will continue to:
 - i) Promote the advancement of the historical significance of the Semiahmoo Road and the part the Semiahmoo Heritage Trail has in that process.
 - ii) Work towards the protection of the Semiahmoo Heritage Trail itself, adjacent setbacks, and the vistas from the Trail as seen by those walking the Trail's pathways.
 - iii) Encourage improvement of the Trail's pathways and expansion of the Trail's corridors throughout the community so as to provide not only a retreat from the hustle and bustle of urban living but also as an area to protect the forest's flora and fauna.
- Heritage. A clear picture of your history often plays an important role in the future. We came from farming, fishing and forestry.

Education

- Sustainability implies...there are differing perspectives about sustainability that require on-going education and dialogue
- Over the past twenty years, concentrated on the preservation and rehabilitation of the Green Timbers Forest in conjunction with the parks department.
 - Practical and educational work
 - Fundraising for SNAP (Surrey's Natural Areas Partnership) student program for Sunnyside Acres, Blackie's Spit, Green Timbers.
 - Currently on the steering committee for Surrey's Nature Centre at Green Timbers which will become a show piece for Nature Matters programs. Green Timbers will also accommodate SHARP, the stream keeper groups.

Housing Opportunities

- Housing opportunities and affordability

Small-Scale Sustainable Agriculture

Support Sustainability

- Members have different perspectives and interpretations, yet support “sustainability” in the broadest sense.

Urban Communities

- Incorporate into new and emerging urban communities

Citizen's Needs Are Met

- Community planning that meets the needs of citizens

Conservation of Surrey's Forests

- Main purpose is the conservation of the forests in the City of Surrey. Together with the Fraser Health authority, the Society is promoting the preservation of the historic 70-year old cedar hedge along 140 St, which would act as a buffer against noise and air pollution for the proposed ambulatory outpatient unit. On 192 St along the line of 36 Ave, the Society is working to save a half-Km buffer belt of significant 70-year old conifer trees in the present Surrey Forest Nursery together with a nearby deciduous stand.
- Create natural buffers

Monitoring

- Need monitoring and metrics vis a vis sustainability

Accessible City

- Main interest is an accessible city.

Develop Innovative Policy

- Whether sustainability principles are based in social, economic or environmental objectives, the endeavour to create improved living environments through innovative policy directives are welcomed by industry.
 - Industry has traditionally been a driver of innovation. The result, in the Lower Mainland, has been the creation of numerous examples of high-quality design and development.
 - There is a widespread sentiment in the development community that changes to the ‘value’ that is placed on environmental concerns, social balance and economic realities, requires a greater emphasis on truly creative planning practice.
- Sustainability implies...that no one part of the community functions to the detriment of another part of the community

Definitions of Sustainability

- Sustainability implies...that development and growth don't mean the same thing
- Sustainability implies...that attaining sustainability is a process not a destination that takes learning and commitment
- Our intersection and interest in sustainability will be carried out in the context of our guiding principles...collaboration and partnerships are central to our success
- Our intersection and interest in sustainability will be carried out in the context of our guiding principles...being pro-active is more beneficial than being responsive...action rather than inaction is usually the best means to our desired goals

SUGGESTIONS FOR KEY ELEMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CITY OF SURREY

Triple Bottom Line Approach

- Triple-bottom line approach of environmental, social and economic issues
- Sustainability can be defined as “undertaking environmental, economic and social activities in such a way that preserves local and global ecosystem structures and functions in perpetuity”. This is all-encompassing so that all activities by the City from large-scale, long-term planning to day-to-day trivial operations conform to the requirements of the definition. The consequences of failure to meet these requirements should be identified. The steps to meet the requirements should be detailed before action begins.
- For change to have deep and durable impact, it must also incorporate the values that foster economic, environmental, social and cultural sustainability...with the objective of improving the quality of life and economic resilience of communities...The Simon Fraser University Centre for Sustainable Development takes the approach that sustainable community development “...aims to integrate economic, social and environmental objectives in community development. SCD has emerged as a compelling alternative to

conventional approaches to development, a participatory, holistic and inclusive process that leads to positive, concrete changes in communities by creating employment, reducing poverty, restoring the health of the natural environment, stabilizing local economies, and increasing community control.” ...this is in line with the vision Vibrant Surrey holds of Surrey as a place where innovation today does not come at the expense of our health and safety, or of our children's ability to assure their own well-being when their time comes.

➤ *Environmental Sustainability:*

is supportive of development initiatives that correspond to environmentally responsible planning objectives that...aim to mitigate negative disruptions or impacts to the natural environment. There is a growing sentiment among industry of the importance of sustainable community building, including the incorporation of higher densities, mixed uses/forms to promote effective transportation choice and provision, high-performance building technologies, including innovative architectural detailing and landscape design.

