

Moving Toward Sustainability
putting the pieces together

Regional Planning Partners

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Science News [Share](#) [Blog](#) [Cite](#)

Global Warming Could Radically Change Lake Tahoe In Ten Years

ScienceDaily (Mar. 26, 2008) — A new UC Davis study predicts that climate change will irreversibly alter water circulation in Lake Tahoe, radically changing the conditions for plants and fish in the lake -- and it could happen in 10 years.

See also:

Plants & Animals

- Marine Biology
- Nature
- Fish

Earth & Climate

- Environmental Issues
- Water

One likely result would be a warmer lake overall, with fewer cold-water native fish, and more invasive species, such as large-mouth bass, bluegill and carp.

Still unclear is how the changes would affect the lake's phenomenal clarity and cobalt-blue color, which have helped to make the Tahoe Basin an international vacation destination.



Still unclear is how the changes would affect the lake's phenomenal clarity and cobalt-blue color. (Credit: Sylvia Wright/UC Davis photo)

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Key Elements of Sustainability



1. Vision
2. Results orientation
3. Strategic financing orientation
4. Adaptability to changing conditions
5. Broad base of community support
6. Key champions
7. Strong internal systems
8. Sustainability plan



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Shift from Being Reactive or Responsive - to Proactive

Develop a Shared Understanding and Vision



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Ecological Footprint

The ecological footprint is a **measure of human demand on the Earth's ecosystems**. It compares human demand with planet Earth's ecological capacity to regenerate it. It represents the **amount of biologically productive land and sea area needed to regenerate the resources a human population consumes** and to absorb and render harmless the corresponding waste

First academic publication about the ecological footprint was by William Rees in 1992. The ecological footprint concept and calculation method was developed as the PhD dissertation of Mathis Wackernagel, under Rees at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, from 1990-1994. In early 1996, Wackernagel and Rees published the book *Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth*. [7]



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Community Climate Change Action Plan

- 2012 carbon neutral city operations
- 2030 carbon neutral buildings
- 2050 community GHG emissions reduced by 80%

a shared challenge

While Vancouver is one of North America's leaders in addressing the challenge of climate change, rapid population and employment growth since 1990 (up 40% and 60% respectively) have resulted in a 30% increase in greenhouse gas emissions of its own time.

Most of Vancouver's emissions are directly controlled by individuals. If we are going to meet our 45% reduction target by 2012, each of us will need to make the changes that are within our power to decrease energy and fuel use.

AT HOME
Did you know 75% of energy is used for space heating and hot water?

- Wash laundry in cold water with special cold-wash detergent
- Install a low-flow shower head
- Use your home's energy efficiency evaluation

ON THE MOVE
Did you know 31% of community emissions are linked to passenger cars and trucks?

- Cycle, walk, carpool or take transit whenever possible
- When purchasing a vehicle, consider size and fuel efficiency rating

AT THE STORE
Did you know the average meat travels 2,000 km to your plate?

- Buy less and waste less
- Choose locally produced products
- Purchase products with less packaging or with recyclable or reusable containers

See tips, tools, and incentives for making these and other changes! www.vancouver.ca

one day VANCOUVER

Climate Protection PROGRESS REPORT 2007

One Day Vancouver could be the cleanest, greenest, healthiest city in the world.

CITY OF VANCOUVER

The City of Vancouver is one of the leading cities in North America acting to address climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from municipal operations are 5% below 1990 levels and on track to a 20% reduction by 2012.

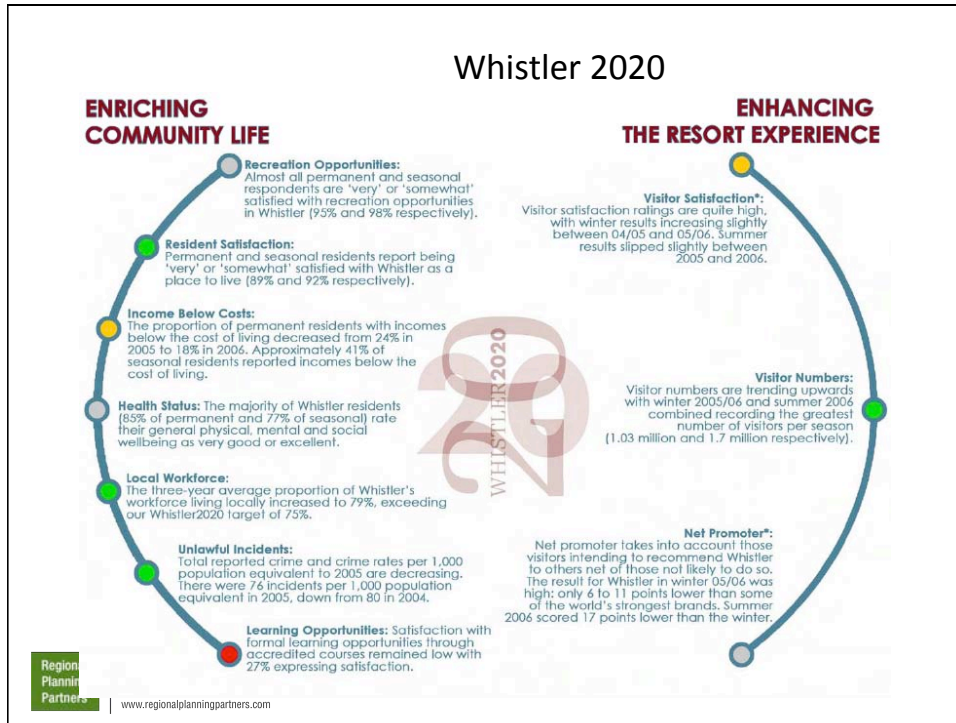
As a community, Vancouver has the lowest emissions on a per person basis of any major North American city and is amongst the leaders in reducing per capita emissions since 1990. Despite these successes, additional actions by citizens, businesses, and all levels of government are required if the effects of rapid population growth are to be offset and the targeted 45% reduction in total emissions by 2012 is to be achieved.

