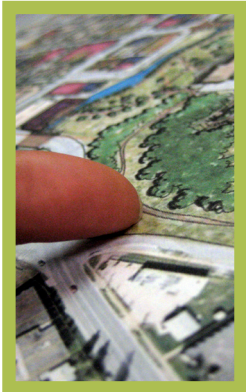




2010 Update to Local Government in BC

Building Resilient Communities in Times of Change



Smart Planning for Communities ... 2

The quick pace of social, economic and environmental change makes community planning an ever more complex task. In the face of uncertainty, community sustainability plans are a welcome guide, helping local leaders build on the unique strengths of their communities, account for emerging opportunities and threats, and decide on social, economic and environmental priorities for community well-being. Through its Smart Planning for Communities program, the Fraser Basin Council is helping communities integrate sustainability planning into their own processes.

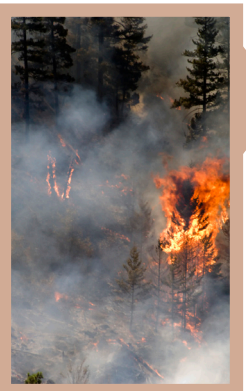
Photo: BC communities can turn to Sustainability Facilitators for one-on-one consultations and presentations.



Climate Change Action and Adaptation ... 3

When it comes to climate change, local governments have a dual challenge: first, to drive down harmful emissions that contribute to climate change, and second, to prepare for the unavoidable impacts of climate change that are already here. Over the past several years, FBC has offered support in several ways – by helping communities achieve greater energy efficiency in buildings, improve the performance of their fleets and promote air quality action. In 2010 the focus turns to water resources – preparing communities to adapt to water scarcity and other related impacts of climate change.

Photo: The City of Prince George fleet is the latest to earn a rating through E3 Fleet, one of FBC's climate change programs.



Managing Local Resources and Risks ... 4

Natural resources support human health, local economies and community life. Sustainable resource management and the mitigation of natural hazards are examples of issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries and call for collaborative action. The Fraser Basin Council works with all orders of government, the private sector and civil groups across BC on sustainability issues – including fish and fisheries, water management, flood management and interface fire.

Photo: FBC has helped BC communities on such issues as interface fire planning and preventative treatment programs.

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is a charitable non-profit society founded in 1997 as a collaboration of federal, provincial, local and First Nations governments – along with participants from the private sector and civil society. Our role is to bring people together to advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin and across BC. We offer communities a range of services, including facilitation and project management on sustainability issues.

Contact any of our program managers, regional managers or sustainability facilitators to learn more. We are here to help.

Smart Planning for Communities

Smart Planning for Communities (SPC) is a BC-wide, collaborative initiative that provides resources and tools to help local and First Nations governments plan socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable communities.

Call a Facilitator

There are five Sustainability Facilitators for the Northern Interior, Southern Interior, Cariboo, Kootenay and Vancouver Island. Their services are available at no cost to local governments and First Nations that are intending to develop or implement a sustainability plan.

Facilitators offer strategic support, advice and

resources. They can connect you with funding opportunities and the expertise needed to begin a plan or make refinements to an existing plan.

There are also opportunities to go deeper. The Smart Planning for Communities program and FBC's senior regional manager for the Lower Mainland, for example, recently assisted the City of North Vancouver in a sustainability review of the City's policies and programs. FBC is able to offer facilitation and program services on a range of community sustainability issues that may arise, within the planning process or in another context.

Smart Planning Presentations

Over the past three years, the Smart Planning team have connected with more than 100 municipalities and regional districts and 26 First Nation communities through one-on-one consultations, presentations and events.

Presentations can be tailored to fit the needs of your community:

- Basic and advanced presentations are available on integrated community sustainability planning and energy planning, plus topics such as building relationships with First Nations communities.
- A five-part GHG modelling webcast, featuring BC case studies, is offered in partnership with the Province of BC: see <http://toolkit.bc.ca/views/programs>
- Special topic tours and events. Call us for a booking.

Check out Resources

- For key resources on climate change and emissions reduction, see the BC Climate Action Toolkit: www.toolkit.bc.ca.
- Looking for community planning materials and precedents? A set of Integrated Community Sustainability Planning (ICSP) samples are now online: <http://smartplanning.pcna.ca/files/icsp>.