Social Sustainability:

...recognizes the need for social integration among the urban environment. Industry, at large, is challenged by the provision of suitable built form that is affordable, attractive, amenity-rich and accessible to the greater population. Providing these broader choices has become increasingly difficult in the current environment of escalating costs; sustainability remains a constant objective. Social sustainability may be best related to as the health of the urban environment, minus the built form. The objectives of planning and industry are aligned in this respect; community is augmented by the development of built form, but, the vitality of the community is the result of mixed uses and a defined character, and ‘sense of place’.

Economic Sustainability: The development of a Sustainability Charter must recognize the limitations of economics, and the competing interests of market forces and the longer-term financial well-being of the community with the pursuit of a truly sustainable community. As one of the three primary pillars of sustainable development, economic prosperity needs to be one of the primary focal points. As such, the interests of the market (both the consumer and producer) require a level of maturity and evolution that would warrant the economic ‘costs’ and enjoy economic ‘benefits’. A campaign of public education and promotion have often times been successfully utilized in making the business case for initiatives; innovative and ‘ahead of the curve’ and have received a greater level of support once the financial feasibility has been demonstrated.

➤ There are 3 components to Sustainability, as follows: Social, Economic, Environment... should be with “social” at the front. The initials spell “SEE”. Thus, Sustainability is a “new way to see our community and the world.”

- A more specific definition:
 - Social: social justice
 - Economic: financial maintenance
 - Environment: environment conservation & restoration

These are the key components from which all else derives. The activities of the City of Surrey must balance these 3 components. In effect, for a project or undertaking, a cost-benefit analysis would be done at the outset for compliance with the 3 keys.

- City of Surrey's Sustainability Charter can affect positive change in the city by encouraging the city, including its citizens, developers, builders and realtors to make decisions which promote the city's economic, social, environmental and cultural sustainability.

Reference to Natural Habitats

- “sustainability” and future of our salmon stocks throughout the Nicomekl watershed
 - was similarly consulted by the Township of Langley
 - refer to a) Streamside Protection Bylaw and b) Sediment and Erosion Bylaw 4485 (not available yet on their Website).
 - City of Langley in their planned (2007) major salmon habitat restoration project on Logan Creek
 - refer to CoS Environmental Programs for NES participation in various public and community events including public fish releases.
- Include reference to natural flora and fauna habitats, and for the retention of any natural features of significance.

Include Metrics/Monitoring, Targets, Implementation Plan

- We can live with any definition of Sustainability as long as it includes a reference to metrics/monitoring as the world is already awash in greenwash.
- We believe that the Charter should be more than a series of motherhood statements. It should also include targets for sustainability measures and an implementation plan to achieve them.

Definition Should Be Concise

- Clarity doesn't mean long-winded, but in trying to be succinct the use of “key” words...can cause confusion if the definition is open to interpretation.
- The document should be brief and concise (ideally one page, so that it could go on the wall in a frame, like businesses do with their statement of purpose, and so that people will actually read it)

Limit the Use of the Term “Sustainability”

- Be frugal when using the word so that it does not become another victim of the “flavour” of the month in the minds of media and the community... through over-use and fuzzy definition; be clear that in the context of a large and complex community that this phrase is shorthand for a large, complex and important concept; individual words in such a definition are very important and if they are part of the current “tech talk” shorthand are subject to being hijacked, or at the very least misunderstood.
- I urge that you not use the term “sustainable development”. It is an oxymoron with obvious internal contradiction

Definition of Sustainability Depends on its Usage and Context

- The definition of ‘sustainability’...is contingent on its usage and the context in which it is employed.

Define the Term “Sustainability”

- If you use the term sustainability in the title, it will be important to provide a short definition of what it means, so that people will relate to it

The Term “Sustainability” Should Be Used as an Adjective

- In the course of our research, we found uses of the word “sustainability” interpreted in ways not relevant to the subject of lifestyles, etc and feel that it would be better to apply it as an adjective, as in sustainable community for the City's purposes. This definition seems to describe how we interpret “sustainability” in the context of the City of Surrey.
 - Sustainable communities are places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all. For communities to be sustainable, they must offer:
 - decent homes at prices people can afford
 - good public transport
 - schools
 - hospitals
 - shops
 - a clean, safe environment.
 - People also need open public space where they can relax and interact and the ability to have a say on the way their neighbourhood is run.
 - People also need open public space where they can relax and interact and the ability to have a say on the way their neighbourhood is run.

General Definitions

- *The Houghton Mifflin Canadian Dictionary of the English Language* defines “sustain” as
 1. “to keep in existence; maintain; prolong.”
 2. “...provide for.”

The Houghton Mifflin Canadian Dictionary of the English Language defines “sustenance” as

1. “The act of sustaining or the condition of being sustained.”
2. “The supporting of life or health; maintenance.”

Consider How the Definition Will Translate into Other Languages/Definition Should Be Inclusive

- Test drive any definition until you are cross-eyed... try different ages, genders, ethnic groups...how does it translate into Punjabi, Arabic, French, Vietnamese?; I am sure that in an effort to incorporate a number of concepts you will end up with a “kitchen-sink” definition, but it could still be a very elegant “kitchen sink”.

