

*South Shore:  
Vision 2020  
Plan and Guide*

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## **South Shore Sustainable Community Plan: Vision 2020**

*Vision 2020* is a shared vision and process to take the South Shore into the future in a structured, prioritized manner. The Plan and process are designed to help prepare the South Shore to tackle the challenges of the ever-changing global forces, while maintaining a quality of life for citizens by providing focus to the three pillars of a sustainable community (economic, social, and environmental).

This is a preliminary plan developed by the South Shore Vision2020 Steering Committee for review by the community and municipal government.

Once it has been reviewed by the community and council, it will be adopted through municipal council resolutions.

The Vision 2020 Steering Committee was created following municipal council resolutions to create a combined South Shore Community Sustainability Plan.

### **Commitment to Community Sustainability**

#### **The South Shore commits to supporting community sustainability:**

United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), more commonly known as the Brundtland commission, in 1987 defined sustainable development as: *"development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*

***Supporting community sustainability requires aligning our community with the three pillars of sustainable development:***

1. Economic
2. Social
3. Environmental

#### **Community sustainability requires:**

1. Sustainable living (personal consuming with a purpose)
2. Sustainable development (community development with a purpose)

## **Vision 2020: Objectives, Values, Goals (Proposed)**

### ***Our Vision:***

Moving forward at nature's pace... striving towards a sustainable, healthy environment for all, structured after environmental best practices, providing economic stimulation and social interaction possibilities.

### ***Our Mission Statement:***

To preserve and protect the natural environment, reduce energy consumption and emissions while going forth consciously with sustainable practices and living.

### ***Our Values:***

To pass on a cleaner community to the future generations, by trying to reclaim past footprints, reducing current impact and planning for strategic advances in the future. By committing to a sustainable community plan that will take us forward in a controlled, ever-mindful-of-the-future manner, we can increase the quality of life for all of our residents under the top three pillars of a sustainable society: environment, social, economic.

### **Our Vision, Mission, and Values align with the three pillars of sustainable development:**

#### **I - Economic Forces**

- practice sound economic governance
- provide and plan incentives for community and business growth
- identify new job creation streams

#### **II - Social**

- identify services that will increase the quality of life for all citizens ie: dedicated Health Region Clinic
- create additional social and recreation opportunities ie: socializing, conferences & dances, implement learning opportunities ie: conferences, environmental strategies
- outline a plan for affordable housing
- urban planning and renewal

#### **III - Environmental**

- identify green strategies and targets for the community
- practice green governance initiatives
- educate the public through awareness campaigns ie: subtle: newsletter "tips" or mandatory measures
- implement green initiative projects such as improved waste water handling
- reduce use of energy and the environmental footprint of the South Shore

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## 1.0 - Executive Overview

The South Shore community is comprised of Regina Beach and Buena Vista with the Kinookimaw First Nations Reserve as a neighbour to the West. Known collectively as South Shore, Regina Beach and Buena Vista have grown together, yet in different ways, since the early 1900's. Each community has a unique character, but they have always shared... and by all measurement will continue to do so... the same devotion to the lake, to the South Shore's natural habitat.

Increased demands on municipal services, including water and sewage, coupled with the challenges of keeping tight environmental controls creates a real need to focus attention on sustainable best practices. These communities are poised for immediate and long-term growth as Saskatchewan is virtually exploding economically which has driven a demand for resort property. This collaborative effort of the South Shore community will provide a blueprint to a sustainable, quantifiable approach focusing on the top three pillars of community sustainability: economic, social, environmental.

The input from these communities regarding how to best move forward using a sustainable approach will serve as a model for other communities in the region. A top priority for each community is the importance of the protecting the natural world as part of a progressive planning strategy for the South Shore. Hard questions have been considered where the sway time and again was to create more opportunities, but not at the expense of this natural habitat.

A blended strategy has been adopted to take into account best environmental practices and make this our goal of sustainability, with yardsticks at 2, 7 and 12 years. The South Shore Sustainable Community Plan is a broad-stroke approach to what is actually sustainable and reachable by 2020 in our community: economically, socially and environmentally. The common goal is to set sights high.

A lakeside community has a large responsibility to protect the body of water that not only gives enjoyment year round but also factors into the sustainability model as a social and economic player. Environmentally, there are stewardship organizations working on the Last Mountain Lake such as Ducks Unlimited and the Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group and the intent is to work with these organizations keeping the eco-systems well protected into the future. The pledge is to continue to be vigilant in all areas environmental with targeting and then surpassing goals of recycling, waste management and water treatment systems, with an eye to short term/long term reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The green strategies planned for the first Sustainable Community Project have these intentions clearly earmarked.

Our communities face challenges by virtue of the ever-growing economy and prosperity in Saskatchewan, and how that will further increase demands in the future. To protect and then prosper is the strategy to be adopted. The first goal is to proceed through Level One and Two on the Sustainable Community Maturity Model (see Section 2.4.2). Then pilot projects such as the Eco-Rec Centre can begin, while simultaneously building sustainability into the future planning of each municipality. A main target will be improving on the green planning strategies for the communities, which will encompass water, waste, sewage, transportation and housing developments. As we approach Level Three on the Sustainable Community Maturity Model, we will take decisive steps

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and implement sustainable plans for growth in all sectors of the economy and environment, while updating current social standards. By 2020, the South Shore will reach and maintain Level 5 on the Sustainable Community Maturity Model.

The Sustainable goals of the South Shore community in the next two years is to have the water treatment system operating in Regina Beach, expansion of the lagoon to accommodate growth, reduction of waste materials into the landfill. Recycling projects have begun in Regina Beach and Buena Vista. Housing and community development issues are on the table and affordable housing has increased in importance, especially due to the sharp rise in the local real estate market. Sewage treatment is a top priority, with further developments restricted as the current lagoon is near capacity. If the region does not come up with a solution in the near future, then Buena Vista is prepared to move forward with its own sewage treatment plant.

Energy reduction is a well-supported goal with a clear mandate from the public. Air quality is a double-edged sword: clean air from being surrounded by the lake to the north and pastureland on three sides reducing immediate exposure to farming chemicals *versus* pungent air from pumped sewage.

The green strategies planned for the South Shore Eco-Rec Centre Project will put our communities on the map as a blueprint for other municipalities to follow, a plan for a sustainable green multi-use facility that is self-efficient and that adds to the economic, social, cultural and environmental capital. The multi-use facility will be an environmentally friendly building with eco-interpretive highlights, offer sport and wellness through the pool, whirlpools and saunas, and increase the social opportunities by the leasing entities including the conference centre, day care, Spa and fitness centre and restaurant. Economic opportunities through tourism and entrepreneurship, job creation, energy strategies, best practices for water and waste fit into the short-term goals as outlined in the South Shore Sustainable Community Plan. The South Shore Community has long waited to have a facility such as the proposed Eco-Rec Centre and is ready to move forward to enhance the quality of life for year-round residents and visitors, be a model citizen in reducing our global footprint, while gathering successes for the South Shore sustainable community goals. The Eco-Rec Centre will become a learning facility for best practices in energy conservation.

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### **Vision 2020: Sustainable Advantages**

What is the cost are our actions? How will the choices of today impact the social and environmental atmosphere in the future? What kind of community do we want to leave to the next generation of South Shore dwellers?

Sometimes, the sustainable approach can seem to cost more initially. Forward thinkers acknowledge that a sustainable approach now pays dividends in the future. Developing a sustainable economic base as well as social opportunities foster stability within the community. Environmental stewardship leaves a natural legacy in place for future generations.

Sustainable practices and products may cost more today. The investment for tomorrow has a multiple effect. Purchasing green building products sustain marketable forests offering both economic stimulus and environmental advances by providing additional oxygen into the atmosphere through effective growing operations. Planning for a sustainable social agenda provides health and wellness opportunities for all ages across the spectrum, connects the community together with social interaction and recreation activities and grows a stronger foundation of participation and compassion among community members. Using energy efficient building techniques might seem the more costly in the short term, but are actually highly advantageous economically over the long.

