

Summary of Comments from Workshop #3: PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



Issue: Air Quality can be compromised at certain times of the year
Cowichan Valley Issue

Solutions:

- Wood burning stoves
 - Improve efficiency
 - Ban outright
 - Discourage via incentives
- Interjurisdictional
 - Cooperation
 - Leadership
- Vehicle Emissions
 - Roundabouts instead of signalized intersections
 - Idling campaigns
 - Alternative modes of transportation
- Outdoor burning
 - Composting
 - Municipal collection

Conclusion:

- Use a combination of regulations(eg bylaws) and non-regulatory tools (eg: incentives)

Issue: Trees and Green space

Solutions:

- Education -
- Research
- Base- line of data - mapping
- Inventory of private and public. What's here now?
- Historical documentation
- Work toward reclaiming and connecting
- Natural history and spaces
- Public input
- Developers - need to be educated and regulated
- Public office - more input more voices (also need education)
- Cooperation amongst developers, municipal, and public interest
- Regulations to save natural assets

Conclusion:

A positive and educated /raised conciousness-based policy to plan and protect community natural assets.

Working around fear-based policies to raise the value of Natural Private and public space with increased civic response

Issue: Water Use

Solutions:

- Conservation
 - Wildlife
 - Metering
- Protection
 - Riparian bylaws
- Management
 - Engineering
 - Social
 - Storage
 - Rainwater management
- Mapping
 - Ground water
- Water Quality
 - Bylaws for pesticide free lawns and gardens and golf courses

Conclusions:

- Mapping
- Bylaws
- Metering
- Criteria for development must include water management

Issue: Food Sustainability

Solutions:

- Act locally - (ie Duncan) can model the necessity and benefits of local food production:
- Sustainability
- Health (incl. pesticide-free consumption)
- Social well being (emergency preparedness)
- Transportation efficiency
- Local Gov't "endorsements"
- Grow/buy local food
- Backyard food production

- Community supported agricultural (CSA)
- Local Supply to:
 - Restaurants
 - Grocery (retailers)
 - Institutions (hospitals, schools)
- Educate through school curricula
- Tax Credits
- No privatization
- Plan to reuse liquid waste to create energy - eg: make it a contest and involve the whole community
- Find a way to involve young people

Issue: Garbage - Too much garbage in places where it doesn't belong; not enough support, incentives or education to do something about it and recognize the consequences of not recycling. Business and residents don't appear to be accountable for the garbage they generate.

Solutions:

- Compost and recycle bins - accessible to all : (eg: Apartment dwellings)
- Educate and support people to manage garbage and recycling
- Have a cleaning crew for the River -side areas and walking trails
- Create incentives to recycle and manage garbage
 - Eg: "If you follow the recycling plan you no longer should have to pay for garbage pick up"
- Fines????
- Enforce littering bylaws
- Revisiting the education plan for starting with youth children around recycling
- Acknowledge the ones who recycle: eg: incentive school competition