Include a Brief Vision Statement and a Mission Statement Outlining How the Vision Will Be Met

- I recommend the charter start with a brief (three-line) vision statement: what Surrey will be in twenty years, for example, in terms of sustainability (for example, what future

generations will enjoy). For the subject areas identified in your letter (e.g.,- land use, conservation, protection of key assets, city operations), a mission statement for each setting out in three lines each what will be done to meet the vision

Naming of the Charter

- *Change* the name to something like Green Surrey Charter (or Commitment to a Green Surrey, etc.)

Reference to Preservation of Historical and Heritage Areas and Structures

- Include reference to the preservation of historical and heritage areas and structures

Examine Examples Used by Other Communities

- ...any examples from other communities on this subject.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SPECIFIC ITEMS THAT COULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE SCOPE OF THE SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER

Habitat Preservation

- The continued restoration of salmon spawning habitat of the South Surrey tributaries of the Nicomekl River. But more specifically, corrective action taken for all such salmon bearing watercourses within the CoS.
- ...the trees and natural habitat that are being lost to development and to the expansion of roads.
- Wildlife habitat
- propose that Robson/Manson/Scott Creeks be designated an “**Urban Fish Nursery**” system. Preserving streams is far less expensive and much more environmentally beneficial than piping and diverting streams into storm drains...also safer in terms of flooding. The taxpayer/public upside to preserving our neighborhood streams far outweighs the relatively small short term profit to be gained by single developers who would prefer to develop streamside properties unimpeded by streamside protection regulations.

...request that our planners adhere to and even strengthen streamside protection regulations when considering streamside development. When it comes to urban streams, these regulations need to be seen as a minimum requirement for development - not as a starting point for negotiations with a developer. Existing stream corridors should be integrated into the master drainage plan for the safest, least expensive and environmentally beneficial solution to drainage. Ideally these stream corridors would be strengthened at their borders with park lands and public green space.

When it comes to urban streams the biggest threat is “**death by 1000 cuts.**” It is the many little hurts that come as a result of development, erosion or pollution that will eventually squeeze the life out of an urban stream. Wider stream corridors, strategically placed oil traps and enforcement and strengthening of existing environmental regulations will help. Tax incentives for those developers who exceed the setbacks presently stated

in streamside protection regulations would also set the tone for progressive development that would be more beneficial for our neighbourhood in the long term.

...excellent work done in daylighting a portion of Robson Creek...was very positive. Many residents, volunteers, students from Prince Charles School, boy scouts and local politicians attended the Daylight Celebration when the project was completed. That project was very well done!

Also, a proposed development that would have resulted in piping and diverting the last remaining upper section of Manson Creek was turned back to Planning by Council several months ago sending a firm message that Council does indeed support streamside protection. The issue is not settled yet but the present Surrey Council is showing signs of more leadership when it comes to streamside protection. So far things remain positive regarding streamside protection of Manson Creek.

Review Examples of Programs Already in Use

- Review examples of comparable programs in Northwest coastal cities – Portland, Seattle. In addition, any approaches should be made with the regional context in mind (e.g. geographical and climatic considerations).
- We can learn a massive amount from other communities, but our benchmark should be our own collective desired outcomes as a community.... and these will, no doubt, change over time.
- *Sustainability within a Generation and Toward a National Sustainable Development Strategy for Canada*, have a federal focus, but are strongly applicable to the municipal context...These documents have had great success and influence at the federal level, and have been a platform for debate in Ottawa for several years running. They are useful in not just for their framework, but for their easy to understand format and language. This is of great importance in developing the charter, because your constituents will need to understand the importance of this work. The third document is *Forever Farmland*, which looks at the importance of the Agricultural Land Reserve. The Agricultural Land Reserve has been a highly successful policy for sustaining farmland in British Columbia, but it is currently under threat. We would hope that the City of Surrey encourages this policy, and develops others that are similar.
- I believe that the City of Vancouver has a specific purchasing policy which has been known to present difficulties in the past and I would like to see that anything similar to this is thoroughly examined before it is adopted in Surrey.

Education

- Educate the less fortunate, money enables, knowledge empowers.
- We need skilled “teachers”, leaders that lead by example in all walks of life.... on-going education.... but please no motivational speakers.... they get people revved up.... and three days later the audience is emotionally drained and at a loss as to what they each can really do.
- Should also set out briefly how individual citizens can and should participate, and that their concerns and ideas are important

Collaborative Effort

- As we are a community among communities, we will likely have a much better chance of achieving sustainability if we collaborate with our neighbours and other levels of government in establishing goals and determining how we will measure our progress. We would urge the City of Surrey, therefore, to link with other efforts of this nature.
 - For example, we believe the GVRD is in the process of establishing a set of sustainability indicators, the City of Vancouver has already done so with the Vital Signs project and we understand that Whistler has also developed a framework for sustainability. Each of these initiatives encompasses areas of focus that measure the ability of individuals to live, work, play and learn in their communities without mortgaging the future.
- Collaboration with Surrey's neighbours, including regional organizations, should also be identified, if that is Surrey's official policy. Before you formally draft and have adopted a charter for Surrey, here's an idea: develop a template...and ask the schools to have a group of students draft a charter for Surrey as a project, then put the best ideas into the city's charter, and award a plaque or something to the schools which participate (and judge the three best projects).

