

CITY OF KELOWNA

FEB - 3 2011

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Development Services

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Original to: ☒ Communications

Copied: ☒ Mayor
☒ City Manager
Councillors

File Number: 0705-20
Initials: *jm* Date: Feb 3/11

Mayor and Council
1435 Water Street,
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4

Dear Mayor Shepherd:

Re: Central Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy Review

The Regional District of Central Okanagan is reviewing and updating its Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), in which the process will examine opportunities to restructure the growth strategy to improve its value to the Regional District, member municipalities, First Nations, residents and stakeholders to set out clear identified actions and targets to address the regional matters.

Included in the first phase of this process is to engage the regional community in the discussion on the future vision for growth in the Central Okanagan. Residents, elected officials, First Nations and stakeholders are asked to provide input in this process by participating in community-based group discussions by completing a series of questions in a community workbook. The community workbook can be found online at www.futureok.ca and it is designed to get input on:

- What are the most important regional issues that the RGS should highlight?
- Are there any new regional issues that have emerged since 2000 that we need to address?
- Does our regional vision need updating?
- What kinds of new policies should we be thinking about to achieve our vision?

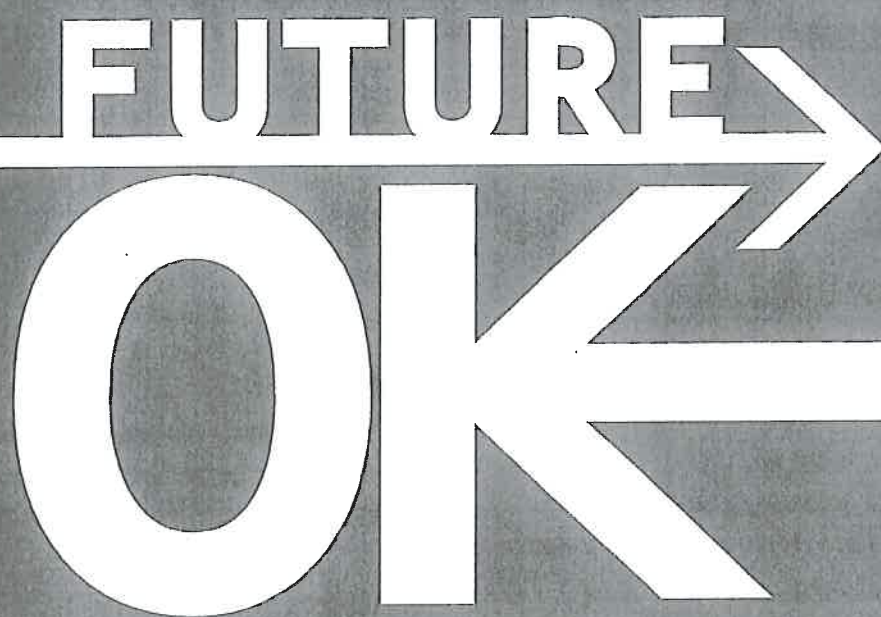
The completion of this first phase in the process will help identify growth issues, update the region's future vision and identify the important values in the community. The information received will be brought forward to the community and the comments will help develop growth options in the next phase of the Regional Growth Strategy Review process.

If you have any questions regarding the Regional Growth Strategy Review process and/or the attached community workbooks, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

David Widdis, MCIP
Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator

Cc Robert Hobson, Chair, Central Okanagan Regional Board
Harold Reay, Chief Administrative Officer
Dan Plamondon, Director of Development Services



FUTURE OK

Regional District of Central Okanagan
REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY REVIEW

Community Workbook



Regional District of Central Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy Workbook

Your Home...Your Future

Send completed workbooks to:

DROP-OFF:

Regional District of Central Okanagan Office
1450 KLO Road, Kelowna
Okanagan Regional Library Branches
*Peachland, Westbank, Rutland, Mission, Kelowna,
Oyama and Lake Country*
Municipal halls in the region
Peachland, West Kelowna, Kelowna, Lake Country

BY MAIL:

"RGS Workbooks @ Development Services Department"
Regional District of Central Okanagan
1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4

ONLINE:

You can simply fill out your workbooks on-line at:
www.futureok.ca

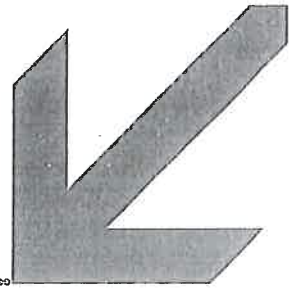
For more information contact:

David Widdis – Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator, david.widdis@cord.bc.ca