Vancouver's Greenhouse Reduction Targets all reductions are from 1990 unless otherwise stated

Year	Target
2003	5% below 1990 levels
2005	10% below 1990 levels
2010	20% below 1990 levels
2012	45% below 1990 levels
2030	60% below 1990 levels
2050	80% below 1990 levels

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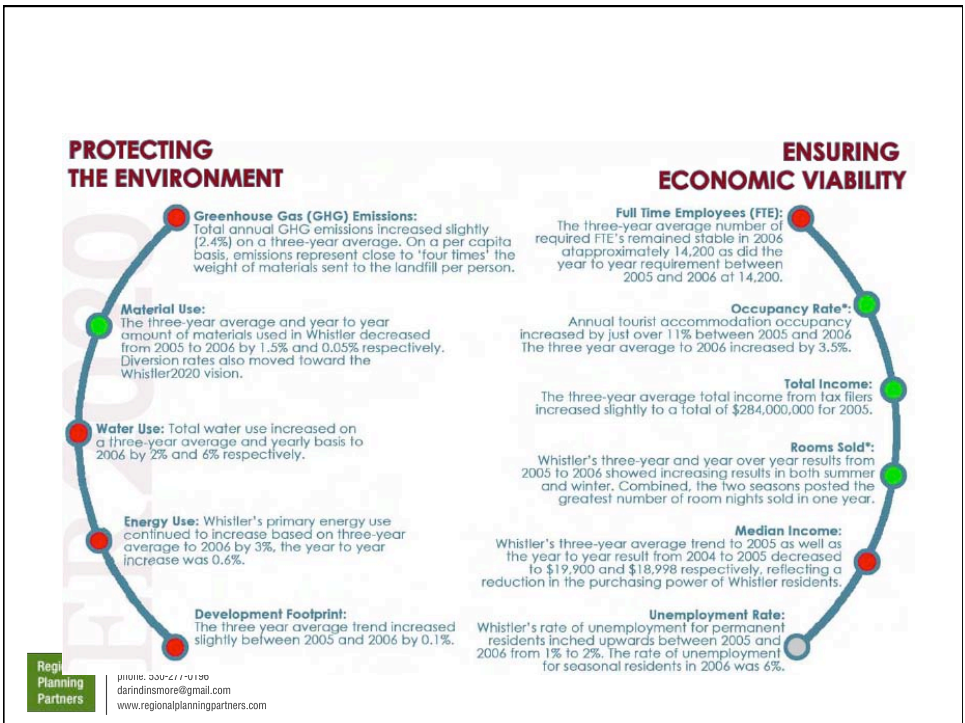
www.vancouver.ca

