



NEWS RELEASE - November 9, 2004

Fraser Basin Council Short Lists Nominees for 2004 Sustainability Awards

Vancouver, BC: The Fraser Basin Council today released its shortlist of 22 organizations nominated for the 2004 Sustainability Awards. The winners in each of five categories will be announced at the Awards Luncheon on November 27, 2004, when Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo and Council Chair Patrick Reid present the awards on the final day of the 4th biennial State of the Fraser Basin Conference in Vancouver on November 26 and 27. Tickets for the Luncheon are available.

"The 2004 Sustainability Awards underscore the achievements of dedicated people and organizations throughout the Fraser River Basin who have worked so hard on behalf of the sustainability of this special place," said Reid. "We're very pleased with the nearly 100 nominations this year from all across the Basin. The Lieutenant-Governor, our Board members and I look forward to announcing the winners at our Conference in November."

Note: some projects have been nominated in more than one category.

Have you registered for the 2004 State of the Fraser Basin Conference November 26 & 27? If not, register today: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca

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2004 Sustainability Award Category

City/Region

UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABILITY

This award recognizes contributions that enhance our understanding of how vibrant communities can be built through improved social well-being, strong and diverse economies, and the maintenance and improvement of the air, water, land and living species that make up our ecosystem.

Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA) – Green Workplace Program **Basin-Wide**

For the past three years, the EYA's program has worked to help small and medium size businesses reduce their environmental impact while saving costs. This youth-driven organization works toward helping their clients achieve benefits in the areas of better profit, better people and a better planet.

Nicola Watershed Community Round Table

Merritt and Area

For ten years the NWCRT has worked tirelessly to help communities flourish in a sustainable Nicola Watershed. This non-profit group's many works includes enhancing public awareness through a series of educational forums and initiating the Laurie Guichon Grasslands Interpretive Centre.

Passion for Action and the Sustainability Suitcase Projects

Lower Mainland

Through the development of hands-on educational tools and materials, teachers, students and, by extension, their families have been helped to understand the issue of sustainability and engaged to re-think the choices they make on a daily basis.

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**Public Works and Government Services Canada
- The Green Citizenship Passport Program**

Basin-Wide

This unique incentive program encourages federal employees to make more sustainable choices in both their workplace and their home. Choices and activities are awarded with points that are tracked and, once accumulated, are rewarded with environmentally themed prizes.

Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society Prince George and Area

Formed in 1989, REAPS has worked to empower individuals to become environmental stewards. The development of home composting and waste reduction programs has contributed significantly to the goal of reducing the amount of waste in the Prince George area being landfilled.

CARING FOR ECOSYSTEMS

This award honours stewards of the environment and natural resources, and recognizes initiatives that respect ecosystems and their interrelationships.

BC Hydro – Water Use Planning Program

Basin-Wide

BC Hydro has embodied a triple-bottom line sustainable approach to the operation of its hydroelectric facilities and has translated sustainability theory into practice. The innovative and collaborative decision making model has resulted in significant social and environmental benefits.

City of North Vancouver – Environmental Protection Program North Vancouver

The comprehensive plan has demonstrated the City's leadership in caring for their ecosystem. Specific initiatives include the enhancement of Mahon Park, the daylighting of Thain Creek, and the Mosquito Creek Trail and Riparian Enhancement Project.

City of Surrey – Salmon Habitat Restoration Program

Surrey

Since 1996 this restoration program has provided career and leadership training for local youth whose commitment and hard work has resulted in the removal of tons of debris from local creeks, the establishment of new riparian areas and the stabilization of creek banks.

Land Conservancy of BC

Williams Lake

- Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area

The Land Conservancy serves as a catalyst to remove invasive species, restore habitat, build fences to protect agricultural lands and livestock, and educate citizens about the importance of conservation in regards to this area of flood plain habitat, river front and salmon habitat.

Stave Valley Salmonid Enhancement Society

Mission and Area

Twenty-five years ago, before it was fashionable to care for fish and fish habitat, a committed group of citizens began to do just that. Last year alone, in addition to conducting field trips, undertaking water studies and operating a nursery, they released almost 200,000 smolts and fry.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

This award recognizes those who enable communities to build diverse economies, an educated work force, safe neighbourhoods, accessibility to basic commodities, shared goals, local action and a sense of belonging.

City of Prince George – Partners for A Healthy Downtown Project Prince George

A group of community partners has come together to holistically address downtown issues relating to safety and security, social policy, transportation, investment and development, parking and homelessness.

District of Wells**Wells and Barkerville**

A successful struggle to keep the Wells/Barkerville Community School open galvanized the community to come together, focus on their strengths and work together to purchase and retrofit the school building, which remains today as a centerpiece of the community and its activities.

