
2012 Annual Report

Regional Growth Strategy

Implementation & Progress



February 18, 2013

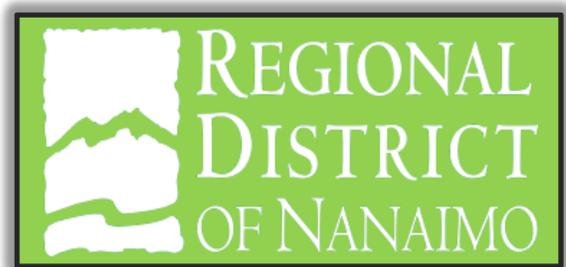


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1 OVERVIEW

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)¹ is a strategic plan adopted by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board that aims to establish a more sustainable pattern of population growth and development in the region over a twenty-five year period. The RGS encourages and directs most new development in the region within designated Growth Containment Boundaries, thereby keeping urban settlement compact, protecting the integrity of rural and resource areas, protecting the environment, increasing servicing efficiency, and retaining mobility within the region.

The RGS represents a commitment by the RDN and its member municipalities to take a series of actions to improve the quality of life for present and future residents of the region. Part of this commitment involves being accountable to residents about how the RGS is being implemented and the level of progress being made towards reaching the goals of the RGS.

The 2011 RGS addresses implementation in Section 5, stating that: *“Being accountable for progress towards achieving the goals of this RGS requires a commitment to implementation, target-setting, establishing indicators, and monitoring”*. Reporting on annual progress shows a commitment to implementation and fulfills a requirement under the *Local Government Act* *“to prepare an annual report on implementation and progress towards the goals and objectives of the RGS”* (RGS Policy 5.2.1).

This report briefly describes the RGS purpose, vision and goals in order to set the stage for documenting actions that show progress towards implementation since the RGS was updated on November 22, 2011. It does not attempt to measure how effective these implementation actions are, nor does it make recommendations for adjusting policies to improve performance. Setting performance targets and the development of measures to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RGS is a priority action for 2013. This will involve selecting indicators that can be used to measure and evaluate how well RGS policies are working towards reaching the goals and vision of the RGS.

¹ On November 22, 2011, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board adopted "Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1615". This document replaced the 2003 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) and represents the second time that the RGS has been fully reviewed and updated since it was first adopted in 1997.

2 RGS ROLE & PURPOSE

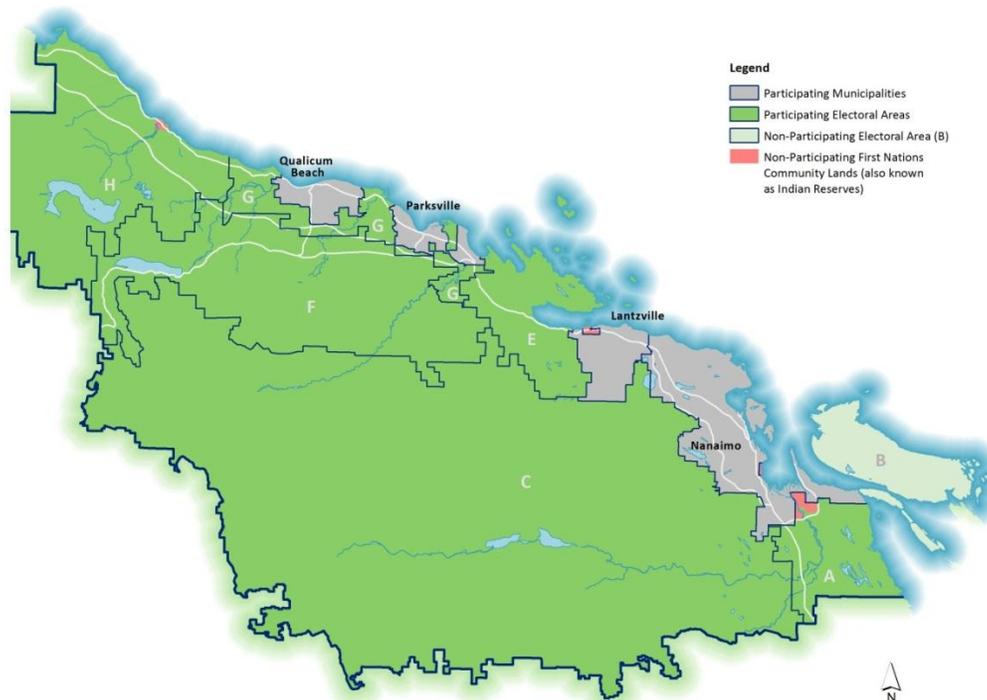
The purpose of the RGS is to *"promote human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources"*. Ultimately, it is a coordinated plan to manage growth in the region in a sustainable manner.

The first RGS was adopted in 1997 in response to residents' concerns about the impacts of rapid population growth and development in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Given that the impacts of growth cross jurisdictional boundaries, it was recognized that a coordinated approach to community planning was necessary to effectively address growth management issues.

The RGS provides a framework for member municipalities and the RDN to coordinate growth management issues that cross local government boundaries. The RGS also provides a mechanism to connect with provincial ministries and agencies who have jurisdiction in areas that impact land use and community planning and whose resources are needed to implement projects and programs. Inter-jurisdictional coordination is essential to protecting our environment and achieving a high quality of life for present and future residents in the region.

