



Excerpts from Presentation to Vancouver City Council Re: EcoDensity, by Smart Growth BC's Manager of Community Engagement and Policy, March 4th, 2008

[...]

We at Smart Growth BC applaud council for opening this dialogue on how to make our city a world leader in sustainability and at the same time strengthen the social and economic fabric of our neighbourhoods. We agree that density itself is not the goal, but a tool to achieving a more sustainable city. We see it as a foundational tool that enables the cities to effectively provide many of the services and amenities that make our urban environments vibrant, healthy, and diverse places.

At the same time we recognize that density alone cannot address many of the important issues around affordability, public amenities, transit service, and heritage protection but require strong affordable housing, transportation, and heritage policies to complement increases in density. I have brought a couple of copies of two of our recent reports on Infrastructure Financing and Affordable Housing which offer some policy ideas. They are also available online at www.smartgrowth.bc.ca .

Density and good design go hand in hand. In order for density to be effective at meeting the multiple sustainability and livability objectives it requires that careful attention be paid to the details of the form and character of the buildings and the adjacent public realm.

[...]

We also see the Ecodensity Charter and Initial Actions as the beginning of the process and there is a strong need for more robust public consultation for determining how Ecodensity looks in each neighbourhood. It should be fully integrated with the neighbourhood visions developed through the City Plan process. This requires the allocation of sufficient resources for continued public engagement.

[...]