



February 16, 2016

Climate Change: Exploring Solutions
Workshop Highlights

The DWV Community Energy and Emissions Plan (**CEE Plan**) Working Group held the Climate Change: Exploring Solutions Workshop on January 22, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the West Vancouver Community Centre.

The objectives were to:

- introduce the WV CEE Plan project and process
- foster awareness and interest in climate, energy and carbon in our WV community
- solicit input on CEE Plan strategic directions and hear about key community priorities

Representatives from key groups and organizations in the community were invited. 90 people attended the workshop: 55 representing community organizations; 20 students from West Vancouver Secondary School; 10 facilitators; 9 resource staff and 11 volunteers for support.

Following are highlights of comments from the background discussions and the topical dialogues. Detailed notes from each discussion will be available in a separate document.

Background Discussion

Question 1: What do we want to protect or enhance in West Vancouver?

- Preserve the environment, forests and greenery (on public and private land) - (an overwhelming number of comments)
- Preserve species, protect streams, the coastline, our clean air and water - (many comments)
- Preserve a sense of community - (many comments)
- Preserve access to the waterfront
- Recognize the value of neighbourhoods that feel like a small town
- Recognize the value of older, smaller houses

Question 2: What is important for the District to focus on?

- Protect the natural environment - (a great majority of comments)
- Promote environmental education and learning - (a great majority of comments)
- Provide better and more public transit, lower emission transportation and walkability in neighbourhoods - (many comments)
- Enhance bike routes, provide community shuttles and enable pay-parking (with exemptions for lower emission vehicles)
- Create more small villages with neighbourhood stores throughout the District, enabling more areas of focussed growth and thus more low carbon, resilient and affordable communities
- Create more public areas with community places to work and play
- Provide education about initiatives
- Encourage smaller homes with more flexibility in living arrangements
- Discourage demolitions
- Require new standards for houses (e.g. LEED)

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- Build houses with green energy
- Enforce current building codes
- Work with BC Hydro to allow the District to own its own energy facilities
- Fast-track permits for green buildings
- Better resource and waste management
- Give access to locally grown food
- Educate the public on the effects of food choices on the environment
- Require integration of recycling into new home design
- Address food waste in restaurants

Question 3: What kind of a community do you want to leave your grandchildren?

- A green, vibrant, mixed community with a diversity of housing choices that use much less energy and have ease of access to necessary services without reliance on energy intensive transportation
- A community which allows aging-in-place
- A community that shows leadership by enabling change through legislation, incentives and education

Round Discussions

Bricks and Mortar – Housing and Development

Housing Design

- Better energy related regulation
- Phase in 'green design guidelines' as mandatory
- Phase in passive housing design
- Have all new builds by 2030 be passive and solar ready
- Fast track permits when there are substantial sustainability/ greenhouse gas emission reductions incorporated.
- Encourage diverse housing types particularly newer, smaller, energy efficient homes
- Provide financial incentives for energy efficiency
- Allow suites and coach houses on a single lot
- Allow lot subdivision
- Make stratification of lots easier
- Enable retrofit programming with assistance on retrofit options
- Consider passing regulation to allow courtyard housing (several units per lot with shared open space)
- Build complete communities by ensuring houses are accessible to daily needs, near transportation and with good walkability
- Consistently enforce the Building Code
- OCP to lead and give direction on housing design and diversity options as well as land use planning
- Neighbourhoods/communities to be 'complete communities'
- District to take a leadership role in community education about what can be done to reduce energy use.

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Roll and Stroll - Transportation

- Work on switching car drivers to other modes of travel (walking, cycling, use of transit) rather than to electric cars
- Intensify development in the small villages that exist to easily accommodate walking, cycling and other transit modes
- Improve infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists including the development of AAA cycling facilities (key to addressing car addiction and traffic congestion)
- Improve and expand bus service ,especially service between Horseshoe Bay and Vancouver
- Ensure bike racks on buses, especially those going uphill.
- Expand the Spirit Trail and develop an upper greenway for pedestrians and cyclists
- Increase bus frequency at peak times
- Consider transit to Cypress Mountain
- Ferry/boat as a means of travel to/from other areas of English Bay
- Run a tram from Ambleside to Dundarave
- Adapt the rail line for local access
- Implement pay parking and limited garage space to disincentivize use of cars

Places and Spaces - Neighbourhoods

- Retain existing and make new walkable villages - convenient and allowing for a diversity of ages to live in place
- Focus growth – it is absolutely necessary for sustainability
- Preserve space, privacy, and greenery (there is a limit to densification)
- Require villages to have a diversity of housing options and viable businesses
- Provide affordable housing - the viability of schools is directly connected (when there are not enough local children to fill the schools, international students and students from other districts drive to school)
- Transform single-purpose public spaces to multi-purpose
- Work with schools and churches to enable diversification of uses (e.g. allow community centres to run recreation programs in schools during off hours)
- Focus growth (e.g. suites, coach houses, triplexes) around multipurpose uses
- Introduce shuttle village services, similar to senior's shuttle, to help local residents get to and from micro villages or from village to village
- Designate land for food growing adjacent to urban villages (community gardens for condominium dwellers)
- Introduce edible landscape policy in OCP that allows apartments or other land owners to grow food instead of flowers
- Enable food co-operatives and local farmers markets

Trash and Treasure – Waste Reduction

- Continue education of single family residents on waste management
- Expand education to multifamily and the ICI sector
- Collaborate with businesses and multifamily property owners and managers to find solutions to waste management issues
- Tell the story:
 - in the construction realm from deconstruction and vegetation removal to new energy efficient buildings with replacement vegetation
 - in the food waste stream from field to home to waste management

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- District to be a leader by:
 - lobbying to raise the present waste reduction targets
 - continuing its programming to ensure waste rules are followed and that messaging is consistent across all waste sectors
 - collaborating with businesses
 - challenging the community to be zero waste

Summary

There was a significant amount of consensus about West Vancouver values and which strategic directions must be taken in the areas of housing, land use, transportation and waste reduction in order to reduce energy use. A Challenge going forward is converging some of the conflicting or contradictory points such as keeping neighbourhoods at a small-town scale and providing better and more public transit. Workshop attendees encouraged the District to take a much greater leadership role in developing policy, regulation, incentives and education and outreach for reducing energy and emissions. This requires collaborating with residents, businesses, community organizations and other levels of government. The District can also work with existing nonprofit groups to help with financial incentives, education and collaboration.