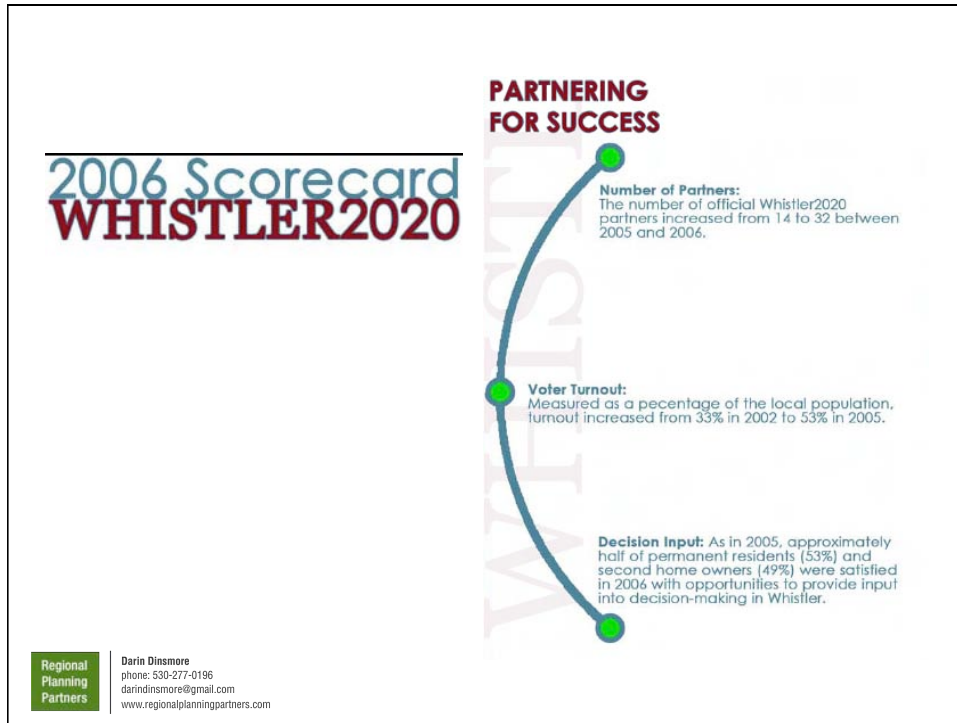




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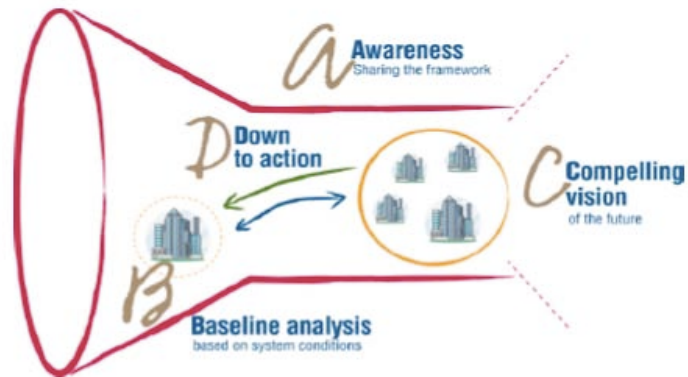
the NATURAL STEP

The Natural Step Framework

- **The Funnel as a Metaphor**
- **The System Conditions for Sustainability**
- **Backcasting from Principles**
- **A Four-stage “ABCD” Strategic Planning Process**