DEADLINE: February 28th, 2011



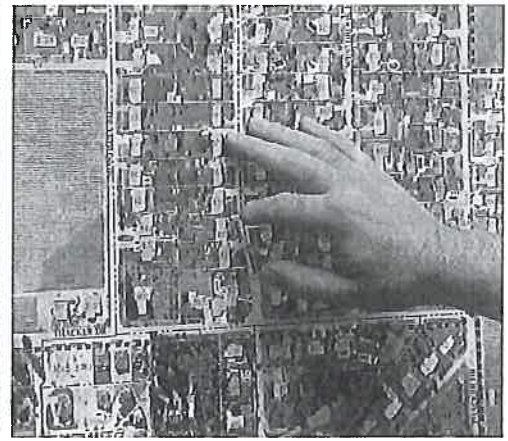
Regional Growth Strategy Review Process



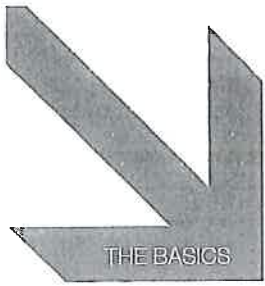
We are currently reviewing and updating our Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). The existing plan was adopted in 2000 in response to concerns about the impacts of rapid population growth and development. To be completed in 2012, the revised RGS will provide a consistent and coordinated regional approach for growth management and establish economic, social and environmental objectives to guide local governments in working together to realize a healthy and sustainable Central Okanagan.

While the planning process will include many opportunities for community input, this Community Workbook is being distributed throughout the region for residents to tell us:

- » What are the most important regional issues that the RGS should highlight?
- » Have any issues emerged since 2000 that we need to address?
- » Does our regional vision need updating?
- » What kinds of new policies should we be thinking about to achieve our vision?



Our new RGS can only be successful if the residents of the region support it, and we are committed to developing a Regional Growth Strategy worthy of your support.

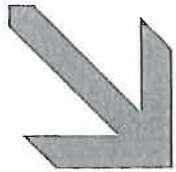


What is a Community Workbook?

This workbook provides highlights of the issue areas the RGS is required to address and asks some key questions about how we should move forward in each area. The topic areas the RGS review must include are:

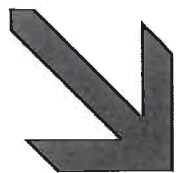
- » **Housing**
- » **Transportation**
- » **Economic Development**
- » **Regional Services & Infrastructure**
- » **Parks and Open Spaces**
- » **Climate Change**

To help you navigate, this workbook is divided into three main parts:



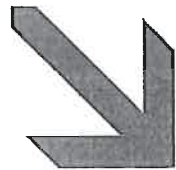
The Basics

These pages include information on what an RGS is and how to use and submit this workbook.



The Big Picture

This includes overview information on the region, background on some of the main issues we are facing, and asks for feedback on our vision as a region.



Issues Areas

This includes information on each of the issues areas the RGS is required to address and asks you to consider the relative importance of issues within the topic areas.

How to use this Workbook?



THE BASICS

While the workbooks can be used by individual residents, we are also encouraging people to use them in small group discussions (e.g., neighbourhood association, book club, environmental group, etc.). Anyone can host a small group discussion by following the simple steps below.

STEP 1: Get some people together

Gather up friends, colleagues, people in your neighbourhood, an organization or group... Be creative! Visit www.futureok.ca and download simple invitations that you can email or print and give to potential group members. Smaller groups of 5 – 10 people are ideal, but if you feel comfortable, you can invite more participants.

STEP 2: Complete the workbook

Going through the entire workbook should take between 30-minutes and two hours, depending upon the size of your group and level of discussion. There are 16 questions all together. We've provided some background information on the regional issues the RGS will be addressing to support informed discussion and decision-making. Again, visit www.futureok.ca for more information.

Complete each of the questions as a group, so that you submit one completed workbook in the end. Take time to discuss the issues that come up as you go through the workbook. There is space for comments throughout, please feel free to add more feedback, ideas and thoughts. Workbooks can be filled out on paper copies and dropped off or mailed in, or answered online at www.futureok.ca.

STEP 3: Submit your workbook

Return your completed workbooks to us using one of three methods:

DROP-OFF:

Regional District of Central Okanagan Office
1450 KLO Road, Kelowna
Okanagan Regional Library Branches
Peachland, Westbank, Rutland, Mission, Kelowna,
Oyama and Lake Country
Municipal halls in the region
Peachland, West Kelowna, Kelowna, Lake Country

BY MAIL:

"RGS Workbooks @ Development Services Department"
Regional District of Central Okanagan
1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4

ONLINE:

You can simply fill out your workbooks on-line at:
www.futureok.ca



Regional Growth Strategy 101

Since the Regional District of the Central Okanagan (RDCO) adopted its first RGS in 2000, our region has continued to grow and develop faster than most places in the province. Our revised RGS will provide an updated vision and “big picture”, regional policy directions to help manage future growth, and the issues that come with it, in the best way for those who live here now – and for those who will live here in the future.

Our revised RGS will not regulate land use in our region, but it will provide a consistent and coordinated regional approach for growth management issues between different jurisdictions in our region, and help guide Official Community Plans, bylaws and other land use policies.