**Gibraltar Mines Ltd. and Cariboo Regional District
- Landfill Construction Project****Cariboo Region**

After a comprehensive public consultation process, this partnership was given support to combine synergies when it became evident that creating a landfill site on one of the mine's waste rock dumps would be environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

**Portland Hotel Society and VanCity Savings Credit Union
- Pigeon Parks Savings****Vancouver**

Established earlier this year, this unique partnership provides low-cost, reliable financial services in a supportive environment to Vancouver's Downtown Eastside residents who may otherwise not have access to a financial institution.

Shxwha:y Village Demolition Land Clearing Project**Fraser Valley Region**

Through the development of a landfill for demolition land cleaning waste on a former gravel pit, the Skway community's goal is to set the standard for First Nation waste facilities and recycle as much material as possible to reduce what will ultimately be landfilled.

IMPROVING DECISION MAKING

This award recognizes processes that demonstrate collaborative decision-making, reach creative agreements and achieve common goals that reflect the diverse needs of a growing and mixed population.

City of Port Moody**Port Moody**

The City has come a long way from being one of the first communities in Canada to have an Environmental Protection Committee in 1977. Today, 14 community-based committees are an example of democracy in action and provide critical input into all aspects of City decision-making.

Corporation of the District of Maple Ridge/Alouette River Management Maple Ridge Society (ARMS) / Kanaka Environmental and Educational Partnership (KEEPS) and Area

The Stream Mapping and Inventory Program highlights the significant advances that have been made in preserving local stream ecosystems. State of the art technology is used to collect information about stream integrity, fish and wildlife habitats, and recreational values.

Resort Municipality of Whistler – Comprehensive Sustainability Plan**Whistler**

Guided by established community values, the CSP is a shared vision of a successful and sustainable Whistler. This 70-year, overarching, community-based plan focuses on the priorities, directions and strategies to achieve the vision, together with an implementation plan.

Tilbury Eco-Industrial Partnership**Delta**

Eco-Industrial Networking (EIN) is the concept of working together to share resources for maximum financial, environmental and social benefit. With the involvement of 650 businesses, the Tilbury Partnership is hoping to realize the second largest eco-industrial retrofit in North America.

West Chilcotin Forest Products Ltd.**Anahim/Nimpo Area**

The successful partnership between Carrier Lumber Ltd., the Ulkatcho First Nations and C.A.T. Resources Ltd. operates a viable forestry operation, addresses resource management issues and empowers the local Band to work toward achieving their goals in a positive working environment.

OVERALL SUSTAINABILITY

This award is presented to the community or organization whose initiatives best include the qualities of each of the other four award categories. It honours those whose work contributes to the Fraser River Basin achieving its vision of becoming a place where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment.

City of Port Moody

Port Moody

Once known as a “dirty little mill town”, Port Moody is now a healthy, vibrant, culturally diverse and economically viable community that has been recognized internationally for its leadership and use of best practices to ensure its place as one of the most livable communities in the world.

Eight Peaks Sustainable Resource Management Plan

Thompson Region

The planning process brought together governments, forest licencees, private operations, First Nations and the local community interests to collaboratively partner to develop solutions to problems that threatened the qualities that make the Blue River area a desirable place to live and recreate.

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City of Surrey – East Clayton Sustainability Initiative

Surrey

The planning and implementation of an integrated sustainable neighborhood is based on a multi-stakeholder, charette process. Sustainable development principles and practices are incorporated into all aspects of the design and construction of the emerging neighbourhood.

City of Vancouver

- Cool Vancouver Task Force and Climate Change Action Plan

Vancouver

Since March 2003 the Task Force has been working to develop two Climate Change Actions Plans – one for the City as a corporation and one for the community as a whole. Community, staff and political representatives on the Task Force are working on innovative and pragmatic ways to address climate change.

HELP US GET THE WORD OUT

Please pass this notice on to your colleagues or others who may be interested in attending the 2004 State of the Fraser Basin Conference (November 26 and 27 in Vancouver) and/or the 2004 Sustainability Awards Luncheon (November 27). One Awards Luncheon ticket is included with each conference registration. Thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the Conference and Awards ceremony. Details of both events are on our website.

The Fraser Basin – the area drained by the Fraser River and its many tributaries – is almost as large as California. Stretching 1400 kilometres from the Rockies to Richmond, the Basin covers more than 25% of the province. 80% of BC’s economic activity is generated in the Basin. For two out of every three British Columbians – or 2.7 million people – it’s the place we call home.

The Fraser Basin Council is a non-profit society established in 1997 to bring people together to find solutions to long-standing issues and conflicts, and take advantage of opportunities to advance sustainability in the Fraser River Basin. Our vision is for a Fraser Basin where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment.

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