

Creating Livable Communities:



Early and Ongoing Public Engagement

Change and Sustainability in the Columbia Basin
October 20, 2007

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Smart Growth BC

Overview

- Smart Growth BC
- Guiding Principles
- Public Engagement Strategies
- SGBC Programs and Services



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Smart Growth BC

- Province wide, non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in 1999
- Staff of 8: scientists, planners, landscape architects
- Funded by foundations, government, Vancity, events, fee for service and other donations

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Smart Growth BC

We are devoted to fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible land use and development. We work throughout the province with community groups, businesses, developers, planners, municipalities and the public to create more livable communities in British Columbia.

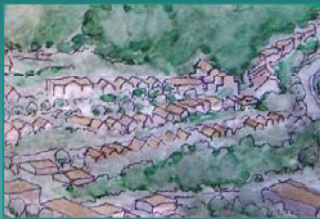


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Guiding SG Principles

- A collection of strategies for developing our neighbourhoods and towns to:

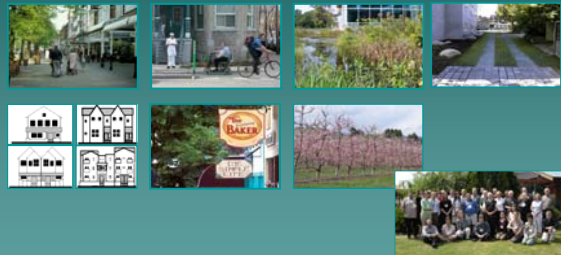


- ✓ enhance our quality of life
- ✓ protect our environment
- ✓ use tax revenues wisely

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Guiding SG Principles



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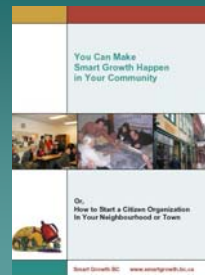
Smart Growth NGOs in N.A.

- Smart Growth BC
- Smart Growth ON
- Vivre en Ville
- Smart Growth Canada Network
- Smart Growth America Network
- 1000 Friends of OR
- Futurewise
- 10,000 Friends of PA
- Idaho Smart Growth
- Montana Smart Growth
- Grow Smart Rhode Island
- American Farmland Trust
- Plus many more!

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Public Engagement Strategies



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Effective Engagement

Community Engagement Must Have

- The Five I's

Planning Initiatives Must Be

- S.M.A.R.T.

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Effective Engagement

The Five I's

- Into
- Interesting
- Informing
- Involved
- Inspired

S.M.A.R.T.

- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Realistic
- Timely

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What is a Charrette?

"A charrette is a time-limited design event in which a diverse group of people strive to produce a mutually agreeable answer to a complex design problem."

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Charrette



Collaborative
Integrated
Multi-disciplinary
Community-based
Proactive

Research-based
Inclusive
Representative
Consensus-based
Flexible

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Charrette Team

- Business
- Developers
- Landowners
- Educators
- Community
- Recreation
- Environment
- Residents
- Industry
- District staff
- Council
- First Nation
- Government
- Transportation
- Market / cost analysis
- Other experts
- Designers
- Facilitators

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Charrette Outcomes



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SGBC Programs and Services

- General Outreach
- Voter Education Campaign
- Community Assistance Program (CAP)
- CAP Plus
- Smart Growth on the Ground
- Smart Growth Advisory Services

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General Outreach



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General Outreach

Tailored workshops and presentations

- Affordable housing
- Regional growth and development issues
- Transportation
- Farmland protection
- Mapping and visualization
- Participatory video

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General Outreach

Smart Growth Conference

- Best practices & professional development
- Creating Prosperous, Livable Communities (2004)
- Financing Smart Growth (2005)
- Smart Growth Housing (2006)
- Developers Leading the Way (2007)
- Smart Growth Awards (the 'Smarty')



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Voter Education Campaign

Building Awareness During Local Elections

- 100,000 voter guides distributed around the province
- Co-host community livability forums with local organizations featuring municipal candidates



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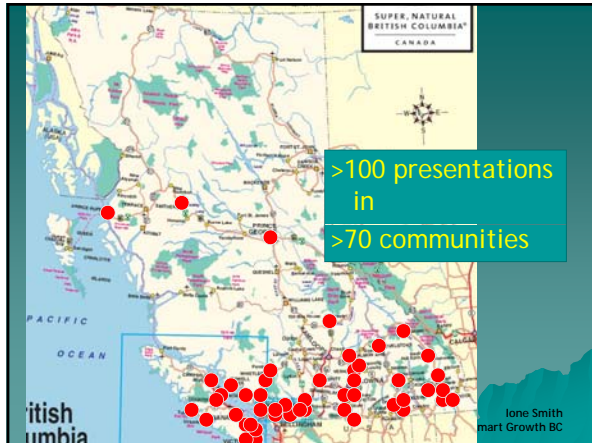
Community Assistance Program

1. Written information: e.g. "The Smart Growth Toolkit"
2. Verbal information: responds to calls for advice on development practices, policies, tools, case studies ;
3. Guidance: on building a community's 'capacity to organize' locally; and
4. Community workshops: to introduce the principles of smart growth and advice on implementing smart growth principles.

CAP caters to community groups as well as requests from local and regional governments

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British Columbia

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CAP Plus Actions

- Capacity-building workshops
- Visioning exercises
- Asset mapping
- Mini-charrettes
- Needs assessments
- Applied research
- Policy analysis and development

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CAP Plus Communities

- District of Salmon Arm
- Central Kootenays (Area D)

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Smart Growth on the Ground



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The tools to build better communities.

Smart Growth Advisory Services (SGAS) is a mission-based consulting service offering: *Land Use Planning, GIS Mapping, Urban Design, Community Visioning, Facilitation, Research, Public Consultation and Comprehensive Community Planning.*

Current Projects:

- Kaslo and Silverton OCPs
- Vernon OCP
- Public engagement for Squamish's Downtown Neighbourhood Plan
- Joint OCP and Zoning Bylaw for Shawnigan Lake and Cobble Hill
- Local Area Plan in Tofino

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Smart Growth Advisory Services

Vernon OCP Review:

- Issues papers
- Participatory video
- Website development for the public process (www.vernon.sgas.bc.ca)
- Focus groups on issue areas
- Stakeholder meetings
- Computer modeling of build-out scenarios
- Community decision-making forums
- Re-writing the policies

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Thank you!



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