In addition to providing general directions on regional land use, the RGS is required by provincial legislation to include guidance on major regional issues, including transportation, housing, economic development, regional parks and open spaces, regional district services, and emerging issues like climate change. It may also include policies on any other regionally important issues that are identified during the RGS review process.

Q. What kinds of things will be covered by the RGS?

A. Among other things, the final RGS is required to contain the following elements:

- » A vision statement for the future of the Central Okanagan;
- » Population and employment projections; and,
- » Policy statements addressing specific, region-wide, inter-jurisdictional planning issues, including housing, regional services, parks and open spaces, economic development, transportation, and climate change.

Q. How will the Regional Growth Strategy be implemented?

A. The Regional District of Central Okanagan board will formally adopt the RGS when it is completed in late 2012. This will commit the region's local governments to a shared vision. Subsequent Official Community Plans must include something called a “Regional Context Statement” that shows how they conform to the RGS

Q. Will the public have input into this new RGS?

A. Yes. There will be many opportunities to provide direct input throughout the planning process. There will be open houses, a project website (www.futureok.ca), focus groups and other outreach activities.

Our changing region

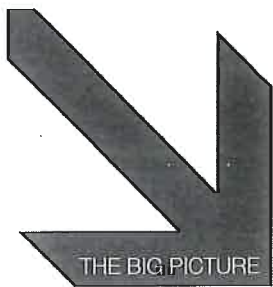


In the year 2000, the average price of gasoline in the Central Okanagan was 70 cents a litre, cell phones were larger than your hand and television featured a different kind of reality.

There have been many changes, too, in the Central Okanagan since the Regional District adopted its first RGS. Many more people are living here, a new local municipality has been created and there are new challenges pressuring our climate, environment and transportation infrastructure. This section highlights some of the major trends we need to consider in our new RGS. Additional information is provided in the specific issue area sections.

- » We are growing. Fast. The Central Okanagan is one of BC's fastest growing regions. Between now and 2036, our region will be home to another 80,000 people. Should we be directing growth to areas within our region that are better suited to accommodate it? Should we be encouraging or exploring different types of housing to house our growing population?
- » Our population is aging. Our region is both one of Canada's most popular retirement areas which, combined with our aging demographic, will result in an additional 34,000 people over the age of 65 by 2036. Will these residents require special services to remain healthy and active? Do we need to think about how our aging population will get around the region?
- » Our economy is growing, but our workforce is shrinking. While our regional economy is relatively strong and diverse, our workforce is shrinking due to our aging population. We are also expecting an additional 50,000 jobs in our region by 2036. How can we support and encourage working age people in our region? Should we be encouraging or directing certain types of jobs to certain areas in our region?
- » Transportation remains a challenge. From the beginnings of the new RapidBus system to the new William R. Bennett Bridge, we have upgraded the regional transportation system substantially since 2000. Still, with 90% of residents commuting to work by car and over 120,000 registered vehicles in the region, congestion is growing. What can we do to further improve regional transportation connections and services and encourage more sustainable transportation choices?
- » Our environment is stressed. New development and increased public use is stressing our region's green areas and natural environment. While we are working to expand our parks and protected areas, currently, less than 9% of our land base is protected in parks or reserves. Should we be doing more to better protect, enhance and link our region's green spaces and ecosystems?





What are people saying?

Acknowledging, confirming and building onto community feedback we've received through our own planning initiatives or heard about in our partner local governments' planning efforts is an important part of the RGS process. Why? We want to make sure that people who have already provided input are heard. Reviewing their feedback also allows us to start identifying common themes and concerns that our new RGS should address.

Currently, Kelowna and the RDCO's newest municipal partner, West Kelowna, are undertaking Official Community Plan (OCP) review and update processes where residents have provided considerable feedback about both local and regional issues. The District of Lake Country adopted a new OCP in August 2010. For its part, the Regional District undertook a major public consultation program called FutureOK in 2006. Collectively, almost 10,000 people have taken part in these activities and have provided important feedback about regional sustainability priorities.

FutureOK, in particular, heard from 1,300 people throughout the region in only one month. We see this RGS review process as an extension of FutureOK, which is why we are using that name to describe the update process.