A sustainable community strives for efficiency to reduce their global footprint, focuses on economic stimulus, sets and achieves goals for social enhancement and development. A sustainable community advances with best practices studied and implemented as the planning strategy for economic growth.

One area of great concern in the current housing market is that affordability is off the charts. Planning for sufficient and affordable housing is crucial to stability, but if that means encroaching on natural lands here, then that would require greater natural advocacy there, with a goal of at least more gain to the environment.

Prioritizing sustainability into municipal planning processes has many advantages. By charting the course for economic development according to the mandate developed by the public, through public consultation and designated advisory boards, decision makers have a clear picture of how the majority wants to see their community advance. For example, some resort communities prefer to develop a healthy tourism sector complete with the economic advantage that brings. Others prefer to keep life quiet and not to attract too many tourists overall. Which offers more sustainability in the long term? Are there other economic stimuli going on that could offer the jobs tourism would? Greater economic development would retain residents and maintain or increase a tax base, which in turn could finance more social and recreational capital.

### **Strategies for Sustainable Success**

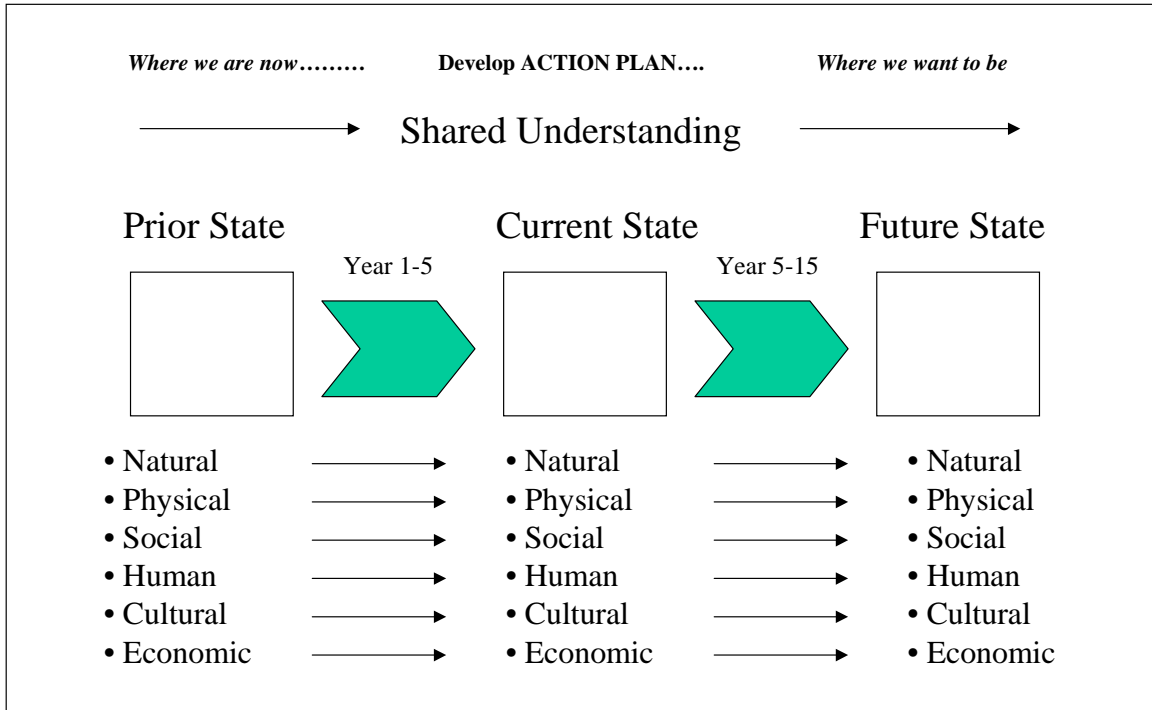
Clearly, envisioning and charting the course for a Sustainable Community provides the framework for interaction between community members and often is the catalyst for change. Opportunities present themselves through public planning and consultation sessions and by community members taking ownership to develop Community Advisory Boards. Stakeholders come into alignment and through a process define clear goals and a shared vision. Basic guiding principles such as a mission and values statement speak clearly on how the future should be shaped for their community.

Community engagement, as opposed to exclusion, will be the steadier hand on the wheel of sustainability planning. An uninformed community is left at the mercy of the rumour mill and insecurities about the future direction of the community abound. Transparency, sharing and engaging the public on sustainability planning will demonstrate strong leadership to hear the will of the people on how they want to see their community develop. The people will not always agree but an informed public can at least get to the heart of the matter of where their opinion lies. A small expense to engage the public through various medium will make the work light for the leaders of the land where sustainable targets are clearly outlined by the public. Building capacity for open communication towards sustainable practices fosters inclusiveness within members, their shared community, and their shared earth and creates a society more engaged with development at every level. A formal framework should be developed to better the communication process and to work through complicated and often emotional issues. Stakeholders and citizens will take the best practices developed to the grass roots level and integrate strategies into their organizations and community groups.

### **Developing a Shared Understanding of Community Sustainability**

Municipal leadership in sustainable practices will be recognized by measurable goals and successes, at the municipal as well as community level. Regional sharing of information and initiatives will improve the sustainability of the region as a whole. Focusing on the root cause and effect and planning efficient next steps, undoubtedly is more cost effective than trying to fix a problem. Innovative strategies should be developed and implemented on how to deal with both local and global opportunities and challenges.

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The most important process in developing and implementing a community sustainability plan is to develop a shared understanding of all stakeholders about where the community has been (prior state), where is today (current state) and where it wants to be (future state).

One way to do this is to consider the six aspects of community capital (see Section 2.4.3):

1. Natural
2. Physical
3. Social
4. Human
5. Cultural
6. Economic

These different types of community capital make up the assets or “wealth” of the community.

Sustainability just means that future generations on the South Shore will be able to enjoy the same or higher levels of community capital than we have today.

Unfortunately, with purposeful action, future generations are more likely to inherit less community capital than we have today on the South Shore.

The South Shore Vision 2020 process and plan is our first step to ensuring that our future generations will inherit a richer and more sustainable community.

## 2.0 – Introduction

### 2.1 - About this Plan and Guide

The ***Vision 2020 Plan and Guide*** includes both the specific details of the Vision 2020 Plan and resource material to assist the municipal councils, Vision 2020 Steering Committee, community 2020 Advisory Teams, and interested community members about developing a community sustainability plan.

Municipalities are facing many challenges and opportunities. Central to a municipality's ability to offer a high quality standard of living to its residents is its ability to adapt and respond to these in the future. *Vision 2020* is an important tool for Regina Beach, Buena Vista, and other South Shore Communities in this respect as it brings together economic, environmental, and social elements and provides a framework to direct growth and change in the future. It requires the South Shore communities to undertake long range planning and be strategic in the decisions municipal councils and administrations are making today.

The concepts of balance, growth and change management are woven throughout the plan.

The building blocks for sustainable communities (See Section 6) provide direction for the day-to-day operations of the communities and region and as well as a foundation for long range planning:

1. Sustainability Education and Learning
2. Community Health and Wellness
3. Recreation, Arts, and Culture
4. Green Spaces and Natural Habitat
5. Healthy Local Food Production
6. Sustainable Infrastructure
  - a. Water and Sewage
  - b. Waste Reduction and Recycling
  - c. Roads and Traffic Management
7. Energy Efficiency and Renewables
8. Air Quality and Atmospheric Change
9. Land Use and Urban Form
10. Community Development (municipal, commercial, housing)
11. Community Economic Development
12. Municipal Services

Building on past sustainability initiatives and recognizing the long-term focus needed to address sustainability at a community level, this plan outlines a vision for what the South Shore could become by 2020. It will take incremental steps, adjustments in policy direction, and commitment on the part of residents, businesses, and Council, for the vision outlined here to become a reality.

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**Vision 2020** is the first step to developing an integrated Municipal Sustainability Plan (IMSP). An integrated Municipal Sustainability Plan is “essentially a high level overarching document that guides the community into the future. It can best be viewed as a strategic business plan for the community that identifies short, medium, and long term actions for implementation, tracks and monitors progress, and is reviewed and revised.... An IMSP, therefore, provides guidance for the development or alignment of all municipal plans and documents.”