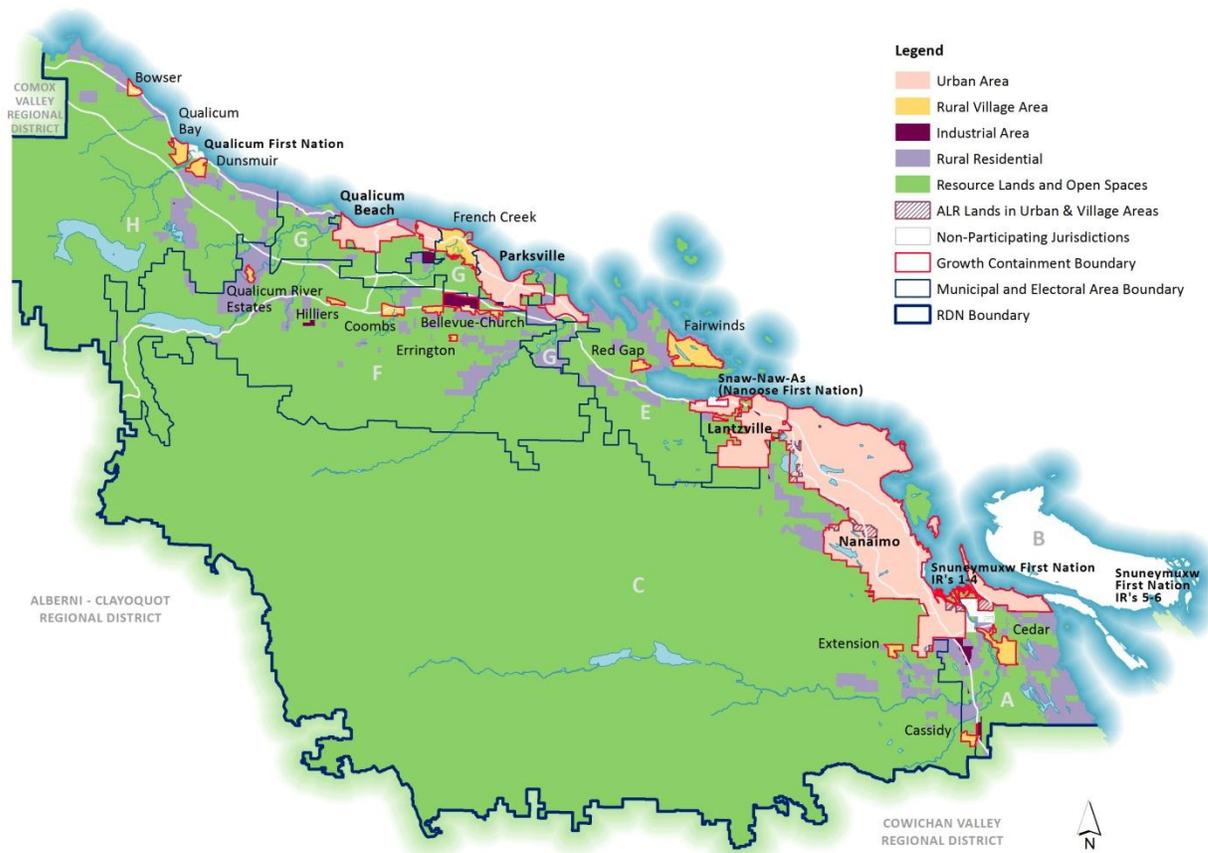
The RGS applies to six electoral areas and four municipalities within the region as shown by the map below. The RGS does not apply to Gabriola, Decourcy and Mudge Islands (Electoral Area 'B') as they fall under the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust. It also does not apply to lands under the jurisdiction of First Nations (Qualicum First Nation, Snaw-Naw-As (Nanose) and Snuneymuxw First Nation).

Map 1: RGS Application – Participating and Non-Participating Jurisdictions



The RGS uses a line on a map called a Growth Containment Boundary (GCB) to separate areas designated for future growth from other areas where environmental protection and resource values are a priority. Lands designated as Urban Area within municipalities are intended to absorb the majority of the region’s future growth. In the RDN’s electoral areas, land designated as Rural Village Areas are intended to accommodate lower levels of growth more compatible with their rural settings. Development within the GCB (Urban and Rural Village Areas) is intended to be diverse and provide places for people to live, work, learn, shop and play. This may also include lands to be conserved to support ecosystem functions or other green space purposes. Land outside of the GCB is intended to support ecosystem functions and rural uses that require only limited infrastructure and services to be viable.

Map 2: RGS Growth Containment Boundary and Land Use Designations



3 RGS VISION

The vision of the RGS is documented below and represents the foundation for the goals and policies in the RGS.

The region will be recognized for an outstanding quality of urban and rural life that is grounded in a strong commitment to protecting the natural environment and minimizing harm to life-sustaining ecological systems. Working in partnership with interested organizations, the RDN and its member municipalities are committed to achieving:

- High standards of environmental protection that preserve habitat, enhance ecological diversity, and maintain air and water quality;
- Enhanced food security in the region;
- Urban development that is contained and distinct in form and character from rural development;
- Complete, compact communities designed to provide housing that meets the needs of all households, and that provide excellent access to nearby workplaces, goods and services, learning institutions, recreation opportunities, and natural areas;
- Expansion and enhancement of mobility options that reduce automobile dependency;
- A strong and resilient economy based on agriculture, natural resource assets, tourism, and information age industries and services, such as health and education; and
- Efficient, state-of-the-art servicing, infrastructure and resource utilization.