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ABCD Planning Process



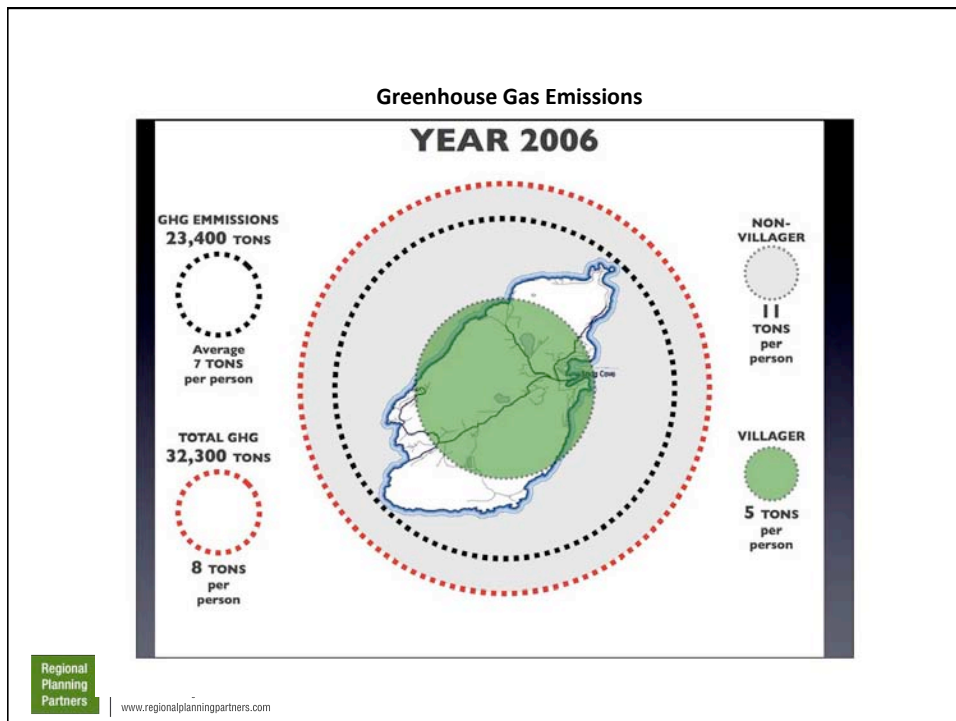
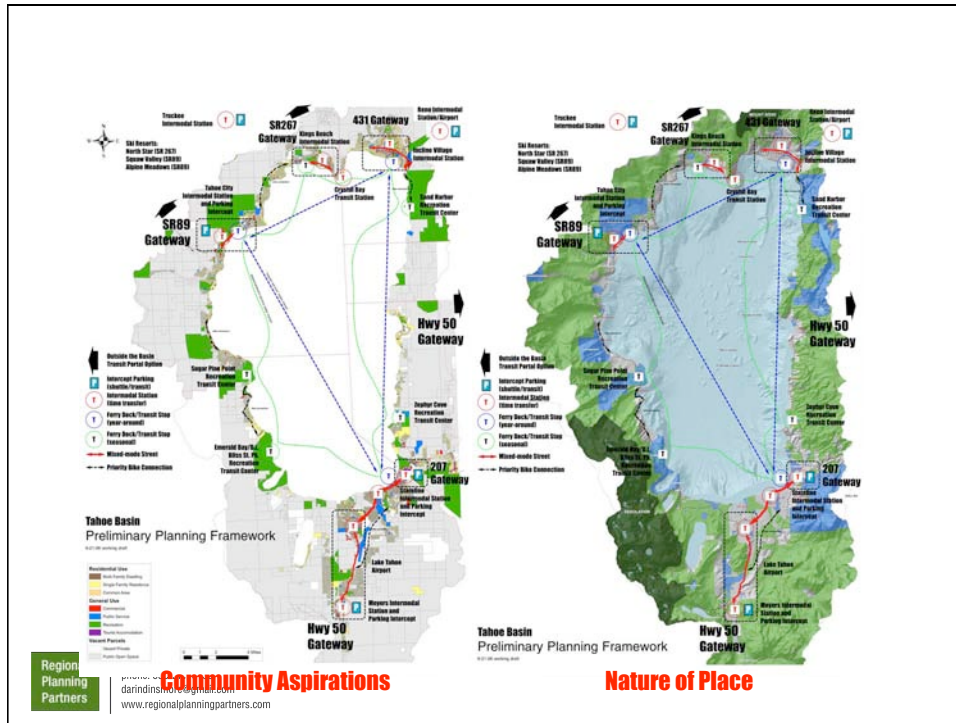
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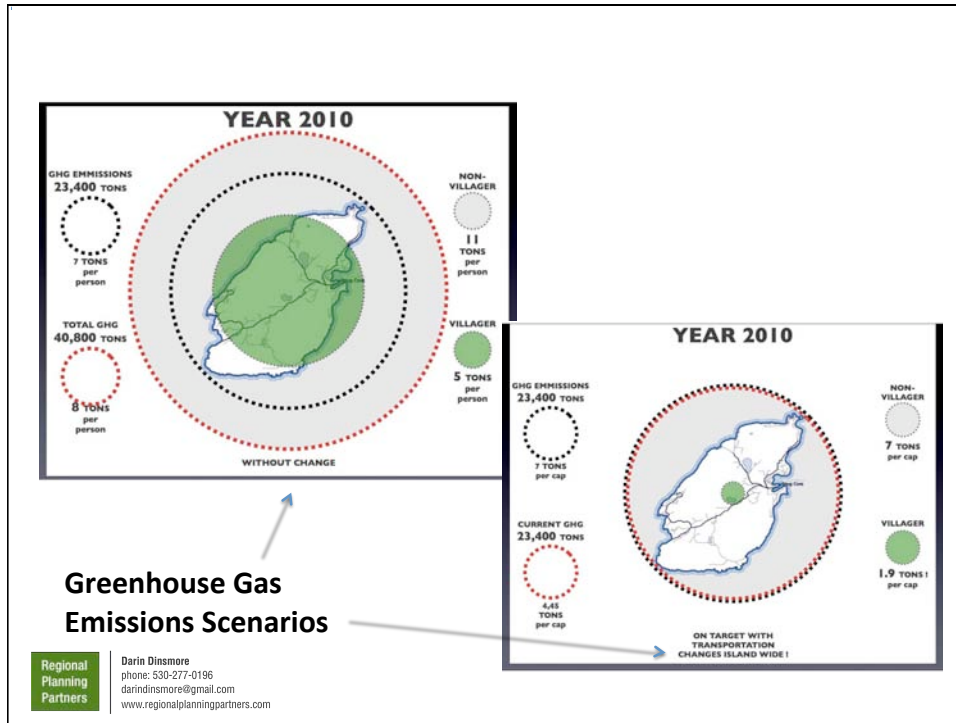
Backcasting from Principles

A methodology for planning that involves starting from a description of a successful outcome, then linking today with that successful outcome in a strategic way: what shall we do today to get there?



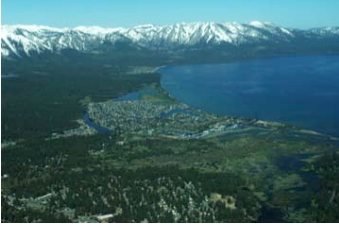
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Planning for Sustainability

- Approaches
- Case Studies



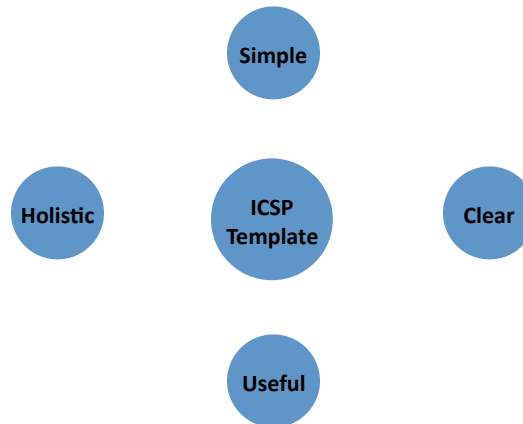
Sustainable development is development that delivers basic environmental, cultural, social and economic services to all, without threatening the viability of the communities upon which these services depend.

