

REQUEST FOR DECISION
SLRD RGS Review 2024
(Amendment Bylaw 1872-2024) – First Reading

Meeting date: November 27, 2024

To: SLRD Board

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the SLRD Board consider the written comments submitted by affected local governments as per Appendix C and summary provided within the subject staff report.

THAT Bylaw 1872-2024, cited as “Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 1872-2024” be read a first time.

KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:

As per the *Local Government Act* (LGA), the SLRD is required to consider a review of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) in 2024. The LGA and SLRD RGS include a minor amendment criteria and process. Where the SLRD Board resolves to proceed with an amendment application as a minor amendment, the Board will: give 30 days written notice to each affected local government, including notice that the proposed amendment has been determined to be a minor amendment; and consider any representations and written comments provided by the affected local governments prior to giving first reading to the proposed amendment bylaw.

The SLRD Board also had an opportunity to review and provide input on the draft policy and indicator updates at the September 26, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting. Input received by the SLRD Board and affected local governments was generally positive and specific comments have been incorporated into Amendment Bylaw No. 1872-2024, where possible. As such, Amendment Bylaw No. 1872-2024 (Appendix A) is being presented for consideration of first reading.

RELEVANT POLICIES & LEGISLATION:

[Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008](#)

[Local Government Act Part 13 – Regional Growth Strategies](#)

BACKGROUND:

The RGS was adopted by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Board in June, 2010 by acceptance of all member municipalities and participating electoral areas (excluding Electoral Area A, which is not a party to the RGS) as well as all seven adjacent regional districts (affected local governments). The RGS provides a “*broad policy framework describing the common direction that the regional district and member municipalities will follow in promoting*

development and services which are sustainable, recognizing a long term responsibility for the quality of life for future generations”.

Local Government Act

Section 452 of the LGA sets requirements for regular reports and review of regional growth strategies. Specifically, under Section 452(2) *At least once every 5 years, a regional district that has adopted a regional growth strategy must consider whether the regional growth strategy must be reviewed for possible amendment.*

Section 437 of the LGA provides guidance for minor amendments to regional growth strategies. Specifically, under Section 437(2) *a regional growth strategy may include provisions that establish a process for minor amendments to the regional growth strategy.* The SLRD RGS includes a minor amendment criteria and process.

RGS Review 2024

As the last RGS Review was adopted in 2019, consideration of another review is required in 2024. At the February 2024 SLRD Board meeting, staff were directed to undertake a review to address outstanding Board resolutions to update greenhouse gas targets and input received at the Regional Affordable Housing Forum.

The proposed policy updates include revisions to strategic directions under Goal 3 (Affordable Housing), Goal 11 (Climate Action) and Indicators (where necessary to reflect policy updates). Proposed policy updates strengthen alignment and opportunities for regional collaboration, advocacy and action around Goal 3 and Goal 11 – reflecting Board direction to update greenhouse gas targets, input received at the Regional Affordable Housing Forum (April 2024), and best practices from existing member municipality OCP and Climate Action Plans.

Previous Board Reports

- [SLRD RGS Review 2024 – DRAFT Policy & Indicator Updates – September 26, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)
- [SLRD RGS Review 2024 – Minor Amendment Initiation – July 24, 2024](#)
- [Regional Affordable Housing Forum Summary & Next Steps – May 22, 2024 SLRD Board](#)
- [RGS Annual Report & RGS Review Consideration – February 28, 2024 SLRD Board](#)
- [Climate Action Part 1 – January 25, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)
- [Climate Action Part 2 – February 29, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)

Previous Board Resolutions

At the July 24, 2024 SLRD Board meeting it was resolved:

THAT the SLRD Board initiate a review of the “Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008” pursuant to Section 452(2) of the Local Government Act to address policy updates to Goal 3, Goal 11, and Indicators (RGS Review 2024).

(2/3 majority vote)

THAT the SLRD Board proceed with the RGS Review 2024 as a minor amendment, as per Section 437 of the Local Government Act and the minor amendment process outlined in the “Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008”.

THAT the SLRD Board give 30 days written notice to each affected local government, including notice that the proposed amendment has been determined to be a minor amendment.

At the February 28, 2024 SLRD Board meeting it was resolved:

THAT pursuant to Section 452(2) of the Local Government Act, the Board consider whether to review the “Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008” for possible amendment, and given the following outstanding resolutions:

THAT the Board direct SLRD staff to prepare greenhouse gas targets based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for inclusion in the Regional Growth Strategy as part of a future Regional Growth Strategy amendment.

THAT at a future Committee of the Whole meeting, the Board discuss additional monitoring indicators that could be incorporated into the Regional Growth Strategy, such as: access to child care; food production; alignment of greenhouse gas emissions indicators/monitoring approach used by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and its member municipalities; and capacity of recreation amenities

Direct staff to 1) undertake a review of the RGS in 2024; 2) refer the RGS review consideration to the RGS Steering Committee for input as to whether the proposed amendment would be considered a major or minor amendment; and 3) bring back a report regarding the amendment type, proposed approach, and formal RGS Review initiation.

RGS Review 2024 Project Outline

The RGS Review 2024 reflects Board direction to date, with the project including a scoping period and the formal minor amendment process. The project outline also highlights how the RGS Review 2024 connects into prioritization and implementation strategy work to follow. See Appendix B.

ANALYSIS:

Scoping Period Input

RGS Steering Committee

The SLRD Board referred the RGS Review consideration and proposed policy update areas to the RGS Steering Committee for input as to whether the proposed amendment would be considered a major or minor amendment. The RGS Steering Committee was in general agreement with the scope of the RGS Review 2024 and recommended that the proposed policy updates be considered as per the minor amendment process.

Member Municipality Climate Action Policy Review

Member municipality staff (Climate, Sustainability, Planning) reviewed the existing RGS Goal 11 (Climate Action) Strategic Directions in relation to existing member municipality climate plans/strategies, with the intent to identify policies that would benefit from inclusion in the RGS Bylaw as a means to advance regional action (collaboration, approaches, advocacy) on climate change. Proposed new/expanded policies focused on regional transit, active transportation, regional EV network, climate equity and youth.

Regional Affordable Housing Forum

The Regional Affordable Housing Forum provided an opportunity for regional representatives to share goals, initiatives, challenges and ideas for affordable housing. This included the identification of potential collaborative high-level ideas for advancing affordable housing. Ideas

for new/expanded policies included regional coordination on Housing Needs Reports and exploring the establishment of a Regional Housing Authority and/or other resource sharing opportunities.

Committee of the Whole (SLRD Board) Input

The Committee of the Whole reviewed and provided input on the Draft policy and indicator updates at the September 26, 2024 meeting. Discussions and input focused on Goal 11: Take Action on Climate Change. There were questions around the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions targets and application in member municipalities. It was confirmed that the GHG emissions targets apply to the SLRD, and member municipalities adopt Regional Context Statements that identify how local policies will contribute to meeting the regional targets.

It was suggested that language should reference “best science” and acknowledge that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) targets are not static; and further, it was noted that it is important to articulate where we want to be. There was also a suggestion to focus on high-emissions industries, not just LNG. There was general agreement to focus on net zero rather than carbon neutral and relying on offsets. Finally, there was a suggestion that Indicators look at whole operations, not just buildings.

Affected Local Government Input

Where the SLRD Board resolves to proceed with an amendment application as a minor amendment, the Board will: give 30 days written notice to each affected local government, including notice that the proposed amendment has been determined to be a minor amendment; and consider any representations and written comments provided by the affected local governments prior to giving first reading to the proposed amendment bylaw.