### **2.2 – The role of the SaskRCE Working Groups in Vision 2020**

The Saskatchewan Regional Centre of Expertise on Education For Sustainable Development ([www.saskrce.ca](http://www.saskrce.ca)) is a member of the United Nations University’s Global network of Regional Centres of Expertise ([www.ias.unu.edu](http://www.ias.unu.edu)).

An RCE is a network of existing formal, non-formal and informal education organizations, mobilized to deliver education for sustainable development (ESD) to local and regional communities. A network of RCEs worldwide will constitute the Global Learning Space for Sustainable Development. RCEs aspire to achieve the goals of the [UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development](#) (DESD, 2005-2014), by translating its global objectives into the context of the local communities in which they operate.

Six other Centres have been formed in North America:

1. Greater Sudbury, Ontario
2. Montreal, Quebec
3. Toronto, Ontario
4. Greater North Central Texas, USA
5. Grand Rapids, MI USA
6. Western Jalisco, Mexico

The Saskatchewan Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (SK RCE on ESD) seeks to transform education for sustainability in our region. Education is broadly understood to include formal education (such as primary, secondary, and post-secondary education) as well as informal and non-formal education (such as the private media and public education by non-governmental organizations). A *Framework for Environmental Learning and Sustainability in Canada* defines the three types of education as follows:

1. *Formal Education*: Education through the school systems from kindergarten to the end of high school as well as some aspects in colleges and universities.
2. *Non-formal Education*: Public awareness activities by organizations outside of the school system (e.g., Environmental Street Theatre).
3. *Informal Education*: Educational activities provided by media (e.g documentaries on radio and television)

Education at all times respects the autonomy and dignity of the learner. Education for sustainable development aims at promoting reflection and discernment in our region that

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helps us identify and pursue paths to sustainability. Such paths lead to ongoing improvements in quality of life while sustaining healthy ecosystems. They promote active environmental stewardship, social justice, and intergenerational equity. Education for sustainability requires literacy and a capacity to critically and creatively reflect on the ecological, social, and economic challenges and opportunities facing our region. In this light we must ensure that our region provides access to quality education which includes quality basic education, higher education, adult education, and other opportunities for life-long learning. Education for sustainability requires an integrated, interdisciplinary, and problem-based approach. It addresses the ecological, social, and economic dimensions of these problems by situating them within geographic, temporal, and institutional contexts. In so doing, education for sustainable development promotes educational opportunities that are locally relevant and culturally appropriate. The issues of sustainability that are central to a region serve as focal points and pillars for defining ESD strategies. Education for sustainability in turn identifies development paths that *simultaneously* meet the ecological, social, and economic outcomes of sustainability while promoting locally appropriate, sustainable livelihoods. The SaskRCE has formed Working Groups to focus on specific issues:

1. Climate Change
2. Farming and Local Food Production
3. Health
4. Natural Prairie Ecosystems
5. Supporting and Bridging Cultures for Sustainable Living and Community Building
6. Sustainable Infrastructure
7. Sustainable Local Business Initiatives
8. Building Sustainable Communities

The primary objective of the Building Sustainable Communities Working Group is to support developing a framework for developing community sustainability plans and identifying education and learning resources for communities using the framework.

The South Shore Vision 2020 plan has been developed using the initial Building Sustainable Communities framework and includes resource references to support the South Shore municipal councils, Vision 2020 steering committee, community Advisory Teams, and community members.

### **2.3 - What is Planning?**

{from the Canadian Institute of Planners – [www.cip-icu.ca](http://www.cip-icu.ca)}

#### **Planning defined:**

*"Planning"* means the scientific, aesthetic, and orderly disposition of land, resources, facilities and services with a view to securing the physical, economic and social efficiency, health and well-being of urban and rural communities.

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Responsible planning has always been vital to the sustainability of safe, healthy, and secure urban environments. Canada's population is growing profession must increasingly deal with urbanization issues, such as conversion of land from natural habitats to urban built areas, maintenance and use of natural resources and habitats, development of transportation related infrastructure, ensuring environmental protection.

Not only do planners deal with land use, but also:

1. planning social and community services,
2. managing cultural and heritage resources,
3. creating economic capacity in local communities,
4. addressing transportation and infrastructure.

### **Background**

Over that last century, Canada has been transformed from a rural to an urban, industrial society. The impact of this transformation on our cities, towns and communities has provided us with some of our greatest challenges as a society. How do we serve everyone's needs? How do we provide and maintain the daily services that make life pleasant and efficient? How do we add to the community without destroying its past? How do we sustain our environment for the present and renew it for the future. One of the key contributors to making urban and rural life workable, livable, and prosperous is the professional planner. A planner provides research, reasoned analysis and recommendations to both the public and the private sector, intended to meet the needs of all sectors of society.

### **Considering the Whole**

One of Canada's important planners at the beginning of this century, Thomas Adams, regarded good planning as "the conservation of life and economy in the system of developing land." The best planners need many skills to make sure all considerations are met during a project.

### **Research**

Planners measure and analyze statistical information for its implication. They examine actions to understand their intended--and real--effect.

### **Integration**

Planners integrate the goals of sustainable development, good government and economic viability when evaluating proposals and strategies. They may work for the public or the private sector, but ultimately their work becomes part of or a catalyst to public policy. Planners' work balances various private interests with the public interest and identifies viable, workable options.

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### **Process**

Planners employ diverse and thorough consultations as part of their research to ensure that as many voices as possible are heard and considered during the planning process.

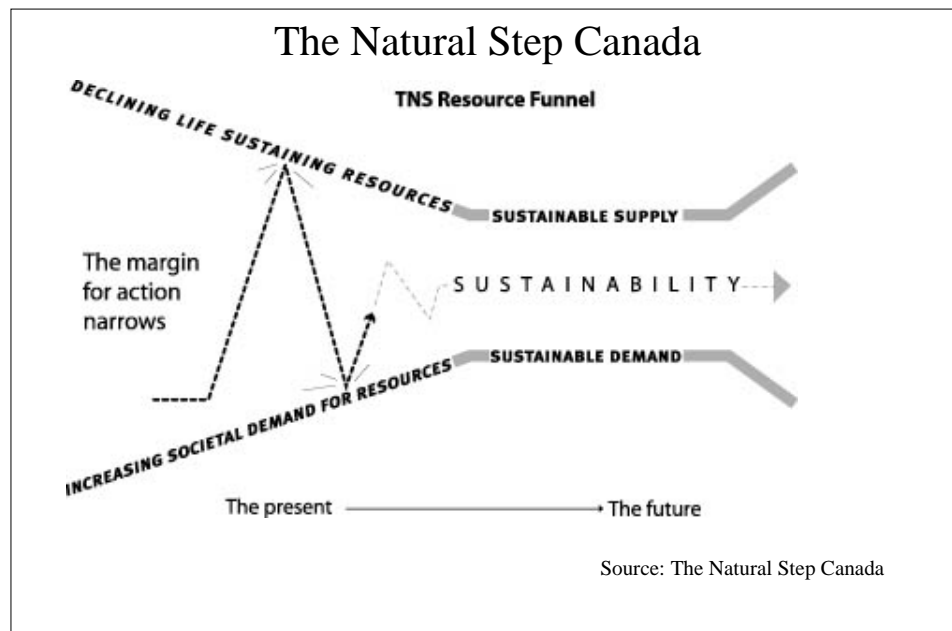
### **Results**

The implementation of any plan, however well thought out, involves changes, and change does not always come easily. Planners strive to develop clear plans for action and implement ongoing evaluations of successes and failures as part of their work. With increasingly complex urban challenges, planners need a set of skills and talents that includes knowledge of land, air and water resources, employment trends, cultural diversity and associated issues, the use and needs of new technologies, and conflict resolution. There are many tools, both well established and state-of-the-art, used in the planning process: vision and strategy sessions of interested groups ideas fairs to bring together the best of new concepts computer simulations and scale models of plans design workshops social and environmental impact analysis

## 2.4 - What is community sustainability?

The following concepts help define community sustainability and establish a framework for developing a community sustainability plan.