SPC is administered by FBC through financial assistance from BC Hydro, BC Ministry of Community and Rural Development, BC Ministry of Environment, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Canadian Rural Partnership and the Real Estate Foundation of BC.



The Smart Planning program led a spring tour on Vancouver Island to demonstrate innovative septic treatment options for residences and neighbourhoods.



The 2010 Snapshot report is available online. An upcoming report will share best practices, helping communities use indicators to monitor progress towards their own sustainability goals.

Sustainability Snapshot 2010

An important focus for the Fraser Basin Council is sustainability indicators.

Sustainability Snapshot 2010: Working Together in the Lower Mainland is the Fraser Basin Council's latest indicators report, released May 13 at the Lower Mainland Local Government Association Conference and AGM. *Sustainability Snapshot 2010* highlights key measures of community health in the Fraser Valley, Metro Vancouver and Squamish-Lillooet.

While Lower Mainland communities are doing well on many fronts, the pressures of population growth, coupled with high levels of consumption, waste and pollution, and certain social and economic disparities, are serious concerns. This report, together with upcoming presentation / dialogue sessions in 2010-2011, will help municipal and regional district representatives in exploring sustainability options for the region. Download the Snapshot at www.fraserbasin.bc.ca, or request copies from the FBC office.

Climate Change Action and Adaptation

There are now over 175 signatories to the BC Climate Action Charter – a commitment by local governments to significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions. BC communities are showing leadership on climate change, and FBC is pleased to do its part.

Greening BC's Fleets

The Fraser Basin Council created Canada's first fleet rating program – E3 Fleet. The program offers public and private sector fleet reviews to identify opportunities for energy savings and emissions reductions. The City of Prince George was honoured with an E3 Silver Rating in 2010, and the City of Vancouver and Corporation of Delta were the first municipalities in Canada to achieve Gold Ratings in 2009. There are now 90 fleets in the program and over 50,000 vehicles. Visit www.e3fleet.com to learn more.

Over the coming year, FBC will work with municipal fleets interested in dramatically reducing emissions by adopting electric vehicles in their fleets, such as delivery vans, cars and shuttle buses. If your community is considering alternatives, please contact us.

Transportation Options

BC communities are exploring options to reduce demands for traditional transportation infrastructure. Are you at a fork in the road? A new toolkit may help, available on the FBC website: *Transportation Demand Management: A Small and Mid-Size Communities Toolkit*.

Energy & Emissions Success

The Community Action on Energy & Emissions (CAEE) program has offered provincial incentives and research support to 54 local government and First Nations to improve their energy efficiency and conservation and to reduce carbon emissions.

Participating communities have produced community energy plans, green building guidelines, green building policies for their own operations, electric vehicle bylaws, solar energy standards, greenhouse gas inventories, energy rebate programs and new energy efficiency targets. See the FBC website for a synopsis of each community's work.



Climate Impacts on Water: Adaptation Strategies

It's a hard truth — some impacts of climate change are now unavoidable. A new program is underway to help BC communities adapt, particularly when it comes to water management. *Preparing for Climate Change: Securing BC's Water Future* — also known as the *BC Regional Adaptation Collaborative (RAC)* — consists of 21 collaborative projects across the province on water allocation and use, forest and watershed management, flood protection and floodplain management and community planning. The emphasis is on regionally relevant tools and information, and on integrating climate change adaptation into local planning and decision-making.

The Fraser Basin Council is managing the initiative, with funding from Natural Resources Canada and support from the Ministry of Environment - Climate Action Secretariat. FBC will host a climate change adaptation network that features a first-stop adaptation website for local authorities, including tools, case studies and educational events. Also watch for a new water and watershed planning guide — FBC will release a preliminary version this fall.

Visit our website for project summaries and updates, including work on a new water supply and demand study in the Okanagan Basin, a watershed evaluation tool, and climate change adaptation as it relates to flood hazard management guidelines, sea dyke elevation and flood construction levels.

Funding is now available to help BC's more remote communities reduce their dependence on diesel power generation in favour of alternative energy sources. The next application deadline is November 15, 2010.