Affected local governments are signatory to the SLRD RGS Bylaw and include the four member municipalities and seven adjacent regional districts. The following table provides a summary of the referral responses/comments received (listed by the date they were received). SLRD staff response/comments are also included in the table. Appendix C includes the full written comments submitted by affected local governments and Appendix A tracked changes version of the Amendment Bylaw shows how input has been incorporated into the proposed policy updates.

Affected Local Government	Referral Responses/Comments	SLRD Staff Response/Comments
Metro Vancouver	<p>Metro Vancouver staff provided general support for the proposed minor amendments to strengthen climate change policies in the SLRD regional growth strategy, further highlighting that many of the proposed policy changes align with the policy direction in Metro Vancouver’s regional growth strategy, Metro 2050.</p> <p>Metro Vancouver staff shared that coordination and information sharing on Housing Needs Reports is already underway in Metro Vancouver.</p>	No specific comments.

	<p>Metro Vancouver staff also noted that Metro Vancouver established its own Housing Corporation in 1974, and that working with a regional housing authority in the SLRD to share knowledge would support the Metro Vancouver Housing 10 year Plan actions around exploring affordability models and sharing best practices.</p> <p>It was noted that the proposed updated GHG emissions targets align with Metro Vancouver’s GHG emissions reduction targets included in Metro 2050 and Climate 2050. The alignment on achieving net zero by 2050 was also highlighted.</p> <p>Other more specific comments are included in Appendix C, but generally highlight alignment with Metro 2050 and support from staff.</p>	<p>Suggested considerations to 11.11.1b, 11.11.2a, 11.11.2b, 11.11.3b, 11.3d ii, 11.3q have been made and revisions made accordingly.</p>
RMOW	<p>Council supported the minor amendment and provided comments around encouraging the adoption of net zero rather than carbon neutral targets as well as the need to evaluate any potential staff time associated with coordination on Housing Needs Report and/or exploration of the establishment of a Regional Housing Authority against existing RMOW priorities and workplans.</p>	<p>Staff have removed reference to carbon neutral under 11.1(a) and 11.2(a).</p> <p>Staff acknowledge that coordination on Housing Needs Reports will be contingent on member municipality priorities/workplans and capacities. The language “exploring potential for” and “where feasible” have been added to 11.1(j).</p> <p>Staff acknowledge that exploration of a Regional Housing Authority and other opportunities to share resources across jurisdictions and organizations will reflect existing priorities and workplans, and that the term “explore” allows for this consideration. The language “where able” has also been added to acknowledge this need to evaluate.</p>
Sunshine Coast Regional District	<p>SCRD staff confirmed no comments.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
qathet (Powell River) Regional District	<p>qathet provided a Board resolution confirming the RD has no objection to the minor amendments.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

District of Squamish	<p>District of Squamish staff provided comments that strongly supported 3.1(j), with some suggested additional language. Staff also suggested language revision to 3.1(k) to avoid duplication and unnecessary administrative load in creating another housing authority.</p> <p>No concerns were noted with the proposed Goal 11 Take Action on Climate Change, and alignment with the DOS Community Climate Action Plan was highlighted. Additional language was suggested for 11.3(j) to reflect coastal ecosystems.</p> <p>There was also a suggestion to revisit the RGS Indicators along with regional efforts involved with evaluation and monitoring as part of the next major RGS Review.</p>	<p>Staff have added in the suggested additional language to 3.1(j) and 3.1(k), while still keeping some of the intent to explore the establishment of a Regional Housing Authority – noting that this was key input from the Regional Affordable Housing Forum, and that existing authorities and societies will lead the process if/when possible/desired.</p> <p>Staff have added in suggested additional language to 11.3(j).</p> <p>Staff are in agreement that there is opportunity to consider a more robust review of the RGS Indicators as part of the next major RGS Review process. This input will be filed for consideration in a future process.</p>
Village of Pemberton	No response.	N/A
District of Lillooet	No response.	N/A
Fraser Valley Regional District	No response.	N/A
Cariboo Regional District	No response.	N/A
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	No response.	N/A
Strathcona Regional District	No response.	N/A

First Nations

As per the *Local Government Act* and SLRD RGS Bylaw, the minor amendment process requires notice to affected local governments who are signatory to the RGS Bylaw. In the SLRD context, no First Nations are signatory to the RGS Bylaw. Notice to and consultation with the Province and First Nations takes place during the development of a regional growth strategy, and as part of a major amendment process.

RGS Indicators

SLRD staff are proposing some revisions to existing Goal 3 and Goal 11 indicators, reflecting the proposed policy updates and Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) data. Note a more robust review or overhaul of the RGS Indicators, including potential for streamlining and alignment with member municipalities, can be considered as part of a future major RGS

Review process. Indicator Monitoring is planned for 2025, following the RGS Review, and will also help inform a potential Indicator review process by highlighting data gaps/opportunities.

Process & Next Steps

- 1) Receive input from RGS Steering Committee on type and scope of review, Member Municipality staff on climate action policy, and Regional Affordable Housing Forum participants on affordable housing ideas (February – June 2024 Scoping Period) – **Complete**
- 2) Initiate RGS Review, including written notice to affected local governments (July 24, 2024 SLRD Board) – **Complete**
- 3) Receive input from the SLRD Board on DRAFT policy and indicator updates (September 26, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting) – **Complete**
- 4) Present RGS Amendment Bylaw for consideration of first reading – **November 27, 2024 SLRD Board Meeting**
- 5) Present RGS Amendment Bylaw for consideration of second reading, third reading and adoption.

REGIONAL IMPACTS ANALYSIS:

The SLRD RGS is an initiative of and applies to the four member municipalities and Electoral Areas B, C and D. It is a tool to support collaboration and achievement of smart growth.

OPTIONS:

Option 1 (PREFERRED OPTION)

Consider written comments submitted by affected local governments and give first reading to Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 1872-2024.

Option 2

As per Board discretion.

FOLLOW UP ACTION:

Incorporate any additional input received at first reading, and prepare amendment bylaw for second reading, third reading and adoption.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A: Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 1872-2024 (clean) and (tracked changes).

Appendix B: RGS Review 2024 Project Outline

Appendix C: Affected Local Government Written Comments

Submitted by: C. Dewar, Senior Planner

Reviewed by: K. Needham, Director of Planning and Development Services

Approved by: H. Paul, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A

SQUAMISH-LILLOOET REGIONAL DISTRICT

BYLAW NO. 1872-2024

A bylaw to amend the Regional Growth Strategy for the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

WHEREAS the Local Government Act provides for a regional district to undertake the development, adoption, implementation, monitoring and review of a regional growth strategy under Part 13,

AND WHEREAS the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District adopted a regional growth strategy on June 28, 2010,

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

- 1. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 1872-2024".
2. The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008 is amended as follows:
(a) By replacing the Strategic Directions section under Goal 3 Generate a Range of Quality Affordable Housing with a new Strategic Directions section, as per Schedule 1.
(b) By replacing the Strategic Directions section under Goal 11 Take Action on Climate Change with a new Strategic Directions section, as per Schedule 2.
(c) By replacing the Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3 and Goal 11 sections of Table 8, Appendix A Integrated SLRD RGS and ISP Goals and Indicators, as per Schedule 3.

WRITTEN NOTICE GIVEN TO AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS on the 29th day of July 2024.

READ A FIRST TIME this day of , 2024.

READ A SECOND TIME this day of , 2025.

READ A THIRD TIME this day of , 2025.

ADOPTED this day of , 2025.