### 2.4.1 – The Natural Step Canada Framework



The Natural Step Framework views sustainability from the perspective that we have an increasing demand and decreasing supply for natural resources. The Natural Step defines four system conditions for sustainability:

1. In order for a society to be sustainable, nature's functions and diversity must not be systematically subject to increasing concentrations of substances extracted from the earth's crust.

Translation: use less non-renewable energy and other natural resources.

2. In order for a society to be sustainable, nature's functions and diversity must not be systematically subject to increasing concentrations of substances produced by society.

Translation: use less plastic and other synthetic materials

3. In order for a society to be sustainable, nature's functions and diversity must not be systematically impoverished by physical displacement, over harvesting or other forms of ecosystem manipulation.

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Translation: Protect natural habitats and species.

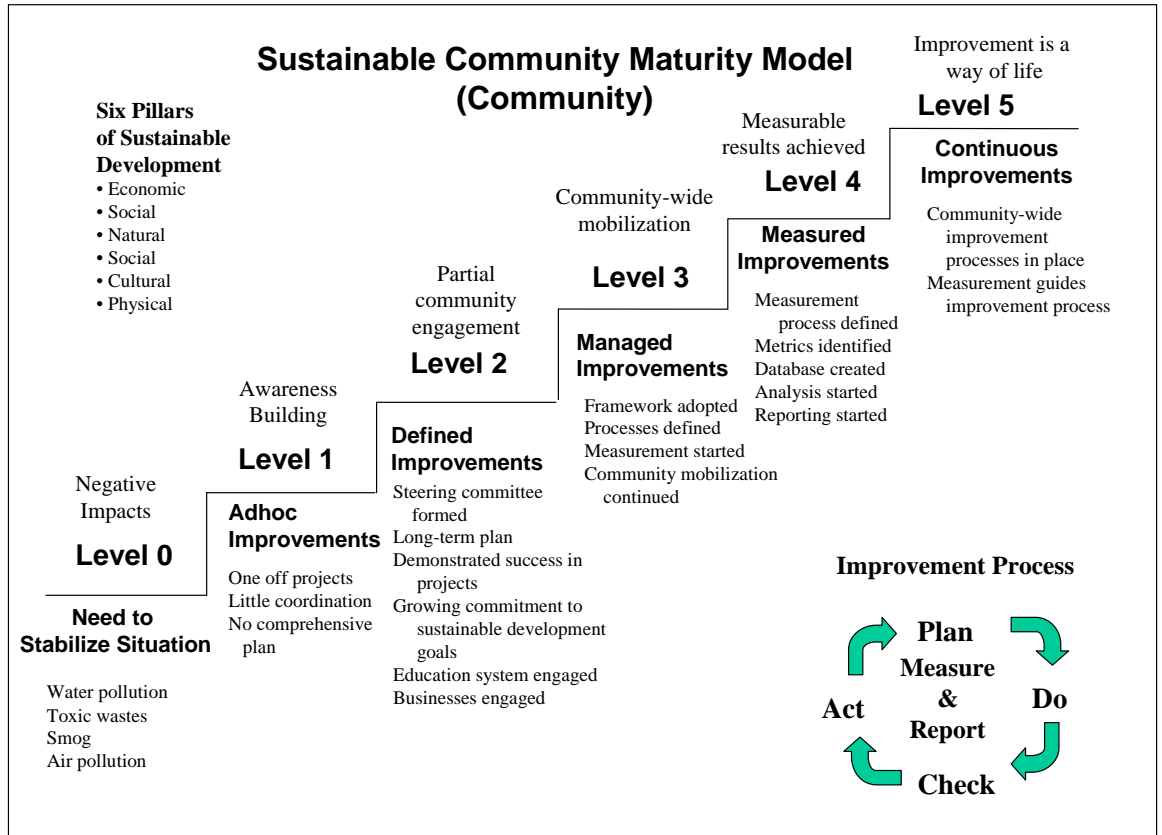
4. In sustainable society resources are used fairly and efficiently in order to meet basic human needs globally.

Translation: We all live on the same planet and must ensure that everyone has the basics for a sustainable healthy livelihoods – quality air, food, water, shelter, clothes, education, and work.

These four system conditions required for sustainability support the concept of :

1. Reduce
2. Recycle
3. Reuse

### 2.4.2 - Sustainable Community Maturity Model

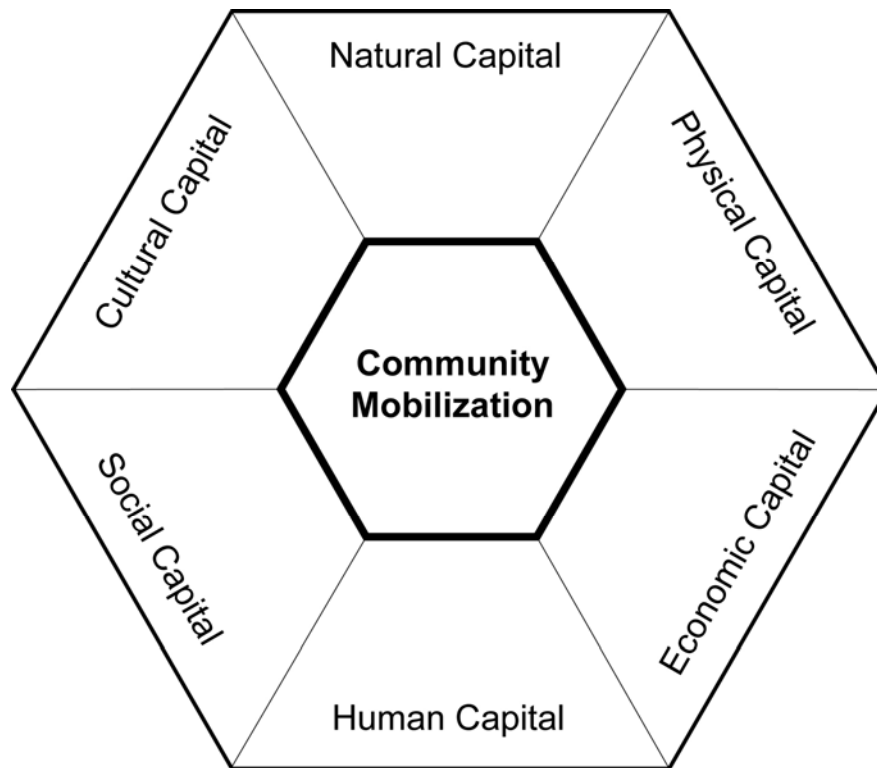


Communities move through series of maturity level for sustainability (see Sustainable Communities Maturity Model). For Example, the South Shore is estimated to at a Maturity Level 1 (Ad Hoc) and intends to move to Level 2. The reach Level 2, the South Shore will need to obtain municipal Council support for the process, create a Community Sustainability Plan Steering Committee, form community advisory committees on sustainability (Green Team), build awareness of sustainability within the community, adopt

a Community Sustainability Plan, and begin implementing planned activities or projects to achieve sustainability goals..

### 2.4.3 - South Shore Community Capital

Sustainable community development requires mobilizing citizens and their communities to strengthen all forms of community capital. Community mobilization is necessary to coordinate, balance and increase community capital<sup>1</sup>. The Community Capital Framework developed by Simon Fraser University includes six dimensions of community capital:



**Natural** (or environmental or ecological) capital consists of the biophysical resources, living systems and life-support services of our planet.

**Physical** (or manufactured or produced) capital is the stock of material resources such as equipment, buildings, machinery and other infrastructure that can be used to produce a flow of future income.

**Human capital** consists of health, knowledge, skills, motivations, competencies and other attributes (such as emotional and spiritual capacity) embodied in individuals that facilitate the creation of personal, social and economic well-being.