Some common concerns we've heard about regional issues include:

- » **It's important that we design our communities and neighbourhoods so that we can sustain ourselves over time, preserve our region's rural character and avoid sprawl.**
- » **Our economic prosperity is directly impacted by both the quality of our natural environment and our region's quality of life.**
- » **Improving transit, biking and walking connections throughout the region is critical to our community health and wellbeing.**
- » **Preserving agricultural lands, and the jobs and food security they provide is important today, tomorrow and into the future.**
- » **We all depend on water and we know we have to do a better job preserving, protecting and stewarding this precious resource.**

"Let's try and work together and preserve what we have with care"

West Kelowna resident, 2010

Our vision



THE BIG PICTURE

The RGS vision statement describes the desired future for our region and sets the basic direction for planning, policies and action. We first developed a vision for our 2000 RGS. More recently, our Regional Board reviewed the vision statement and suggested additions and simplifications to ensure that it adequately addressed our commitments to social, economic and environmental sustainability. Here's what we came up with:

The Central Okanagan is a region of interconnected, healthy and distinct urban and rural communities where residents, businesses, and local governments recognize their role as stewards of the environment, and work cooperatively and collaboratively to conserve and enhance our region's precious water, land and energy resources. Working together, we envision a liveable, sustainable, inclusive and welcoming region with a vibrant economy, and productive working landscapes where First Nations are celebrated as full and important partners.

This vision will be further articulated by RGS objectives and policies when they are developed. In the meantime, we would like to your opinion on it. Please take a moment to answer these questions.

Question 1: Are the values you consider important included in the vision statement?

Check one:

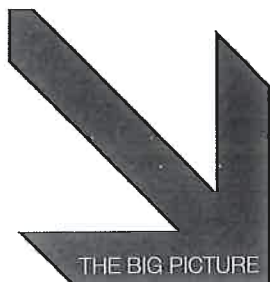
Yes:

☐

No:

☐

Question 2: If you checked no, please describe what you think is missing from the vision.



What matters most?

While we are obliged to address certain issue areas in the growth strategy, we would like to get a sense of which ones matter most to our region. The table illustrates the six areas that our new RGS will include policy directions on. For each, we have developed a preliminary goal statement that links the issue area to our vision statement. While the issue areas are interrelated, we would like to know which areas are more important to you and your group.

Question 3: How important are each of the issues areas listed here?

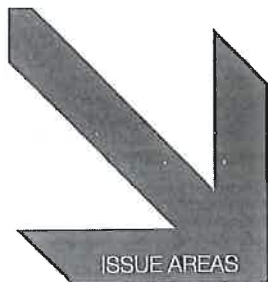
Issue Area	RGS Goal (Draft)	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not as Important
Housing	Improve the diversity of housing options to meet evolving social and economic needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	Reduce traffic congestion through development of an efficient and affordable multi-modal transportation system.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development	Achieve a sustainable, resilient and dynamic economy for the region's cities, towns and rural communities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional Services and Infrastructure	Provide affordable, efficient and effective regional services and infrastructure that conserves land, water and energy resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and Open spaces	Protect, steward and enhance the natural environment, ecological systems and regional biodiversity, while providing ongoing recreational opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change	Minimize regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and plan for adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



THE BIG PICTURE

1





Housing

RGS Goal:

Improve the diversity of housing options to meet evolving social and economic needs.

Issue Overview

Housing is a critical community asset and an important local economic driver. Well-balanced communities provide housing opportunities for people in all stages of life, different family types, and a range of financial situations. A diversity of safe and secure housing opportunities can also help a community retain working families and attract new businesses. Regional directions on land use, services and infrastructure (water and sewer) and transportation all play an important role in determining where new housing will be developed.



Current Situation

In the past several years, the Central Okanagan has experienced almost every type of residential development, from multi-family infill in downtown centres, to conventional rural suburban subdivisions and expansions, to large-scale projects that have created entirely new neighbourhoods located outside of existing settlement areas.

- » **Housing demand:** While demand forecasts are more difficult to make in uncertain economic times, we estimate the demand for up to 40,000 homes by 2032 to accommodate the forecast population increase.
- » **Housing choice:** In 2006, there were 67,000 private dwellings. Of these, 57.6% were single detached houses which was a significantly higher proportion than for BC overall (49.2%). Rental housing accounts for about 12% of all housing units in the region. The rental vacancy improved from only 0.6% in 2006, to 3% in 2009.
- » **Housing affordability:** Housing affordability remains a major concern in the region. The average cost of housing has increased substantially from a median of \$260,000 in 2000 to over \$600,000 today. Housing demand has softened in response to slower economic and employment growth and increased costs of home ownership.
- » **Growing age appropriate housing needs:** Our population is rapidly aging. Seniors (65+) are expected to be our fastest growing age group, growing from about 18% of our population in 2008 to over 25% in 2036. Besides an increased demand for services, this group will be seeking housing (e.g., smaller units, single-floor/no stairs, etc.).

Housing



Question 5: Based on the current situation and the issues we've outlined, we would like to get a sense of what housing issues matter most. Which of these housing issues should be prioritized or highlighted in RGS policies and growth management scenarios. Please rank the issues from 1 to 4, with "1" meaning most important.