Jen Ford
Chair

Angela Belsham
Corporate Officer

GOAL 3 Generate a Range of Quality Affordable Housing

Strategic Directions:

3.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

a) Establish collaborative and consistent affordable housing policies, targets and tools to generate an adequate supply of quality affordable housing and a diversity of housing types for employees, seniors and people in need in the region.

This will be pursued by requiring a description of affordable housing policies, targets and tools within member municipality Regional Context Statements and SLRD Official Community Plans. Specifically, statements/descriptions should include the following:

- Inclusionary zoning requirements with aggressive targets, preferably at a minimum of 15 % affordable housing in perpetuity (e.g. purpose built rental, cooperative housing, etc.);
- Tools to secure affordable housing in perpetuity through deed/title restrictions and price controls;
- Strategies for the acquisition of community land banks for housing;
- Incentives and/or targets for affordable rental housing.

b) Adopt policies and regulations that support live-work studio space, mixed-use neighbourhoods, and a variety of residential intensification strategies such as allowing secondary suites, providing for 'flexhousing' encouraging infill housing and small lot development, density bonusing and other tools that will support housing affordability.

This will be pursued in the review and updating of Official Community Plans and the overall development of collaborative approaches on affordable housing within the region.

c) Encourage community-led affordable housing initiatives to maintain and/or increase the supply of affordable housing (e.g., community housing land trusts, non-profit, locally controlled entities that acquire and hold land in perpetuity so that it can be used for affordable housing).

This will be pursued in discussions with these organizations and in the review and updating of Official Community Plans to identify affordable housing land supply options, and by maximizing the use of existing provincial and federal government housing programs and advocating for increased funding for affordable housing.

d) Adopt financial tools that will assist in the delivery of accessible family housing and seniors housing, such as cash-in-lieu of social housing contributions, waiving development cost charges, property tax exemptions, and lands grants.

This will be pursued as part of decision making by the Regional Board and Member Municipality Councils in regard to social housing proposals.

e) Adopt, as appropriate, deed-restricted price, resale control, rent geared to income and other options to increase the supply of affordable housing and create housing that remains affordable in perpetuity.

This will be pursued as a region through the implementation of Official Community Plans and the collaborative, consistent affordable housing approaches committed to therein, and through the sharing

of best practices learned by the Whistler Housing Authority and the affordable housing experiences in Squamish and Pemberton.

f) Encourage cooperation with community service groups and private developers to supply low-cost housing options for seniors with the aim of maximizing independence and self-reliance and promoting continued socialization and the ability to age in place.

This will be pursued in the review of residential and commercial development proposals and in the review and updating of Official Community Plans in regard to congregate care and independent living developments for seniors.

g) Encourage housing models that provide security of tenure and support infill priorities, such as cooperative housing, cohousing, pocket neighbourhoods, etc.

This will be pursued in the review of residential and commercial development proposals, in the review and updating of Official Community Plans, and through sub-area/neighbourhood level planning.

h) Work collaboratively to address impacts of short-term nightly rentals and home "sharing" on housing supply.

This will be pursued through bylaw enforcement, business licences, exploring the use of property rental programs matching business owners with property owners for workforce housing and targeted communications and outreach efforts.

i) Work together as a region on initiatives with the Province to deliver affordable resident housing, such as: acquisition of community land banks for housing; authority to levy employee housing works and services charges; and project funding and financing.

This will be pursued through collaborative lobbying efforts with the Province.

j) Seek to connect, coordinate, and collaborate where appropriate on housing needs assessments as a region.

This will be pursued by exploring potential for coordinating consulting services on RFPs, timing, and findings and creating opportunities for cross-community sharing (data, tools/approaches, regional housing forums), where feasible.

k) Explore ways that established housing authorities and societies can support each other and share expertise and resources across jurisdictions and organizations where able. Consider the establishment of a Regional Housing Authority, should there be a need or benefit for a more formal, regional approach to non-market housing.

This will be pursued by working with existing housing authorities, societies and member municipalities where potential may exist to support and coordinate housing delivery and unit management in areas where capacity is still emerging.

GOAL 3 Generate a Range of Quality Affordable Housing

Strategic Directions:

3.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

a) Establish collaborative and consistent affordable housing policies, targets and tools to generate an adequate supply of quality affordable housing and a diversity of housing types for employees, seniors and people in need in the region.

This will be pursued by requiring a description of affordable housing policies, targets and tools within member municipality Regional Context Statements and SLRD Official Community Plans. Specifically, statements/descriptions should include the following:

- Inclusionary zoning requirements with aggressive targets, preferably at a minimum of 15 % affordable housing in perpetuity (e.g. purpose built rental, cooperative housing, etc.);
- Tools to secure affordable housing in perpetuity through deed/title restrictions and price controls;
- Strategies for the acquisition of community land banks for housing;
- Incentives and/or targets for affordable rental housing.

b) Adopt policies and regulations that support live-work studio space, mixed-use neighbourhoods, and a variety of residential intensification strategies such as allowing secondary suites, providing for 'flexhousing' encouraging infill housing and small lot development, density bonusing and other tools that will support housing affordability.

This will be pursued in the review and updating of Official Community Plans and the overall development of collaborative approaches on affordable housing within the region.

c) Encourage **community-led** affordable housing initiatives to maintain and/or increase the supply of affordable housing (e.g., community housing land trusts, non-profit, locally controlled entities that acquire and hold land in perpetuity so that it can be used for affordable housing).

This will be pursued in discussions with these organizations and in the review and updating of Official Community Plans to identify affordable housing land supply options, and by maximizing the use of existing provincial and federal government housing programs and advocating for increased funding for affordable housing.

d) Adopt financial tools that will assist in the delivery of accessible family housing and seniors housing, such as cash-in-lieu of social housing contributions, waiving development cost charges, property tax exemptions, and lands grants.

This will be pursued as part of decision making by the Regional Board and Member Municipality Councils in regard to social housing proposals.

e) Adopt, as appropriate, deed-restricted price, resale control, rent geared to income and other options to increase the supply of affordable housing and create housing that remains affordable in perpetuity.

This will be pursued as a region through the implementation of Official Community Plans and the collaborative, consistent affordable housing approaches committed to therein, and through the sharing

of best practices learned by the Whistler Housing Authority and the affordable housing experiences in Squamish and Pemberton.

f) Encourage cooperation with community service groups and private developers to supply low-cost housing options for seniors with the aim of maximizing independence and self-reliance and promoting continued socialization and the ability to age in place.

This will be pursued in the review of residential and commercial development proposals and in the review and updating of Official Community Plans in regard to congregate care and independent living developments for seniors.

g) Encourage housing models that provide security of tenure and support infill priorities, such as cooperative housing, cohousing, pocket neighbourhoods, etc.

This will be pursued in the review of residential and commercial development proposals, in the review and updating of Official Community Plans, and through sub-area/neighbourhood level planning.

h) Work collaboratively to address impacts of short-term nightly rentals and home "sharing" on housing supply.

This will be pursued through bylaw enforcement, business licences, exploring the use of property rental programs matching business owners with property owners for workforce housing and targeted communications and outreach efforts.

i) Work together as a region on initiatives with the Province to deliver affordable resident housing, such as: acquisition of community land banks for housing; authority to levy employee housing works and services charges; and project funding and financing.

This will be pursued through collaborative lobbying efforts with the Province.

j) Seek to connect, coordinate, and collaborate where appropriate on Housing Needs assessments Reports as a region. Seek regional coordination on Housing Needs Reports.

