Prospering Today

Protecting Tomorrow

Recommendations For a Sustainable Future

Regional District of Nanaimo
Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee
State of Sustainability Final Report December 2007
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared under the direction of The Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee:

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ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICBC</td>
<td>Insurance Bureau of British Columbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCP</td>
<td>Official Community Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>RDN</td>
<td>Regional District of Nanaimo</td>
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<td>RGMAC</td>
<td>Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>RGS</td>
<td>Regional Growth Strategy of the Regional District of Nanaimo</td>
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<td>UCB</td>
<td>Urban Containment Boundary</td>
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<td>VIHA</td>
<td>Vancouver Island Health Authority</td>
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CONTEXT

The Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee (RGMAC) was established to monitor progress on attaining the goals of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). In 2003 the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board expanded the Committee’s mandate and the RGMAC consequently initiated “The State of Sustainability” project. This involved an extensive evaluation of the Region’s sustainability through the analysis of a series of indicators used to measure progress in the areas of Environmental, Social and Economic Capital.

This final report of the State of Sustainability project presents our recommendations and ideas for actions to address the issues and challenges highlighted by the review of sustainability indicators. Our recommendations were guided by feedback from many community members, organizations, RDN staff and consultants that were involved throughout the course of this project. Many of our recommendations support and reinforce existing policies in the RGS. We expect that this document will serve as a tool to influence the forthcoming review of the RGS.

The list of recommendations is extensive, recognizing numerous areas where steps can be taken to build upon our progress and ongoing efforts to achieve higher levels of social, environmental and economic sustainability. We recognize that the RDN and its member municipalities (individually and collectively) have made significant strides to improve sustainability in some areas such as waste management, conducting inventories of environmentally sensitive areas, improving park land and recreational facilities, farmland retention and providing the physical infrastructure that encourages long term investment in economic health.

In our view, compared to other areas (such as environmental and economic), the Region’s social indicators have shown little progress while also receiving limited attention from local government. Subsequently, we have put recommendations to address social challenges upfront in Section 1 - Community Wellbeing. This is followed by Section 2 - Regional Growth and Development, Section 3 - Environmental Integrity and Section 4 - Economic Health. The recommendations within each section have not been ranked, but they have been organized into areas where the RDN has the ability to take direct action (Actions the RDN Can Take) and areas where the RDN can use its role to influence (Actions the RDN Can Influence).

We recognize that sustainability is about a search for balance. Many of our recommendations are interrelated and mutually supportive. At the same time we acknowledge that progress in one area may have an associated real cost and a negative consequence in another area. Improving sustainability and our quality of life requires that we recognize the interrelationships between our society, environment and economy, and that we harmonize our approaches to these areas in order to achieve long-term sustainability for all beings.
Using This Report

Each recommendation in this report can be cross-referenced using the following table to show how it relates to the original 22 ‘Sustainability Characteristics’ outlined in the State of Sustainability Report. The corresponding Sustainability Characteristic can be found at the end of each recommendation, for example recommendation 4 b ‘Foster and support a healthy diversity of community groups and encourage cooperation among them.’ C 14, 15 relates to the Sustainability Characteristics:
C 14 - “High level of safety where residents care for and respect one another,” and
C 15 - “Number of opportunities for residents to interact with each other and nature.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>SUSTAINABILITY CHARACTERISTIC</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>State of Sustainability of the RDN Report September 2006</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th><strong>Environmental</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C 1</td>
<td>There is a safe and sufficient supply of water for all living beings and uses in the RDN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 2</td>
<td>Important ecosystems and ecological features are protected, healthy and productive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 3</td>
<td>The air is clean and safe to breathe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 4</td>
<td>All Natural resources are conserved, and renewable resources are available in perpetuity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 5</td>
<td>Energy requirements are reduced, and/ or energy is obtained in ways that minimize negative impacts on the environment and greenhouse gases are minimized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 6</td>
<td>Land and resources are efficiently used, and the negative impacts of land use and development are minimized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 7</td>
<td>Waste is minimized, treated, and disposed using environmentally sound methods.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th><strong>Social Capital</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C 8</td>
<td>Healthy residents and the availability of health care when needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 9</td>
<td>Educated and trained residents who qualify for employment,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 10</td>
<td>Employed residents and a wide variety of employment opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 11</td>
<td>Financially independent residents and minimal poverty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C12</td>
<td>Affordable housing and a variety of different types and sizes of housing to accommodate the demographics of the Region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 13</td>
<td>Minimized need for travel by private automobile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 14</td>
<td>High level of safety where residents care for and respect one another.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 15</td>
<td>Number of opportunities for residents to interact with each other and nature.</td>
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<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th><strong>Economic Capital</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C 16</td>
<td>There is positive economic growth in the Region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 17</td>
<td>The Tax System favours sustainable, environmentally responsible economic activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 18</td>
<td>The economy is characterized by a diversity of different types and sizes of businesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 19</td>
<td>A wide variety of employment opportunities exist, and residents are employed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 20</td>
<td>Residents have training that qualifies them for employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 21</td>
<td>The urban core areas of the Region are characterized by their vitality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C22</td>
<td>Regional consumption of products and services produced in the Region in economically viable ways is maximized.</td>
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COMMUNITY WELLBEING

