

Reaching out

Goals 2001/2002

- Hire a Communications Director; develop and implement an extensive communications and media strategy
- Redesign the SGBC website; create a comprehensive source for smart growth information in BC
- Develop, market and deliver "smart growth for small communities" workshops
- Promote smart growth case studies and best practices
- Develop and distribute BC smart growth e-newsletter
- Develop key professional partnerships for advancing smart growth
- Work with two to three communities on a key smart growth issue or project
- Work with South Okanagan municipalities on a regional, long-term strategy
- Develop a 2002 municipal election voter education campaign
- Research, analyze and address issues around the impacts of the upcoming Community Charter on smart growth issues

Northwest Smart Growth Retreat

SGBC hosted the third Northwest Smart Growth Retreat for 25 smart growth organizations in BC, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho. This 2.5-day retreat aimed to share ideas on fundraising, organizational development and campaign strategies. An evening public "smart growth salon" featured Patrick Condon, the UBC James Taylor Chair in Landscape and Livable Environments, who spoke on the smart growth context in the Canadian versus U.S. environment.

Leadership and Innovation for Urban Sustainability conference

SGBC was a major partner in a BC-Washington state collaboration on urban sustainability. More than 250 people attended this 1.5-day conference featuring keynote speakers, panels and small workshop discussions. SGBC staff produced the summary report, which is available on our website.

Presentations

The SGBC team has made presentations to local government, professionals and the general public, including: Union of BC Municipalities, Local Government Management Association, Howe Sound Community Forum, Tofino Community Forum, Simon Fraser University fourth year geography class, BC Environmental Network Annual General Meeting, SGBC *Creating More Livable Communities* conference, University of Victoria campus planning forum on the Smart Growth University.

Publications Building awareness of smart growth principles and values is a key priority. Through research and publication, SGBC is developing a body of information on BC specific smart growth strategies, best management practices and financial implications of land development.

Smart Growth Toolkit

The *Smart Growth Toolkit* is designed to assist people to understand smart growth issues and develop homegrown approaches to local issues. It provides information about smart growth principles, strategies, and tools. It also showcases a number of studies



Smart growth is really good stewardship and a gift to future generations of people who will live in the communities we create today. Let's do it wisely.

about innovative developments and citizen initiatives, and provides a framework for increasing the effectiveness of citizen participation

in local community planning processes. More than 500 copies of the *Toolkit* were distributed in the past year.

The BC Sprawl Report 2001

In a groundbreaking report, the SGBC team examined and evaluated growth patterns in different regions of the province to provide a snapshot of the current land use situation. Twenty-six municipalities were examined in the Regional District of Nanaimo, the Greater Vancouver Regional District, and the Regional District of the Central Okanagan. The *BC Sprawl Report 2001*, makes a series of detailed recommendations to encourage municipalities in their efforts to create more livable communities.

The *BC Sprawl Report 2001* (either the full report or the executive summary) was mailed to every municipality and regional district in BC, as well as to key individuals in the field. The report is available on the SGBC website. Upon release of the report, the *Vancouver Sun* issued a two-page story dealing with the report, sprawl, and the launch of SGBC.

Smart Growth Guide to Local Government Law and Advocacy

Copublished with SGBC, this guide was written and produced by West Coast Environmental Law Association. It is a citizen's guide to the Local Government Act and provides information on legal aspects of smart growth.

Articles SGBC published articles in the following publications and newsletters: Planning Institute of BC *News*, *The Polis Institute* newsletter, ICBC's *Recovery* magazine, *BC Environmental Network* newsletter.



Across Canada, sprawl is threatening the livability of our communities.

Escalating housing prices, traffic congestion and pollution, loss of agricultural land, the paving over of streams and habitat, and the development of impersonal, car-dependent communities all decrease the livability of many regions.

In British Columbia, citizens are increasingly calling for land use strategies that preserve the quality of life in the province. The number of community organizations, ratepayers associations, land trusts, habitat protection groups and affordable

housing advocates has blossomed over the last decade. These groups often work in isolation, with little coordination or opportunity to share information or experiences. When provided the awareness and the opportunity of working in coalition with other organizations addressing smart growth issues, they have greater legitimacy, a more informed and cohesive approach, and a higher level of impact on land use practices.

Because of these needs, generated by exploding urban growth pressures and increasing citizen demand for involvement, the

opportunity to create a smart growth organization was ideal. To this end, the Eco-Research Chair of Environmental Law and Policy at the University of Victoria and West Coast Environmental Law established

Smart Growth BC in the summer of 1999 as a joint project, and incorporated it as an independent non-profit society in December 1999.



Kelowna is a community, like many others in BC, that is growing quickly and putting pressure on agricultural land and the natural habitat. Addressing issues like sprawl is an important role that SGBC plays.

Smart Growth BC is dedicated to growth management and regional land use planning issues. Our mission is to create more livable communities.

SmartGrowthBC

We promote:

- compact human settlements that avoid unplanned growth.
- development patterns that encourage the use of sustainable transportation.
- ecological integrity in urban and suburban areas.
- the integrity of a secure and productive agricultural land base.
- adequate, affordable housing.
- preservation, creation and linkage of urban and rural open space including parks and recreation areas.
- alternative development standards.
- an early and ongoing role for community in engaging in planning, design and development processes.



Workshops, with participants from across BC, generated engaging ideas for local and regional smart growth solutions.

The creation of SGBC is both timely and important as aspects of the natural and built environment we take for granted in British Columbia are increasingly threatened by urban sprawl. In response, many local governments, community groups and professionals have realized that creating livable communities requires

“Creating livable communities requires an integrated approach to development and a long-term vision.”

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is my pleasure to introduce the first annual report of Smart Growth BC. This report describes the unique and instrumental work carried out in the past year by SGBC, and the achievements we have realized.

The overwhelmingly positive response to the founding of SGBC is striking for two reasons. First, it demonstrates the wide range of organizations and individuals who are working on building better communities using smart growth solutions. Second, it underscores the importance of SGBC's work and our role as facilitators of local solutions to community development issues.

Another community project donated by The Insight Group www.insightgrp.com

Funders and Donors

Smart Growth BC board and staff greatly appreciate the support of the following foundations and agencies: *Bullitt Foundation, Endswell Foundation, Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative, BC Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers, BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Tides Foundation, VanCity, Vancouver Foundation, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation*

Donations

Smart Growth BC relies on donations from individuals to support our unique role in creating more livable communities in the province. These donations help Smart Growth BC to carry out our crucial, independent and non-partisan work as an advocate for smart growth. All donors are issued a tax-receipt. **Call Cheeying Ho (604-915-5234) for more information.**

Thanks goes to all founding donors:

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