Housing Issues	Description	Rank
Supporting affordable housing	Affordable housing opportunities are a critical component of more liveable, complete communities, providing housing for a diverse local workforce, encouraging economic and social integration, and promoting more diverse and vibrant neighbourhoods.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encouraging senior-friendly development	Affordable, accessible and appropriate housing for our growing seniors population is a major issue. Developing senior-friendly housing opportunities and communities would help ensure an active, healthy and engaged seniors population	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improving housing choice	Well-balanced communities provide a range of housing types, from single family homes to rental apartments, for different family types, people in all stages of life, and a range of financial situations. A more diverse housing stock can also help a community retain working families and attract new businesses.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordinating housing location	More sustainable residential development tends to be better connected to shopping, services, schools and work. Their proximity allows residents of these communities to carry out daily activities using a wider range of more sustainable transportation options (transit, bicycle, walking)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 6: Are there any important regional housing issues that you think the RGS should address? What are they and why are they important?



Transportation

RGS Goal:

Reduce traffic congestion through development of an efficient and affordable multi-modal transportation system.

Issue Overview

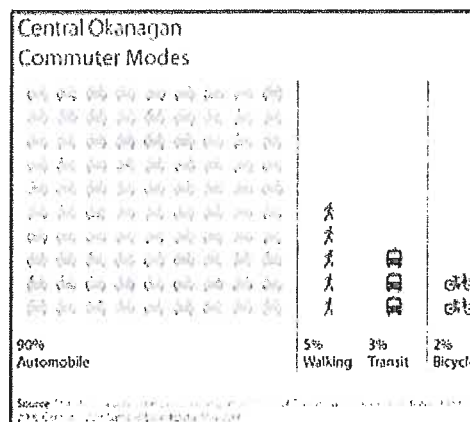
Safe, efficient and accessible transportation systems are vital to a more sustainable Central Okanagan. The RGS will be a vehicle for guiding provincial transportation infrastructure and transit decisions and provides an opportunity to establish common priorities for investment in a sustainable, efficient and accessible transportation system.

Current Situation

Like other Regional Districts, ours faces a number of challenges in improving regional transportation, but also has some unique opportunities.



- » **Public transit:** While transit services have improved and ridership increased, only 3% of people currently commute to work by transit, about equal to the provincial average. BC Transit's Transit Future Plan envisions a transit market share of 7% in 2035, or an increase in ridership from 4.3 million in 2010 to 16 million passengers a year by 2035. This will involve an expansion of the new RapidBus service along Highway 97 to West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation. Higher frequency transit services are difficult to provide to some areas in our region where there are lower population densities or more dispersed rural populations.
- » **Walking and biking:** The City of Kelowna is working hard to support cycling and walking in the city. While other municipalities and Electoral Areas are also working to improve, link and coordinate walking and cycling networks, only 7% of people in the region walk or bike to work.
- » **Potential growth in un-serviced locations:** New, large-scale developments in widely separated locations makes effective public transit servicing difficult and would likely increase single-occupancy vehicle travel in the region. Currently, 90% of people get to work by private vehicle in our region.



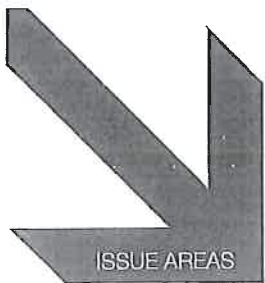
Transportation

ISSUE AREAS

Question 7: Based on the current situation, what we've heard from the community so far, and the issues we've outlined, we would like to get a sense of what regional transportation issues matter most. Which of these issues should be prioritized or highlighted in RGS policies and growth management scenarios. Please rank the issues from 1 to 4, with "1" meaning most important.

Transportation Issues	Description	Rank
Encouraging transit-oriented design	Supportive land use policies and actions will be an important component of meeting BC Transit's ridership targets. Transit-oriented land use planning considers the location, density and the mix of uses along with the design of road networks. Mixed-use development tends to generate bi-directional travel and travel throughout the day, which makes transit service more practical and cost effective.	<input type="text"/>
Supporting more sustainable transportation choices	Ensuring that people are able to carry out daily activities using safe, efficient and enjoyable cycling and pedestrian routes helps encourage more sustainable and healthier transportation choices. Mixed-use development also supports these travel choices by helping reduce travel distances between home, work, school and services.	<input type="text"/>
Reducing congestion	In addition to improve transit, pedestrian and cycling options, traffic congestion can be eased through the addition of other features, including High Occupancy Vehicle (carpool) lanes and other policies.	<input type="text"/>
Climate change and air quality	Our high reliance on private vehicles is contributing to our region's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – which are 30% above the level we need to reach. Increased use of personal and commercial vehicles are also increasing our exposure to harmful particulates that are linked to respiratory illnesses.	<input type="text"/>

Question 8: Are there any other regional transportation issues you think the RGS should address? What are they and why are they important?



Economic Development

RGS Goal:

Achieve a sustainable, resilient and dynamic economy for the region's cities, towns and rural communities.

