

Regional Growth Strategy

Backgrounder on Indicators



Indicators in the RGS

Indicators are measures that can be used to show how well a social, cultural, economic or environmental system is working over time. The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is in the process of choosing indicators to measure the region's progress towards or away from the goals and policies of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). Consistent monitoring of indicators is critical to evaluating the effectiveness of policies and the need to adjust actions. Indicators also help determine the need to adjust the actions of the RDN consistent with RGS growth management and sustainability goals.

Relationship to Actions

The Regional Growth Strategy is a policy document that provides direction on how growth is to be managed on a region wide basis to achieve shared sustainability goals. Since the RGS is meant to influence decision making and not necessarily to prescribe actions, the only way to monitor the success of the RGS is to measure specific characteristics (or indicators) of a sustainable region. Indicators ensure that the RDN and partner local governments are making decisions that are consistent with the RGS goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, preserve rural resource lands, protect environmentally sensitive areas and improve mobility options such as transit or cycling.

Choosing Indicators

A significant amount of work on choosing indicators has already been completed by the RDN, community representatives and other stakeholders. An important part of the selection of new indicators will be to recognize the work that has already been done by the RDN committees with community representatives. This includes extensive research and analysis by the Performance Review Committee and the Regional Growth Management Advisory Committee.

Indicator Selection

Some important considerations for selecting indicators:

- Commit to a set of indicators over time
- Select a practical number of indicators
- Make reporting on indicators accessible to different audiences
- Indicators should relate to things that the RDN has some influence or control over
- Indicator selection should reflect previous work in RGS monitoring



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Background on Indicators



RGS Goals	Potential RGS Indicators
Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse Gas Emissions Residential Energy Consumption
Goal 2: Protect the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Water Consumption Amount of Land in Parks and Protected Areas
Goal 3: Coordinate Land Use and Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commute to Work Travel Mode Share Households within Walking Distance to Transit
Goal 4: Concentrate Housing and Jobs into Growth Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Densities in the Growth Containment Boundary Housing within the Growth Containment Boundary
Goal 5: Enhance Rural Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Amount of Land within the Agricultural Land Reserve Land Classified as Private Managed Forest Lands
Goal 6: Facilitate the Provision of Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Number of New Purpose Built Affordable Housing Units The Number of Households in Core Housing Need
Goal 7: Enhance Economic Resiliency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of New Jobs in the Region Share of Jobs in each Labour Category
Goal 8: Enhance Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Parcels with Farm Status Area Under Active Shellfish Tenure
Goal 9: Celebrate Pride of Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Number of Public Events Held in the RDN Each Year The Number of Historic Buildings or Places
Goal 10: Provide Services Efficiently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per Capita Length of Roads The Amount of Waste Diverted from the Landfill