**Social capital** consists of relationships, networks, structures, and institutions that facilitate collective action and the shared knowledge, understandings, and patterns of interactions that a group of people brings to any productive activity. It includes families, communities, businesses, trade unions, voluntary organizations, legal/political systems and educational

<sup>1</sup> Roseland, *Toward Sustainable Communities*, 2005, pages 4-14  
07/3/2009 V1.2

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and health bodies. Social capital is embodied in formal (e.g. government) and informal (e.g. social networks) structures, organizations and institutions.

**Cultural capital** is the product of shared experience through traditions, customs, values, heritage, identity, and history. Cultural capital is particularly important in aboriginal communities and in other communities with a long history.

**Economic** (or financial) capital, refers to the ways we allocate resources and make decisions about our material lives and include cash, investments and the monetary system. Unlike other capital types, its value is not intrinsic and derives instead from the human, physical, social, cultural and natural capital it represents (e.g. via shares, stocks, cash etc.).

### ***2.5 - How was Vision 2020 developed?***

The genesis of *Vision 2020* lies in the Federal initiative, Building Canada and the Federation of Municipal Government's Green Municipal Fund program.

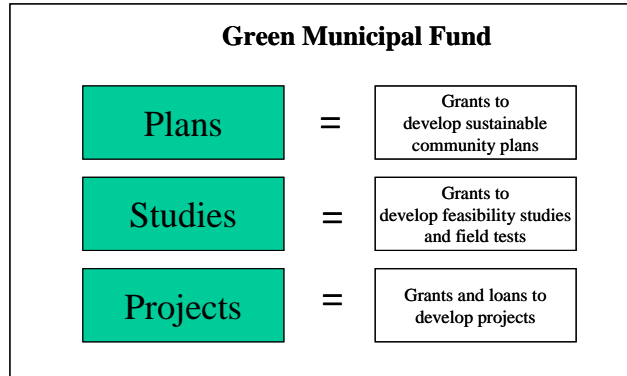
In the 2005 Federal initiative "The New Deal for Cities and Initiatives" requires an integrated Community Sustainability Plan defined:

"A long-term plan, developed in consultation with community members that provides direction for the community to realize sustainability objectives it has for the environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions of its identity."

Building Canada is a major infrastructure plan worth \$33 billion over seven years (2007-2014) which provides "stable, flexible and predictable funding to Canadian Municipalities" to build a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and better communities. A component of Building Canada is the transfer of revenue from gas taxes to municipal governments through provincial-territorial agreements. For municipalities to receive their share of the transferred funds, they are required to have an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

Many Federal agencies are now requiring a Community Sustainability Plan as a prerequisite for applying for funding. The Green Municipal Fund, administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, explicitly identifies a Community Sustainability Plan as part of their funding process.

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*{from Planning for Sustainable Canadian Communities Roundtable – see references}*

“Perhaps one of the greatest challenges of the integrated Community Sustainability Plan process is to foster integration in the planning process. This means that decision-making processes should include consideration of a broad range of environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts. The division of responsibilities in local governments (transportation, housing, economic development) is usually based on traditional sectors and has little relationship to ecosystem, societal or economic sustainability.

The separation of functions within a municipal organization often results in a decision-maker in one area overlooking impacts that would be readily apparent to people in other areas. Integration involves developing organizational processes that allow such impacts to be easily viewed and considered across departments before decision-making occurs.

Integration also suggests working more closely and cooperatively with other organizations, including neighboring municipalities, other levels of government and, most significantly, all partners within the local community. It is essential that respective stakeholders from different sectors of society actively participate in reaching basic a consensus on the path to take towards sustainability.

In using an integrated approach, it is key to define problems and issues in ways that recognize the inter-sectoral relationships between the factors contributing to the problem. This way, solutions are more easily crafted in ways that simultaneously address different factors, such as the underlying social and economic challenges related to housing and homelessness issues.”

The Town of Regina Beach and Village of Buena Vista saw the requirement to develop a municipal sustainability plan as a unique opportunity to link together the on-going projects being implemented by both communities.

Public consultations conducted in spring 2008 with existing city policies and strategic documents to create a plan to guide future growth based on sustainable development.

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*Vision 2020* was created through:

1. Community consultations
2. A review of Regina Beach's and Buena Vista's current plans
3. Research into best practices and initiatives in other communities

The *Vision 2020* consultations conducted in spring and fall of 2008 form the basis of the preliminary strategic areas and vision (section 2). Consultations with the municipal councils has been a part of the preparation of this plan.

## **2.6 - How will Vision 2020 be used?**

*Vision 2020* will act as a vehicle to develop a shared community understanding about sustainability as well as a blueprint to plan the future of the South Shore.

While the *Vision 2020* incorporates feedback from the public consultations held in spring 2008, the community members will be given a chance to review and comment on the principles and direction of the plan before the municipal councils formally adopt it.

Feedback received at this stage will be incorporated into the next revision of the plan. This approach of linking recent internal and external consultations, feedback on *Vision 2020*, and plan updates allows for greater input from the community, municipal administration and councils, and provides more structure early in the *Vision 2020* development process.

*Vision 2020* can form the foundation for a comprehensive integrated Community Sustainability Plan for the South Shore.

## **2.7 - Why Vision 2020 matters?**

The purpose of incorporating sustainability into the operations and direction of the municipalities is two-fold.

First, sustainable development integrates three key perspectives – economic, social and environmental – into the municipality’s long-term planning in order to develop a more holistic and balanced approach to decision-making. Sustainability strategies can help stabilize environmental degradation, protect the economic resource base, and enhance the health and well being of all residents.

Second, committing to sustainable development is a simple and prudent approach to long-range planning. For example, a secure and adaptable future is a primary concern of the municipality in its role as a provider of major services. The municipalities invest millions of dollars per year in maintaining and enhancing municipal systems to provide services and infrastructure in areas such as roads and transportation, potable water, waste management, wastewater treatment, air quality monitoring, and recreation. The municipalities could not function without these systems. From a risk-management perspective alone, the cost of assuming a reactive role most often surpasses the cost of planning ahead; thus it is valuable to invest in keeping these systems working properly over the long term. The present and future state of municipalities is the responsibility of community and current decision makers.

## **2.8 - Common elements of successful municipal sustainability plans**

Infrastructure Canada evaluated eleven (11) community sustainability plans to assess their “sustainability-ness” (see The Path Toward Sustainability in References). The following criteria were used to evaluate the plans:

1. Future-oriented and cognizant of ecological limits
2. Support for local economic development that is mindful of ecological developments
3. Integration of the three dimensions of sustainability
4. Consideration of the regional context
5. Promotion of a livable and accessible built form
6. Encouragement of a place-based economy that considers a community’s unique characteristic
7. Incorporation of principles of ecological design and ecological infrastructure
8. Support for cultural sustainability

*{From Comprehensive Guide to Community Sustainable Plans – see References}*

Some common elements of successful Municipal Sustainability Plans include:

1. Political will to commit resources
2. Vision-Led Process
3. Backcasting
4. Democratic process
5. Leading from the side
6. Democratic process
7. Taking a systems approach
8. Broad involvement
9. Keeping it going

Below is a brief summary of each element of success:

1. **Political will to commit resources:** Having the political will to implement the plan accompanied by an adequate commitment of financial and personnel resources. Although the process is meant to engage the broader community, its success or failure will rest on the leadership and support of Council to the process. This leadership will be called upon throughout the process to provide guidance and steer the process in case problems arise. Before municipal leaders choose the leadership

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path that includes full engagement of the community, the role and obligations of the municipal leaders must be fully understood and committed to.