4 RGS PRINCIPLES

The goals and policies of this RGS are grounded in the following sustainability principles that are intended to guide how decisions are made regarding the future life of the region:

- Decisions and actions have regard for local and global consequences;
- The interconnectedness and interdependence of natural and human systems are recognized and respected;
- The healthy functioning of ecological systems is nurtured;
- The qualities of place that create pride and a sense of community are nurtured;
- Efficiency, including the concept of zero-waste, is optimized;
- Equity amongst all citizens and across generations, including future generations is ensured;
- Decision-making processes are based on participation, collaboration and co-operation with citizens, other authorities and organizations; and
- We are accountable for our decisions and actions.

5 RGS GOALS

The RGS is based upon eleven goals (listed below) that work towards achieving the collective vision of regional sustainability. Policies in the RGS provide the direction to take specific actions to implement the RGS goals.

1. **Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption** – Reduce GHG emissions and energy consumption and promote adaptive measures to prepare for climate change impacts.
2. **Protect the Environment** – Protect and enhance the environment and avoid ecological damage related to human activity.
3. **Coordinate Land Use and Mobility** – Ensure land use patterns and mobility networks are mutually supportive and work together to reduce automobile dependency and provide for efficient goods movement.
4. **Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres** – Establish distinctive activity centres and corridors within growth containment boundaries that provide ready access to places to live, work, play and learn.
5. **Enhance Rural Integrity** – Protect and strengthen the region’s rural economy and lifestyle.
6. **Facilitate the Provision of Affordable Housing** – Support and facilitate the provision of appropriate, adequate, attainable, affordable and adaptable housing.
7. **Enhance Economic Resiliency** – Support strategic economic development and link commercial and industrial strategies to the land use and rural and environmental protection priorities of the region.
8. **Enhance Food Security** – Protect and enhance the capacity of the region to produce and process food.
9. **Celebrate Pride of Place** – Celebrate the unique natural beauty, culture, history, and arts of the region.
10. **Provide Services Efficiently** – Provide efficient, cost-effective services and infrastructure.
11. **Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions** – Facilitate an understanding of and commitment to the goals of growth management among all levels of government, the public, and key private and voluntary sector partners.

6 IMPLEMENTATION – 2012

Section 5.2 of the RGS addresses implementation and identifies specific projects that are intended to work towards achieving RGS goals. Implementation is an important part of being accountable to RDN residents about what is being done to achieve the goals they identified as important.

6.1 Actions Supporting Education and Awareness

The RGS states that *“a public that is well-informed is more likely to participate in decision-making processes and to work with others to achieve common goals”*.

Throughout 2012, the RDN Long Range Planning Department took a continuous approach to education and raising awareness about the RGS and its implementation. This included regularly updating and providing information via website materials, RDN newsletters (Electoral Area Updates and RDN Perspectives), press releases, mail outs and conducting meetings, workshops and presentations for a variety of community groups, schools and other stakeholders around the region.

Appendix 1 lists specific activities undertaken during 2012 to communicate and raise awareness about:

- The role and purpose of the RDN and the RGS;
- How the RGS relates to other planning documents and processes;
- How decisions are made;
- How implementation occurs and which government agencies are responsible;
- Implementation projects either underway or completed.

Education and awareness of the RGS has also been included into all public engagement activities for RGS implementation studies and projects listed in the latter sections of this report. Furthermore, the public engagement initiatives of a variety of RDN departments have also served to raise awareness of the RGS.

6.2 RGS Implementation Studies

The RGS provides direction to undertake several studies intended to be used by the RDN Board and Municipal Councils to make informed decisions about issues that affect progress towards achieving RGS goals. The following studies fulfill specific policies that support RGS goals.



Alternative Forms of Rural Development Study

On November 27th, 2012, the RDN Board received a study called “Alternative Forms of Rural Development” which provides different subdivision options for electoral area residents to consider including in their Official Community Plans in order to limit rural sprawl, reduce fragmentation of ecological systems and promote more sustainable forms of rural residential subdivisions.

This study works towards RGS Policy 5.13 by addressing the challenge of continuing to have better forms of development outside of designated growth areas with the aim of achieving better protection of ecologically sensitive areas and valuable resource lands. In keeping with the requirements of Policy 5.13, the options presented in the study do not result in any increase in the overall density or the total number of new lots allowed at the time of the adoption of the RGS; and, residual lands are protected in perpetuity for agricultural, forestry, conservation or other public good purposes.