Issue Overview

A healthy, strong and diverse local economy is one of the cornerstones of more sustainable, complete communities. Complete communities not only attract new employment, they also help retain existing jobs and create a solid tax base to provide and better support service delivery. Without a strong local economy, local governments can have difficulty funding important services, residents can be forced to work further from their homes, and overall community livability can suffer.

The creation of a more diverse, greener local economy depends upon local governments working collaboratively and cooperatively. The RGS can play an important role by helping create a clear direction on where new employment development should be encouraged and encouraging more compact settlements to ensure that jobs and employment centres are easily accessible to all residents.

Current Situation

Our regional economy is relatively diversified compared to other regions in BC. With the City of Kelowna acting as a major provincial hub, retail services, government, health care, education, aerospace and tourism are all significant economic sectors. Agriculture, viticulture and forestry are important employers in rural areas. Some local economy highlights are provided below.

- » **Kelowna International Airport:** In addition to improving transportation options to the region, the airport represents an employment cluster of nearly 2,000 jobs and generated \$310 million in economic activity in 2009. Passenger numbers are forecast to grow to 1.6 million by 2015.
- » **UBC-O:** Opened in 2005, UBC Okanagan has been a major economic driver, bringing direct and spin-off employment, significant capital expenditure, industry partnerships, research dollars, profile and demand for housing. With over 5,000 students, the university generates an estimated \$300 million in annual economic activity.
- » **Tourism:** Tourism is a major employer and economic contributor to the Central Okanagan. With high quality summer and winter recreational opportunities, the industry provides about 7,000 direct jobs in the region and generated \$320 million in the region in 2009.
- » **Agriculture and forestry:** In 2006, there were 1,480 farm operators in the Central Okanagan representing \$1.4 billion in total farm capital on 2,904 square kilometres of land. Gross receipts for farm operations in 2006 were \$86.2 million. The region produces a large proportion of BC's apples, as well as increasing quantities of grapes. While still a significant sector, the forest products industry continues to face challenges. Reduced demand from the US, low lumber prices and supply issues stemming from the pine beetle epidemic have led to some job losses at Okanagan operations.

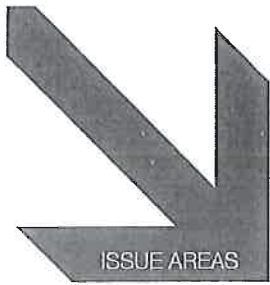
Economic Development



Question 9: Based on the current situation, what we've heard from the community so far, and the issues we've outlined, we would like to get a sense of what regional transportation issues matter most. Which of these issues should be prioritized or highlighted in RGS policies and growth management scenarios. Please rank the issues from 1 to 3, with "1" meaning most important.

Economic Development Issues	Description	Rank
Retaining local business and attracting new investment	Local governments can continue to work with Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission in creating a positive business-enabling environment to help support and retain existing businesses, while attracting new business and investment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting resource-based opportunities	Forestry and agriculture remain important regional economic activities. Maintaining the land base necessary, including the Agricultural Land Reserve, for these sectors, along with the associated industrial land base for value-added production is important.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linking and connecting employment and housing centres	More accessible employment centres (i.e., accessible by foot, transit, bike and car) tend to be more successful, vibrant, safer and healthier than single use town centres and/or office parks and help both attract and retain businesses.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 10: Are there any other regional Economic Development issues you think the RGS should address? What are they and why are they important?



Regional District Services

RGS Goal:

Provide affordable, efficient and effective regional services and infrastructure that conserves land, water and energy resources

Issue Overview

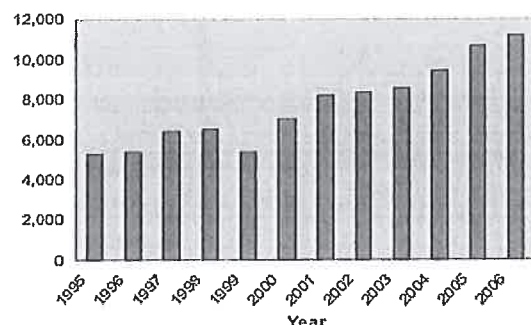
Water, sewer and solid waste services are the foundation of modern community planning. These crucial services provide sanitation, control disease and in many ways help determine the overall quality of life in our modern cities, towns and villages. Regional directions on services and infrastructure also play an important role in determining where new housing is developed.

The planning of regional district services is directly linked to land use planning. The more dispersed our settlement patterns, the more infrastructure servicing must be extended and the more expensive it will be. Due to their potential impact and cost, extensions of these services must be carefully considered. The RGS provides an opportunity for the Central Okanagan to identify priorities and objectives for land use patterns, services, and infrastructure.