2. **Vision-Led Process:** A desired vision of a successful outcome that generates energy and enthusiasm and gives purpose and meaning to inspire the contribution of time and effort.
3. **Backcasting:** Backcasting means starting first with the desired outcome in mind *and then* identifying present-day scenarios and actions to move in the direction of that outcome. The outcome, or “vision”, should also be consistent with sustainability principles to ensure that the basis for our economy and livelihood, i.e. natural systems and the materials and services they provide, are protected for future generations to access. Picking the low-hanging fruit: Low-hanging fruit are those actions that garner early agreement, are obtainable in the short-run, and can demonstrate success to generate momentum. In a community, this can be something as basic as getting a group together to clean up a visible vacant lot.
4. **Democratic process:** At the heart of Municipal Sustainability Planning is a commitment to a bottom-up participatory change process that engages citizens in designing the specific steps to move toward the desired vision. Using a democratic, participatory process to involve the “implementers”, i.e. partner organizations who will be responsible for implementing parts of the plan, is key to successful adoption and implementation of actions toward change.
5. **Leading from the side:** This describes a particular leadership style taken by process leaders that allows planning and action plans to emerge from the process, rather than imposing predetermined strategies or projects. Leadership from the side provides clear guidelines, then elicits ideas from participants for how to apply them.
6. **Taking a systems approach:** The approach to change is comprehensive and integrated, aimed at bringing about change throughout the range of planning areas. A conventional, less effective approach addresses issues on a one-by-one basis.
7. **Broad involvement:** A wide representation of community participants takes part both in the creation of a positive vision and in the steps toward achieving that vision. Broad involvement of citizens and implementers helps assure that change will happen, since those responsible for making it happen are involved in shaping the proposals from their beginning, again the idea of “involving the implementers”.
8. **Keeping it going:** Planning in cycles, testing early action proposals, ongoing education and training programs, monitoring the effectiveness of actions with indicators, all guided by the vision and sustainability principles, help institutionalize change and keep adopted practices going over time.

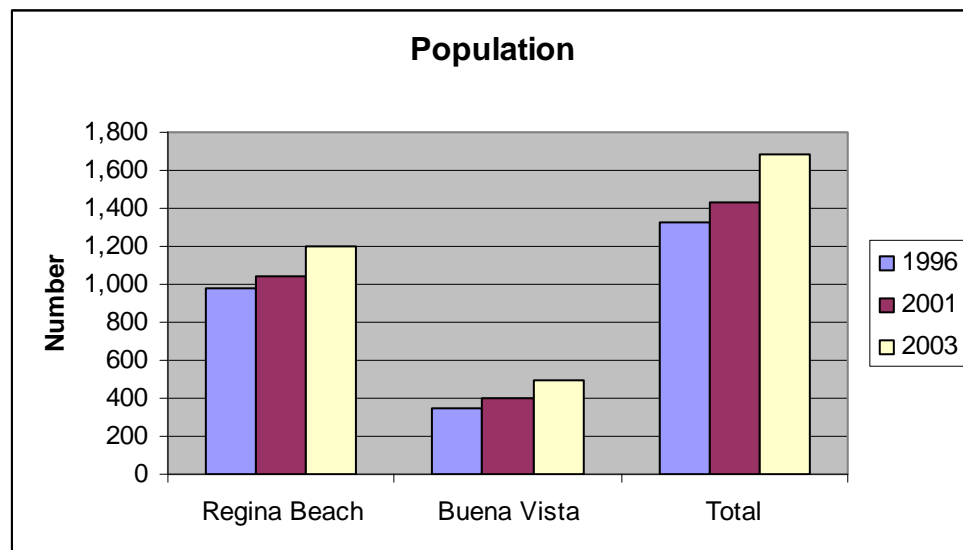
### 3.0 - Community Background Information

#### 3.1 - Community Demographic Information

##### 3.1.1 - Population Growth – Table

Population and dwelling counts	Regina Beach	Buena Vista	Total
<b>Population</b>			
1996	984	343	1,327
2001	1,039	397	1,436
2006	1,195	490	1,685
2001 to 2006 population change (number)	156	93	249
2001 to 2006 population change (%)	15%	23%	17%
1996 to 2006 population change (number)	211	147	358
1996 to 2006 population change (%)	18%	30%	21%
Total private dwellings 2006	951	356	
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents	541	212	
Population density per square kilometre	462	135.7	
Land area (square km)	2.58	3.61	
<b>Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles</b>			

##### 3.1.2 - Population Growth - Chart



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### 3.1.3 - Population by Age Group – 2006

Population by Age Group - 2006	Regina Beach		Buena Vista		Total	
	2006					
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Ages</b>						
0-4	50	4%	15	3%	65	4%
5-14	135	11%	50	10%	185	11%
15-19	70	6%	30	6%	100	6%
20-24	40	3%	10	2%	50	3%
25-54	475	40%	195	40%	670	40%
55-74	315	26%	170	35%	485	29%
>75	110	9%	15	3%	125	7%
Totals	1,195	100%	485	100%	1,681	100%
Median Age	47.6		49.7			
Percent of population over 15	84.5		85.7			

### 3.1.4 - Population by Age Group – 2001

Population by Age Group - 2001	Regina Beach		Buena Vista		Total	
	2001					
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Ages</b>						
0-4	45	4%	20	5%	65	5%
5-14	130	12%	60	15%	190	13%
15-19	65	6%	15	4%	80	6%
20-24	40	4%	15	4%	55	4%
25-54	430	41%	165	42%	595	41%
55-74	245	23%	105	27%	350	24%
>75	90	9%	10	3%	100	7%
Totals	1045	100%	390	100%	1,436	100%
Median Age	44.9		44.6			
Percent of population over 15	83.2		78.7			

### 3.1.5 - Population Growth by Age Group – 2001 to 2006

Population Growth by Age Group (2001 - 2006)	Regina Beach		Buena Vista		Total	
	2001 to 2006					
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Ages</b>						
0-4	5	3%	-5	-5%	0	0%
5-14	5	3%	-10	-11%	-5	-2%
15-19	5	3%	15	16%	20	8%
20-24	0	0%	-5	-5%	-5	-2%
25-54	45	30%	30	32%	75	31%
55-74	70	47%	65	68%	135	55%
>75	20	13%	5	5%	25	10%
Totals	150	100%	95	100%	245	100%

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### 3.1.6 - Dwellings

Dwelling	Regina Beach	Buena Vista	Total
<b>Dwellings</b>			
2001	465	165	630
2006	540	210	750
2001 to 2006 change (number)	75	45	120
2001 to 2006 change (%)	16%	27%	19%
Number single detached homes - 2006	510	200	710
Percent single detached homes - 2006	94.4%	95.2%	94.6%
Number of owned dwellings	465	210	675
Number of rented dwellings	75	0	75
Number of dwellings constructed before 1986	150	100	250
Percent of dwellings constructed before 1986	28%	48%	33%
Number of dwellings needing major repair	45	10	55
Percent of dwellings needing major repair	8%	5%	7.3%
Average value of dwellings	\$179,677	\$266,310	
Total value of dwellings	\$97,025,580	\$55,925,100	
<b>Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles</b>			

### 3.1.7 - Households

Households - 2006	Regina Beach	Buena Vista	Total
Number of households	540	215	755
Number of households with children	120	65	185
Percent of households with children	22%	30%	25%
Median income all families	\$69,652	\$71,005	
Median income all households	\$58,260	\$66,736	
Average household size	2.2	2.3	

### 3.1.8 - Place of Work

Place of Work - 2006	Regina Beach		Buena Vista		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total employed labour force 15 years and over	560	100%	220	100%	780	100%
Worked at home	50	9%	25	11%	75	10%
No fixed place of work	60	11%	15	7%	75	10%
Worked in place of residence	25	4%	0	0%	25	3%
Worked in other municipality	400	71%	180	82%	580	74%
Worked in a difference province	25	4%	0	0%	25	3%

## 3.2 - Regina Beach Background Information

The town of Regina Beach sits along the south shore of Last Mountain Lake, a scenic 30 minute drive from the province’s capital city, Regina. The Qu’Appelle valley meanders along from Craven in the east where Last Mountain Lake grows from the edge of a marsh and continues for 60 miles to the north.

Statistics Canada 2006 recorded 1195 good souls that call the beach home while the population of this lakeside community swells to an estimated 10,000 in the summer months. Well known right across the province, there are Regina Beach loyalists that visit from every corner of Canada, often returning to the place they spent carefree days as a youth. The July 1<sup>st</sup> parade and fireworks, the fishing derbies, and homecomings all make up the fabric of the history of this year round resort town.