Clean Air Issues

FBC supports a number of air quality initiatives, and works closely with local airshed roundtables, health authorities and local government. We

manage the BC Clean Air Research Fund (BC CLEAR), which supports innovative research useful to decision-makers. BC CLEAR recently assisted Northern Health in better understanding the link between fine particulates and human health in the Prince George area, and to identify air pollution "hotspots." The information will also benefit the Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable and its participants, such as the City of Prince George and Ministry of Environment, in making decisions on airshed planning and pollution control strategies.

Managing Local Resources and Risks

The Fraser Basin Council encourages collaborative action for sustainability, including sustainable resource management and management of natural hazards. Here are examples from 2009-2010:

- **Wildfire Planning and Action:** FBC has worked with the City of Williams Lake, Cariboo Regional District, Xat'sull and Williams Lake Indian Band in the creation and implementation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, with a focus on reducing fuel in interface areas. To date, over 150 hectares have been treated around Williams Lake, and private landowners are becoming more active in helping to manage the risk.
- **Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program:** Thanks to a provincial Living Rivers Trust Fund and federal funding, FBC and the Pacific Salmon Foundation have invested \$12 million over the past four years in community research, watershed governance, habitat restoration and public education to benefit watersheds in the Fraser Basin. For projects in your community, see www.thinksalmon.com. The next funding application deadline is October 1, 2010.
- **Collaborative Watershed Governance:** FBC is working on a fresh approach to managing BC watersheds, with participation of federal, provincial, local and First Nations government representatives, as well as industry, academic bodies and non-profit organizations. This program is opening up communications and looking at cumulative effects of resource use and the safeguards needed to ensure water quality and quantity for ecosystems, communities and economic activity, including agriculture.
- **Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process (SLIPP):** FBC is secretariat for SLIPP, which has developed a strategic plan to encourage development in less sensitive areas of Shuswap and Mara Lakes, improve wastewater management and study recreational impacts. SLIPP's most recent report is on greywater management strategies.
- **Flood Hazard Management:** FBC has helped authorities advance flood management over a number of years. In 2010 FBC issued a new report that describes best

management practices for environmental protection, including fish passage.

- **Fraser River Debris Trap:** The debris trap helps protect lower Fraser River communities from large volumes of wood debris coming downstream during spring high waters. FBC has played a crucial role for the past 11 years to secure annual funding commitments for trap operations and to reduce related air emissions. We are pleased that the Province of BC has committed to long-term funding, in collaboration with Port Metro Vancouver, and will take over management of the facility in April, 2011.
- **Invasive Plants Management:** The Invasive Plant Council of BC (IPC) has just released a new local government toolkit to assist in the launch of community invasive plant programs. Watch for a related workshop in Richmond on January 25-27, featuring sessions on local bylaws and disposal of invasive plants. Contact info@invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca for details. The Fraser Basin Council was instrumental to creation of the IPC, now widely recognized for its work.



Chair Dr. Charles Jago

Executive Director David Marshall

The Fraser Basin Council: Bringing People Together for Sustainable Solutions

- The Fraser Basin Council is a charitable non-profit society founded in 1997 as a collaboration of federal, provincial, local and First Nations governments – along with participants from the private sector and civil society.
- FBC is pleased to share in the work of local governments. Your support and leadership on our Board allows us to serve communities in the Fraser Basin and across BC. In 2009-2010 we leveraged up local government contributions through other funding partnerships and delivered \$6 million in programs, grants and services, a 13-fold return on investment. We co-managed another \$3 million to advance the health of salmon and local watersheds.
- FBC welcomes new opportunities to bring leaders together from multiple jurisdictions to work on social, economic and environmental sustainability challenges. We can serve as a neutral facilitator, meeting convener, process advisor, program secretariat and public educator.

Our Offices

FBC has five regional offices across the Fraser Basin – one of BC's most important watersheds:

- Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky (Vancouver)
- Fraser Valley (Mission)
- Thompson (Kamloops)
- Cariboo-Chilcotin (Williams Lake)
- Upper Fraser (Prince George).

Visit us online to contact regional offices and sustainability facilitators across BC. Reach our central office at:

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If you have a sustainability issue to advance, we can help.