- ICSP

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Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSP)

- These plans are built around four pillars:



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ICSP: The Process


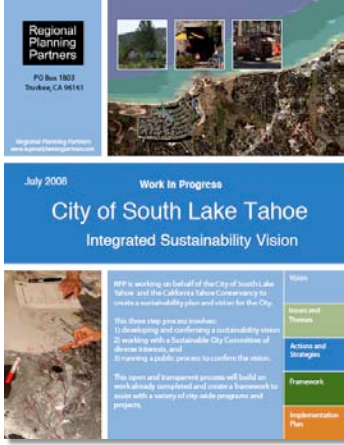

Plan Development Requirements

- Develop the plan through a public consultation process;
- Demonstrate that cooperative efforts have been made between governments;
- The plan must identify and justify priority projects;
- The plan must be long-term; and,
-



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City of South Lake Tahoe *Moving Toward Sustainability*

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July 2008 Work In Progress

City of South Lake Tahoe
Integrated Sustainability Vision

RPP is working on behalf of the City of South Lake Tahoe and the California Tahoe Conservancy to create a sustainability plan and vision for the City.

This three step process includes:

- 1) Developing and confirming a sustainability vision
- 2) Working with a Sustainable City Committee of diverse interests, and
- 3) Creating a public process to confirm the vision.

This vision and conceptual process will build on work already completed and create a framework to assist with a variety of city-wide programs and projects.

Values and Themes

Actions and Strategies

Framework

Implementation Plan

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Process and Schedule

- Form Green/Sustainable City Committee
- Select a definition
- Select a framework
- Adapt framework to City
- Review existing supporting information (Place-Based, etc)
- Public Workshop

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DRAFT Sustainability Principles for the City of South Lake Tahoe (Summary)



- 1) Green Infrastructure
 - Energy/Resource Usage, Waste Reduction & Recycling, Water and Stormwater Infrastructure
- 2) Complete Community
 - Neighborhoods, town centers and nodes, gateways & enhanced Places
- 3) Environmentally-Friendly Transportation
- 4) Vibrant Economy
- 5) Diverse Housing
- 6) Forest Health and Functional Open Space
- 7) Community Facilities and Programs
- 8) Healthy Food System
- 9) Green Buildings
- 10) Regeneration/Restoration



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City of South Lake Tahoe Sustainability Priorities

VIBRANT

Create live/work and work/live opportunities with flexible buildings and mixed-use zoning that allows local businesses to grow and evolve over time

COMPLETE

Implement Smart Growth principles to create walkable, mixed-use centers, compact neighborhoods, and enhanced gateways and places

CONNECTED

Improve bicycle and pedestrian connections between all neighborhoods and communities with sidewalk and multi-use trail network enhancements

HEALTHY

Connect surrounding forests to urban open spaces, parks, natural areas, and SEZs to encourage biodiversity and healthy habitat

EFFICIENT

Identify action items for residents and businesses that improve energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact

CLEAR

Use water more efficiently in our homes, businesses and landscapes, and manage runoff that maintain natural hydrological regimes

DIVERSE

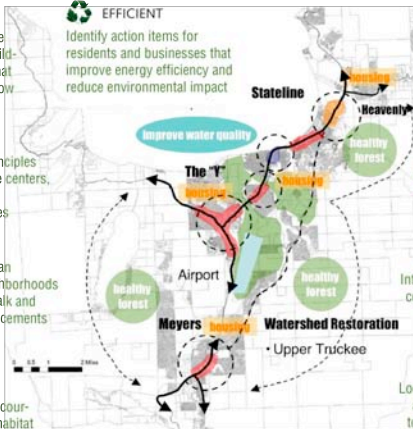
Offer a wide range of diverse housing opportunities, both ownership and rental, for all income levels

GREEN

Integrate green and sustainable construction into new housing units, neighborhoods, and mixed-use centers

LOCAL

Look at a regional food network as an economic development tool to build health and wealth



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The Top Four Strategies Identified by the Public for Moving Toward Sustainability

1. Shift away from reliance on non-renewable sources of energy.
2. Create live/work and work/live opportunities with flexible buildings and mixed-use zoning that allows local businesses to grow and evolve over time.
3. Provide economic opportunities for investment, businesses and employment that will support an economically diverse and prosperous year-round community.
4. Provide clear incentives for green buildings and consider phasing in the Green rating system or LEED certification.



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Sustainable Site Planning and Design Features

- Efficient use of the land
- Coverage reduction while increasing FAR
- Small unit sizes
- Diversity of unit types, mix of housing, jobs, and retail
- Mix of permanent and visitor/fractional units
- Design for connectivity, walkability, and mobility options
- Street front commercial/retail
- Proximity to transit and linked trails
- Shared, Park Once, and Parking management strategies
- Solar Orientation, Energy Efficiency, and Design



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Mixed-Use Neighborhood Center
This site plan incorporates Energy Efficiency, Best Management Practices, Mobility Options, a Green Street, a Complete Street, Green Buildings, and strategies for Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling.