Tree Preservation

- ...the trees and natural habitat that are being lost to development and to the expansion of roads.
- Sustainable reasonable green spaces per building in land use: Green space to be considered matures trees, evergreens, etc. have left and not just grass. As each building varies in size also the surrounding land should vary according to the size and height of the dwelling place. Now that people are being fined for removal of mature trees on private property, we feel that it is only fair that there should be a rebate on taxes for the protection of mature trees on private property. Accurate values estimated for all mature trees that are removed and replacement trees to more evenly equal that value. The reason for this is that trees purify the air, thereby providing oxygen, hold water in the ground to stop flooding, and giving shade and cooler temperatures. Evergreen trees also keep property values up. All housing and commercial properties should have more green space, even if densities dictate higher elevation of housing. There are many more concerns that we have, such as the underground services to lots.

Green Buildings

- Green architecture.
- All buildings should conform to green standards.

Natural Resources

- Aim to live off the interest of natural resources, keeping the capital intact.
- Peak Oil. Hamilton, Ontario, has done some interesting work related to this topic.

Pollution Prevention

- Recognise that prevention of pollution is easier and more effective than containment.
- Encourage telecommuting and working from home to reduce traffic, pollution

Transit Access

- Developments should only be allowed where frequent bus service within the development can be assured. Even students should not be allowed to drive to school when they can walk, cycle or go by bus.

Quality of Life

- Low stress, this could be encouraged through recreation, reducing crime, having a clean, well maintained area and pride in the community.
- In 2004, the BC Real Estate Association adopted a philosophy called Quality of Life to reflect the work done by realtors throughout the province. We urge you to consider including some of the elements of...Quality of Life program in the development of the city's Sustainability Charter.
 - Quality of Life:
 - starts with a good job
 - means having a roof over your head and a choice of housing design
 - is about creating communities where everyone thrives
 - includes clean, safe neighbourhoods, good schools and efficient transportation.
 - Goal: to recommend public policies that will enable people to get what they value most: jobs, homes and better communities.
 - Based on five principles:
 1. *Ensuring economic vitality.* The key to our quality of life is a strong economy. A vibrant economy creates jobs, expands the tax base, enhances and revitalizes communities.
 2. *Providing housing opportunities.* We all want a safe, decent and affordable home near where we work, shop and play. We must grow the supply of housing - including choices about design, cost and location.
 3. *Preserving our environment.* Realtors recognize one of the most important elements of our quality of life is the environment: clean air and water, parks and open space.
 4. *Protecting property owners.* A strong economy depends on preserving the investment people have made in their homes by protecting the ability to freely own, use, buy and sell real property.
 5. *Building better communities.* Better communities come when government is our partner, sufficiently funding the roads, water and sewer that are the framework for a community's quality of life.

Less Red Tape and More Incentive-Based

- Business is important to any economy. Reducing red tape and creating a productive environment will encourage this area to grow naturally. Reducing crime would also be high on this list.
- Incentive-based strategy – numerous municipalities in the Lower Mainland and across Canada have assessed this route and have amended bylaws to incorporate greater densities or the development of CD zones to balance ‘green’ contributions.

Senior-Level Government Involvement

- A greater emphasis on Senior-level government involvement in the process; more than would be typically expected – highlights of funding available to municipalities in rolling out a Sustainability Charter of this nature.

Sustainability Check List

- We particularly look forward to the development of a sustainability check list for all development applications.

Demographics

- Demographics, projected to plan for Surrey’s future population

Food Security

- Food security, agriculture

Clean Water Supply

- Recognise that maintaining a clean supply of water is easier, and cheaper than purification.

Pedestrian Friendly and Greenways

- Pedestrian-friendly communities
- Greenways

Accessibility

- Large developments need to address all aspects of accessibility to be sustainable.

Comprehensive Transportation Plan

- Plan a comprehensive transportation plan. Start with the end result and work backwards. This would incorporate cycling, transit, cars and commercial trucks. Current there is no efficient way to move around Surrey, adding to the congestion and pollution.

Classify Local Ecosystems and Prioritize According to their Significance to the Local Community

- Categorise local ecosystems as unique, rare, unusual or commonplace as appropriate allocating priority for preservation accordingly, and recognise their significance to the local community.

Compact Communities

- Recognise that compact communities occupy less land than urban sprawl, require less transport, facilitate servicing and foster walking or bicycling.

