

Sustainability Facilitators



Joan Chess MCIP

Northern Interior Office: Prince George
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Joan is a registered planner with 25 years experience in community and regional planning, mostly gained in BC's northern interior. She has worked with provincial, local and First Nations governments and was the Manager for the Fraser Basin Council's Upper Fraser Region for 14 years. Whether dealing with a watershed or a small site, Joan brings a practical approach to combining sustainability principles and planning processes, with skills in research, analysis, group facilitation and urban design for small communities. She and her family have lived in their R2000 energy efficient home for 25 years.



Laurie Cordell MCIP

Kootenay Office: Cranbrook
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Laurie Cordell brings to the Smart Planning team 10 years of planning experience at the federal, regional district and municipal levels. With a strong interest in sustainability, Laurie has extensive experience related to planning processes, public consultation, facilitation and mediation. She has conducted many local workshops and enjoys working with people. Laurie appreciates the communities and natural beauty of the Kootenays where she lives in an off-grid, solar house.



Angela Evans MCIP

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Angela Evans is a planner with over 20 years experience in the private and public sectors. She worked for many years as an Environmental Planner with the District of Saanich, and more recently as a consultant focusing on sustainability issues. Her interests in the area of sustainability planning are diverse and include policy and bylaw harmonization, food security and green buildings, as well as innovative water, sewage and rainwater technologies.



Peter Ostergaard MCIP

Province-Wide Energy Specialist: Victoria
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Peter Ostergaard joins SPC as a province-wide Sustainability Facilitator with special expertise in community energy planning. In his previous role as an Assistant Deputy Minister in the Electricity and Alternative Energy Division of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, he was responsible for many community energy, energy efficiency, transportation, climate change, remote community and building code policies and initiatives. Peter also served for six years as Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the BC Utilities Commission.



Smart Planning for Communities

Smart Planning for Communities (SPC) is a BC-wide collaborative initiative to assist local and First Nations governments in addressing their long-term sustainability challenges by providing resources and tools for planning socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable communities.



Susanne Theurer MCIP

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Susanne Theurer has been involved in community planning and development for more than 20 years in a number of communities on the west coast and in the interior of British Columbia. She brings with her a background in landscape architecture and practice as a registered planner in local government at the municipal and regional levels. Sustainability principles, and a particular interest in policy development, consultation and engagement, continue to guide her work.



Maureen LeBourdais SPC Manager

Cariboo-Chilcotin Office: Williams Lake
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Maureen LeBourdais has over 15 years experience in community economic development and capacity building in British Columbia, managing a range of environmental, economic and social planning initiatives. Before joining Smart Planning, Maureen was Coordinator of the BC Rural Network, a coalition of provincial and regional organizations formed to enhance the capacity of rural British Columbia to develop responses to community issues. Maureen has worked with Fraser Basin Council for the last 10 years.



Donnella Sellars SPC Program Coordinator

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Donnella Sellars is from Xats'ull (Soda Creek) First Nation and has been involved in the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw Treaty Negotiations for the last 10 years. She brings an excellent understanding of negotiations, First Nations culture, administration and coordinator skills to the Smart Planning for Communities Program. She has been involved in the Cariboo Regional Visioning process with the Federal, Provincial, Local and First Nations Governments, various line ministries and industry, funded through UBCM. During this time she has strived to assist the communities in relationship building and working together.



Fraser Basin Council

Social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment
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