



Update on Fraser Basin Council Programs & Services

Bringing People Together. The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is honoured to work in the Fraser River Basin and across BC to advance sustainability. Formed in 1997, FBC is a collaborative initiative of all orders of government – Federal, Provincial, Local and First Nations – along with leaders from the private and civil sectors. FBC is devoted to helping leaders work together to tackle today's sustainability issues – in particular those issues that span several regions, involve multiple jurisdictions and call for collaborative solutions. Our vision? A Fraser Basin where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment.

Regional District representatives play a pivotal role on the FBC board and committees. They identify the challenges that local governments face in planning for the social, economic and environmental well-being of their communities. The Fraser Basin Council is listening, and most importantly, offering practical solutions. We work on projects that matter to present and future generations – climate change and air quality, flood hazard management, healthy watersheds, sustainability planning, and education on diverse topics – from sustainability purchasing to the latest green transportation options.

This is a story of shared success. The Fraser Basin Council has a presence in each of the five regions of the Basin, thanks to support from the Basin's eight regional districts. In 2008-2009 FBC leveraged up the local government contributions through other public and private partnerships. The end result was that FBC delivered a total of \$6.5 million in programs, services and grants – nearly a 14-fold return on the investment. We co-managed another \$4 million devoted to enhancing the health of the watershed and salmon.

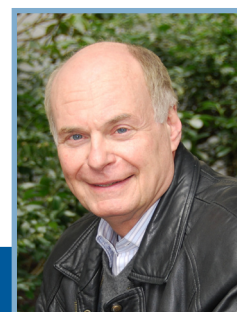
Here is a quick snapshot of our work. There is much more to tell, and we hope to have the opportunity to do so in person, at the UBCM Convention and at presentations in your community. We thank the Regional Districts of Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley, Squamish-Lillooet, Thompson-Nicola, Columbia Shuswap, Cariboo, Fraser-Fort George and Bulkley-Nechako for your continued support.

Many thanks also go to our dedicated local government directors: Ken Melamed, John Massier, Debora Munoz, Jerry Petersen, Patricia Ross, Rene Talbot, John Taylor and Richard Walton.

Charles Jago
Chair



David Marshall
Executive Director



The Fraser Basin Council works with many communities to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop adaptation strategies on climate change. Here's a look:

Greening up Fleets

Transportation now accounts for almost 40% of GHG emissions in BC. More public and private sector fleets are now shifting gears by adopting cleaner, more energy-efficient technologies and management practices. Over the past three years, FBC has encouraged this shift through Green Fleets BC, with provincial funding.

Of note:

- 160 public and private sector fleets have made commitments to reduce emissions through Green Fleets BC. This has led to reductions of 23,000 tonnes of GHG, 150 tonnes of NOx (nitrogen oxide) and three tonnes of fine particulate matter:
- Through Green Fleets BC funding incentives, several commercial fleets have introduced enviroTrucks. These are newer trucks with cleaner-burning engines and aerodynamic features. Results are encouraging, and are now being shared across the sector: a 30% fuel savings, 20% drop in greenhouse gas emissions and 90% drop in smog-producing emissions.
- Of great interest to local government is a pilot project to test hybrid medium-duty vehicles, such as urban delivery trucks, municipal bucket trucks and urban recycling vehicles. Few hybrids of this type now exist in BC, yet they offer 25-30% fuel and emissions reductions.
- **What's New!** Green Fleets BC incentives have helped eight fleets test 13 medium-duty hybrids. Pilots are underway at the Fraser Valley Regional District Library, Metro Vancouver, the City of Vancouver, BC Hydro and UBC.

E3 Fleet Rating

FBC created Canada's first fleet rating program – E3 Fleet. The program offers in-depth fleet reviews of public and private sector fleets to identify opportunities for energy savings and emissions reductions. Over 80 communities have joined E3 Fleet so far, including 50 in BC. The Township of Langley earned an E3 Fleet Silver Rating in November 2008, becoming BC's first rated fleet.

- **What's new!** Two more of BC's municipal fleets have now earned E3 ratings – watch for an announcement soon.

Idle-Free BC

Small first steps do count! Turning off an engine to avoid unnecessary idling is a simple action every driver can take. Today over 168 BC communities and organizations, including 14 school districts and 78 fleets, are committed to idling reduction programs. With funding from the Province of BC, FBC supports their efforts with training and tools through the Idle Free BC program.