William Pearson first envisioned this resort community in 1902, when he commissioned the 72' steamer, *Lady of the Lake* to provide a stepping-stone to transportation in the area, which was then followed by a larger 80' steamer *The Qu’appelle* carrying 200 passengers. By 1913, the steamer era had ended. In 1910, there were tents, cottages and even a hotel. The first train arrived in 1912 into a large station house equipped with an 800' platform. This opened up the beach to many more vacationers and day-trippers from Regina, enjoying the beach and then dancing the night away in the large dance pavilion. It was around this time that the Regina Beach Yacht Club opened, as well as the first church, St. Bartholomew’s Anglican Church. There was also a one-room school. The town was incorporated in 1920. Several black and white images found in the town office as well as in the landmark “Butler’s Café” attest to the heady early days of this resort community. Seniors recall a lively community where streets were closed for block parties.

The current scene in Regina Beach differs from the past. The population is now made up of residents either retired, commuting to Regina for employment, local business owners and families. Residents generally remain in Regina Beach for the natural surroundings and mostly peaceful atmosphere. Replacing the steamships are private yachts and a variety of vessels that dot the lake in the summer. The title for the main pier has been turned over to the town and will soon be replaced with a \$210,000 Federal grant received, destined to become a showcase project. A water treatment plant will be constructed at a project cost of \$2,161,200 with Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) funding approved at \$500,000

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as well as modifications being completed to existing wells. This project will also involve an elevated treatment storage reservoir for plants and water distribution as well as additional distribution delivery. A real possibility for the future is to supply water to communities across the lake. The road to the Lagoon is currently being evaluated. The Lagoon itself is extremely stressed and reaching maximum capacity with a regional approach to the solution being studied. Aging water mains continue to be a problem.

Planning for a Health Action Centre is in the early stages with the goal of having a nurse practitioner and Doctor to visit regularly. The current landfill was started in 1974 when records state that 516 permanent residents and 506 summer residents, in 2006 the town statistics showed 1195 with a 4.8% average growth with a current count estimated at 1312 residents. The landfill is shared by thirds with Buena Vista and Kinookimaw. A recycling program was initiated this summer with all residents receiving two blue bins for scheduled collections, which by all accounts has been a successful program and has helped to reduce the stress on the landfill site.

Land use planning continues with proposals to develop lots where the current public works utility shed and equipment is located. Lakeside development offers unique opportunities. Economic stimulus, as well as health and recreation opportunities are being considered within the first South Shore Sustainable Community Project, the South Shore Eco-Rec. Local employment and increased services could counteract the current drawback for possible relocation to Regina Beach due to these issues.

Affordable housing, especially in the current economic climate and aging population is a concern that requires immediate attention. Continued vigilance for environmental stewardship is of utmost important. Energy efficiency and renewable should start at the municipal level with a plan to provide further public education on the issue.

Regina Beach faces many unique challenges to overcome the aging infrastructure and a tax base that is steady but barely adequate to meet all the demands for municipal services for residents, independent of the huge influx of visitors in the summer months. One key to further development, and accessing both provincial and federal funding for projects, is to work closely with neighbouring municipalities to create a unified, regional approach.

The following excerpts are taken from the Town of Regina Beach, Basic Planning Statement, Schedule "A" to Bylaw No. 10/2005. Prepared by: UMA Engineering Ltd., 200 – 2100 8th Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7H 0V1

### **“1.3 Scope**

In 2005, an extensive community survey was circulated to all households of Regina Beach, both seasonal and year-round residents. This 57-question survey gathered information from households to determine the town's direction for future growth. The survey was very successful. Residents were happy to be involved and there was a surprisingly high participation rate of about 80%.

## **2.2 Policies**

- (a) Assign the office of the Town Administrator the responsibility of monitoring development to ensure that development complies with the policies described in this Basic Planning Statement.
- (b) Encourage the public and private sectors to create year round and/or off-season job opportunities to insure increased community viability.
- (c) Encourage the diversification of tourism oriented enterprises and strive to produce an extended tourist season.
- (d) Become familiar with, and where possible utilize, all available funding and assistance programs provided by senior levels of government for the support and development of community services, facilities and the economic sector.”

## **“5.1 Issues and Concerns**

One of the primary reasons people enjoy living in Regina Beach is the small community feel.

People are in favour of growth but do not want the atmosphere to change.”

## **3.3 - Buena Vista Background Information**

The resort village of Buena Vista, meaning “A Good View” has a unique personality to neighbouring communities of the South Shore. Residents strive for peace and tranquility, encouraging natural habitants and have even opted out of streetlights in order to fully appreciate the night sky. Careful development has been mandated to closely guard this tranquil environment.

While the majority of the 495 residents are full-time, there are also seasonal residents within the mix. There are 200 permanent lots, 154 seasonal and 136 vacant as of the 2006 Statistics. Buena Vista and Sandy beach attract day traffic from the region. Currently there is one business registered within the community.

The historic Greystone Lodge, built in the 1800’s, was a modest start to this lakeside community. In 1902, the first family moved into the area and six years later the CPR built a passenger shelter for arrivals and departures. In 1920, the property was sub-divided into a resort and that same year saw a post office open plus a church camp established. In 1929, Buena Vista became known as “Beantown” and the pier and tennis courts were enjoyed by most residents. The first store opened in 1938, followed by the second years later in 1962. In 1957, a hailstorm demolished Greystone Lodge. Buena Vista expanded in 1960 and in 1970 the Resort Village of Buena Vista was established with the first Mayor being Mr. J. Adair. In 1977, Buena Vista once again expands to include the beaver dam area. Buena Vista officially became a village in 1983 and now nears town status. In 1984, the village erected the water tower and in 1986 the Parks and Recreation Board was established to manage and operate Buena Vista Park, both beaches and the Dobson Heritage Park. The official opening of a new town office, after 20 years in a trailer, was in 2000.

With a relatively small tax base, Buena Vista has the challenge of balancing the problems of aging infrastructure while looking for new opportunities to enhance the community. The

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town limits are set (land may be needed for a future project) and the community mandates carefully managed growth and development. The demographics have changed with 25% increase in population from 2001-2006. The town council is currently working on a Basic Community Planning Statement to outline how the village can grow within their limits.

Filtered water from the well meets current provincial standards. A \$500,000 provincial/federal grant has been obtained towards the cost of a sewage treatment plan, currently in the feasibility stage, which looks towards an alternative for Buena Vista to the regionally shared lagoon problem. Currently development plans are hindered by the lagoon at near capacity. A major project completed has been to solve the drainage problem along 6<sup>th</sup> street, exacerbated by the development at Edgewood Estates. A contract has been signed with the neighbouring South Shore community Kinookimaw for municipal road service that could expand into water services. A new boat launch to replace the old is on the wish list of many in the community. Due to overflow at the regionally shared landfill, residential garbage is now hauled out of the community to the regional landfill. Roads are not paved and repair work is ongoing.

Buena Vista has ample green space and community offerings with two beaches, the main being Buena Vista beach which is enjoyed by residents and daytrippers. Dobson Park, with a new heated chalet, is a hot spot for skating in winter and a cool retreat in the summer months. The Beaver Dam continues to be a popular excursion for all ages. Park and Recreation activities are planned throughout the year.

Next steps include a decision of whether to remain a village or apply for town status. Either way, Buena Vista remains a remarkable resort community who indeed has a “good view.”