The State of Sustainability Report revealed an overall lack of progress in a variety of indicators relating to social sustainability in the Region. Of significance are key indicators relating to poverty, housing and income that show a worsening trend.

The RDN is ranked lowest in the Province for average annual income. For some of our most vulnerable citizens, this is compounded by rising costs of living compared to average income and a related increase in the need for affordable housing. Furthermore, it is recognized that some issues (such as unemployment, poverty, children at risk, drug use, crime, homelessness) are regional, as people move throughout the RDN seeking affordable housing, access to services and employment.

The RDN has a pivotal role to play in fostering a healthy environment for its citizens to thrive and prosper. Many of the functions and services provided by the RDN have a direct and indirect impact on the community wellbeing. These include: management of land uses; the provision of public amenities (parks, recreation and cultural facilities); transportation (through transit services); servicing (roads, sewer, water and waste disposal); and the ability to bring together rural and urban communities to participate in regional initiatives. The latter is of great significance given that some of our smaller communities struggle to individually address social and economic challenges.

1A Actions The RDN Can Take:

1. Establish a Regional Social Advisory Committee to work with member municipalities, Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) and social service agencies, to improve social and economic conditions for RDN citizens, especially the most vulnerable. Such a committee would:
   a. Monitor social indicators and bring problems to the attention of the Board. C 8
   b. Develop a guide to social/ community services in the RDN (similar to the “Surviving in Nanaimo” guide). C 8
   c. Coordinate the efforts of the RDN, First Nations and member municipalities on improving health and wellbeing including children through neighbourhood planning, provision of transit, parks and public amenities. C 8
   d. Determine and address the underlying factors that create a need for subsidized housing as it applies to electoral areas and member municipalities. C 12
   e. Work with member municipalities to improve accessible housing, neighbourhoods, parks and recreational/ public facilities for citizens with special accessibility needs and to allow for ‘aging in place’. This could include participating in the Social Planning and Research Council of BC’s (SPARC) annual accessibility awareness program. C 12, 14, 15

2. Amend the Regional Growth Strategy to:
a. Include a policy that "social zoning" (zoning that allows a range of social uses such as daycares and seniors centers) be considered in each village centre. C 15

b. Require Official Community Plans (OCP’s) to include Crime Prevention and Safety through the application of planning and design considerations (such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design). C 14

c. Strengthen existing policies to direct all municipalities and electoral areas to develop plans which focus on walking and encouraging non-vehicular traffic. C 13

3. Provide the opportunity for diversity/human rights training to help foster a safer work environment for employees and clients of the RDN, member municipalities, businesses and educational institutions. C 14

4. Develop and implement strategies to increase civic participation for RDN and member municipalities including:

a. Work with school districts, Malaspina University College and other educational institutions to educate students about the role of regional and local governments and ways in which they can take action to positively change their environment/neighborhoods through civic participation (for example, presentations to the RDN board). C 14, 15

b. Foster and support a healthy diversity of community groups and encourage cooperation among them. C 14, 15

c. Promote increased civic participation in government including voting/elections and participation in community planning. C 14