This will be pursued by exploring potential for coordinating consulting services on RFPs, timing, approaches and recommendations and findings and creating opportunities for cross-community sharing (data, tools/approaches, regional housing forums), where feasible.

k) Explore ways that established the establishment of a Regional Housing Authorities and societies can support each other and y and other opportunities to share expertise and resources across jurisdictions and organizations where able. Consider the establishment of a Regional Housing Authority, should there be a need or benefit for a more formal, regional approach to non-market housing.

This will be pursued by working with existing housing authorities, societies and member municipalities where potential may exist to support and coordinate housing delivery and unit management in areas where capacity is still emerging.

GOAL 11 Take Action on Climate Change

Strategic Directions:

11.1 The SLRD will:

a) Adopt targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% below 2010 levels by the year 2030 and to reach a 'net zero' region by 2050, or targets as per best science.

This will be pursued by incorporating targets into SLRD OCPs.

b) Prioritize and implement existing SLRD RGS Climate Action Strategic Directions.

This will be pursued by prioritizing SLRD Regional Growth Strategy strategic directions, with implementation actions taken in collaboration with member municipalities, federal and provincial agencies, community organizations and subject to funding.

11.2 The member municipalities will:

a) Adopt Regional Context Statements that identify how local land use, transportation and solid waste policies will contribute to meeting the regional greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 45% below 2010 levels by the year 2030 and reaching a net zero region by the year 2050, or targets as per best science.

This will be pursued by submitting regional context statements as required and working to implement local plans, policies and programs that contribute to regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

b) Explore the development and implementation of climate action plans.

This will be pursued at a community level with implementation actions taken in collaboration with member municipalities, federal and provincial agencies, community organizations and subject to funding.

11.3 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

a) Maintain status as BC Climate Action Charter signatories.

The SLRD and member municipalities are signatories to the BC Climate Action Charter. Signatory Local Governments agree to develop strategies and take actions to achieve the following goals: (i) being carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012; (ii) measuring and reporting on their community's GHG emissions profile; and (iii) creating complete, compact, more energy efficient rural and urban communities.

This will be pursued by maintaining climate action monitoring and reporting programs, and by advocating to the province to continue the Community Energy and Emissions (CEEI) Inventory in support of community-level monitoring and meeting Climate Action Charter commitments.

b) Monitor energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions related to land use, buildings, industry, agriculture, waste, transportation, and other emission sources, and consider lifecycle energy and emissions and embodied emissions.

This will be pursued by working with the Federal Government, the Province, First Nations, BC Transit, non-governmental organizations, energy utilities, the private sector, and other stakeholders, as appropriate.

c) Monitor and pursue opportunities to increase carbon storage in natural areas.

This will be pursued by working with the Federal Government, the Province, First Nations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and other stakeholders, as appropriate.

d) Substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

i. from mobile sources

This will be pursued by limiting growth outside of established urban areas and prioritizing infrastructure development and policies that support preferred modes of transportation for inter and intra community travel.

ii. from stationary sources

This will be pursued through collective prioritization of energy efficient development, including high-performance heating and cooling systems, and may include establishing Green Building Policies, creating incentive structures or requirements for the electrification of buildings, encouraging retrofit programs, exploring development controls, and exploring incentives or requirements for smaller-scale residential buildings. Additionally, the SLRD and member municipalities agree to explore the BC Energy Step Code and Zero Carbon Step Code.

iii. associated with solid waste management

This will be pursued by continuing to develop and implement policies, practices and targets toward achieving Zero Waste Goals.

e) Increase integration of lower-impact technologies for community, institutional and commercial mobility.

This will be pursued by including targets and strategies/actions in Official Community Plans to reduce 'vehicle-kilometres-travelled' within communities, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions per kilometre travelled. This will also be pursued by expanding and enhancing the electric vehicle infrastructure network across the region for residents and visitors as well as commercial and institutional fleets.

f) Work with the Provincial Government to deliver, support and encourage preferred modes of transportation in the Highway 99 corridor, with an emphasis on regional transit and connecting to regional hubs/destinations beyond the SLRD boundaries.

This will be pursued by engaging with the Provincial Government and continuing to collaborate with neighbouring communities on regional transit.

g) Promote active transportation options including e-bikes and other zero-emission options.

This will be pursued by Official Community Plans and Active Transportation Plans identifying gaps in the active transportation network, minimizing the distance people must travel to access essential needs and services, building safe routes and including end-of-trip facilities at community and regional nodes/hubs.

h) Ensure regional/municipal decision-making is structured to achieve greenhouse gas reduction targets and energy goals.

This will be pursued by supporting compact, complete, efficient land use patterns and using an integrated asset management approach in which consideration is given to the full costs throughout an asset's life cycle (lifecycle costs), prioritizing opportunities for greenhouse gas and energy reduction. This may also involve expanding/updating corporate purchasing policies.

j) Protect the carbon sequestration value of natural systems, including forested lands, wetlands, and coastal ecosystems and explore opportunities to strategically protect areas that contribute to climate change mitigation.

This will be pursued by protecting forested lands, wetlands, and coastal ecosystems, expanding protected areas where possible, and considering carbon sequestration values in intergovernmental referral responses.

k) Consider impacts to local and global greenhouse gas emissions in decision-making around greenhouse gas-intensive industries and utilities, and commercial recreation and leisure operators.

This will be pursued through land use planning, development approval/permitting, environmental assessment processes and advocacy efforts with provincial and federal government.

l) Encourage the development and use of renewable energy across the region.

This will be pursued through partnerships and in consultation with communities, exploring options at both the building-level and grid or system level. It may include advancing opportunities to incent small-scale, renewable energy production and use, exploring new technologies through pilot projects, and other tools to facilitate renewable energy systems in local development and construction.

m) Build climate resilience.

This will be pursued through efforts to adapt to current and future climate impacts by expanding the capacity of citizens, institutions and infrastructure to respond to a changing climate. Special consideration must be made for those in our communities who are most vulnerable.

n) Plan for climate change.

This will be pursued by ensuring new land use, buildings and infrastructure are planned and designed with tomorrow's climate in mind.

o) Prepare for extreme weather events, natural hazards and other large-scale emergencies that may increase in frequency and intensity as a result of climate change.

This will be pursued by expanding on emergency preparedness and management plans/strategies and enhancing community resiliency and self sufficiency – both human and physical infrastructure.

p) Pursue community engagement and consultation opportunities around climate change – with a focus on mitigation and adaptation and prioritizing younger generations.

This will be pursued by collaborating with local organizations, agencies, and stakeholders to build awareness, empowerment and commitment to take local action on climate change.

q) Support climate equity by prioritizing the needs of vulnerable populations who may be unduly affected by climate policies and actions.

This will be pursued by ensuring local government decision-making processes consider climate equity and by working with community organizations, local governments and provincial agencies/authorities.

r) Ensure Climate Action is evidence-based.

This will be pursued by using data and modeling to inform climate action planning and decision-making.

GOAL 11 Take Action on Climate Change

Strategic Directions:

11.1 The SLRD will:

a) Adopt targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% below 2010 levels by the year 2030 and to ~~achieve a carbon neutral region~~ reach a 'net zero' region by 2050, or targets as per best science.

This will be pursued by incorporating targets into SLRD OCPs.

b) Prioritize and implement existing SLRD RGS Climate Action Strategic Directions.

This will be pursued by prioritizing SLRD Regional Growth Strategy strategic directions, with implementation actions taken in collaboration with member municipalities, federal and provincial agencies, community organizations and subject to funding.

