

Project Update – December 3, 2008

Hello,

We wanted to provide you with an overview of recent activities and progress to date on the *Comox Valley Sustainability Strategy*. The following is a quick listing of recently completed steps, lessons learned, and next steps.

The project team recently completed the following:

- Background research on global trends and trends in the Comox Valley.
- Working Group membership – focused outreach efforts to augment working group participation in areas of limited representation to date:

Contacted to increase Cumberland representation:

- Royston–Cumberland Lions Club
- Cumberland Community Forest Society
- Cumberland Centennial Rotary Club
- Posted advertisement on the “Cumberlander” website

Contacted to increase Infrastructure group representation:

- TerraTek Energy Solutions Inc.
- ECODynamic Solutions Inc.
- Green Room Interiors
- Habitat for Humanity ReStore
- Ecotrust
- Working Group Workshop #1:
 - Compiled and sent pre-workshop information package for participants
 - Developed presentation, finalized workshop design and agenda
 - Held workshop with 85 people on Saturday, November 22, 2008 at the Cumberland Cultural Centre
 - Generated and sent out event reports from all working groups
- Development & Building Sector Event
 - Revised event format
 - Sent revised invitation to development & building sector contacts
 - Outreach: building links ad, Comox Valley Economic Development Society, local government staff, Chislett Manson + Company networks, direct invitations
- Youth Engagement:
 - Refined and expanded youth engagement strategy

- Developed and launched Huband Elementary School youth project (Grade 6 & 7 students)
- Finalized details for contests: essay bursary, youth networking bursary, photo contest
 - Poster and postcard design and distribution through networks
 - Website design/update
 - Updated facebook site
- Partnership with Our Big Earth (online organization engaging families in the Comox Valley in community events and activities – readership of 15,000 plus)
- Rotary Clubs
 - Contacted 4 Comox Valley Rotary Clubs offering presentation on the CVSS by Mark Holland
 - Presentation on the CVSS by Mark Holland to the Courtenay Rotary Club, Tuesday, December 2, 2008.
- Website update

Learnings:

- Some working group members have expressed concerns about the authenticity of the public planning process, and have asked for staff and elected official representation.
- Working group members have requested more information on the implementation of public recommendations in Phase 2: Action Planning.
- Some working group members have requested support for group facilitation in upcoming meetings while others were capable of running activities independently.
- Working group members want to know more about the status of existing plans and studies.

Next steps include:

- Meeting with Urban Strategies to coordinate on RGS, December 1, 2008.
- Youth Engagement:
 - Future youth engagement actions with Our Big Earth:
 - Nature walks integrating “community mapping”
 - Recruitment of youth writers on sustainability articles for the OBE website
 - Potential for youth survey
 - Huband Elementary Students present assignment at working group workshop 2
- Target setting: working group workshop 2 design meeting (with key HB Lanarc staff), logistics, presentation materials.

- Public Open House 2: Logistics, open house design, presentation materials.



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