5. Continue to use the resources of the BC Healthy Communities initiative to encourage member municipalities and electoral areas to promote and develop Healthy Community initiatives. C 8

6. Continue to work with provincial initiatives to develop and implement programs and events specifically aimed at improving fitness levels for all RDN residents using RDN recreation facilities, parks and open spaces. C 8,15

7. Continue to publish and disseminate user-friendly information on parks and trail systems. C 15

8. Continue to work with member municipalities and First Nations to engage in mutually beneficial social, economic and environmental planning initiatives, and to improve emergency preparedness and build disaster resilience. C 8, 11, 15

9. Work with member municipalities, BC Housing Management Commission (BCHMC) and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to:

a. Monitor and increase the Region’s rental housing stock. C 11, 12

b. Implement strategies to increase the number of affordable and subsidized housing units for higher needs groups (e.g. low income families including single parents, those challenged with disabilities and seniors). For example,
density amenity provisions can be written into zoning bylaws to allow for higher densities if affordable housing targets are met. C 11, 12

c. Amend OCP policies and zoning bylaws to allow secondary suites in residential zones inside the Urban Containment Boundary. C 11, 12

d. Amend policies in OCP’s to encourage the development of “flexible” or adaptable housing, for example, single family dwellings can be converted to multiple dwelling units subject to rezoning. C 11, 12

e. Acquire land for non-profit organizations (like Habitat for Humanity) to build and manage affordable housing through partnerships with the development community. C 11, 12

f. Support rezoning to multi unit developments within urban containment boundaries without the requirement of an OCP amendment. C 11, 12

1B - Actions The RDN Can Influence:

10. Enhance long term community health and well being:

a. Support the collaborative efforts of VIHA, School District 68 and 69, as well as Malaspina University College to work together to use the education programs of the Public Health Agency of Canada and other efforts to provide information on health directly to youth (including family planning, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, risks of smoking and drinking, the need for vitamin and other supplement programs). C 8

b. Recommend the RDN explore ways to assist the ongoing efforts of VIHA, Ministry of Health, and the Public Health Agency of Canada to provide preventative health education. C 8

c. Support and work with VIHA to help realize their Primary Health Care Strategic Plan® and vision™ by ensuring that there are adequate Primary Health Care facilities distributed throughout the Region. C 8

d. Support the further development of Nanaimo Regional Hospital as the main provider of Secondary and Tertiary health care. C 8

e. Recommend that the RDN work with VIHA and the Ministry of Health to have elected RDN Board representation on the VIHA Board of Directors. C 8

f. Work with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, VIHA and school districts to ensure the provision of affordable, high quality child care to support the participation of women and single parents in the work force and to provide resources for improving the outcomes for ‘at risk’ children. C 8, 10, 11, 19

g. Support school district early childhood education and health programs. C 8, 9

h. Continue to promote the use of schools and community centres, for community-based activities. C 8, 15
11. Reduce crime and improve safety:
   a. Support and promote more education on crime and consequences, especially for juveniles. C 14
   b. Promote more positive interaction between the RCMP and the public to increase mutual understanding and respect. C 14
   c. Support the collaborative efforts of member municipalities, the Ministry of Transportation and ICBC to increase safety on the roads and at high-risk intersections (for example, through use of photo radar, mandatory provincial vehicle inspection, testing of seniors for re-licensing and road design). C 14
   d. Promote safe environments in urban core areas through devices such as citizens on patrol and surveillance cameras. C 14
   e. Encourage and support working groups on community safety to address issues including:
      • Crime prevention
      • Neighbourhood safety and emergency preparedness
      • Increasing trust and respect between seniors and youth
      • Supporting and increasing block watch programs
      • Creating ‘safe’ homes and businesses for seniors and children C 14, 15

12. Housing: Develop strategies to increase the number of available subsidized and affordable housing units for higher needs groups (for example, low income families including single parents, those challenged with disabilities and seniors) including:
   a. Supporting public housing projects. C 11, 12
   b. Encouraging senior levels of government to contribute resources to provide more affordable housing. C 11, 12
   c. Encouraging the provision of low rent housing, including housing allowances for low income families. C 11, 12
   d. Encouraging the Province and member municipalities to provide tax credits/incentives to landlords who guarantee rent controlled housing. C 11, 12
   e. Encourage the Province to provide the RDN and member municipalities with the means to collect cash in lieu or land for affordable housing from developers. C 11, 12
Effective planning for regional growth and development is central to the sustainability of our region. Careful management of land and resources can improve environmental integrity, community wellbeing and economic health by reducing sprawl, fostering diverse mixed-use communities that support walking and cycling and a range of compatible activities.