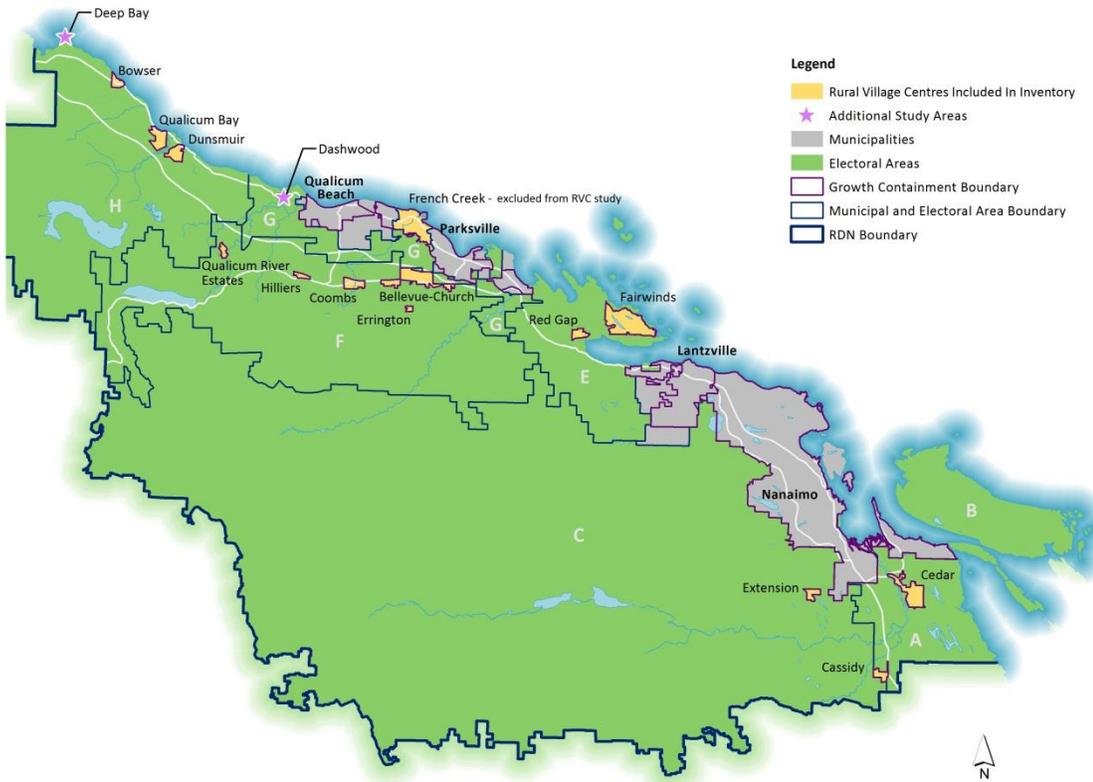
Rural Village Centres Study

The RGS aims to encourage a diverse mix of land uses in Rural Village Centres (RVC's) that allow people to live, work, play and learn within a walkable environment. Since RVC's were first established nearly 15 years ago, only a few of the 14 RVCs have evolved into areas with the characteristics associated with mixed-use, complete, compact communities.

A Rural Village Centres (RVC) Study will be completed in early 2013. The study provides an objective, technical evaluation of the potential for thirteen existing RVCs and two additional study areas (SAs) to develop into mixed-use, compact, complete communities. The study fulfills RGS policy 4.11 to undertake a region-wide study of RVCs in order to identify locations with the greatest potential to accommodate future growth and evolve into mixed-use centres that *“warrant the investment required to serve them with community water and wastewater facilities and public transit.”*

The study evaluates each RVC/SAs using three distinct categories: community structure/design and land use; development and market viability; and water and sewage infrastructure.

Map 3: Areas included in the Rural Village Centres Study



The Rural Village Centres Study is intended to be used by the RDN Board when making decisions about development and servicing in existing and new Rural Village Centres. The study results may also be used to consider changing the focus on existing RVCs with limited potential to accommodate growth by designating them as ‘local service centres’.



Industrial Land Supply and Demand Study

During 2012 the RDN initiated an Industrial Land Supply and Demand Study that fulfills RGS Policy 7.6 to “collaborate in the preparation of a regional industrial land supply strategy and ensure that the region remains competitive in its ability to attract industrial development”. The study provides an objective, technical evaluation of industrial lands within the RDN and the degree to which regional and local demand for different types of industrial land (light, medium, heavy) is being met in locations that are consistent with RGS goals.

The RGS supports maintaining an attractive environment for industrial development while at the same time ensuring that other RGS goals are met including land use, environmental protection, energy consumption and GHG reduction. Consistent with these objectives, the study includes a sustainability analysis by reviewing industrial best practices related to improving energy efficiency and waste reduction and the potential for eco-industrial networking opportunities.

While not yet complete, initial results of the analysis indicate that there is sufficient industrial land in the region to meet anticipated demand for different types of industry over the next ten years. The results of the study are intended to inform and guide RDN Board decisions regarding future land use, mobility and sustainability.

6.3 RGS Implementation Projects

Agricultural Area Plan



The RDN Board adopted the first Agricultural Area Plan (AAP) for the RDN on October 23, 2012. The Plan directly works towards implementing policies under RGS Goal 7 – Enhance Economic Resiliency and Goal 8 - Food Security.

The AAP is a strategy and policy framework to guide agricultural-related decision making. The key goals of the plan are to:

- Protect and enhance the agricultural land base in the RDN.
- Strengthen the local agriculture and aquaculture economy.
- Improve training, skills, and labour opportunities in the RDN.
- Improve opportunities for on-farm water resource management.
- Address environmental sustainability, wildlife, and climate change challenges in the RDN.
- Promote awareness and value of local agriculture and aquaculture.
- Support agriculture and aquaculture in land use regulations and policies.
- Consider agriculture in emergency planning initiatives.

The Plan is intended to guide updates to RDN bylaws and policies, in order to support local agriculture and aquaculture as a viable and sustainable economic sector and integral part of the regional landscape. The Plan identifies key stakeholders and makes recommendations to guide their efforts to work collaboratively to achieve the goals of the Plan.

The RDN Board approved several action items to implement the AAP in November 2012. The Agricultural Advisory Committee will provide advice on undertaking these action items.

