



cities^{plus}



a destination for greater vancouver

Summer 2002 Newsletter

Welcome to the 2nd cities^{plus} Newsletter

The Summer edition describes work undertaken by the project team from June through September 2002, and outlines some of the upcoming events for the months ahead. One of the key cities^{plus} objectives is to foster urban sustainability in Canada and around the world by creating legacy networks. During this period, we have continued the process of developing legacies on a regional level through a cities^{plus} Networking Breakfast, and a presentation at the Union of BC Municipalities, and at the national level through a Roundtable Event and a National Symposium. Internationally, the International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC) is working to build synergy between cities^{plus} and a number of upcoming events, including the World Summit for Sustainable Development, GLOBE 2004, the World Urban Forum and VancouverPLUS 30 in 2006.

National Symposium at the Liu Center

On 17 & 18 September 2002, representatives from more than 20 cities across Canada attended a National Symposium at the Liu Centre at UBC. The theme of the meeting was *The City in the World: Security and Resiliency as a Foundation for Long-term Urban Planning*. Hosted by the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, National Chair of cities^{plus}, the symposium brought together elected officials and planners to help create a national network of cities planning for long-term urban sustainability.



Participants in the National Symposium with Hon. Mike Harcourt

The National Symposium focused on the numerous challenges facing Canada's urban centres. Issues discussed included the resiliency of our urban systems and the need to develop municipalities that can assess risks and vulnerabilities and adapt to unknown futures. Participants were given opportunities to review the cities^{plus} methodology and to help refine the project scope.

The National Symposium was an essential part of building the cities^{plus} legacy. Participants were encouraged to create a national network of cities that will help urban centres collectively address the many challenges they face in becoming sustainable, prosperous and secure cities.



George Puil, Chair of GVRD, at the National Symposium

Check out the cities^{plus} web site at www.citiesplus.ca

Foundation Teams Activities

One of the greatest challenges that our cities face in long-term planning is creating a sufficiently broad and balanced perspective on the many social, economic and environmental issues that are important to human communities. To ensure the scope of cities^{plus} is broad and balanced, a series of foundation papers were written to provide baseline analysis for a range of systems, context issues, and cross-cutting themes associated with developing sustainable metropolitan areas.



The Foundation Teams have provided the core team with expertise that will be integrated into the project deliverables. Over the past 3 months, 16 Foundation Papers were written and reviewed by related experts from the academic, private, and public sectors. Each paper addresses a series of questions, elaborates on key issues of concern, and discusses our past and present performance in the GVRD.

The papers were used as a basis for bringing together each team for intensive half-day sessions. Team members were encouraged to explore what sustainability might mean with respect to their topic. This "silo" approach allowed each team to push the bar as high as possible without dealing with trade-offs and competing priorities. The results will be integrated later in the project.

In each session, team members were asked to contribute a vision statement and collaborate on a set of goals and possible long-term indicators. The remaining goal-setting sessions will be completed during October.

Foundation Teams were brought together to examine each of the following:

Materials and Waste systems	Water systems
Natural Habitat systems	Land Use
Mobility systems	Climate Change
Agri-food systems	Decision Support
Governance	Cultural systems
Communications systems	Human Security
Health & Well-being systems	Social Equity
Construction Sector	Services Sector
Knowledge Sector	Demographics
Energy systems	Buildings systems

cities^{plus} Breakfast at the UBCM Convention

Members of the cities^{plus} core team hosted a special breakfast at the Union of BC Municipalities Annual Convention on September 25th. Ken Cameron and Elisa Campbell gave a presentation on cities^{plus} to 40 convention attendees. The breakfast provided representatives from BC Municipalities the opportunity to provide input into the development of a vision for sustainable urban systems. By hosting this event, the cities^{plus} team gathered input and insight in terms of what might constitute a healthy long-term relationship between Greater Vancouver and other towns and cities in British Columbia.