11.2 The member municipalities will:

a) Adopt Regional Context Statements that identify how local land use, transportation and solid waste policies will contribute to meeting the regional greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 45% below 2010 levels by the year 2030 and ~~achieving a carbon neutral region~~ reaching a net zero region by the year 2050, or targets as per best science.

This will be pursued by submitting regional context statements as required and working to implement local plans, policies and programs that contribute to regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

b) Explore the development and implementation of climate action plans.

This will be pursued at a community level with implementation actions taken in collaboration with member municipalities, federal and provincial agencies, community organizations and subject to funding.

11.3 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

a) Maintain status as BC Climate Action Charter signatories.

The SLRD and member municipalities are signatories to the BC Climate Action Charter. Signatory Local Governments agree to develop strategies and take actions to achieve the following goals: (i) being carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012; (ii) measuring and reporting on their community's GHG emissions profile; and (iii) creating complete, compact, more energy efficient rural and urban communities.

This will be pursued by maintaining climate action monitoring and reporting programs, and by advocating to the province to continue the Community Energy and Emissions (CEEI) Inventory in support of community-level monitoring and meeting Climate Action Charter commitments.

b) Monitor energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions related to land use, buildings, industry, agriculture, waste, transportation, and other emission sources, and consider lifecycle energy and emissions [and embodied emissions](#).

This will be pursued by working with the Federal Government, the Province, First Nations, BC Transit, non-governmental organizations, energy utilities, the private sector, and other stakeholders, as appropriate.

c) Monitor and pursue opportunities to increase carbon storage in natural areas.

This will be pursued by working with the Federal Government, the Province, First Nations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and other stakeholders, as appropriate.

d) Substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

i. from mobile sources

This will be pursued by limiting growth outside of established urban areas and prioritizing infrastructure development and policies that support preferred modes of transportation for inter and intra community travel.

ii. from stationary sources

This will be pursued through collective prioritization of energy efficient development, [including high-performance heating and cooling systems](#), -and may include establishing Green Building Policies, creating incentive structures [or requirements for the electrification of buildings](#), encouraging retrofit programs, exploring development controls, and [exploring incentives or requirements for smaller-scale residential buildings](#). Additionally, the SLRD and member municipalities agree to explore the BC Energy Step Code [and Zero Carbon Step Code](#).

iii. associated with solid waste management

This will be pursued by continuing to develop and implement policies, practices and targets toward achieving Zero Waste Goals.

e) Increase integration of lower-impact technologies for community, institutional and commercial mobility.

This will be pursued by including targets and strategies/actions in Official Community Plans to reduce 'vehicle-kilometres-travelled' within communities, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions per kilometre travelled. This will also be pursued by expanding and enhancing the electric vehicle infrastructure network across the region for residents and visitors as well as commercial and institutional fleets.

f) Work with the Provincial Government to deliver, support and encourage preferred modes of transportation in the Highway 99 corridor, with an emphasis on regional transit and connecting to regional hubs/destinations beyond the SLRD boundaries.

This will be pursued by engaging with the Provincial Government and continuing to collaborate with neighbouring communities on regional transit.

g) Promote active transportation options including e-bikes and other zero-emission options.

This will be pursued by Official Community Plans and Active Transportation Plans identifying gaps in the active transportation network, minimizing the distance people must travel to access essential needs and services, building safe routes and including end-of-trip facilities at community and regional nodes/hubs.

h) Ensure regional/municipal decision-making is structured to achieve greenhouse gas reduction targets and energy goals.

This will be pursued by supporting compact, complete, efficient land use patterns and using an integrated asset management approach in which consideration is given to the full costs throughout an asset's life cycle (lifecycle costs), prioritizing opportunities for greenhouse gas and energy reduction. This may also involve expanding/updating corporate purchasing policies.

~~i) Utilize local third party accredited carbon offset programs and explore the creation of locally and/or regionally planned and managed third party accredited carbon credit/trading systems, with potential offsets going towards tangible local projects.~~

~~This will be pursued by working with community organizations, local governments and provincial agencies/authorities.~~

j) Protect the carbon sequestration value of natural systems, including forested lands, ~~and~~ wetlands, ~~and coastal ecosystems~~ and explore opportunities to strategically ~~acquire~~ protected areas that contribute to climate change mitigation.

This will be pursued by protecting forested lands, ~~and~~ wetlands, ~~and coastal ecosystems under local government jurisdiction~~, expanding protected areas where possible, and considering carbon sequestration values in ~~intergovernmental provincial~~ referral responses.

k) Consider impacts to local ~~community and global~~ greenhouse gas emissions in decision-making around greenhouse gas-intensive industries and utilities, ~~Liquefied Natural Gas~~, and commercial recreation and leisure operators.

This will be pursued through ~~land use planning, development approval/permitting, and~~ environmental assessment processes and ~~advocacy~~ efforts with provincial and federal government.

l) Encourage the development and use of renewable energy across the region.

This will be pursued through partnerships and in consultation with communities, exploring options at both the building-level and grid or system level. It may include advancing opportunities to incent small-scale, renewable energy production and use, exploring new technologies through pilot projects, and other tools to facilitate renewable energy systems in local development and construction.

m) Build climate resilience.

This will be pursued through efforts to ~~adapt to current and future climate impacts by~~ expanding the capacity of citizens, institutions and infrastructure to respond to ~~a changing climate~~. Special consideration must be made for those in our communities who are most vulnerable.

n) Plan for climate change.

This will be pursued by ensuring new land use, buildings and infrastructure are planned and designed with tomorrow's climate in mind.

o) Prepare for extreme weather events, natural hazards and other large-scale emergencies that may increase in frequency and intensity as a result of climate change.

This will be pursued by expanding on emergency preparedness and management plans/strategies and enhancing community resiliency and self sufficiency – both human and physical infrastructure.

p) Pursue community engagement and consultation opportunities around climate change – with a focus on mitigation and adaptation [and prioritizing younger generations](#).

This will be pursued by collaborating with local organizations, agencies, and stakeholders to build awareness, empowerment and commitment to take local action on climate change.

q) Support climate equity by [prioritizing](#) ~~considering~~ the needs of vulnerable populations who may be unduly affected by climate policies and actions.

This will be pursued by ensuring local government decision-making processes consider climate equity and by working with community organizations, local governments and provincial agencies/authorities.

r) Ensure Climate Action is evidence-based.

This will be pursued by using data and modeling to inform climate action planning and decision-making.

APPENDIX A Integrated SLRD RGS and ISP Goals & Indicators

Table 8 outlines a series of indicators developed for the purposes of tracking and evaluating trends in community growth and development. Each indicator has an accompanying description in order to obtain data. The indicators are based not only on Smart Growth Principles but align with the indicators of the SLRD Integrated Sustainability Plan (ISP), thereby allowing collection of data to serve two monitoring programs within the SLRD. An important outcome of the RGS will be to monitor these indicators over time to evaluate the progress made, or changes occurring within these key parameters, as a measure of how well the region is managing the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

Table 8: Integrated RGS and ISP Monitoring

RGS & ISP GOAL	INDICATORS	DESCRIPTION
GOAL 1 FOCUS DEVELOPMENT INTO COMPACT, COMPLETE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	Population Density	Population per ha of developed land
	Non-settlement Areas	Total ha of Non-settlement areas
GOAL 2 IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION LINKAGES AND OPTIONS	Highway Safety	Fatalities on certain highways
	Transit Commutes	Percent commuting to work via transit
	Visitor Transportation	Percent of visitors commuting via high-occupancy modes (bus, shuttle, rail, etc.)
	Active Transportation Commutes	Percent commuting to work via active transportation
	EV Charging Stations	Number of electric vehicle charging stations
	Number of Vehicles	ICBC vehicle ownership data
	Number of Electric Vehicles	Registered Electric Vehicles
GOAL 3 GENERATE A RANGE OF QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING	Housing Affordability	Ratio of median income to median assessed residential property value
	Housing Diversity	Diversity of housing stock in settlement areas, including mixed use where possible for new areas
	Non-Market Housing	Number of Non-Market Dwelling Units built (rental or ownership) and covenanted in perpetuity.
....		