Cedar Main Street Design Project

The Cedar Main Street Design Project was initiated in 2012 to create a more detailed plan for lands designated as Cedar Main Street in the Electoral Area 'A' Official Community Plan (OCP) adopted by the RDN Board in July 2011. This project helps implement the RGS by supporting the development of a compact, mixed use community within the Growth Containment Boundary.

The project links land use and transportation to help address RGS Goal 1 - Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption, Goal 3 - Coordinate Land Use and Mobility and Goal 4 - Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres. Community involvement in determining the design preferences illustrated in the draft plan also supports RGS Goal 9 – Pride of Place.

Next steps for 2013 involve getting community feedback on a draft plan and making adjustments as needed prior to taking it forward to the RDN Board for consideration as an amendment to the Electoral Area 'A' OCP.

6.4 RDN Actions that Implement the RGS

In addition to the specific studies and projects to implement the RGS noted above, the RDN undertook numerous actions across all departments that will contribute to achieving the goals of the RGS.

Fairwinds Development Process

Following the adoption of the Lakes District and Schooner Cove Neighbourhood Plans as part of the Electoral Area 'E' Official Community Plan in October 2011, there has been ongoing work to develop new zoning and a phased development agreement to implement the plans. These initiatives within the Fairwinds Rural Village Centre are consistent with the growth containment and environmental protection goals of the RGS.

Economic Development

In order to further RGS Goal 7 - Enhance Economic Resiliency, the RDN established a new program and partnered in an existing one in order to support economic development during 2012:

- **Northern Community Economic Development Service**
The RDN developed and delivered the Northern Community Economic Development program in 2012 to provide support for economic development initiatives in the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach and Electoral Areas 'E', 'F', 'G', and 'H'. The Program allows the RDN Board of Directors to contribute to eligible projects that advance the Board's vision for a resilient, thriving and creative local economy.
- **Southern Community Economic Development Service Agreement**
A Southern Community Economic Development Service Agreement between the RDN and the Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation (NEDC) was completed in 2012 to facilitate RDN participation in NEDC initiatives for RDN Electoral Areas 'A', 'B' and 'C'. This agreement avoids duplication of effort by incorporating areas in the southern part of the RDN into an existing economic development structure for the City of Nanaimo.

Agricultural Land Use Inventory and Water Demand Model

In support of the RGS Food Security, Environmental Protection and Climate Change goals, the RDN completed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Agriculture in 2012 to undertake an Agricultural Land Use Inventory and Water Demand Model.

Emergency Livestock Evacuation Plan and Mass Carcass Disposal Site Identification

During 2012, the RDN initiated the development of an Emergency Livestock Evacuation Plan and also completed the second phase of a technical study to identify suitable sites for mass carcass burial/composting. The RDN also collaborated with the Nanaimo-Cedar Farmers Institute to promote emergency preparedness for rural residents in Electoral Areas 'A' and 'C'. These initiatives help work towards RGS Food Security, Economic Resiliency and Environmental Protection goals.

Transportation Services

RDN Transit plays a key role in helping achieve several RGS Goals including prepare for climate change, protect the environment, coordinate land use and mobility, economic resiliency and provide efficient services. During 2012 specific activities included providing a fully accessible fleet of transit vehicles, expanding transit service hours by 5,000 hours, implementing a new transit route for Electoral Area 'H', purchasing the RDN's first electric crew vehicle, installing two electric vehicle charging stations, and improving systems to manage transit service.

Parks Planning

During 2012 the RDN undertook numerous actions to develop parks and trails that directly support several RGS Goals including prepare for climate change, protect the environment, coordinate land use and mobility, economic resiliency and pride of place. This includes projects to create new and improve existing trails such as the completion of the Lighthouse Country Regional Trail, official opening of the Arrowsmith Community Trail, and upgrades to the boardwalk at Moorecroft Regional Park.

Recreation Programs and Facilities

The RDN's recreation programs and facilities play an ongoing role in furthering RGS goals of economic resiliency and pride of place by providing sports and cultural amenities that boost the attractiveness of the region as a place to live and visit. These include ongoing delivery of recreation programs and maintenance of facilities, participation in the Vancouver Island Sport Tourism Council, attracting two major Skate Canada events, and hosting local and regional sports tournaments for youth, adults and seniors.

Climate Change Actions and Energy Efficiency Measures

All of the aforementioned land use, parks and recreation planning and transportation initiatives promote reducing GHG emissions and energy consumption. In addition to these the RDN also undertook specific actions that support these goals:

- Hosted the third annual RDN Green Building Speaker Series and Open House Tours to provide education and awareness about ways to reduce the energy and environmental impacts of development.
- Provided Green Building Incentives to over 180 residents in RDN Electoral Areas and District of Lantzville.
- Ensured that all new buildings and renovations completed in 2012 met best practices for energy efficiency and water conservation.
- Completed the BC Community Charging Infrastructure Planning Study to add 12 electric vehicle charging stations in the region.
- Published the Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guidebook.
- Continued to support the implementation of Green Building Policy for all RDN facilities.
- Facilitated a Memorandum of Agreement between all RDN jurisdictions to identify and implement regional emission reduction projects.
- Established and distributed funding for projects under a Corporate Climate Action reserve fund and a Carbon Neutral Initiatives reserve fund.
- Continued to work towards reduction of GHG's through increased diversion of compostable materials from the RDN landfill and improvements to the landfill gas collection system.
- Upgraded automation systems at wastewater treatment plants to increase energy efficiency.
- Continued to re-use biosolids from wastewater treatment facilities.