CGA Annual General Meeting

On June 10, 2002 The Canadian Gas Association held their annual General Meeting. The theme of this year's meeting was "Securing North America's Energy Future". cities^{plus} co-team leader, Sebastian Moffatt and Dr. John Robinson, Sustainable Development Research Institute, participated in the plenary presentation: *Opportunities for a Sustainable Development World*. Wayne Soper, Senior VP of Duke Energy moderated the presentations, which addressed integrating sustainability into our planning process and the overall strategic context of our businesses. The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, cities^{plus} National Chair participated as a presenter at the CGA Special Awards Luncheon.



Sebastian Moffatt at Networking Breakfast

Networking Breakfast

The second cities^{plus} networking breakfast was held on June 26th, featuring a discussion on *Resilience, Adaptability, and the Role of Long Term Urban Planning*. The morning began with an interesting and thought provoking presentation by Rick Williams and Sebastian Moffatt. Mr. Williams gave a presentation on climate change adaptation and Mr. Moffatt presented on the challenges we face in long-term planning.

Following these presentations, participants considered the question: 'How do we plan for increasing uncertainty?'



networking breakfast

The networking breakfast engaged fifty-three participants from diverse sectors and organizations. Representatives from several universities, the Liu Center, the GVRD, the International Centre for Sustainable Cities, the Vancouver Economic Development Commission, along with NGO representatives and professionals in the planning and design field were in attendance.

Visit the cities^{plus} website for a participant list and detailed discussion notes for each breakfast.

Advisory Board Meeting

The second Advisory Board meeting was held July 24th at the Lui Centre. Board members discussed opportunities to continue the cities^{plus} regional, national and international legacies beyond the culmination of the World Gas Conference's sustainable urban systems design competition.

cities^{plus} roundtable

A cities^{plus} roundtable was held at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual General Meeting and Conference on June 1, 2002. cities^{plus} team members Mike Harcourt, Michael Wiggin and Carol Lee Eckhart facilitated the event. Eighteen representatives from across Canada participated in the roundtable. The basis of the roundtable was to discuss how cities in Canada would like to get involved in cities^{plus} and what they hope to get out of their participation in the project.



roundtable events

cities^{plus} team works with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)

On August 1, project staffperson Michael Wiggin met with energy technology experts and planners from the federal government to inform them about the project process and to get input on energy use options for 2101. The proposed targets for transportation, building energy efficiency, and the use of new technologies were seen as "achievable". The meeting served as a dry run for a larger workshop planned for October 10th, 2002.

cities^{plus} is attracting an impressive array of talent from Greater Vancouver and across Canada

**Upcoming Event:
Integrated Design Workshop**

The Integrated Design Workshop (IDW) is conceived of as a multi-day, multi-participant event that will focus on translating sustainability goals and targets into illustrations of the practical strategies required to achieve a sustainable GVRD over the next 100 years. Participants will include design professionals, planners, systems experts, academics, students, project sponsors, and Foundation Team members.

The IDW will be comprised of three separate activity streams that will work independently and in concert with each other. Each stream has individual goals that will collectively contribute to achieving the overall event goal. The three streams are: a Design Charrette focusing on four different areas within Greater Vancouver; a Regional Integration Workshop; and an Analysis Workshop.

The IDW will draw upon the substantial work and input that has been developed through the cities^{plus} initiative over the past twelve months. The Integrated Design Workshop will take place 22-29 November at the Morris J. Wosk Center for Dialogue at Simon Fraser University's downtown campus.

Building Partnerships and Support

The response to our sponsorship appeal efforts has been excellent, and we would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of our sponsors, whose logos appear below. We have secured \$1.1 million of the \$1.45 million project budget, and hope to secure the remainder over the next few months.



International Centre for Sustainable Cities



WASTECH



Minister Stephen Owen at the National Symposium

The cities^{plus} newsletters will be produced quarterly until June 2003. If you would like to be added or removed from the distribution list, please contact Lyle Walker, The Sheltair Group, (604) 732-9106 x 303 or by e-mail to lwalker@sheltair.com.