GOAL 11 TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE	Energy Use	Total energy used
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
	Buildings	The amount of electricity and natural gas used by residential, commercial and some industrial buildings
	Transportation	Community-level data on greenhouse gas emissions from on-road transportation
	Waste	Estimates of community greenhouse gas emissions based on historic annual tonnes of waste disposed at regional district landfills

Schedule 3: Tracked Changes Version

APPENDIX A Integrated SLRD RGS and ISP Goals & Indicators

Table 8 outlines a series of indicators developed for the purposes of tracking and evaluating trends in community growth and development. Each indicator has an accompanying description in order to obtain data. The indicators are based not only on Smart Growth Principles but align with the indicators of the SLRD Integrated Sustainability Plan (ISP), thereby allowing collection of data to serve two monitoring programs within the SLRD. An important outcome of the RGS will be to monitor these indicators over time to evaluate the progress made, or changes occurring within these key parameters, as a measure of how well the region is managing the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

Table 8: Integrated RGS and ISP Monitoring

RGS & ISP GOAL	INDICATORS	DESCRIPTION
GOAL 1 FOCUS DEVELOPMENT INTO COMPACT, COMPLETE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	Energy Use	Total energy used
	Greenhouse Gas Emission	Total greenhouse gas emissions
	Population Density	Population per ha of developed land
	Non-settlement Areas	Total ha of Non-settlement areas
GOAL 2 IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION LINKAGES AND OPTIONS	Highway Safety	Fatalities on certain highways
	Transit Commutes	Percent commuting to work via transit
	Visitor Transportation	Percent of visitors commuting via high-occupancy modes (bus, shuttle, rail, etc.)
	Active Transportation Commutes	Percent commuting to work via active transportation
	EV Charging Stations	Number of electric vehicle charging stations
	Number of Vehicles	ICBC vehicle ownership data
	Number of Electric Vehicles	Registered Electric Vehicles
GOAL 3 GENERATE A RANGE OF QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING	Housing Affordability	Ratio of median income to median assessed residential property value
	Housing Diversity	Diversity of housing stock in settlement areas, including mixed use where possible for new areas
	Non-Market Housing	Number of Non-Market Dwelling Units built (rental or ownership) and covenanted in perpetuity.
....		

Commented [CD1]: Deleted, as this indicator is captured under Goal 11 Climate Action, and there is no need to report the same data twice (this is a hang over from when the RGS did not have a specific Climate Action goal)

Commented [CD2]: Deleted, as this indicator is captured under Goal 11 Climate Action, and there is no need to report the same data twice

Commented [CD3]: Proposed new indicator to track the protection of non-settlement areas (and thus tracking avoidance of sprawl)

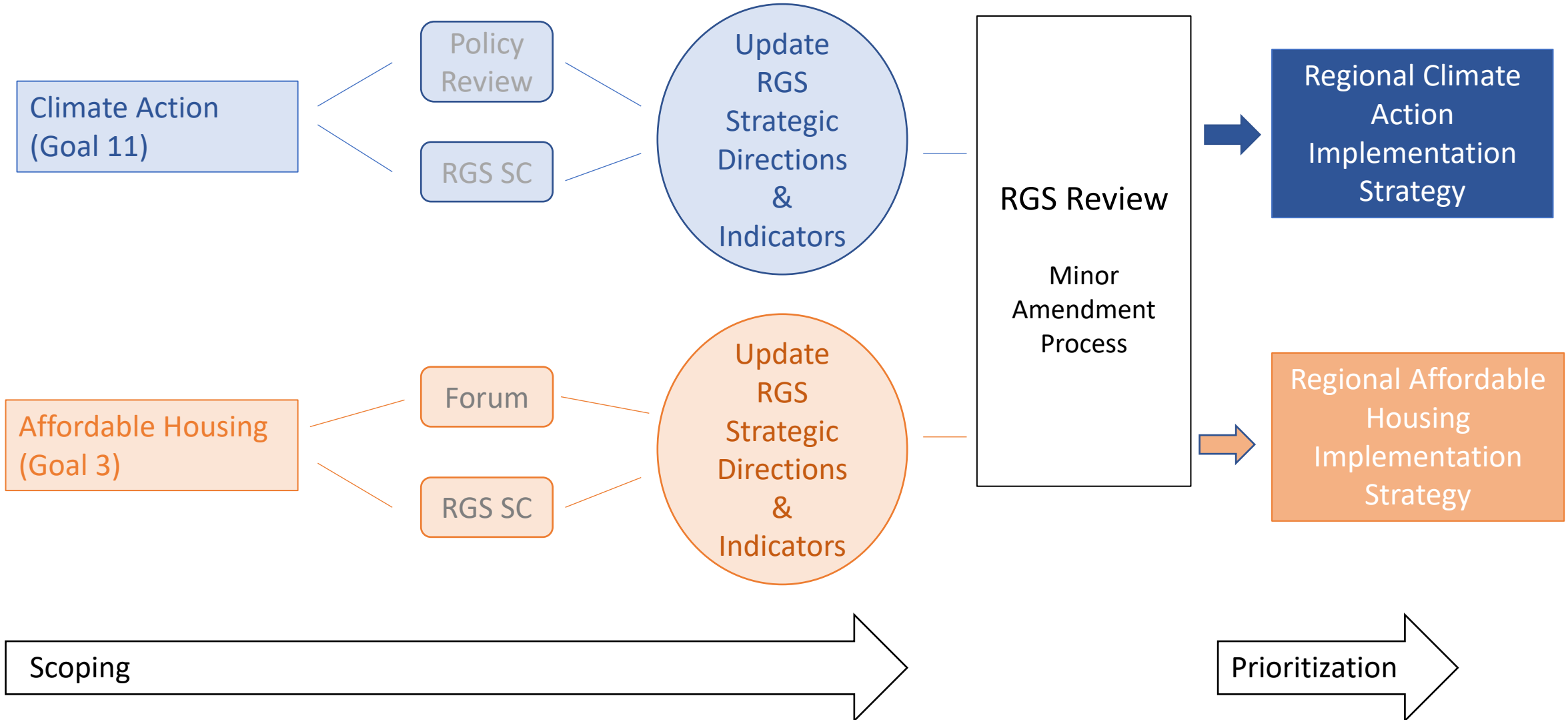
Commented [CD4]: Proposed new indicator to track the number of non-market dwelling units built and covenanted in perpetuity

GOAL 11 TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE	Energy Use	Total energy used
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
	<u>Buildings</u>	<u>The amount of electricity and natural gas used by residential, commercial and some industrial buildings.</u>
	<u>Transportation</u>	<u>Community-level data on greenhouse gas emissions from on-road transportation</u>
	<u>Waste</u>	<u>Estimates of community greenhouse gas emissions based on historic annual tonnes of waste disposed at regional district landfills.</u>

Commented [CD5]: [Provincial Community Energy and Emissions Inventory \(CEEI\)](#) data is broken out via sector – buildings, transportation and waste – additional indicators added to monitor energy and emission by the CEEI sectors as well as having total GHG emissions.