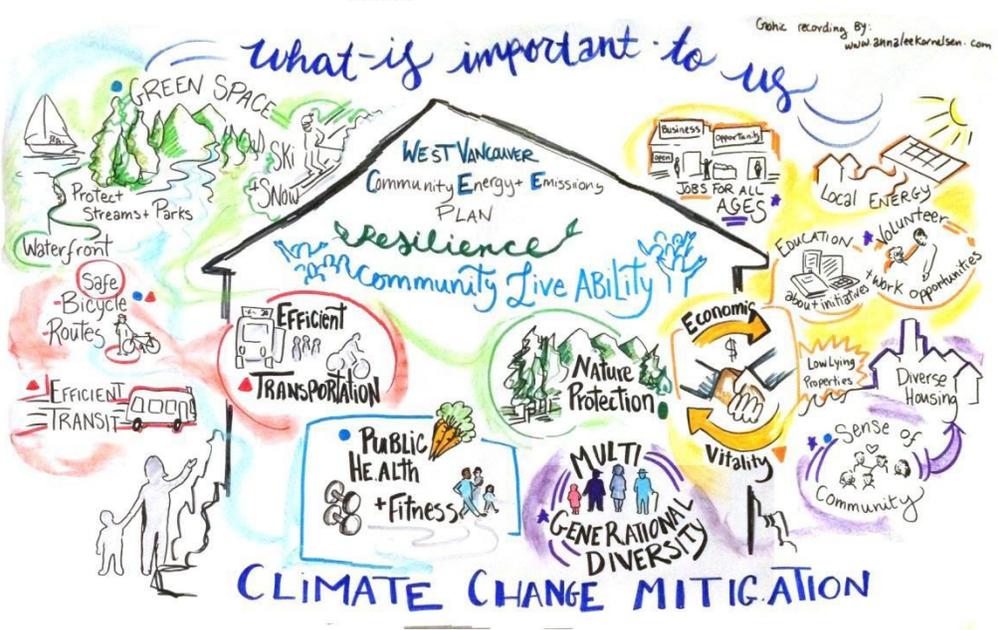
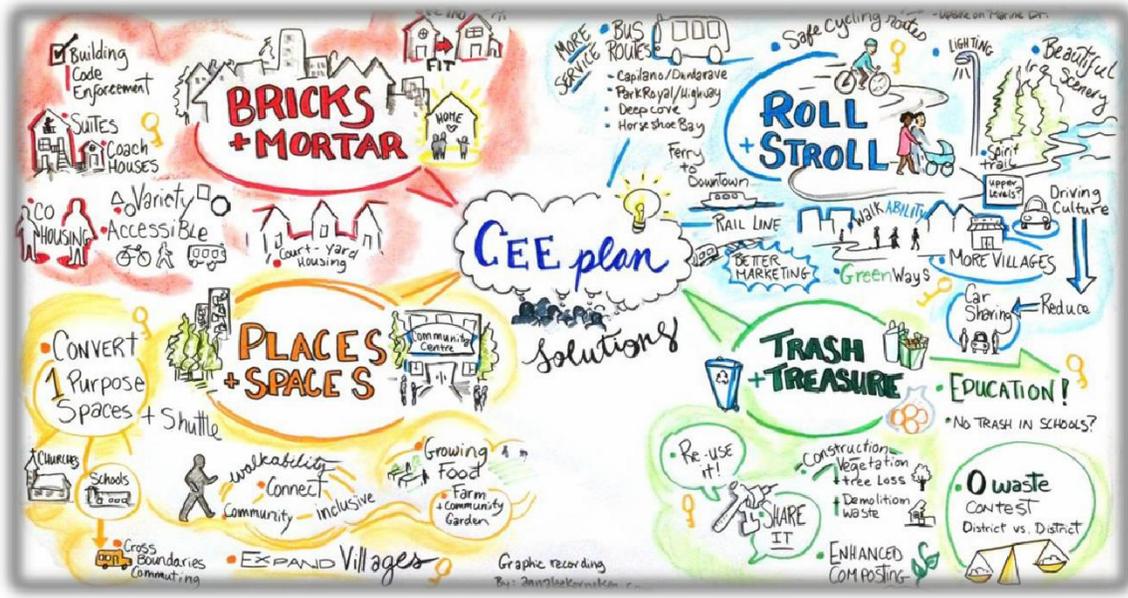
On following page is copied the artwork by a graphic artist who drew out the conversations throughout the morning session. The artwork will be on display at the Open Houses.

Next Steps

The CEE Plan Working Group is hosting three **Open Houses**:
Wednesday, March 9 from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and 4-7 p.m.
Saturday, March 12 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

The Purpose is to obtain input on the next phase of CEE Plan development: 'Focusing Solutions'- based on feedback from the stakeholder workshop and Working Group deliberations.

Following the Open House, the WG will synthesize feedback to develop a Draft and Final CEE Plan for submission to Council for approval in late Spring.



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