Many of the recommendations in this section support and reinforce existing RGS policies.

**2A - Actions The RDN Can Take:**

13. Ensure that the RGS is monitored and adhered to throughout the RDN and member municipalities. C 2, 6

14. Revise and then enforce the use of the RDN’s ‘Sustainability Checklist’ to monitor and set targets to improve sustainability within the Electoral Areas and encourage the RDN member municipalities to adopt a Sustainability Checklist approach to development. C 1-7

15. Require that all new construction meet green building standards. C 5, 6, 7

16. Continue to examine the size and location of UCBs and Village Centres with a view towards maximizing densities within these boundaries and then focusing on developing planned communities within these areas, including multi-unit residential, professional and commercial buildings and attractive, pedestrian friendly urban core areas. C 6, 21

17. Provide incentives for redevelopment of land within the UCB that is currently underutilized, derelict, or contaminated. C 2, 4, 7

18. Resist applications to rezone all resource lands (including forest and farm lands) into residential lands or other land uses. C 4, 6

19. Vehicle Trip Reduction:

   a. Continue to support the RDN’s Regional Growth Strategy goals of Urban Containment and Complete Communities that result in trip reduction. C 3, 5, 6, 13

   b. Continue to encourage efforts to use land use planning and design features that promote walking and cycling (including more bike and walking paths). Encourage the development of new trails that can be connected to existing trail systems. C 3, 5, 6, 13, 15

   c. Continue to support land use patterns that encourage efficient bus services based on linking nodal centres along growth corridors and offer free transit passes to students to reduce private vehicle use. C 3, 13, 21
d. Review and reduce parking requirements in zoning bylaws and consider implementing pay parking where practical to encourage increased walking and alternate transit use. C 3, 13

e. Encourage the RDN and member municipality employees to use fuel-efficient and alternative fuel fleets/vehicles, or alternative forms of transportation, through a variety of initiatives including providing incentives. C 3, 13

2B Actions The RDN Can Influence:

20. Promote and encourage establishing targets and escalating charges for consumption of fuel, sewer, water and garbage disposal. C 1, 7

21. Promote and support efforts to provide education on efficient vehicle trips (for example, maximizing stops en-route, car pooling, and supporting the Province’s carpool program). C 3, 13

22. Work with member municipalities to discourage adding lanes to existing roads (for example, no more four lane roads in Departure Bay/Hammond Bay). C 6, 13

23. Work with employers to develop creative, practical ways to reduce employee vehicle use (consider flex time, provision of showers for cyclists, tele-working, subsidized bus passes and encouraging living closer to work). C 3, 13

24. Support new transportation initiatives, (such as the harbour to harbour passenger ferry, rail and air travel – including the Nanaimo Airport expansion), which balance economic with social needs and environmental considerations. C 16, 19
Section 3

ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY

Environmental indicators for the Region show that the RDN has made significant progress toward environmental sustainability in several areas including waste reduction and treatment, and park land acquisition. However, there is much room for improvement in other areas including our water supply and consumption and reliance on private vehicles for transportation. Furthermore, we need to improve our knowledge and understanding of the status of our sensitive aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems with improved research and data collection.