Other communities are also monitoring energy and emissions by these sectors

Tracked Changes



Appendix C: Affected Local Government Written Comments

Goal + Strategy / Pg. Number <i>(write "General" if comment applies to whole doc.)</i>	Department	Comments
General	Regional Planning	Staff support the proposed minor amendments to strengthen climate change policies in the SLRD regional growth strategy. Many of the proposed policy changes align with the policy direction in Metro Vancouver's regional growth strategy, <i>Metro 2050</i> .
Goal 3 3.1 c)	Housing	The change in phrasing appropriately emphasizes the role that communities have in developing affordable housing initiatives.
Goal 3 3.1 J)	Housing	Metro 2050 emphasizes how Housing Needs Reports are an essential tool for understanding the number and type of housing units required to address the local housing shortfall. Metro Vancouver has provided assistance to its member jurisdictions in the past by collecting and issuing the nearly 50 types of required data for the initial Housing Needs Reports, and providing this information to its member jurisdictions in a report format. In addition, the MVRD Board adopted a resolution in March 2024 offering its member jurisdictions an opt-in opportunity for Metro Vancouver to generate their interim Housing Needs Reports calculations using the standardized HNR Method, and to coordinate co-operative procurement of consultants necessary for member jurisdictions to implement the new provincial housing legislation. Although the standardized HNR Method does not allow for the calculation of a regional estimate of housing need, Metro Vancouver is working with the Province to determine how best to adapt the HNR Method in order to estimate the 5-year and 20-year housing need across the region.
Goal 3 3.1 K)	Housing	Metro Vancouver established its own Housing Corporation in 1974. Working with a newly established SLRD Housing Authority to share knowledge would support the Metro Vancouver Housing 10 Year Plan actions around exploring affordability models and sharing best practices (Goal 1 Action 1.4 and 1.5 c)).
Goal 11 11.1 a	Air Quality & Climate Action Services	The updated targets align with Metro Vancouver's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets included in Metro 2050 (Regional Growth Strategy) and Climate 2050. The focus on achieving a net zero by 2050 is in keeping with Metro Vancouver's ambition.

Goal 11 11.1b	Air Quality & Climate Action Services	The preparation and implementation of a regional climate strategy is consistent with Metro Vancouver's Climate 2050 and Clean Air Plan, which guide the region's climate actions and serves to implement Metro 2050's (regional growth strategy) climate action policies. Climate 2050 is further supported by a series of sectoral roadmaps that guide implementation. Consider developing sectoral roadmaps/strategic plans to guide implementation of sectoral areas (e.g., buildings, transportation, waste) of the regional strategy.
Goal 11 11.2a	Air Quality & Climate Action Services	The proposed update is consistent with Metro 2050 policy: <i>"Adopt Regional Context Statements that identify how local land use, transportation and solid waste policies will contribute to...greenhouse gas emission reduction targets..."</i>
Goal 11 11.2b	Air Quality & Climate Action Services	Pursuing this policy at the community level with implementation carried out in collaboration with member municipalities, other levels of government and community organizations is a valued approach. Consider community co-benefits (e.g. air quality; health; equity) that can also be achieved through integration of climate action plans and policies with other community plans and policies.
Goal 11 11.3b	Air Quality & Climate Action Services	Please consider including lifecycle energy and emissions and embodied emissions.
Goal 11 11.3d ii	Air Quality & Climate Action Services	Please consider including incentives and requirements for electrification of buildings and high-performance heating and cooling equipment for buildings.
Goal 11 11.3q	Air Quality & Climate Action Services	Please consider strengthening language to ensure needs of vulnerable populations are prioritized.

September 12, 2024

Claire Dewar, Senior Planner
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
1350 Aster Street
Pemberton BC V0N 2L0

SENT VIA EMAIL to: cdewar@slrd.bc.ca

Dear Claire Dewar,

Re: Squamish-Lillooet Regional District – Regional Growth Strategy Minor Amendment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above noted referral. The proposed Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) minor amendment was considered by Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) Council at the Regular Council meeting on September 10, 2014. The associated RMOW Council resolution is enclosed.

The RMOW supports the proposed RGS minor amendment and provides the following comments regarding proposed policies 11.1(a) and 11.2(a) and Goal 3:

- The Resort Municipality of Whistler supports and strongly encourages the adoption of achieving net zero by 2050 and recommends removing the reference to “carbon neutral”. A net zero commitment will support the achievement of the greenhouse gas emission (GhG) reduction targets outlined in the RGS. However, carbon neutrality may limit the region’s ability to achieve these targets, as carbon neutrality can be achieved through the purchase of carbon offsets without any or very little reduction in GhG; and
- Any requests for staff time that may arise regarding support for coordination on a Housing Needs Report and/or exploration of the establishment of a Regional Housing Authority would need to be evaluated against existing RMOW priorities and workplans.

If you have any questions, please contact Courtney Beaubien, Manager of Planning - Policy at 604-935-8208 or via email at cbeaubien@whistler.ca.

Sincerely,



Dale Mikkelsen
General Manager, Climate Action, Planning & Development Services

Enclosures (1):
RMOW Council Resolution, September 10, 2024



Resort Municipality of Whistler
Regular Council

Title: Squamish-Lillooet Regional District – Regional Growth Strategy Minor Amendment and Regional Context Statement Report No. 24-083 File No. 6480-20-2024
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Moved By Councillor J. Murl
Seconded By Councillor J. Morden

That Council has reviewed the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) minor amendment as presented in the referral notice, attached as Appendix A to Administrative Report No. 24-083, and direct staff to communicate to the SLRD that Council supports the minor amendment and provides the following comments regarding proposed policies 11.1(a) and 11.2(a) and Goal 3:

- The Resort Municipality of Whistler supports and strongly encourages the adoption of achieving net zero by 2050 and recommends removing the reference to “carbon neutral”. A net zero commitment will support the achievement of the greenhouse gas emission (GhG) reduction targets outlined in the RGS. However, carbon neutrality may limit the region’s ability to achieve these targets, as carbon neutrality can be achieved through the purchase of carbon offsets without any or very little reduction in GhG; and
- Any requests for staff time that may arise regarding support for coordination on a Housing Needs Report and/or exploration of the establishment of a Regional Housing Authority would need to be evaluated against existing RMOW priorities and workplans; and further

That Council has reviewed the regional context statement (RCS) contained within the “Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2199, 2018”, attached as Appendix B to Administrative Report No. 24-083, and direct staff to submit the RCS to the SLRD for its continued acceptance.

Caitlin Hodgson

Deputy Corporate Officer, C. Hodgson

Sunshine Coast Regional District

1975 Field Road
Sechelt, British Columbia
Canada V7Z 0A8

604-885-6800
info@scrd.ca
www.scrd.ca



September 24, 2024

Claire Dewar, Senior Planner
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
1350 Aster Street
Pemberton BC
V0N 2L0

CC: Kim Needham, Director of Planning and Development Services
Heather Paul, Chief Administrative Officer
Jen Ford, SLRD Board Chair

Dear Ms. Dewar,

RE: Notification of Initiation – Minor Amendment – Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
Regional Growth Strategy Review 2024

Further to the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District notice letter dated July 29, 2024, Sunshine Coast Regional District staff have reviewed and considered the proposed minor amendments to the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy, and we are providing the following response.

The Sunshine Coast Regional District thanks the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District for the notice and confirms that we have no comments.