Smart Growth

- If smart growth is a key policy initiative as part of the city's sustainability charter, it should also be defined briefly

Increase Energy Production and Reduce Energy Consumption

- Our need for energy is not going to decrease. A plan for this would also be powerful. A few simple ways to improve this is encourage everyone to help solve the problem. If most homes and businesses could produce a small amount of power through solar, wind, thermal, tidal or other it would help. Also encouraging energy reductions.

Eliminate/Minimize Waste Production

- Eliminate, or at least minimise, waste from production and consumption practices, and copy the example of Halifax in managing wastes. It is acknowledged as a world leader.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

- A cost-benefit analysis, making the business case for sustainability (i.e.: Economic Sustainability as one of the three primary considerations). Numerous examples of cost-benefits exist making a variety of arguments, depending on the scope of the project.

Voluntary Measures

- Voluntary measures, as an intermediary 'phasing-in', particularly when dealing specifically with building technologies and techniques that are new and/or exceed Code and Model National Energy Code requirements.

Should Specify How Often It Will Be Reviewed

- Should specifically set out how often it will be reviewed and possibly amended by Council (for example, every five years)

Relevant Components of the David Suzuki Foundation's "Sustainability within a Generation" (David R. Boyd) Document

- 9 Critical Goals:

1. Generate Genuine Wealth
2. Improve Efficiency
3. Shift to Clean Energy
 - i. Mandatory energy efficiency standards for...space heating systems, ...homes, commercial buildings...
 - ii. Energy efficiency retrofit program for residential, government, and commercial buildings
 - a. Use tax incentives, energy audits,...larger revolving funds than are currently available in most jurisdictions, and grants for showcase projects and for low-income residences, etc. Clear efficiency targets are needed for these retrofits.
4. Reduce Waste and Pollution
 - i. Mandatory water efficiency standards for...irrigation, industrial equipment, homes and office buildings
 - a. Strengthen standards over time to ensure continuous improvement (recognizing rates of technological change and capital turnover) and use regulations to remove the least-efficient choices
5. Protect and Conserve water
6. Produce Healthy Food
7. Conserve, Protect and Restore Canadian Nature
 - i. Ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach to land-use planning must be implemented throughout Canada in which significant areas are set-aside from industrial development in perpetuity
 - ii. Necessary budget allocations for the designation and management of land and marine parks and protected areas, as well as for the protection of species at risk and their habitat
 - iii. Complete transparent land use planning processes to implement ecosystem based management, including designation of protected areas, buffer zones, and wildlife corridors prior to issuing new permits for industrial development activities
 - iv. Protect sufficiently large area of habitats through ecosystem-based management plans, to ensure that species do not become endangered/threatened
8. Build Sustainable Cities
 - i. Goal: Canadian cities become vibrant, clean, liveable, prosperous, safe, and sustainable
 - ii. Key Target: By 2030, per capita trips on public transit in Canada's major cities increase by 50%
 - iii. Avoiding urban sprawl in order to protect agricultural land and wild places, and improve our quality of life
 - iv. Provide federal funding for green municipal infrastructure that is contingent upon performance-based smart growth and sustainability criteria
 - a. Increase the municipal GST rebate to 100% for green infrastructure spending
 - b. Support...municipal programs to establish urban growth boundaries that protect farmland and wildlife habitat
 - v. Initiate a national public transportation funding program
 - a. Use a portion of the federal gas tax...to finance transit infrastructure and operations

- b. Support for high-speed inter-urban rail service
- vi. Encourage brownfield remediation and redevelopment
 - a. Provide mortgages, guarantees, and revolving loans for brownfield sites that meet restoration criteria
- vii. Federation of Canadian Municipalities should work with Federal Government to implement a standard set of sustainability indicators (100's of different sustainability indicators are used in communities across Canada)

9. Promote Global Sustainability

- Isolated environmental policies and actions will not work
- Next generation of environmental laws and policies must embody fundamental principles including intergenerational equity, polluter pays, user pays, pollution prevention, ecological design, extended producer responsibility, and adaptive management
- Ecological fiscal reform – use of various financial incentives and disincentives to achieve ecological sustainability
 - tax shifting (taxes that encourage environmentally responsible activities and discourage irresponsible ones), eliminating perverse subsidies, and increasing investment in the environment
- Purchasing and procurement policies
 - governments can spur sustainability through their own purchasing and procurement policies
 - governments are one of the largest spenders in the Canadian economy
 - by requiring the purchase of clean, low-impact power, recycled products, efficient vehicles, and other environmentally friendly products, as well as construction of energy-efficient buildings, the government could help create a market that would dramatically change the profile of goods and services produced and used in Canada toward sustainability
- Law reform – mandate corporations to pursue “triple-bottom-line” of economic, social, and environmental responsibility instead of just maximizing financial returns to shareholders
- “Just Transition strategies” for workers and communities
 - strategy to ensure that energy workers do not bear the brunt of action on climate change – addressing job losses
 - consultation with potentially impacted workers and communities should be conducted as early as possible, before irreversible decisions are made
 - relocation... must be made available with the objective of a better quality of life for all concerned
- Government regulations (e.g. implementation and enforcement) are more effective than voluntary approaches in achieving environmental goals
- Recognition of the constitutional rights of aboriginal people is forcing governments to change the ways some environmental and natural resource decisions are made in Canada
 - Expectations that aboriginal involvement in co-management will result in more sustainable decisions, because of traditional values and knowledge about local ecosystems
 - Delgamuukw decision – because of the special relationship between aboriginal people and the land, there is an “inherent limit” on the kinds of activities that can take place on lands subject to aboriginal title