3A - Actions The RDN Can Take:

25. Strengthen RGS policies to emphasize prevention and mitigation rather than remediation to protect the environment (for example through the use of “Site Adaptive Design” principles that preserve sensitive and important ecosystems by restricting development activities to relatively non-sensitive lands). C 1-6

26. Ecosystems:
   a. Expand the mapped inventory of important and sensitive ecosystems and features to include evaluation of their sensitivity to various types of disturbances, and prioritization for protection. C 2
   b. Maintain this inventory, and calculate ecosystem area losses and gains from time to time, and identify any change in the health and productivity of these areas as measured by selected indicators. C 2
   c. Maintain natural corridors for water, wildlife and vegetation. C 2
   d. Purchase land that contains threatened, high priority, important and sensitive ecosystems or features, and to protect watersheds. C 2
   e. Maintain and enhance biodiversity through the planning and maintenance of RDN parks and open spaces and increasing the area of RDN parkland through subdivisions, rezonings, donations, and acquisitions from development. C 2
   f. Work with the Ministry of Environment to develop a comprehensive program to eradicate invasive species such as Scotch Broom and the American Bullfrog. C 2

27. Legislation and bylaws:
   a. Educate landowners, developers, realtors and others involved in development about bylaws and development processes and other policies designed to protect ecosystems, such as the RDN Sustainability Checklist and the Riparian Areas Regulation. C 1, 2, 5, 6
   b. Develop incentive schemes for environmentally friendly activities by both households and businesses. C 1-7
c. Improve the process for enforcement of various environmental protection bylaws 24/7. C 1, 2, 7

d. Amend RDN landscaping requirements in zoning bylaws to promote xeriscaping and use of indigenous plant species. C 1, 5

e. Institute the building permit process throughout the RDN to ensure environmental protection measures are included in all new construction. C 1-7

28. Waste management:
   a. Continue to support the expansion of the RDN waste recycling efforts including food composting and recycling of garden waste. C 6, 7
   b. Continue to investigate new technologies to reduce and re-use waste to expand the lifespan of the RDN waste facility. C 6, 7
   c. Upgrade RDN sewage treatment plants to attain full secondary and ultimately tertiary treatment. C 1, 7
   d. Seek out new forms of provincial or federal funding to expedite sewer construction programs. C 7
   e. Continue to deliver public education programs to limit harmful chemicals entering the liquid waste stream through both sanitary sewers and septic systems. C 1, 7

29. In the RGS include policies to improve air quality such as:
   a. Prohibit all backyard burning and implement a compost/yard waste collection system. C 3
   b. Prohibit logging slash burning in areas cleared for development, and encourage use of chippers and other alternatives. C 3
   c. Encourage the replacement of older woodstoves and fireplaces with more efficient wood burning devices. C 3, 5
   d. Promote more public awareness of air quality issues by subscribing to and promoting the Air Quality Health Index website, and educate the public on the effective use of woodstoves and fireplaces (to increase efficiency and reduce air pollution). C 3, 5
   e. Support smoking bans in outdoor public spaces. C 8
   f. Discourage the idling of vehicles through the implementation of bylaws, education and signage. C 3, 5

30. Water:
b. Ensure that water needs for ecosystems (flora, fauna and aquatic beings), recreation and other social uses/values are part of the above Action Plan process. C 1, 2, 4

c. Establish watershed management committees to support a watershed-based approach to land and water use management for the protection of water and ecosystems. C 1, 2, 4

d. Reduce water consumption in all RDN facilities: establish reduction targets that will be achieved each year. C 1, 4

31. Energy:
   a. Set targets to reduce energy consumption by all users, at a rate of at least 1% per year. C 5
   b. Exceed targets for conserving and reducing energy consumption in the corporate RDN workplace as outlined in the Corporate Climate Change Plan. C 5
   c. Continue to support and if possible expand methane recovery at the RDN landfill for power generation. C 5, 7
   d. Include policies in the RGS that encourage the use of wind, closed circuit geothermal, solar, or small-scale water based power generation for new or retrofitted development in all official community plans. C 5
   e. Include policies in the RGS that work towards increased energy self-sufficiency in buildings and structures. C 5

3B - Actions the RDN Can Influence:

32. Work with a wide variety of stakeholders (including provincial and federal governments, member municipalities, First Nations, non-profits, academia and business) to develop partnerships and implement strategies to monitor, conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity in the Region, including integrating biodiversity considerations into policies related to agriculture, forestry, fisheries (including aquaculture) and urban land development. C 2, 6