Best Management Practices

- Improve stormwater quality management with use of swales and natural treatment systems and integration of runoff into functional design elements and public art
- Develop a coordinated stormwater management system to minimize runoff, improve area-wide stormwater retention and reuse

mobility options
Redevelopment/reinvestment along the Highway 50 corridor will include a variety of compact and walkable places that support transit and reduce travel. Improve transit efficiency, service, and convenience to encourage use.

- New Bike Lanes
- New Sidewalks and Connections

Applying Complete Street Concepts to highway corridor

Stormwater Facilities Designed as Civic Space

Streetcane Street Lanes

Outdoor Seating Areas

Historian Lighting (low)

Mid-block Crossing

Transparent Stop-front Windows

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Divert solid waste from the landfill including household, commercial, construction and site/forest clearing waste.

- Consolidated Refuse/Recycling Facilities for Commercial/Multi-Family
- Simplify Recycling with Curbside Household Pickup

Sustainable Planning and Design to Reduce GHG Emissions and Climate Change Impacts.

- Infill/Redevelopment
- Energy Efficiency
- VMT Reduction
- Green Buildings
- Mobility Options

Existing Conditions along Highway 50

Green Buildings

- Commercial/Mixed-Use Buildings
- Live/Work Townhouses
- Residential Townhouses
- Duplex/Cabins

Green Streets

- Shared Parking with Permeable Surface
- Bio-Swales/Native Landscaping
- Water Quality Transmission to BMPs
- Trees and Traffic Calming
- Sidewalks

Site Concept

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CITY SUSTAINABILITY GOALS AND ACTIONS

1. Energy Reduction of 15% by 2012
2. New Green Building Program
3. Environmentally-Friendly Transit
4. Recycling Plan to Achieve 55% Diversion Rate by 2011
5. Reduce Use of Plastic Bags and Styrofoam

RESIDENT SUSTAINABILITY GOALS AND ACTIONS

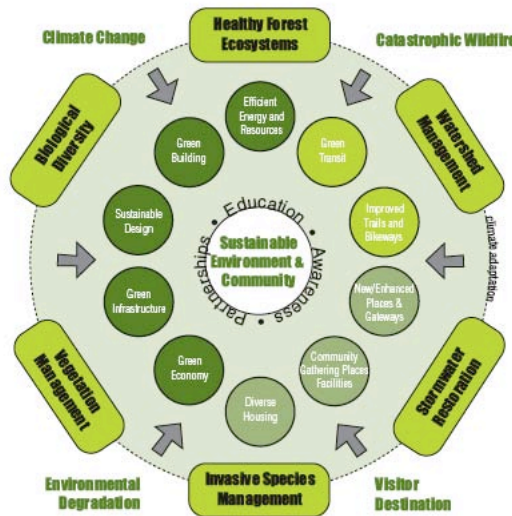
1. Improve Home Energy Efficiency
2. Start Using Responsible Mobility Options
3. Be an Environmentally-Conscious Consumer
4. Assist in Education, Awareness, and Capacity Building
5. Incorporate Sustainability in Business Practices



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Sustainability Related to Environmental Thresholds

Programs and Actions to Reduce GHG and Strategies for Adaptation



Moving toward a sustainable region with the EIP*

- A climate change program for the new EIP is under development, with action priorities specifically related to climate change.
 - Regional and Local Planning should "set the green bar high" and demonstrate leadership in sustainable design.
 - New/Improved Programs and Partnerships that may involve the EIP.
- * see corresponding colors in above graphic



DRAFT Tahoe Sustainability Framework - Climate Action Plan Volume 1
For Executive Purpose Only

LAKE TAHOE EIP
CONSERVATION. CLEARLY.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

Maintain Healthy Forests

Watershed Restoration, Stormwater Management and Lake Clarity

Invasive Species and Vegetation Management

Redefine Existing Communities

Green Jobs and Innovation to Support a Vibrant Year-round Economy

Reduce Energy and Resource Use

Improve Mobility and Access


Urban Environmental Improvements

Sustainably Designed Communities, Places, and Buildings

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Maintain Healthy Forests

Forests will continue to be managed for public safety to reduce the threat of wildfire; this will in turn prevent the release of GHG emissions during large events.



Actions

- Reduce the severity of fires and the risk of catastrophic wildfire, major sources of GHG emissions
- Capture more carbon in forests through thinning and tree growth that would maximize carbon sequestration
- Establish biomass programs to replace pile burning (which releases large GHG emissions) and to generate alternative energy
- Grow more diverse and tolerant forests that are resilient to rising temperatures, catastrophic wildfire, changing hydrology, and insect outbreaks

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Watershed Restoration, Stormwater Management and Lake Clarity

The pollutants that impact Lake clarity primarily come from urban sources located adjacent to the lakeshore. There is current evidence that the increase in water temperature has already impacted the Lake's biodiversity.