OTHER COMMENTS

Cloverdale Town Centre is Losing Business to Other Nearby Shopping Areas

- We are located next to one of the largest retail trade areas in Greater Vancouver (Greater Langley) that relies heavily on shoppers from East Surrey. It would appear that Langley does not have sufficient population to warrant such a large concentration of box stores, malls and retail. Some previous surveys indicate that approx. 80% of Cloverdalians shop in Langley. Our position is further worsened by the increase of small/large neighbourhood shopping districts on Fraser Highway just west of Langley and the growth of shopping in Sullivan at 152 St. & Highway #10 which both are starting to cannibalize our trade area. ...very thankful for the recent support by Mayor and Council to address our single largest problem which is the redevelopment of the Cloverdale Shoppers Mall aka the Safeway Mall. We have in the past few years seen an unprecedented growth in homeless people who live in and around the Cloverdale Town Centre.

Public Steering Committee Should Include the Appropriate Community Representation

- We have read the Corporate Report No. R227; we have a number of concerns with items in it. We also have read the Sustainability Charter Update, 1 March 2007. We are very concerned that the process already appears to be lopsided with the Development Advisory Committee (DAC) already having been nominated for the public steering committee. With the greatest of respect, a broader scope... the Association of Sustainable Communities (SASC or SURREY ASC)... would expect to be involved as a member of the public steering committee to represent the environment at that level. It is not satisfactory or reflective of our scope that our organization be considered merely a single community stakeholder whose input would be via questionnaire and attendance at an open house only.. Perhaps the make-up of the public steering committee, to provide the best and fullest community representation, should include both SEP and SASC. Arising from the Corporate Report is the realization that the Environment is only a sub-section. Whereas, in Sustainability, Environment is 1 of the 3, an equal issue to be concerned, an entirely different way of looking at things from Surrey's history and the present bureaucratic structure. As you can tell, we want to be much involved in this undertaking which has an enormous potential for the City of Surrey, and we have given the matter of sustainability considerable thought already. "...believes in working co-operatively and collaboratively with government, community, business and individuals to make the City of Surrey a better place to live through sound environmentally sustainable practices." I regret I was unclear. I should have written: "...with the Development Advisory Committee already having nominated a representative to the public steering committee." On further consideration: How can the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) be the public steering committee as it is already a committee; and, in the Update the EAC recommended that it be involved in a public steering committee. Are you suggesting the EAC representative will chair the public steering committee? Is the public steering committee the same as the "public advisory committee" listed under Phase I in the paper, "Process for Developing a Sustainability Charter"? The Development Advisory Committee is not listed on the City's website as a City committee. The only references I could find were mentions in several Corporate Reports as it having been consulted and it having discussed and the 10 Year Plan of Engineering where it was kept informed at various stages in the development of the plan...Are the public steering

committee meetings going to be open to the public to observe and are the minutes going to be available to the public?

Port Kells Community Association Agrees with the Surrey Environmental Partners' General Comments on Sustainable Development

- As per your request for comments regarding the Development of Surrey's Sustainability Charter we would like to refer you to the general comments covered in the letter from the environmental organization Surrey Environmental Partners, which was e-mailed to your office today. We agree with their general comments on sustainable development practices.

Expand the Corp Ops to Include Natural Areas Management and Municipal Jurisdiction to Include Bio-Diversity and Wildlife

- In terms of the draft we saw at the EAC meeting we would like to see Corp Ops expanded to include Nat Areas management and Munic. Jurisdictions to include Bio-diversity and wildlife as these are decidedly affected by overall land-use planning.



You Are Invited to Join Us for Two Days of Discovery and Dialogue to Help Develop Surrey's First Sustainability Charter!