Watershed Protection

The RDN undertook the following projects in 2012 to support RGS goals for protecting drinking water and watersheds and to support the provision of efficient services:

- Completed integration of all member municipalities in the Drinking Water Watershed Protection function.
- Initiated water budget studies.
- Ongoing Community Watershed Monitoring.
- Funded incentives for improved residential water efficiency (low flush toilet rebates and rainwater harvesting).

- Completed education and outreach programs to promote drinking water and watershed protection (WaterSmart, WellSmart and SepticSmart). This included irrigation audits on multi-family and residential homes.

6.5 Collaborative Actions

Many of the studies, actions and ongoing departmental activities described in this report involve collaboration with member municipalities, other levels of government and community based groups. Below are some specific examples of past or ongoing collaborative actions to implement the RGS:

Intergovernmental Advisory Committee

The RDN continues to work with the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) which was established to provide a venue to encourage inter-municipal and inter-jurisdictional cooperation and coordination among the various stakeholders involved in implementing the first RGS in 1997. The IAC is made up of senior staff from the RDN and representatives from member municipalities and the Province of BC.

Municipalities and Regional Context Statements

During 2012 the RDN met with municipal staff to discuss updating the Regional Context Statements in the Official Community Plans of each RDN member municipality with the aim of submitting drafts for the RDN Board to consider by the end of 2013.

First Nations

Throughout 2012 RDN staff and elected officials met with different First Nation representatives regarding regional growth, community planning, parks planning and utilities. Some meetings were to update and inform First Nations about RGS related activities while others involved efforts to work collaboratively to address issues of mutual concern. This included parks planning for Moorecroft, stream and river bank restoration on the Englishman River, pursuing protocol agreements and, reviewing utility agreements.

Islands Trust

The RDN completed a new Letter of Understanding with the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee to facilitate staff partnerships. This agreement will provide direction for the two local governments to work together on items of joint interest such as long term planning, development control and environmental protection.

Adjacent Regional Districts

During 2012, the RDN participated in meetings to network and liaise with staff at adjacent Regional Districts. On an ongoing basis, outside of these meetings, RDN staff also maintain professional relationships that enable effective communication and collaboration. This allows for the RDN to share information on RGS implementation activities and to ensure that adjacent jurisdictions have long term plans and take actions that are consistent with the direction of the RGS.

RDN Emergency Planning

Efforts to mitigate and prepare for disasters directly support several RGS Goals including Preparing for Climate Change, Environmental Protection, Economic Resiliency, Provide Efficient Services and Cooperation Among Jurisdictions. The successful implementation of the RDN's emergency planning is contingent upon ongoing liaison and collaboration with member municipalities, First Nations, other levels of government, industry and community stakeholders. Activities for 2012 included cross-jurisdictional training, education, response activities and volunteer recruitment.

Nanaimo Airport Land Use Planning Process

Furthering RGS goals on Economic Development and Cooperation Among Jurisdictions, the RDN completed the first of three phases of the Nanaimo Airport Land Use Planning Process in 2012. Next steps include developing a Memorandum of Understanding between the RDN and Nanaimo Airport Commission, a master development plan for the airport and amendments to the OCP and zoning bylaw. This process is intended to provide greater certainty for all stakeholders regarding future development and land use at the Nanaimo Airport.

Transit Future Plan

The Regional District of Nanaimo and BC Transit are working together on developing a 25-year Transit Future Plan for the RDN. The Transit Future Plan envisions the ideal RDN transit network 25 years from now, and describes what services, infrastructure and investments are needed to get there. The plan will be designed to support local community goals and objectives, such as strengthening the link between transportation and land use in order to support sustainable growth. Sustainable transportation will assist in reducing transportation-related emissions and improving the overall quality of life in the region.

VIHA Grant for Capacity Building - Ending Homelessness

The Vancouver Island Health Authority provided the RDN with a financial grant that was to be used on activities that would build capacity to end homelessness. The RDN in turn provided some of these funds to the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness and the Oceanside Homelessness Task Force to assist with their activities to address homelessness.

7 MEMBER MUNICIPALITY ACTIONS

In addition to collaborating with the RDN on various initiatives identified earlier in this report, the RDN's member municipalities have also undertaken their own studies and actions that support achieving RGS goals. The following information was provided by each jurisdiction.

7.1 City of Nanaimo

RGS Goal 1 - Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption

- A Community Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) has been completed and endorsed by Nanaimo City Council. The CSAP is a long-term action plan focused on taking specific action to reduce community-wide emissions over time. Areas of focus will include: Land Use and Transportation, Existing and New Buildings, Alternative and District Energy, Solid Waste Reduction.
- City of Nanaimo has participated in the Community Charging Infrastructure Planning Grant program and identified 10 commercial/business locations willing to participate and install Level II Electric Vehicle Charge Stations for public use.
- The Province of BC awarded the City one DC fast charger for electric vehicles, to be located in the Bastion Street Parkade.
- A new 43,000 square foot office built beside City Hall to replace the Old City Hall Annex has a number of green features including solar hot water as well as all-LED interior lighting.

RGS Goal 2 – Protect the Environment

- Invasive Plant Management Strategy initiated.
- Regional partnership in rolling out the 2013 Woodstove Change-out Program

RGS Goal 3 – Coordinate Land Use and Mobility

- City of Nanaimo is developing a Transportation Master Plan with input from the Regional District with regards to transit planning.
- The City's Official Community Plan encourages the development of walkable communities and mixed land uses to help reduce our reliance on the automobile.