33. Work with the Federal and Provincial Governments: (a) to adopt a biodiversity index or other suitable and standard indices, and (b) to support local public stewardship programs to monitor the health and productivity of ecosystems. C 2

34. Encourage the Provincial Government to create legislation requiring periodic mandatory inspection of septic systems. C 7

35. Encourage industry and institutions to take steps to reduce environmental impacts. C 1-7

36. Encourage all levels of government and industry to reduce packaging and improve efforts to recycle/re-use products that currently cannot be recycled in the RDN (such as Styrofoam, non beverage tetra packs). C 7
37. Influencing Air Quality:
   a. Work with the Ministry of Environment to review how representative data
      from the single monitoring site in Nanaimo are of the Region and if
      necessary review the need for more monitoring sites. C 3
   b. Work with industry to reduce emissions (quality, quantity and odour).
      C 3, 7, 8
   c. Work with neighbouring jurisdictions (regional districts, municipalities and
      First Nations) to meet similar air quality standards. C 3, 8
   d. Support a building code review to require use of more efficient wood burning
      devices in new and existing buildings. C 3, 5, 8
   e. Encourage all levels of government to lead the way with creating healthy
      indoor air quality in government buildings. C 3, 8
   f. Encourage government, industry and business to work together to divert
      more transportation of goods from the roads to the railway when
      environmentally and economically feasible. C 3, 5
   g. Encourage the Provincial Government to implement mandatory vehicle
      inspections for emissions testing. C 3, 5

38. Water:
   a. Encourage a regular review of existing water licenses by the Provincial
      Government in order to determine the needs of different users and set
      targets for water use accordingly. C 1, 4
   b. Recommend all levels of government support water conservation to the
      greatest extent possible for all users. C 1, 4, 5
   c. Encourage water conservation and re-use practices for all government
      buildings and facilities (including schools/educational facilities). C 1, 4, 5

39. Energy:
   a. Support BC Hydro’s Power Smart program and joint Provincial initiatives to
      achieve a 20% reduction in energy use in all government facilities by 2020.
      C 5
   b. Support alternate energy initiatives by the Federal and Provincial
      Governments and private industry (for example small scale hydro electric
      power, wind, solar and closed circuit geothermal). C 5
   c. Support government initiatives to encourage use of eco-friendly, alternate
      fuels for private vehicles. C 5
**Economic Health**

A strong and sustainable economy is vital to both community wellbeing and environmental integrity. The State of Sustainability Report showed that despite improvements, the Region is generally behind Provincial averages in most of its economic indicators. Furthermore, the data used show a trend towards increasing employment in sectors that provide lower wages. This fact directly influences the trend toward decreasing disposable income as shown by the indicator measuring ‘average annual income compared to cost of living’.

The Region has recently been experiencing rapid economic growth and low unemployment largely influenced by external market forces. However there has not been any analysis of the impacts of this trend in terms of improving the disposable income and quality of life for residents, especially those working in low paying jobs.

**4A - Actions The RDN Can Take:**

40. Through the RGS:
   a. Partner with member municipalities and First Nations to develop a region-wide economic development function. C 16, 18, 19
   b. Encourage a broad and comprehensive mix of uses within village centres in the RDN and member municipalities, focused on providing employment for local residents. C 9, 10, 11, 16, 18, 19
   c. Amend the RGS to recognize that future economic growth will likely occur in the retail service sector, health services, services targeted to an aging population, and in services related to culture and recreation. C 20, 22

41. Business development:
   a. Promote and support a diversity of small home-based business through regulations that encourage small-scale uses that fit with surrounding residential areas. C 10, 18, 19
   b. Encourage the diversification of service businesses into fields such as financial services and health services. C 10, 18, 19
   c. Create new mixed-use enterprise zones that allow for a wide range of economic activities in residential/commercial/industrial areas. C 10, 18, 19
   d. Encourage use of industrial parks for small and medium sized industries through tax breaks. C 10, 18, 19
   e. Lobby the Provincial and Federal governments through associations such as Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to ensure provincial and federal tax credits are transferred back to the Region to support sustainable, environmentally sound economic development. C 16, 17
f. Ensure that the RDN is adequately represented to the world through the lead up to the 2010 Olympics as a key location for business and investment. C 16