Actions

- Support ongoing efforts to obtain federal, state and local resources to keep EIP projects for watershed protection and pollutant load reduction viable
- Consider the possible impacts of climate change in area-wide planning and design, and stress the need to focus on stormwater runoff control and enhancement of natural infiltration in all urban projects
- Determine the specific dynamics of urban hydrology in the Tahoe Basin
- Integrate stormwater monitoring with water quality restoration projects within a management system that will directly integrate with the TMDL and provide quantification of progress



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Invasive Species and Vegetation Management

Rising temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns make the basin more vulnerable to invasions by non-native species in both aquatic and terrestrial environments.



Actions

- Elevate efforts to prevent aquatic invasive species from entering the Lake
- Monitor other regional water bodies for invasive aquatic species, especially those that are hydrologically connected to Lake Tahoe
- Monitor Lake Tahoe for new invasive species that have recently moved into the western U.S.
- Promote healthy aquatic food-webs in Lake Tahoe, its tributaries and surrounding lakes



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Redevelop Existing Communities

Redeveloping our urbanized areas with compact, walkable, transit-oriented communities and green buildings will help to reduce GHG emissions and accelerate attainment of environmental thresholds.



Actions

- Reconfigure land-use patterns to create walkable, mixed-use centers and compact appropriately-scaled redevelopment
- Redevelop up to nine centers with improved pedestrian and transit-oriented urban design that reduces dependency on the automobile
- Design for improved connectivity, walkability, and mobility options between centers to reduce automobile dependency
- Provide affordable housing solutions and a work/housing balance that reduces the need for commuting



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Green Jobs and Innovation to Support a Vibrant Year-round Economy

Basin communities have an opportunity to once again be a national environmental leader by focusing on innovation around environmental solutions.



Actions

- Create high-quality jobs focused around: training, education, technology, ecotourism, energy efficiency, green building technology, arts, and science
- Continue philanthropic pursuits that focus on solutions and innovation
- Partner to establish green jobs tied to energy efficiency, and climate change
- Build on the existing expertise in water quality and public lands management to create successful public/private partnerships



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Reduce Energy and Resource Use

Local jurisdictions and Basin businesses may want to follow the lead of the City of South Lake Tahoe that has established a priority goal to: "Reduce Green House Gas Emissions (GHG) and the City's Carbon Footprint by reducing energy use in City facilities 15% by 2012."



Actions

- Shift away from reliance on non-renewable sources of energy
- Develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce GHG emissions and climate impacts
- Increase energy efficiency, reduce emissions and support local, clean and renewable energy sources
- Shift away from reliance on non-renewable sources
- Incorporate climate change into general plans



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Improve Mobility and Access

In more rural destinations within proximity to a large population base, transportation is the largest contributor to the release of GHG. Basin communities and recreational destinations should be served by a centrally-managed transportation system.



Actions

- Support and invest in environmentally-friendly transportation
- Reduce dependence on the automobile by providing increased mobility options and improved access
- Improve the Basin's transit systems and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through a basin-wide bike trail network, improved transit network, and waterborne transit network
- Encourage pedestrian/transit-oriented redevelopment to reduce emissions and VMT



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Regional Electric Vehicle Car Share Program Concept

Overview

Car Share programs have been used in larger cities and mixed-use or residential projects to provide people with the opportunity to share a car within their building and reduce their carbon footprint. Other City Car Share programs operate city wide with strategic drop-off/pick-up locations. We would like learn from the success of these programs and use the idea within the Tahoe basin to reduce our carbon footprint and promote environmental improvement. The concept is that the program would start on a county/city scale, but then grow into a regional program with connections outside of the basin.

The Intra- and Inter-Regional electric vehicle car share program could be a partnership between local utility districts, TRPA, Tahoe California Conservancy, NLTRA, and Chamber of Commerce to promote clean and efficient mobility options for visitors and locals.

This program could be started and supported by developers and residents of mixed-use redevelopment projects as an extension of the Community Enhancement Program.

Donations would be accepted through a local nonprofit for regional carbon offsets to help subsidize the program.

Solar panels on public buildings and institutions could be strategically located around the basin to establish charging stations for the program. Vehicles may also be located at the Reno/Tahoe airport, Downtown Truckee-Rail depot, and Carson City/Minden as the program expands.

Priority locations include waterborne transit facilities/ferry terminals, downtowns and mixed use projects.

Project Goals

- Showcase innovative technologies
- Reduce vehicle ownership in mixed-use projects
- Reduce emissions in the basin
- Build sustainable mobility partnerships in the basin
- Provide flexible mobility choices in our Basin communities
- Promote multimodal travel options

Funders

- Project partners
- Developers
- Residents-user fee
- Tourists/Visitor-user fee
- Public institutions
- Rental car mitigation fee
- Private donations
- Corporate Sponsorship
- PG&E Carbon Consolidators



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Urban Environmental Improvements

Comprehensive “green” infrastructure strategies are important when addressing sustainability objectives in the supply and management of energy, solid waste and materials, water and waste water.