Current Situation

- » **Water consumption:** It is clear in the Central Okanagan that water is the greatest limiting factor to growth. According to the Okanagan Basin Water Board, our residents use of 675 litres per person per day despite having less water available per capita than any region in Canada. Our water consumption is significantly above both the B.C. average (490 litres/day) and the Canadian average (329 litres/day).
- » **Liquid Waste:** We operate a wastewater treatment plant that treats liquid waste from West Kelowna, Peachland and Westbank First Nation. Originally put into service in 1989, a \$12 million upgrade is underway so that the facility can keep pace with regional population growth. When completed in 2011, it will provide wastewater treatment for approximately 42,000.
- » **Solid Waste:** Currently, the Central Okanagan is diverting about 40% of its waste from being landfilled. Our goal is to reduce the amount of waste being landfilled by 50% by 2011, and 65% by 2016. While we have greatly reduced per capita waste production from 1.2 metric tonnes per person in 1991 to 0.8 metric tonnes in 2006, volumes have been increasing the last several years, albeit at lower rates than previous years.
- » **Recycling:** A curbside recycling program for the Central Okanagan was initiated in 2000. A participation study conducted in 2003 determined that 94% of residents place materials at their curb for collection on a regular basis. The program has been expanded to include a greater variety of materials and yard waste.

Metric Tonnes Recycled



Note: From curbside and depot recycling programs

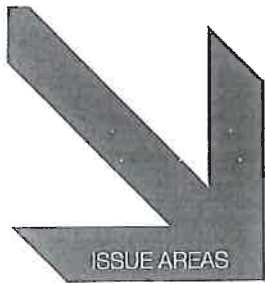
Regional District Services



Question 11: Based on the current situation, what we've heard from the community so far, and the issues we've outlined, we would like to get a sense of what regional servicing and infrastructure issues matter most. Which of these issues should be prioritized or highlighted in RGS policies and growth management scenarios. Please rank the issues from 1 to 3, with "1" meaning most important.

Regional District Services Issue	Description	Rank
Expanding water conservation and efficiency measures	Simple, cost-effective planning measures, like reducing the lot size of new developments, universal water metering, using drought resistant plants in landscaping, and conservation of riparian areas and community watersheds to protect water quality can all be very effective in conserving water.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Directing new development to serviced areas	Development in or near existing communities is less expensive to service with water, sewer and solid waste services. Because of this, many local governments establish policies where locations closest to built-up areas must be developed first before other areas can be considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expanding regional recycling and solid waste diversion	Reducing the amount of solid waste produced can be encouraged through expanded materials diversion program, including construction waste recycling programs and expanded green waste programs (i.e., kitchen waste).	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 12: Are there any other regional district services issues you think the RGS should address? What are they and why are they important?



Parks & Open Spaces

RGS Goal:

Protect, steward and enhance the natural environment, ecological systems and regional biodiversity, while providing ongoing recreational opportunities.

Issue Overview

The Regional District of Central Okanagan is committed to conserving and enhancing the natural processes and biological diversity of our extraordinary region. The RGS provides an ideal opportunity to create a land use framework which positions regional conservation as an integral component of growth management.

Current Situation

The Central Okanagan's natural beauty derives from the stunning mix of forests, grasslands and lakes. Ecologically, the Okanagan is one of Canada's rarest and most threatened by development. Many of the ecosystems in the Central Okanagan are considered to be highly sensitive. The Central Okanagan also contains a high number of species and ecological communities that have been identified provincially as rare and endangered.

The Regional District of Central Okanagan Parks Services is responsible for looking after 29 Regional Parks and more than a dozen community and neighbourhood parks that together make up over 1,115 hectares of parkland. Over 850 hectares (76%) of our parks are classified either 'Conservation,' or 'Natural' which provide a higher level of protection for the ecosystems and species they contain. Demand for parks and recreation services continue to grow with our increasing population.

- » **Park expansion and crown land acquisitions:** We developed a Central Okanagan Regional Parks Legacy Program, which is a road map for the future acquisition of regional parkland from 2007 through 2017. The program identified three key areas for future parkland acquisitions - biogeoclimatic zone gaps, regional trails and greenways, and "regionally significant interests". As one component of the program, we are planning to acquire Crown Lands in several areas of our region. These areas include Black Knight Mountain (64-hectares), Hydraulic/McCulloch Lake (471-hectares), Trepanier Creek (6.5-hectares) and Spion Kop (311-hectares).
- » **New recreational pursuits and needs:** The Regional District, in coordination with its municipal partners, has completed new planning documents that address issues related to improved delivery and management of both newer recreational pursuits and our region's busy lakes. These include the "Kelowna and Area Mountain Bike Strategy" and the "Central Okanagan Major Lakes Recreation Marine Facilities Study".
- » **Agricultural lands:** Our agricultural lands remain an important part of our rural landscape and regional economy. They also provide habitat areas for birds and wildlife and help link and connect our region's natural areas. While our 2005 Agricultural Plan recognized these issues, protecting our farmlands from continued urban encroachment and development remains challenging, as do the conflicts at the urban-rural interface where our farmlands abut residential uses.