If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Jackson at phone 604-885-6814 or by email at Jonathan.jackson@scrd.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Jackson", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Jonathan Jackson, MCIP, RPP
Manager, Planning and Development
SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

**qathet REGIONAL DISTRICT
CERTIFIED RESOLUTION
September 25, 2024**

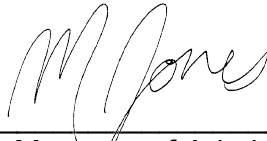
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Bylaw Referral

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the qathet Regional District advise the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District that the qathet Regional District has no objection to the minor amendments to Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008.

MOTION CARRIED.

I hereby certify the above to be a true
and correct resolution of the
Board of the qathet Regional District
at its meeting dated September 25, 2024.



Michelle Jones, Manager of Administrative Services
Dated this 27th day of September, 2024.



REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORT

TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Cherise Roberts, Planner

IN COLLABORATION WITH: Laura Roddan, Manager of Planning Services

SUBJECT: Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Bylaw Referral

ACTION/RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee recommends to the Board that the qathet Regional District advise the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District that the qathet Regional District has no objection to the minor amendments to Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008.

PURPOSE/SUMMARY

To consider a recommendation to the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District regarding an amendment to the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy.

BACKGROUND

On July 30, 2024, the qathet Regional District received a bylaw referral package from the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) regarding minor amendments to *Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008*. As per the *Local Government Act*, SLRD is required to consider a review of their Regional Growth Strategy in 2024.

TYPE OF DECISION

Directive Decision

LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY, BYLAW OR POLICY IMPACT/RELATIONSHIP

The *Local Government Act* (LGA) enables Regional Districts to adopt regional growth strategies for their region. The purpose of a regional growth strategy is to promote human settlement that is socially, economically, and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land, and other resources.

Section 436 of the LGA requires that a regional growth strategy is sent to adjacent regional districts prior to adoption. Acceptance of a regional growth strategy by an affected local government, including adjacent regional district, must be done by resolution of the local government.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

According to the referral package, the proposed policy updates include revisions to strategic directions under Goal 3 (Affordable Housing), Goal 11 (Climate Action), and Indicators (where necessary to reflect policy updates). The proposed policy updates are primarily text and housekeeping in nature and do not alter the intent of the RGS.

The proposed policy changes:

- Strengthen alignment and opportunities for regional collaboration, advocacy and action.
- Reflect Board direction to update greenhouse gas targets, input received at the April 2024 Regional Affordable Housing Forum, and best practices from existing member municipality OCP and Climate Action Plans.
- Do not involve a development application and are not land based.

Indicators for Goal 3 and Goal 11 will be reviewed and updated, as needed, based on the proposed policy updates.

Given the nature of these amendments, staff see no reason to object to the minor amendments to *Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 10.62, 2008*.

A copy of the referral package accompanies this report as Appendix A.

PUBLIC AND/OR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REQUIRED OR PERFORMED

This is a Squamish-Lillooet Regional District referral. Public consultation and stakeholder engagement is the responsibility of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District.

CONCLUSION

In reviewing the proposed amendments, staff see no reason to object to the minor amendments to *Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 10.62, 2008*.

ATTACHMENTS

[Appendix A - SLRD Regional Growth Strategy - Notification of Initiation Package](#)

Approved By:

Status:

Cherise Roberts, Planner
Laura Roddan, Manager of Planning Services
Al Radke, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 16 Aug 2024
Approved - 19 Aug 2024
Approved - 19 Aug 2024



SQUAMISH

HARDWIRED *for* ADVENTURE

October 4, 2024

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD)
Attention Claire Dewar, Senior Planner *via email: cdewar@slrd.bc.ca*

Re. 2024 Minor Amendment of SLRD Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw 1062, 2008 – Goal 3, Goal 11 and Indicators (RGS Review 2024)

Following receipt of notification of the RGS Minor Amendment process by the SLRD in July 2024, the District of Squamish has reviewed the proposed policy updates respecting Goal 3, Goal 11 and Indicators, as well as the provided background information and input informing the amendments. The following comments and suggestions are offered:

Goal 3 (Affordable Housing) Amendments

- Strongly support Policy 3.1 (j) addition – the SLRD can play a valuable role in supporting collaboration and coordination among communities in ongoing housing needs assessments as part of long-range planning for growth throughout the region. Suggest the following further policy edits:
 - j) Seek to **connect**, coordinate **and collaborate where appropriate on h**Housing **N**needs **assessments**Reports as a region/~~Seek regional coordination on Housing Needs Reports~~. This will be pursued by **exploring potential for** coordinating **consulting services** on RFPs, timing and findings **and creating opportunities for cross-community sharing (data, tools/approaches, regional housing forums)**.
- Suggestion 3.1 (k) – refine policy to avoid duplication and unnecessary administrative load in creating another housing authority.
 - k) Explore **ways that established** ~~the establishment of a Regional H~~ housing **A** authorities and **societies can support each other and** ~~opportunities to share~~ **expertise and** resources across jurisdictions and organizations **where able**. This will be pursued by working with existing housing authorities, societies and communities **where potential may exist to support and coordinate housing delivery and unit management in areas where capacity is still emerging**.

Goal 11 (Climate Action) Amendments

- No concerns. The amendments reflect updated greenhouse gas targets and fill gaps in climate policies within the RGS that will benefit from regional collaboration and advocacy. These amendments pull from and align with the District of Squamish's [Community Climate Action Plan \(2020\)](#).
- Suggestion 11.3 (j) – add/reflect coastal ecosystems (e.g. 'blue carbon' in marine estuaries, tidal marshes etc)

- j) Protect the carbon sequestration value of natural systems, including forested lands, ~~and wetlands~~ **and coastal ecosystems**, and explore opportunities to strategically ~~acquire~~ protected areas that contribute to climate change mitigation. This will be pursued by protecting forested lands, ~~and wetlands~~ **and coastal ecosystems** under ~~local government jurisdiction~~, expanding protected areas where possible, and considering carbon sequestration values in **intergovernmental** ~~provincial~~ referral responses.

RGS Indicators (Appendix A)

- Suggest revisiting RGS indicators along with regional efforts involved in evaluation and monitoring in the next major RGS review. Performance measurement and reporting are resource-intensive; recommend selecting an achievable sub-set of refined indicators highly aligned with priority areas and specific goals. Some example indicator adjustments that could be considered:
 - % of dwelling unit growth occurring within identified growth management areas
 - Hectares of land inventoried and protected as sensitive ecosystems
 - Housing indicators (composition of housing stock by type, tenure, cost)
 - Community childcare access rate (# licensed spaces per child pop aged 0-12)
 - % of populations within frequent transit network; transit mode share
 - Annual employment growth in the region
- Interim potential exists to collate data being actively monitored by individual communities towards creating a composite regional snapshot of a select number of key indicators in thematic areas (population growth, housing affordability, energy, water and waste, transportation, and human as well as ecological health). This could be actively used to inform future RGS steering committee work on performance measurement (progress towards or away from strategic goals and directions, as a region).

Should SLRD staff have any questions concerning the District's comments and suggestions, please reach out directly to the undersigned for discussion. Thank you for the SLRD's engagement activities on the RSG review to date and the opportunity to provide further advance comment.

Sincerely,



Sarah McJannet, RPP MCIP, Planner
District of Squamish



Ian Picketts, PhD, Manager of Sustainability and Climate Change
District of Squamish

CC. Jonas Velaniskis, Senior Director of Community Development
Julie Wengi, General Manager, Community Development
Megan Latimer, General Manager, Community Services
Linda Glenday, CAO