

**DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: FEBRUARY 3, 2010 File: 0570-06
TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL
FROM: C. D. COATES, CAO
RE: STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE 2010

BACKGROUND

Attached is an updated draft of the Strategic Plan for discussion purposes. The document has been updated to reflect the current status of the issues. A new column has been added to establish (draft, corporate) priorities. Items identified in bold type indicate either a new item or updated information from the last reporting. Completed projects have been deleted.

In addition as directed, the plan has been modified to incorporate the Sustainability Task Force Recommendations. The recommendations are listed below and have been categorized for the purpose of implementation or consideration. In addition, below each category is a suggested action plan to begin to address the issues contained within the recommendations. For ease of reference, the recommendation number and page number relating to the Sustainability Task Force's Final report are noted.

Land Use/OCP Level Policy Issues

Recommendation 1:	Incorporate sustainability throughout the decision process	4
Recommendation 2:	Adopt a vision for a sustainable rural Highlands community.....	5
Recommendation 11:	Create new Net Zero Zones (net zero energy, water and Waste	13
Recommendation 3:	Quantify and report GHG emissions.....	6
Recommendation 4:	Consider GHG emissions in decisions	7
Recommendation 5:	Reduce GHG emissions in municipal operations.....	7
Recommendation 12:	Adopt 'flush toilet ready' and other green building policies	14
Recommendation 13:	Explore incentives for energy and water home upgrades.....	15
Recommendation 14:	Adopt a not net increase policy for water and energy use	16
Recommendation 18:	Catalyze a Sustainable Neighbourhoods Project.....	20
Recommendation 25:	Adapt to changes in precipitation due to climate change.....	25
Recommendation 27:	Protect/restore natural habitat representative of the Coastal Douglas-Fir ecological zone	27
Recommendation 28:	Catalyze a region-scale analysis of green space connectivity ...	28
Recommendation 29:	Minimize adverse barrier and corridor effects of infrastructure ..	29
Recommendation 36:	Set a goal to obtain land for affordable housing	32
Recommendation 37:	Adopt and utilize a sustainability appraisal form.....	32

Action Plan: Added to Strategic Plan given the complexity. Review en masse to consider a full scale OCP amendment process to address sustainability issues at the policy level. Whether or not the policy discussions are incorporated into the OCP or are linked to it. It is suggested that a public consultation process be undertaken in order to provide for public engagement. Given the magnitude of the work and its significance, a consultant should be sourced to undertake this project.

Groundwater Monitoring Project:

Recommendation 20: Implement a water/energy household self-audit program	22
Recommendation 21: Create a Highlands Water Smart incentive program.....	23
Recommendation 22: Build a community water education strategy	23
Recommendation 23: Promote rainwater harvest, xeriscaping and efficient irrigation..	24
Recommendation 24: Manage storm water as a resource	24
Recommendation 26: Use dynamic groundwater forecasting	26
Recommendation 32: Ensure access to water for food production	30

Action Plan: Refer these recommendations en masse to the Groundwater Task Force to be considered in connection with Phase 3 of the Groundwater Monitoring Project.

Operations:

Recommendation 8: Improve pedestrian and non-motorized corridors	10
Recommendation 33: Control invasive species on Municipal land	30

Action Plan: Recommendation 8 is underway in so far as the District is undertaken the Master Trail Network Project which will be completed in 2010. Recommendation 33 can be considered in the 2010 budget to establish funding for a contract to undertake the works.

Communications and Political Action Item

Recommendation 38: Develop a sustainability communication and education strategy	33
Recommendation 39: Include a 'Sustainability' section in Highlands newsletter	34
Recommendation 40: Create a 'Sustainability' section on Highlands website	34
Recommendation 41: Engage existing networks within the community	35
Recommendation 42: Engage external organizations and develop networks.....	36
Recommendation 6: Acknowledge risk of dependence on fossil fuel and cheap oil	8
Recommendation 7: Initiate ongoing dialog on transportation.....	10
Recommendation 9: Improve public transportation, park & rides, and carpooling	11
Recommendation 10: Adopt the Near Zero Emission Vehicles (NZEV) Policy	11
Recommendation 15: Use local improvement charges to finance energy technology Installations.....	17
Recommendation 16: Initiate a Mayor's eco-challenge.....	19
Recommendation 17: Support the BC carbon tax.....	20
Recommendation 19: Create a 'Consumption Status Quo' brochure	21

Recommendation 28: Catalyze a region-scale analysis of green space connectivity ... 28
Recommendation 30: Enact a Highlands Food Charter 29
Recommendation 31: Implement farm-and forest-friendly tax policies 29
Recommendation 34: Promote local meat production-friendly regulations..... 30
Recommendation 35: Create a volunteer Local Food Production Task Force..... 31

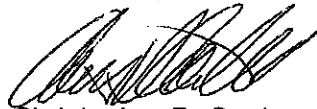
Action Plan: Added to Project List. Using the Road Map contained in the STF Report and as adopted by Council as a guide, sequentially forward these items with appropriate background to council for decisions. In some cases this would involve referral to Select Committee(s) for recommendations. Please note Recommendation 10 has already been commented on by Select Committees and current legislation would not permit Recommendation 15, although legislative revisions on this issue are under consideration.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- 1) hold an in-camera goals and objectives session to further discuss prioritization of the Strategic Plan and Project List issues,
- 2) refer the Sustainability Task Force Recommendations 20-26 and 31 to the Groundwater Task Force for consideration of inclusion in Phase 3 of the Groundwater Monitoring Program.

Respectfully submitted



Christopher D. Coates
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachs.

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