

COUNCIL AGENDA/INFORMATION			
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg. Council	Date: <u>March 23, '09</u>	Item # <u>4</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental	Date: _____	Item # _____	

Director	CAO
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DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER  
750 - 17<sup>TH</sup> STREET, WEST VANCOUVER, BC V7V 3T3

## COUNCIL REPORT

Date: February 24, 2009 File: 2190-01-01  
From: Stephen Jenkins, Manager of Environment and Sustainability  
Subject: **UBC Masters of Landscape Architecture Studio Partnership**

### RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. Council receive the following report and presentation material regarding the findings of the UBC grad students
2. Council request staff to consider the findings and recommendations of the studio for implementation where feasible.
3. Council endorse similar partnerships with academic institutions

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to compliment the presentation from UBC Master's of Landscape architecture studio, who are reporting on the findings and recommendations as a result of their work on existing neighbourhoods in the British Pacific Properties (BPP).

### 1.0 Background

#### 1.1 Prior Resolutions

Consistent with many statements from the Official Community Plan and the 2005 Council adopted "Environmental Strategy" "The partnership with UBC embodies the intention of West Vancouver to "lead by example" on environmental solutions to address impacts from development both future and existing.

In addition to the OCP statements and the Environmental Strategy obligations, DWV has signed the provincial Climate Action Charter and are signatories to the FCM's Partners for Climate Protection. Both are obligations with respect to GHG emissions from a corporate perspective.

## 1.2 History

In early 2008 professor, Dr. Stephen Sheppard began discussion with staff regarding the new provincial legislation, which requires 80% reductions in carbon emissions province-wide by 2050. Recognizing that provincial Bill 26 may require retrofitting of existing communities to transform energy use and ways of living, the discussion with UBC and district staff revolved around opportunities for a partnership in order to consider options to address this challenge.

Through a collaborative approach from numerous departments in the District and through the support of Council, a unique partnership was forged with the university. This partnership supported the students exploring the role of landscape planning in helping West Vancouver's British Pacific Properties envision their options, in transitioning to lower-carbon, more resilient hillside neighbourhoods, while protecting their unique quality of life in this urban/wildland setting.

## 2.0 Policy

### 2.1 Policy

While there is no formal policy on retrofitting homes to lower GHG emissions or reduce infrastructure impacts, staff is currently considering numerous policy options that will be brought to council for consideration in 2009.

### 2.2 Bylaw (optional)

The abovementioned work by staff may require new bylaws to be considered along with the new provincial green building code, which has had positive impacts on the progress towards lowering the GHG footprint of homes.

### 2.3 Reference to Corporate Business Plan

This work and the style of partnership will be considered during the development of the District's Strategic Plan.

## 3.0 Analysis

### 3.1 Discussion

The students broke into 5 groups, each focusing on one of the following themes relating to community services/needs (selected for their relevance to carbon emissions, climate change, and social transformation); water, food and solid waste, energy use and sources (not including transportation), Mobility (including transportation energy use/sources), and landscape character.

The work UBC conducted will result in West Vancouver receiving valuable information and learning's with respect to options for retrofitting neighbourhoods. The substantial amount of graphical data and written collateral provided by the grad students has already been very useful for neighbourhood planning initiatives.

3.2 Environmental Implications

see "Sustainability" section

3.3 Social Implications

see "Sustainability" section

3.4 Financial Implications

see "Sustainability" section

3.5 Sustainability (how does this decision impact or contribute to the District's long term sustainability)

The studio, while focusing on "environmental" solutions clearly displayed the interconnectedness of all three pillars of sustainability. The students did an excellent job of tying their work to all three pillars, showing how technical, environmental solutions could lead to social and economic benefits for the community.

Through diversity comes resilience on all the pillars of sustainability and the diversity of ideas that the students offered, opened many eyes to opportunities for a wide array of approaches to this global challenge at the local level.

3.6 Consultation

The students and DWV staff have been involved in iterative process since early 2008 and there has also been the inclusion of BPP staff, a council delegation (September, 2008) and a presentation in December that was attended by member of the District's Environmental Working Group and staff.

In the future this work will be presented to the recently established Climate Action Working Group for consideration.

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## 4.0 Options

- 4.1 Accept recommendations as written
- 4.2 Request more information from staff with a n accompanying Report to Council

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Concurrence  
(optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Appendices: (List and label) (optional)