Transportation Alternatives for Communities

When it comes to small and mid-sized communities, what practical alternatives exist to building more roads and accommodating more cars? FBC is hosting Transportation Demand Management workshops to explore the question, thanks to Transport Canada funding.

- **What's New:** A new resource guide on transportation demand management offers options for smaller communities. Plan to attend one of FBC's fall workshops. The next one is slated for November 4 in Cranbrook and another is coming to Prince George (Date TBA).

The Hub for Action on School Transportation Emissions (HASTE) is a resource and networking centre. Students, teachers and schools can learn how to reduce school-related transportation emissions, plan safe and active routes to school and access an online GHG emissions



calculator. FBC is pleased to have facilitated this project.

Clean Air Education

FBC co-hosts the annual Clean Air Forum, held each year in a different BC community, and has helped with other initiatives such as the Air Quality Health Index and BC Clean Air Research Fund.

Community Action on Energy & Emissions

The Fraser Basin Council partners on the Community Action on Energy & Emissions (CAEE) program, offering provincial incentives and research support to local government and First Nations to improve their energy efficiency and conservation and reduce carbon emissions. As of this spring, there were 54 BC local governments and First Nations participating in one of seven phases of the program. In just the past year, 25 communities completed projects and 14 communities began projects as diverse as GHG inventories, energy audits and community energy plans.

- **What's New!** See the 2009 edition of *Energy Efficiency & Buildings: A Resource Guide for BC's Local Governments* for the latest case studies. A new incentive is ahead to promote energy alternatives to diesel power generation in remote communities. Details will be available soon.



In any given year, some BC communities will face the threat of flood. For the past 12 years, FBC has supported the development of flood hazard management information and strategies, together with federal, provincial and local authorities. This includes a 2006 flood study that resulted in a new flood profile for the lower Fraser region. In 2008-2009 work included the following:

- FBC has worked with BC Hydro, BC Ministry of Environment, Emergency Management BC, Fraser Valley Regional District, Chilliwack and Hope on topographical mapping for flood modelling in the Fraser Valley, as well as river sedimentation analysis and floodplain maps. The goal is to support land use planning, flood mitigation and emergency response.
- FBC conducted a survey of local and provincial representatives to ascertain their experience with land use planning in floodplain areas, a new responsibility of local government. Many survey respondents voiced support for updated technical stud-

ies, mapping, and risk assessment of flood hazards, as well as greater coordination in the management of risks that impact more than one community.

- Flood infrastructure such as dikes, pumps and floodgates are necessary to protect communities along the Fraser; but they also create barriers to fish migration from the Fraser into smaller tributaries and they contribute to loss or degradation of habitat. Can the worlds of fish and flood be reconciled? FBC initiated a discussion of the issue and is documenting best management practices and success stories to assist local governments and diking authorities.



Smart Planning for Communities (SPC) is a BC-wide, collaborative initiative that provides resources and tools to local and First Nations governments for planning socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable communities. There are five Sustainability Facilitators for the Northern Interior, Southern Interior,

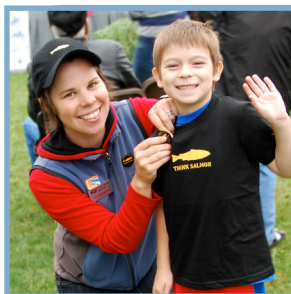
Kootenay and Vancouver Island, including a part-time energy planning specialist. On request, they assist local governments and First Nations that are intending to develop or implement a sustainability plan, as well as offer strategic support (such as how to access funding and expertise) and education (such as learning forums and resources).

To date, the SPC team have connected with at least 50 municipalities and regional districts and nine First Nations through workshops presentations, forums and one-on-one consultations. If

SMART PLANNING FOR COMMUNITIES

you would like advice, the program is just a call away. Smart Planning for Communities is administered by FBC on behalf of a funders group that includes: BC Hydro, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, BC Ministry of Community Development, BC Ministry of Environment, First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and the Real Estate Foundation of BC.

- **What's New!** A climate action toolkit for local government is here. Visit www.toolkit.bc.ca.