42. Food and Agriculture:
   a. Support local food production and consumption. C 5, 22
   b. Activate the RDN Agricultural Advisory Committee. C 22
   c. Promote the development of regional farmers markets and other outlets for local farmers. C 5, 22

43. Corporate RDN:
   a. Implement RDN hiring and supplier policies that offer due consideration to local residents and products and services from local businesses. C 22
   b. Foster employment opportunities for local youth by implementing corporate RDN programs to hire students and apprentices for temporary employment / co-op work programs, participating in school district sponsored career fairs and, encouraging RDN staff mentoring. C 9, 20

4B - Actions the RDN Can Influence:

44. Work with educational and training institutions to:
   a. Support School District efforts to encourage students to complete Grade 12. C 9, 20
   b. Support literacy programs for both students and adults; and opportunities for adult training and retraining. C 9, 20
   c. Work with school districts to support better career advice programs at local high schools. Involve local employers (government and private sector) in these efforts. C 9, 20
   d. Work with trade schools, chambers of commerce and professional associations to:
      - Increase trade programs at Malaspina University-College and other schools.
      - Encourage experienced trades people, business owners and other professionals to take on the role of "Mentors".
      - Create more apprenticeship programs.
      - Make apprentice programs more attractive to employers. C 9, 20
   e. Work with chambers of commerce and the Province to improve conditions of work, training and opportunities for entry-level workers. C 9, 11, 20
   f. Work with Malaspina University College to find local employment for graduates. C 9, 20, 22
   g. Continue to support the concept of ‘elder college’ for seniors. C 9, 15
45. **Goods and Services:**
   a. Participate in opportunities to expand the range of local goods and services. Support province-wide initiatives to attract new economic activities to British Columbia through actions such as consolidated approval processes.  
      C 18, 22
   b. Support the development of business enterprise centres to support the development of small business through sharing mutual resources. C 10, 18, 19
   c. Support the development of WiFi (wireless) networks in the member municipalities and the village centres. C 10, 18
   d. Recommend that all levels of government purchase local goods and services whenever possible. C 22
   e. Encourage local chambers of commerce to showcase and promote local products and services. C 22
   f. Work with industry and government to resist the export of raw logs and increase the rotation period of timber supply areas. C 4, 6, 22

46. **Food and Agriculture:**
   a. Encourage local supermarkets to purchase and promote local products. C 22
   b. Work with the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) and Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to encourage farming on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) lands and agriculturally/rural zoned lands. C 4, 6
   c. Work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Ministry of Environment and other agencies to promote and support sustainable farming practices. C 1-7
End Notes

1 Bylaw No. 1309, June 10, 2003, Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy.

ii The results of this are captured in the report ‘Prospering Today, Protecting Tomorrow: The State of Sustainability of the Regional District of Nanaimo’ (September 2006).

iii Strengthens RGS Policy 2B – “Nodes should be designed to maximize personal safety and security”.

iv The Vancouver Island Health Authority defines Primary Health Care as “the range of services individuals and communities receive on a regular, ongoing basis in order to stay healthy, get better, manage ongoing illness or disease, and cope with end of life. Different people in a variety of settings may provide primary health care services.”

v VIHA’s vision for Primary Health Care is: “Comprehensive, seamless and locally accessible primary health care services delivered by a network of provider teams, integrated into a regional health care system that supports our population to stay healthy, get better, manage illness and disease, and cope with end of life” (Primary Health Care Strategic Plan June 2006).

vi Consistent with RGS Policy 2B – “Nodes should be designed to maximize personal safety and security”.

vii Consistent with RGS Policy 5A – “…reduce the need for automobile travel and to increase the opportunities for more environmentally-friendly modes of transportation (e.g. walking, cycling, transit)…..”

viii Consistent with RGS Policy 4B relating to identifying and understanding ESA’s.

ix Consistent with RGS Goal 3C - “…encourage agricultural uses on land designated as Resource Lands and Open Space, particularly on land in the ALR.”