

Update: October 2005

citiesPLUS themes finding their way into the GVRD

A legacy the citiesPLUS planning exercise is the lasting insight into how the GVRD could advance sustainability in the region. The "One System Approach" and "Adaptive Management Framework" have been used to inform the development of the Sustainable Region Initiative (SRI) Framework for Regional Mandates (<http://www.gvrd.bc.ca/sustainability/about.asp>). It is premised on the concept that the region comprises a system of systems that are in part represented by GVRD mandates and in part represented by other areas of interest.

For GVRD mandates, the SRI Framework sets out a template for the development of management plans according to the principles of sustainability. It also requires that every plan identify links between its goals and those embodied in other plans.

The SRI Framework for Regional Mandates creates a set of integrated management plans that reflects the integrated systems of a sustainable urban region. The first of a suite of plans have been developed under the Framework and are being reviewed at this time (<http://www.gvrd.bc.ca/sustainability/reports.htm>).

Here are some examples of initiatives in and around Vancouver that map to the citiesPLUS strategies.

1. Protect and Connect Blue Ribbons and Green Webs

- Regional Parks and Greenway Strategy. Kanaka Creek Regional Park (Maple Ridge)
- Urban foreshore park systems (located in Vancouver, New Westminister, Port Moody, West Vancouver)
- Stream-keepers initiatives, day-lighting creeks, storm-drain marking program with painted yellow salmon
- Integrated Stormwater Management Plan to increase permeability and stream recharge, and water balance modeling for new development

2. Design multi-use spaces and convertible structures

- Utility greenways combine access to infrastructure with pedestrian and cycling routes
- Green roofs create urban retreats and assist rainwater capture (there are over 1000 in the region)
- Micro-hydro power generated in water distribution pipe from Eagle Lake (West Vancouver)
- Water Filtration Plant energy recapture system (North Vancouver District)

- Live-work zoning and convertible parking/storage spaces (Vancouver)

3. Plan Short Loops and Integrated Infrastructure Networks

- Waste to Energy Facility sells steam to nearby industry and power to BC Hydro's grid (Burnaby)
- District energy systems (City of North Vancouver, Vancouver)
- Geothermal heated pools (Richmond, West Vancouver)
- Reclamation of wastewater at Annacis - potential to sell to nearby industrial user
- Eco-Industrial Networking collaboration to share resources and exchange materials within industrial parks (District of North Vancouver, Delta)

4. Become Net Contributors

- Rainwater capture and use in industrial processes (North Vancouver District)
- Rooftop gardens and Community Gardens (Burnaby, Vancouver, West Vancouver)

5. Experiment and Learn as We Go

- Hydrogen Highway initiative to test and build hydrogen infrastructure including fuelling station at 10,000 psi (Surrey)

6. Enhance the Diversity of Choices

- TransLink multi-modal transportation systems- bikes on buses and SkyTrain , park n' ride
- Cooperative Auto Network membership to use range of vehicles(Vancouver, North Vancouver City, Burnaby)
- Infill housing, basement suites, four-plexing of larger homes, office-suite conversions
- Distinct neighbourhoods and Regional Town Centres

7. Create Shock Resilient Cells

- Water storage facility at Little Mountain Reservoir

8. Green and Clean the Import/Export Chain

- Green purchasing guidelines (Richmond)
- Ethical purchasing policy (Vancouver)