Parks & Open Spaces



Question 13: Based on the current situation, what we've heard from the community so far, and the issues we've outlined, we would like to get a sense of what parks and environmental issues matter most. Which of these issues should be prioritized or highlighted in RGS policies and growth management scenarios. Please rank the issues from 1 to 3, with "1" meaning most important.

Parks and Open Spaces Issues	Description	Rank
Expanding and expediting parkland acquisition	Expanding our parks network to create new recreational opportunities, while preserving, protecting and linking important ecosystems is challenging in tougher economic times.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promoting environmental best practices on agricultural lands	Local governments and the agricultural community can work together to support programs to educate and encourage farmers to carry out Environmental Farm Plans and/or incorporate other conservation and green farming practices to improve environmental performance and preserve habitat areas in agricultural areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expanding and enhancing Valley-wide environmental cooperation and collaboration	As part of the larger Okanagan Valley, we can better link and coordinate regional environmental programming (similar to we've already done with the Okanagan Basin Water Board) and link our region's parklands and habitat corridors with those of our neighbours.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 14: Are there any important regional parks and natural areas issues that you think the RGS should address? What are they and why are they important?



Climate Change

RGS Goal:

Minimize regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and plan for adaptation

Issue Overview

Combating climate change is one of the most critical issues facing not only our region, but the entire planet. In BC, greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions are being addressed through new provincial regulations, including legislation that commits our region and other regional districts to identify GHG emissions reduction strategies to support BC in reducing emissions by 33% below the 2007 levels by 2020, and 80% below the 2007 levels by 2050.

Land use, infrastructure, transportation and building form all have major impacts on regional energy consumption and related GHG emissions. The RGS has an important role to play, both in helping to mitigate climate change impacts and helping the region adapt to current and emerging climate change impacts. This role includes creating a clear direction on where growth and development will occur, while encouraging a more compact settlement pattern, sustainable transportation options, and protection of natural areas. All this could be achieved while also enhancing the economic competitiveness of the region.

Current Situation

With the help of the Province, an emissions inventory was recently completed for our region. Here are highlights from this inventory provided along with a summary of other climate change initiatives already underway in our region.

- » **Transportation-related emissions:** On-road transportation accounts for more about 66% of GHG emissions in our region, or about 6% above the provincial average. Personal vehicle use is responsible for the majority of these emissions, but additional research is required.
- » **Landfill emissions:** Our landfills (Westside and the City of Kelowna operated Glenmore) are responsible for 6% of regional GHG emissions, which is about the same as the provincial average.
- » **Buildings emissions:** Emissions from building heating and cooling account for about 28% of regional GHG emissions. This is about 6% below the provincial average and could be related to our region's larger proportion of newer, more energy efficient homes and buildings.
- » **A changing climate and water supplies:** Climate modeling work carried out as part of the valley-wide Okanagan Water Wise project indicates that our air temperatures are expected to increase and more winter precipitation will fall as rain rather than as snow. Furthermore, the future high elevation snowpack is expected to start melting sooner every year. These factors will further stress our water supply and increase the importance of reservoir storage. In a future three-year drought scenario – something that climate change could very well bring about -- average annual net inflows to Okanagan Lake are expected to be roughly half of what they are presently.

Climate Change

ISSUE AREAS

Question 15: Based on the current situation, what we've heard from the community so far, and the issues we've outlined, we would like to get a sense of what climate change issues matter most. Which of these issues should be prioritized or highlighted in RGS policies and growth management scenarios. Please rank the issues from 1 to 4, with "1" meaning most important.

Climate Change Issues	Description	Rank
Directing new development to existing centres and encouraging more compact settlement patterns	Settlement patterns -- the physical layout and design of a region, including density, land use mix, and transportation systems -- directly impacts GHG emissions. Encouraging new development to locate in built-up areas with established transportation and servicing can reduce GHG emissions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promoting active transportation options, like walking and cycling	On-road transportation accounts for 66% of our region's GHG emissions. Supporting greener transportation options and accessible alternatives to single-occupant vehicles can reduce these emissions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promoting regional green building standards and guidelines	Residential, commercial and industrial buildings account for 28% of the GHG emissions our region. Green building and renewable energy initiatives could reduce this percentage.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expediting expansion of protected natural areas	Natural areas, such as watersheds, wildlife corridors and forests, provide a range of ecological benefits and help sequester carbon. Expediting acquisition of protected areas and encouraging more tree planting and native plant gardening could help increase carbon sequestration, too.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 16: Are there any important climate change issues that you think the RGS should address? What are they and why are they important?



Tell us about your group

We would like to know who's helping us and keep them informed of the RGS process as it goes forward. Please take a moment to answer the following questions.

1. How many people participated in your discussion? _____

2. Was the meeting organized or hosted by a particular group? Who?

3. Would you or your group like to be added to our RGS email list?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Email address/addresses :