The well-being of communities is tied to the health of land, air and water. The Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program (FSWP), co-managed by the Fraser Basin Council and the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF), is investing in the health of the Fraser River watershed and encouraging the diversity and sustainability of wild

Pacific salmon. Funding is available for projects that focus on collaborative watershed planning and governance, habitat restoration and stewardship, sustainable fisheries management and education and engagement in the community. FSWP receives federal and provincial funding, along with that of the Pacific Salmon Foundation Endowment Fund and other partners.

FSWP funded \$4 million in projects across the Fraser Basin in 2008-2009. Many of these are led within the communities by non-profit organizations and public bodies. Recent

examples are the Water Wise program of the Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society, the City of Surrey's salmon habitat restoration program, a joint watershed project of the City of Coquitlam and Kwikwetlem First Nation and a foreshore mapping project of Columbia Shuswap Regional District on Shuswap Lake.

- **What's New!** See a full list of projects at www.thinksalmon.com. The deadline for the current round of funding proposals is October 2, 2009.

FRASER SALMON AND WATERSHEDS

Here are highlights of FBC's work in the regions:

Interface fire. Fire hazards are top of mind for many BC residents who live on the urban-rural divide near grasslands and forest. FBC has worked with communities in the Cariboo by supporting interface fire planning and by overseeing a fuel reduction program.

Invasive plants. When it comes to ecosystem health, one of the thorny concerns is invasive plants. FBC began work in 2002 with creation of a collaborative Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia and launch of the Invasive Plant Council of BC, now an independent society. At a community level, FBC also now supports the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee on strategy, community education and weed pulls.

Flood management in PG. FBC worked with the City of Prince George to facilitate public meetings on flood hazard management options, an important step for this community in planning to reduce its vulnerability to flood.

FBC has five regional offices: Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky (Vancouver), Fraser Valley (Mission), Thompson (Kamloops), Cariboo-Chilcotin (Williams Lake) and Upper Fraser (Prince George). The work of regional committees and regional managers helps FBC stay attuned to regional concerns.

This Update highlights recent work of interest to local governments in the Basin and across BC. Because of economic constraints, FBC regrets being unable to host a breakfast and live presentation to UBCM delegates in 2009, but looks forward to doing so again in future years. For more on FBC programs and services, and to contact us, please visit www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Debris trap. The Fraser River debris trap near Hope prevents large volumes of wood debris from reaching the lower stretches of the Fraser River during spring freshet, avoiding risk to lives and property. The Province of BC and Port Metro Vancouver are now funding the trap under a multi-year agreement, with additional contributions from Transport Canada and Natural Resources Canada. This is a welcome development for FBC, which serves as secretariat for the trap operating committee and has worked hard to encourage funding stability.

Survey on business sustainability practices. In partnership with VanCity Savings Credit Union, the Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky region oversaw a survey in 2008 to find out the needs and priorities of small and medium-sized business in the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley and Southern Vancouver Island. Survey respondents showed a high level of interest in sustainability practices, including waste reduction, ethical purchasing, GHG and energy reductions and water conservation, as well as charitable contributions and employee volunteering.

Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy.

Like other watersheds, the Chilliwack River watershed is under stress. FBC facilitated a team effort among Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Fraser Valley Regional District and the Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition to identify problems and possible solutions for such issues as illegal dumping, controversial sports fishing behaviours and invasive species

Climate Stations. FBC has been pleased to partner with BC Ministry of Agriculture and with local fish and wildlife clubs in expanding the network of Farmwest climate stations in the Thompson and Cariboo. These stations measure soil and climate conditions, yielding data to help agricultural producers better plan irrigation and fertilization.



Sustainability Indicators & Resources

How is the health of the Fraser Basin? The highs and lows are described in *Sustainability Snapshot 4*, FBC's 2009 indicators report. This report canvasses sustainability data and trends, including regional breakdowns for all Fraser Basin communities and some BC-wide data, in 18 topic areas. These include air and water quality, education, health, biodiversity, energy and waste management. *Sustainability Snapshot 4* is available in both electronic and hard copy form. Visit www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

- **What's New!** Scheduled for release in 2010 is a new regional indicators report for the Lower Mainland region, specifically the Fraser Valley Regional District, Metro Vancouver and the Sea to Sky corridor – thanks to funding from Environment Canada and the Lower Mainland Local Government Association. The report will cover land use, transportation, air quality, health and other issues. To suggest topics, please come to the LMLGA lunch at the UBCM Convention or contact Steve Litke or Marion Town. Our most recent regional report was published in 2008 and focused on the Upper Fraser region.