<p>Friday, June 8, 2007 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. SFU Surrey 13450 102 Ave, Surrey Lecture Theatre, Room 2600</p>	<p>Let's Talk Sustainability! Leading experts on sustainability from the David Suzuki Foundation, the Fraser Basin Council, the International Centre for Sustainable Cities, and VanCity will outline the compelling visions developed by their organizations for achieving sustainability. The event will be hosted by Mayor Dianne Watts and will include a town hall meeting format to explore what a Sustainable Surrey might look like in 10, 20, 50 or even 100 years – “What’s YOUR vision for a Sustainable Surrey?*</p>
<p>Saturday, June 9, 2007 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. SFU Surrey 13450 102 Ave, Surrey Mezzanine area</p>	<p>Sustainability Charter Open House Drop in anytime to review information displays, discuss your views on sustainability issues with City staff, and provide us with your feedback on what the City's Sustainability Charter could include.</p>
<p>Saturday, June 9, 2007 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. SFU Surrey 13450 102 Ave, Surrey Lecture Theatre, Room 2600</p>	<p>Sustainability Workshops Interested citizens are invited to contribute to one of three workshops focused on Social, Environmental, and Economic sustainability and how Surrey can advance the agenda in these three “pillars” of sustainability. An opening session will provide an overview of sustainability and the process for developing a charter. All groups will report back to the Sustainability Fair participants at a closing session.*</p>
<p>Saturday, June 9, 2007 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. SFU Surrey 13450 102 Ave, Surrey Lecture Theatre, Room 2600</p>	<p>Youth Sustainability Forum It's your City and your future! Come and tell us your vision of what Surrey could look like in 20 or 50 years, and your ideas for making Surrey sustainable within your generation and for many generations to come.*</p>

* Please note that, due to limited seating, registration is required for the Friday evening event and for the Saturday workshops and Youth Sustainability Forum. To register, please contact Fay Keng Wong at 604-591-4496 or by e-mail at sustainability@surrey.ca.

Materials for Sustainability Plenary, Public Open House, and Workshops

1. Friday, June 8th Plenary

a. Welcome and Introductory Boards

- i. Why are we developing a Sustainability Charter?
- ii. What is Sustainability?
- iii. Examples of Sustainability
- iv. What is a Sustainability Charter (Key Themes: Triple Bottom Line, Indicators, Policies, Backcasting, Natural Step etc.)?
- v. Examples of a Sustainability Charter
- vi. Triple Bottom Line Accounting
- vii. Timeline of Process
- viii. Planned Activities for Public Open House and Individual Workshops
- ix. “What is this going to cost, anyhow?”

b. Other

- i. ½ page feedback forms
- ii. Agenda Handouts
- iii. List and Biography of Speakers

2. Saturday, June 9th Public Open House

a. General Boards

- i. What is Sustainability?
- ii. Examples of Sustainability
- iii. What is a Sustainability Charter (Key Themes: Triple Bottom Line, Indicators, Policies, Backcasting, Natural Step etc.)?
- iv. Examples of a Sustainability Charter
- v. Why is this important to Surrey?
- vi. Timeline of Process
- vii. Surrey’s Draft Sustainable Meeting Policy
- viii. Triple Bottom Line Accounting
- ix. “What is this going to cost, anyhow?”

b. Activity Boards

i. Mapping Exercise Boards

1. City of Surrey Maps
2. Instruction board

ii. ‘Dotmocracy’ Exercises

1. What Components would you like to see in a Sustainability Charter?
2. Which of these common 20 indicators do you like?
3. Choosing a goal / range of specific indicators: ‘Where Should Surrey Aim To Be?’
 - a. Social

- b. Environmental
- c. Economic
- d. Youth

iii. City Centre Plan Update

- 1. Opportunities for Sustainability in City Centre

c. Computer/Interactive Displays

- i. Airphoto of the City of Surrey
- ii. QUEST / Envision Sustainability Tools – Demonstration

d. Other

- i. Charter Summary and information sheets
- ii. Questionnaire

3. Saturday, June 9th Workshops

a. General Boards for each workshop (multiple copies)

- i. City Map (April 2006 air-photo) showing Neighbourhood Concept Plan and other Land Use Areas
- ii. Official Community Plan Map
- iii. ½ page Workshop Specific Feedback Forms

b. Workshop Boards

i. Economic

- 1. Overview of Surrey Economic Development Initiatives
- 2. Employment Density Map (Present to 2031)
- 3. Industrial / Commercial zones
- 4. Employment Trends by Sector (Statistics Canada data – 1980 – Present)
- 5. Triple Bottom Line Accounting Board

ii. Social

- 1. Overview of Surrey Social Initiatives (Surrey Social Well Being Plan etc.)
- 2. Map of Community Resources

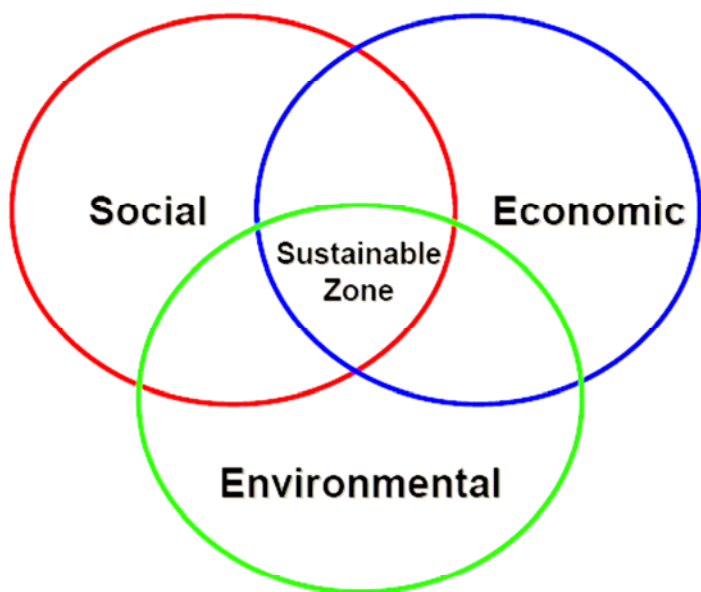
iii. Environment

- 1. Overview of Environmental Initiatives
- 2. Map Showing Environmental Issues
- 3. Map Showing Green Spaces and Watersheds