RGS Goal 4 – Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres

- City adheres to development within the GCB, and advises potential applicants of plan Nanaimo goals and policies regarding multi-family developments and mixed use corridor zoning. In this regard, the City encourages infill development at higher densities.

RGS Goal 6 – Facilitate the Provision of Affordable Housing

- Worked with the development industry and non-profits to bring about adoption of housing agreements (boarding houses) and partnered with senior government (BC

Housing) to construct low barrier housing. The 36-unit project on Wesley Street opened in September 2012 while two others (Dufferin Crescent and Uplands Drive) are at the Development Permit stage. Construction is expected to commence on the latter two during the summer of 2013.

RGS Goal 7 – Enhance Economic Resiliency

- The City works closely with the development industry and business. Examples include: support and co-sponsorship of annual Canadian Home Builders Association industry forum; establishment of Development Process Review Committee to identify issues and barriers to development and the means to resolve them; review of Development Cost Charges bylaw and Development Application fees.
- Continued support for the Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation and the Downtown Nanaimo Business Improvement Association.

RGS Goal 8 – Enhance Food Security

- Received \$9,500 in grant funding from the Vancouver Island Health Authority to support the development of a food charter and food strategy for the City of Nanaimo.

RGS Goal 9 – Celebrate Pride of Place

- Continues to support a robust heritage program, and provide community groups and individuals with recognition and incentives.
- Cultural Enhancement identified as a strategic priority in the Corporate Strategic Plan.
- Initiated work on a Cultural Strategic Plan (completion expected in 2013).

RGS Goal 10 – Provide Services Efficiently

- Completed a Corporate Strategic Plan to assist with focusing spending and resource priorities. This was a major undertaking in the first half of 2012 and involved an extensive community engagement process. Six strategic priorities were identified: Asset Management, Community Building Partnerships, Taking Responsibility, Transportation and Mobility, Water Supply and Quality, and Waterfront Enhancement.
- Undertook preliminary work to establish an effective asset management strategy, and seek base budget approvals for future infrastructure maintenance and replacement.
- The new Service and Resource Centre, which opened for business in mid-December 2012, introduces a multi-tiered approach to customer service and delivery.

RGS Goal 11 - Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions

- Signed onto creating a statutory reserve for regional emission reduction projects with our regional partners.

7.2 District of Lantzville

- Ongoing development of bylaws to support urban food production.
- Continued provision of rebates to encourage the installation of low flow toilets.
- Continued participation in the provision of green building incentives through the RDN which includes incentives for wood stove exchanges, solar hot water, home energy assessments, and residential vehicle charging stations.
- Participated in the climate action revenue incentive program and produced a report for 2011.
- Completed a Parks and Recreation brochure and survey in 2012.
- Completed a Citizen Satisfaction survey in 2012.
- Participated in the Transit Future Bus Open House in October 2012.
- Provided educational information to residents concerning water conservation and implemented water restrictions.
- Provided educational information to residents concerning outdoor burning.
- Continued participation in a Transportation Review to review transportation needs in Lantzville including improving bicycle and pedestrian connections in the community.
- Participated in the RDN's Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Function.
- Continued in improving road accesses to adjacent ocean/beach public areas.
- Continued in the implementation of the trails and journeyways strategy.
- Continued in the participation of the organic food waste collection program through the RDN.
- Continued with the development of community sanitary sewer.
- Installed high efficiency lighting in the community fire hall building.

7.3 City of Parksville

- Ongoing revision of the Official Community Plan to reflect Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and other RGS sustainability goals.
- Installed two electric vehicle charging stations.
- Adopted a tree management bylaw to protect trees in the City.
- Completed the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan which supports RGS initiatives and includes specific support for the development of multi-family housing and mixed use developments in and around the downtown core, affordable housing, alternative modes of transportation and enhancing pedestrian and cycling linkages.

- Participated in two BC Shakeout earthquake drills and hosted emergency preparedness workshops involving regional partners.
- Hosted a workshop on water conservation techniques for vegetable gardening.
- Installed a new picnic shelter and dual mast play structure for the Community Park.
- Received a \$1.3 million grant for an aquifer storage and recovery feasibility study for the Englishman River Water Service.
- Acquired a 22 acre site for a new water treatment plant for the Englishman River Water Service.
- Supported and participated in the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness homeless count and an extreme weather shelter for the region.

7.4 Town of Qualicum Beach

- The Town installed seven electric vehicle charging stations and have three fully electric vehicles for use by staff.
- Initiated development of a Cultural Plan.
- October 3, 2012 Collaborated with Oceanside Volunteer Association and the Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce to host the first Cultural Fair to support arts and culture in the community.
- The Village Neighbourhood of Qualicum Beach is the compact, walkable heart of the community, home to businesses, institutions and many residents.
- In support of RGS Goal 4 the Official Community Plan designates the Village Neighbourhood for the preferred location for continued growth and densification in the Town.
- The 2012-2014 Council Strategic Plan recognizes the long-standing objective to focus growth in the Village Neighbourhood as a top priority and has made several significant changes: The Official Community Plan (OCP) now allows consideration of building heights above three storeys in the Village Neighbourhood Area and permits residential on the ground floor of buildings in the same area.
- To support more growth in the Village Neighbourhood a bylaw that reduces Development Cost Charges in the Village Neighborhood was adopted in 2012.

