

Smart Growth



- Smart Growth is a collection of development strategies that
 - ✓ enhance our quality of life
 - ✓ protect our environment
 - ✓ use tax revenues wisely
- Providing **choice**



What is Smart Growth?



More transportation choices and less traffic	<u>Not</u> against cars and roads
Vibrant cities, suburbs and towns	<u>Not</u> a big city issue
Wider variety of housing choices	<u>Not</u> about telling people where or how to live
Well-planned growth that improves quality of life	<u>Not</u> against growth

Principles of Smart Growth



1. Mix land uses
2. Take advantage of compact building design
3. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices
4. Create walkable neighborhoods
5. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
6. Preserve open space, "working lands", natural beauty, and critical environmental areas
7. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities
8. Provide a variety of transportation choices
9. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective
10. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions

Regional Smart Growth



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

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



An Uncoordinated Approach to Regional Economic Development



- A "race to the bottom" among municipalities to offer the most incentives for the least investment
- Lack of a clear vision for investment
- Poor use of taxes and expensive infrastructure
- Lots of industrial and business parks with no industry or business
- Sprawling land use patterns and associated costs

A Regional Approach to Economic Development



1. Make **quality of place** a central feature of regional economic development strategies



A Regional Approach to Economic Development



2. Integrate **access to amenities and natural assets** into all aspects of regional economic development, talent attraction and marketing efforts



A Regional Approach to Economic Development



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



A Regional Approach to Economic Development



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



A Regional Approach to Economic Development



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



A Regional Approach to Economic Development



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

A Regional Approach to Economic Development



- ✓ meaningful employment and a place to make a contribution and earn a share of benefits for each member of society;
- ✓ creation of sufficient wealth to allow all citizens to meet human needs and attain a high quality of life;
- ✓ provision of incentives for developing and growing local and community economies and made in BC businesses, especially those that also meet social and environmental goals;

A Regional Approach to Economic Development



7. **Protect the “working lands”**: wilderness areas and open spaces that are generating wealth in your communities



Case Studies



➤ Sierra Business Council

“Our outstanding environmental quality, attractive towns, and good schools are no longer simply nice amenities; they are essential elements for business retention and investment.”

➤ Bay Area Council for Sustainable Communities

“Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area”

Case Studies



➤ Campaign for Sensible Growth

“... an action-oriented coalition of government, civic and business leaders in northeastern Illinois' six counties working to promote economic development while preserving open space, minimizing the need for costly new infrastructure and improving the livability of our communities.”

➤ Greater Vancouver Regional District

...didn't focus on economic development in the LRSP

Summary



- ✓ Encourage smart growth in the region's communities

Squamish Smart Growth on the Ground
October 14, 2004, 7pm, Eagle Eye Theatre

- ✓ Contain urban growth

- ✓ Adopt a region-wide approach to economic development



www.smartgrowth.bc.ca