

# Smart Growth BC



## *CAP Plus* in the Comox Valley



Jason Emmert . CAP Coordinator . Smart Growth BC . January 24, 2007

# Smart Growth BC



Founded in 1999, Smart Growth BC is a charitable non-profit organization with a mandate to create more livable communities in British Columbia.



## Through...

- Research
- Policy Alternatives
- Community Engagement
- Implementation

# Presentation Outline



- Smart Growth Principles
- CAP Plus
- CV Issues
- Why Guide Growth?
- Guiding Growth at the Regional Level

# I. Growth in BC



# 8 Smart Growth Principles



- **Build compact, mixed use neighborhoods and communities**
- **Connect jobs to home**
- **Protect wildlife, green space, and ecosystems including working landscapes such as farmland and forests**
- **Provide diverse, affordable housing choices**

# 8 Smart Growth Principles



- **Provide alternative transportation choices**
- **Work with natural systems through green infrastructure and building design**
- **Foster community identity**
- **Nurture engaged citizenship in land use decision making**

# CAP *Plus* Program



- Builds on the Community Assistance Program (CAP)
- Assist communities take the next step towards creating a 'smart growth' community
- Assist in mobilizing resources (e.g. technical, financial, organizational)
- Types of projects: community visioning, mapping, conceptual designs, forums, etc
- Joint fundraising and planning

# Why do coordinated Regional and Sub-Regional Planning



- Land-use decisions made in one municipality affects land-use, transportation, and other community goals in others
- Tap into the benefits of a regional identity
- A “race to the bottom” among municipalities to offer the most incentives for the least investment
- Lack of a clear vision for investment

# Why do coordinated Regional and Sub-Regional Planning



- Poor use of taxes and expensive infrastructure
- Developments provide short-term gain at expense of long-term sustainability
- Sprawling land use patterns and associated costs

# Community Issues



- Identify two key regional planning issues in the Comox Valley
- What are some of the barriers to creating a regional vision?
- What are some assets and support that could be engaged to create regional vision?

# Project Goals and Outputs



- What are some proposed project goals?
- What are some potential beneficial outputs?

# Project



# Why Contain Urban Growth?



- To maximise use of existing infrastructure before making additional investments
- To meet planning goals such as nodal development and creating vibrant neighbourhoods
- To preserve agricultural, rural and habitat lands
- To support transportation, air pollution, and other quality of life goals
- To limit the social and environmental costs of sprawl



# Regional Smart Growth Planning



Requires strategies and policies to:

- 1) Direct urban growth away from rural “working lands” and toward existing urban areas
- 2) Foster a regional approach to economic development, transportation, land use and housing planning

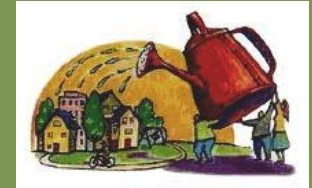
# A Regional Approach to Smart Growth Planning



1. Make **quality of place** a central feature of regional economic development strategies; integrate **access to amenities and natural assets** into marketing efforts



# A Regional Approach to Smart Growth Planning



2. **Maximise public investments** by encouraging smart growth and compact, complete communities on a local and regional level



# A Regional Approach to Smart Growth Planning



3. Ensure efficient  
movement of **goods  
and services**, not long  
range commuters



# A Regional Approach to Smart Growth Planning



4. Coordinate economic development strategies with land use, transportation and affordable housing strategies



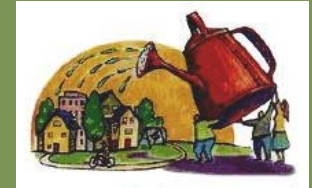
# A Regional Approach to Smart Growth Planning



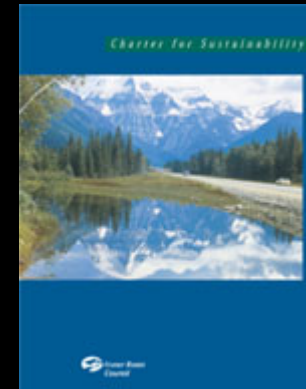
5. **Protect the “working lands”**: agricultural, wilderness areas and open spaces that generate wealth in your communities



# A Regional Approach to Smart Growth Planning



6. Adopt principles for sustainability that take **economic, environmental and social needs** into consideration.



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COLLABORATING FOR SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY



# Thank You!

[www.smartgrowth.bc.ca](http://www.smartgrowth.bc.ca)



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