8 IMPLEMENTATION - 2013

For 2013 the RDN will continue to make progress on the following implementation items:

1. Identifying and establishing targets to achieve key policies set out in RGS.
2. Establishing a process and program to monitor, evaluate and periodically report on regional economic, population, social and environmental trends and progress towards achieving RGS goals and policies and the targets to be established as set out in Policy 4.
3. Establishing a Corporate Implementation Strategy that demonstrates how all the RDN's bylaws, services, and spending are consistent with the adopted RGS.
4. Continuing to undertake a series of studies and actions as identified in Table 3 of the RGS which identifies specific goals, actions, primary responsible agency and expected timeline for completion.
5. Developing relationships and pursuing protocol agreements with First Nations.
6. Strengthening relationships with major institutions VIHA, VIU, SD 68 & SD 69 and key organizations to furthering RGS Goals (e.g. Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Groups, non-governmental / community organizations).
7. Working with member municipalities to develop Regional Context Statements for their OCPs.
8. Proceeding with a consultation process to gather feedback from electoral area residents on allowing secondary suites.

APPENDIX 1: RGS 2011-2012 EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

DATE	ACTIVITY
Ongoing	Website updates on the status of projects to implement the RGS.
Ongoing	RDN Perspectives newsletter updates on the status of projects to implement the RGS.
March 26, 2012	Presentation followed by discussion to the Nanaimo Federation of University Women's Club at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall. This event was promoted by the Club and open to all community members.
April 5, 2012	Presentation followed by discussion to Nanaimo Probus Club at the Maranatha Centre on the role of the RDN and RGS and 2012 implementation.
May 15, 2012	Presentation/workshop for two Grade 10 Science Classes at Dover Bay High School. This involved explaining the role of the RDN in taking actions to mitigate GHG emissions through land use planning, wastewater and solid waste management and measures to protect drinking water.
Late May, 2012	Rack card with information on RDN 2012 implementation projects inserted with RDN May utility bills mailed out to approximately 16,000 billing households.
October 19, 2012	Workshop presentation to Elementary and High School Teachers as part of School District 69 Professional Development Workshop to inform teachers about the role of the RDN (& local government) and how RDN aims to impact long term sustainability through actions to implement the RGS.
December 4, 2012	Presentation and discussion to Coast Realty on the RDN, RGS and 2012 Implementation Studies.
December 5, 2012	Presentation/workshop for three English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society (CVIMS).
December 13, 2012	Presentation and discussion on RDN and RGS to Board Members of the Cedar Opportunities Cooperative (COCO).

APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY OF RGS IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS JANUARY 2013
Section 5.0	Establish Targets & Indicators to monitor progress.	Background research and data collection initiated in 2012, ongoing for 2013.
Section 5.0	Corporate Implementation Strategy to show how RDN activities are consistent with RGS.	To be initiated in 2013
1. Climate Change	Complete Community Energy & Emissions Plan.	Initiated in 2012 and ongoing for 2013.
2. Environmental Protection	Advocate for provincial and federal government support to update and maintain Sensitive Ecosystem Inventories databases.	Ongoing
	Encourage the Province to regulate groundwater, require reporting on water use and protect water resources on a watershed basis.	Ongoing
3. Coordinate land use & mobility	Initiate discussions with provincial and federal transportation authorities to share data collection and analysis and prepare mobility strategy.	Ongoing – this includes participation in the City of Nanaimo’s Transportation Master Plan.
	Prepare industrial land supply and demand study and strategy (also applies to Goal 7).	Industrial Lands Study initiated in 2012. Anticipated completion Spring 2013.
4. Concentrate housing & jobs	Prepare region-wide study of rural village centres.	Rural Village Centres Study initiated in 2012. Anticipated completion Spring 2013.
5. Rural integrity	Policy 5.13: Implementation - Study of options for more sustainable forms of subdivision - to limit sprawl and fragmentation on rural residential land.	Completed October 2012
6. Affordable housing	Identify next steps to addressing affordable housing issues.	Housing Action Plan Completed 2011. Secondary Suites Strategy – Draft Background Study and

RGS GOAL / SECTION	ACTION	STATUS JANUARY 2013
		Consultation Plan completed 2012 and awaiting review and further direction from RDN Board during 2013.
7. Vibrant, resilient economy	7.2 Support and encourage economic development.	Northern Community Economic Development Program Established 2012 – ongoing implementation. Southern Community Economic Development Service Agreement completed.
	7.6 Collaborate in the preparation of a regional industrial land supply strategy and ensure that the region remains competitive in its ability to attract industrial development.	Industrial Lands Study initiated in 2012. Anticipated completion Spring 2013.
8. Food security	Prepare study of agriculture in the region to identify issues and present and future needs of the agricultural sector.	Agricultural Area Plan completed in 2012.
		Action Plan for Agricultural Area Plan completed in November 2012 and process underway to establish a committee tasked with carrying out the Action Plan for 2013 onwards.
9. Pride of Place	Ongoing activities through implementation and development of parks plans and OCP's.	Cedar Main Street Plan City of Nanaimo's Cultural Plan Community Parks and Trails Strategy for Electoral Areas 'E', 'F', 'G' and 'H'. Qualicum Beach Cultural Plan
10. Efficient services	Prepare strategy for servicing Rural Village Centres (See Goal 4).	Will be pursued following completion of Rural Village Centres Study.
11. Cooperation among jurisdictions	Continue outreach initiatives to First Nations including signing of protocol agreements.	Ongoing