Actions

- Work with local agencies to improve solid waste reduction and recycling
- Increase economic efficiency and performance by reducing the consumption of non-renewable resources
- Promote reduction, re-use and recycling
- Divert solid waste from the landfill including household, commercial, construction and site/forest clearing waste

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Sustainably Designed Communities, Places, and Buildings

Thoughtful site design and area-wide planning and design may result in coverage reductions while supporting more walkable and compact development. Sustainable site planning and design should also incorporate improved solar orientation, energy efficiency and design and introduction of new efficient building types.



Actions

- Promote efficient use of land and redevelopment/infill with compact development in existing community plan areas and nodes
- Develop a green building strategy with local partners to encourage redevelopment, compact neighborhoods, mixed-use centers and address energy efficiency, solar design, indoor air quality, green roofs, water efficient fixtures, etc.
- Create a Tahoe Specific Green Building program focusing on key points of certification important to the region




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VISION OF THE FRASER BASIN COUNCIL

The Fraser Basin is a place where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment.

Charter for Sustainability

The Fraser Basin Council's [Charter for Sustainability](#)  2.4MB marks a new era in stewardship for the Fraser Basin. The individuals, organizations, governments and communities who support the Charter accept its overall intent and principles agree to do their part to pursue its goals. The names of the original signatories to the document can be found on the last page of the Charter.

The Charter for Sustainability was developed in 1997 by the FBC's predecessor, the Fraser Basin Management Board (FBMP). Created by the federal, provincial and local governments in 1992, the FBMP was given a mandate to develop a strategic plan for the entire Fraser Basin. This plan was formalized in the Charter. The FBC now oversees the implementation of the Charter, and its vision statement provides the cornerstone upon which the FBC establishes its priorities and develops its programs.

The Charter is a good-faith agreement among Basin residents and organizations to work towards the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the Fraser Basin. It outlines the vision, directions, principles, goals and values that will lead to a better, more sustainable future. The Charter is not a legally binding document nor does it interfere with any existing laws, agreements, treaties or policies.



Charter for Sustainability

The Charter takes a watershed management approach to addressing issues and resolving conflicts in the Fraser Basin. Planning and decision-making occur within watershed boundaries as these boundaries remain stable over time, are easily recognized and provide natural limits for managing social, economic, environmental and institutional connections.



Charter Directions and Goals

To achieve its vision, the Charter for Sustainability outlines four strategic directions for its activities. Each direction features goals and suggestions on how those goals can be achieved.

- **Understanding Sustainability**
Governments, community groups and individuals recognize why and how they can contribute to building vibrant communities, developing strong and diverse economies and maintaining the air, water, land and living species that make up our ecosystems.
- **Caring for Ecosystems**
We are all stewards of resources such as water, forests, fish, wildlife and land. As stewards, we conserve and enhance our ecosystems to maintain strong and diverse economies and to support growing communities. In this way, we not only enjoy our natural environment, but also conserve it to support our high quality of life.
- **Strengthening Communities**
Communities benefit from local experience, skills and values. Strong communities are built on a diverse economy, an educated workforce, safe neighbourhoods, accessibility to basic commodities, shared goals, local action and a sense of belonging.
- **Improving Decision-Making**
Decision-making is shared and we work together to reach creative agreements and achieve common goals that reflect the interests of a growing population mixed in gender, culture, religion, age and interest. Aboriginal rights and title now being defined are reconciled in a just and fair manner.



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PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY

To guide its activities, the Charter outlines twelve important principles on how the FBC and its partners, directors and staff will conduct business.

- **Mutual Dependence**
Land, water, air and all living organisms including humans are integral parts of the ecosystem. Biodiversity must be conserved.
- **Accountability**
Each of us is responsible for the social, economic and environmental consequences of our decisions and accountable for our actions.
- **Equity**
All communities and regions must have equal opportunities to provide for the social, economic and environmental needs of residents.
- **Integration**
Consideration of social, economic and environmental costs and benefits must be an integral part of all decision making.
- **Adaptive Approaches**
Plans and activities must be adaptable and able to respond to external pressures and changing social values.
- **Coordinated and Cooperative Efforts**
Coordinated and cooperative efforts are needed among all government and non-government interests.
- **Open and Informed Decision Making**
Open decision making depends on the best available information.
- **Exercising Caution**
Caution must be exercised when shaping decisions to avoid making irreversible mistakes.
- **Managing Uncertainty**
A lack of certainty should not prevent decisive actions for sustainability.
- **Recognition**
There must be recognition of existing rights, agreements and obligations in all decision making.
- **Aboriginal Rights and Title**
We recognize that aboriginal nations within the Fraser Basin assert aboriginal rights and title. These rights and title now being defined must be acknowledged and reconciled in a just and fair manner.
- **Transition Takes Time**
Sustainability is a journey that requires constant feedback, learning and adjustment. In the short-term, the elements of sustainability may not always be in balance.