iv. Youth

- 1. Overview of Youth Initiatives
- 2. Map of Community Resources Specific to Youth (Parks, Recreation, Culture, Libraries, Schools, transportation and transit networks)

What is Sustainability



With increasing concerns about global warming, the approaching peak in oil production, diminishing bio-diversity, an aging population, limited land supplies, housing affordability, and social concerns, many people are starting to question the sustainability of our current urban centres and personal lifestyles in North America.

Sustainability is defined by the *Canadian Oxford Dictionary* as:

“Ecology - especially of development - that conserves an ecological balance by avoiding depletion of natural resources; that may be maintained, especially at a particular level”

Additionally, the avoidance of environmental degradation or resource depletion is considered to be a pre-requisite for sustainability while **Economic**, **Social**, and **Environmental** factors must be considered to achieve overall **Sustainability**



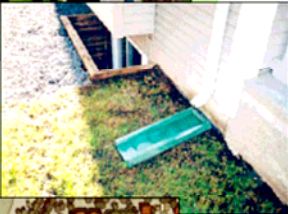
Sustainability in Surrey

East Clayton

Front Yard Drainage Swales



Roof Leader Splash Pads



Green Streets



South Surrey Recreation Centre



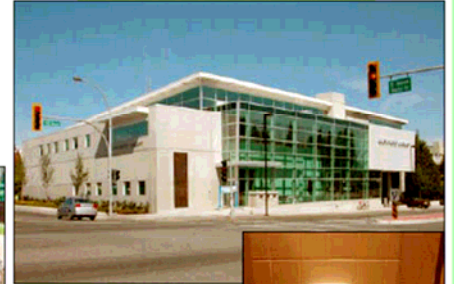
Geo-Exchange Heating / Cooling



Use of Passive Solar Energy for Heating and Cooling



Semiahmoo Library / RCMP Station



Waterless Urinals



Environmentally Friendly Internal Fixtures



What Makes A Sustainable Community

What is a **Socially** Sustainable Community?

- Is a complete community;
- Has equitable distribution of societal benefits;
- Preserves cultural and environmental heritage;
- Promotes citizen participation and involvement through democratic processes;
- Is a harmonious and mutually supporting community;
- Meets the needs for food, shelter, education, work, income, safe living, and working conditions.

What is an **Economically** Sustainable Community?

- Promotes local economic development and live-work opportunities
- Provides a variety of housing types and jobs for a range of income earners
- Allows easy access to surrounding communities and economic centres by transit and alternative modes of transportation
- Ensures a close relationship and balance between both jobs and housing

What is an **Environmentally** Sustainable Community?

- Includes high quality energy efficient building and community design
- Conserves land and energy through developing walkable neighbourhoods with easily accessible services
- Preserves the natural environment and promote natural drainage systems
- Designs communities to use alternative forms of energy and heating technologies (Geo-exchange, solar, wind etc.)



Examples of Sustainable Communities

Southeast False Creek



One of the last undeveloped waterfront locations, this former industrial site is envisaged as a community in which people live, work, play and learn. This neighbourhood and home of the Vancouver Winter Olympic Athlete's Village, has been planned and designed to maintain and balance social equity, ecological health, and economic prosperity, and provide residents the choice and opportunity to live and work in a sustainable manner.



Some of the planned sustainable features include the use of a Community Energy / Heating System utilizing sewage heat recovery and geo thermal systems; additionally there are extensive water reclamation areas and the reuse of grey water for irrigation purposes.

Dockside Green (Victoria)

Located within a short walking distance to Downtown Victoria, the Dockside Green community has been designed and planned to be socially vibrant, ecologically healthy, economically sound, offering unique and urban spaces for a residential, commercial, and light industrial opportunities.



Some of the key initiatives planned for this community include the use of higher densities, targeting a Platinum LEED Building Standard, the use of alternative energy sources, onsite sewage and stormwater treatment. Additional resources for affordability and social housing has also been incorporated into the development.



UniverCity

The UniverCity development atop Burnaby Mountain, adjacent to Simon Fraser University is developing as one of British Columbia's most unique communities. Based on the foundations of Environment, Equity, Economy, and Education, UniverCity seeks to develop a comprehensive mixed use, affordable community adjacent to a world-class learning institution.

All buildings associated with UniverCity have been designed and developed to a high environmental standard, with proximity to transit, while maintaining spectacular views in all directions.