**<Excerpts from the Buena Vista Basic Planning Statement to be added>**

### ***3.4 - South Shore Community Physical Capital – at a Glance***

#### **South Shore Shared Capital Projects/Infrastructure:**

1. Fire Hall
2. South Shore School
3. Cultural Centre
4. Library
5. Parks and Recreation
6. Landfill
7. Lagoon
8. Natural habitats
9. Trail system

**Regina Beach Capital Projects/Infrastructure**

1. Town Hall
2. Memorial Hall
3. Post Office
4. Activity Centre
5. Pier
6. Roman Catholic, United Church
7. Municipal Works
8. Roads

**Buena Vista Capital Projects/Infrastructure**

1. Town Hall
2. Postal Site
3. Municipal Works
4. Roads

## 4.0 - South Shore Vision 2020 Plan (Proposed)

Based on community input, the following is the proposed 2009 South Shore Vision 2020 plan. It will be updated for 2010 based on consultations with the community in 2009. After feedback from the community, Councils from Regina Beach and Buena Vista will update and adopt the plan through Council resolutions.

### 4.1 - Vision 2020: Years 0 - 2 (2009-2010)

1. Sustainable community plan developed and approved by Regina Beach and Buena Vista town councils
2. Upgrade and renew essential services such as the fire truck
3. Reduction of waste into landfill:
  - a. Regina Beach: implemented recycling program June, 2008
  - b. Buena Vista: volunteer recycling program November, 2008
4. Lagoon: explore options for **best practice decision + action** to meet provincial requirements and beyond
  - consider gray water technologies
  - consider technology to transfer lagoon mass to deep inject into farm land
  - Regina Beach: under review: considering regional approach
  - Buena Vista: feasibility study on Sewer Treatment Facility underway: \$500,000 provincial/federal grant approved: 50% of Capital Expenses
5. Water Treatment Plant:
  - Regina Beach: Grant Received MRIF Funding \$500,000 of \$2 million+ project
    - explore option to sell treated water to communities across the lake
  - Buena Vista: well water
6. Launch the first Sustainable Community projects:
  - South Shore Eco-Rec Centre
    - Steering Committee is formed, lots of forward motion on project
    - Community Development Corp: Incorporation process completed
    - Preliminary schedules, budgets, pre-feasibility
7. Explore health and wellness options for community
  - Regina Beach: exploring a satellite medical clinic
  - South Shore Eco Rec Centre Wellness Centre will incorporate strategies such as spa and water treatments

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8. Review affordable community housing
  - develop strategies for low-cost entry-level affordable housing: homeowner labour inclusive
9. Lay structured groundwork for tourism growth and potential
10. Regina Beach Pier planning and rebuild: completed in 2009, plans drawn, funding secured
11. Buena Vista: explore alternatives to what was the boat launch
12. Implement resource saving strategies at municipal level
  - implement low-flush toilet rebate program
  - florescent lighting and low-flow taps in all municipal buildings
  - energy efficient heating, solar hot water panels
  - investigate gray water strategies for municipal buildings
  - educate and reward the public on resource-saving strategies implemented in their home
  - energy audit: Regina Beach and Buena Vista

**4.2 - Vision 2020: Years 3 - 7 (2011-2015)**

1. Yearly review, measurement and redefine South Shore: Vision 2020 plan
2. Water Treatment Plant finalized: RB; BV standards filter system
3. Lagoon: Final expansion completed
4. Landfill: measurement of recycling efforts
5. Affordable Housing: builds and future planning
6. Strategies defined for the Regina Beach Sewage system.
7. Strategies and feasibility study developed to incorporate gray water systems in residential and municipal buildings = savings to town water supply and a greener choice than current system.
8. Energy Strategies expanded
9. Eco-tourism sites launched, promotion
10. Health and Wellness strategies reviewed
11. Transportation: review and development as land develops
12. Community economic development strategies defined: 3-7 years
13. The Public Advisory Task Forces to meet every 1-2 years
14. Review the proposed greenhouse operation attached to the eco-rec. Consider expanding greenhouse space within the community to a solar aquatics system to keep the community in year round fresh vegetable production. This will further reduce

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dependence on other communities and the energy expended to travel to those communities.

### **4.3 - Vision 2020: Years 8 - 12 (2015-2019)**

1. Sustainable community plans: Define measurement of success
2. Yearly review, measurement and redefine Sustainable Community Plan: South Shore: Vision 2020
3. CO2 and energy reduction measurement: goal of best practices: implemented by 2020
  - sewage trucks
  - recycling
  - green strategies
  - Eco-Rec green Pilot project
4. Re-plan for additional affordable housing units
5. Review municipal yardsticks: lead by example
6. Green town spaces
7. Develop new strategies to maintain sustainability at the South Shore beyond 2020
8. Implement a new sustainable community planning team at 2018

## **5.0 - Community Sustainability Planning Process**

The South Shore Sustainable Community Plan has been developed through a series of meetings with the town councils of Regina Beach and Buena Vista. The councils passed council resolutions to support the development of sustainable community plan in April 2008. Public consultations began in May and June 2008 followed by smaller sessions in the fall of 2008. The following process documents the planning process for Vision 2020. The process is intended to be flexible and suggest practical activities and steps required to keep the plan moving forward. As in most planning activities, the process of planning is more important than the plan itself.

### **5.1 - South Shore Vision: 2020 planning process**

Step 1.0 - *Develop a Shared Understanding and Awareness of the Current Situation*

Step 2.0 - *Create Scenarios and a Vision that fits*

Step 3.0 - *Identify Goals and Measurement Indicators*

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- Step 4.0 - *Define Strategies, Projects, and Timelines* to accomplish *Goals*
- Step 5.0 - *Document* the *Plan for Action* with steps to achieve each *Goal*
- Step 6.0 - *Implement* the *Measurement Indicator Process*
- Step 7.0 - *Mobilize* the community and communicate the *Plan for Action*
- Step 8.0 - *Communicate* and *report* progress on *Goals, Projects, and Indicators*
- Step 9.0 - *Celebrate* successes and *document Lessons Learned*
- Step 10.0 - *Improve* the process, *update* the *Plan*, and start all over again

## **Planning Process**

### **Step 1.0 - Develop a shared understanding and awareness**

- 1.1 – Obtain municipal council support for Vision 2020.
- 1.2 - Form a Steering Committee (Green Team).
- 1.3 - Identify current sustainable community maturity level.
- 1.4 - Survey the community.
- 1.5 - Formalize Vision 2020 process with municipal council resolutions.
- 1.6 - Form Community Advisory Team for Building Blocks.
- 1.7 - Conduct townhall meetings and solicit input from community.
- 1.8 - Develop a preliminary community sustainability plan.
- 1.9 - Communicate progress and plans.

**Step 2.0 - Create scenarios and a vision that fits**

- 2.1 – Conduct community meetings to determine:
  - which way do we want to go, what direction should South Shore take?
  - which way do we want Regina Beach to proceed?
  - which way do we want Buena Vista to proceed?
- 2.2 – Document the Vision.
- 2.3 – Communicate the Vision.
- 2.4 – Obtain municipal council commitment to the Vision.

**Step 3.0 - Identify the measurement indicators**

- 3.1 - Identify reachable and measurable goals.
- 3.2 - Identify 12 strong targets for a 12-year plan:
  - Landfill reduction
  - Lagoon Expansion
  - Energy saving strategies
  - Affordable Housing
  - Etc
- 3.3 – Document indicator measurement plan.
- 3.4 – Obtain municipal council approval of indicator measurement plan.

**Step 4.0 - Define Strategies, Projects, and Timelines to accomplish Goals**

- 4.1 - Identify community stakeholders.
- 4.2 - Analyze motivation, resistance and barriers to change.
- 4.3 - Design the strategy and timelines to achieve goals.

**Step 5.0 - Build the Plan for Action with steps to achieve each goal**

- 5.1 – Document the Plan.
- 5.2 – Obtain Steering Committee and Council approval.
- 5.3 – Communicate the Plan.

**Step 6.0 - Implement the measurement indicator process**

- 6.1 – Create a database or repository for measurement indicators.
- 6.2 – Update indicators.
- 6.3 – Communicate the results.

**Step 7.0 - Mobilize the community and communicate the Plan for Action**

- 7.1 – Conduct events to engage the community in sustainability
- 7.2 – Communicate progress.

**Step 8.0 - Communicate and report progress on Goals, Projects, and Indicators**

- 8.1 - Track progress using indicators
- 8.2 - Report progress to the municipal councils
- 8.3 - Communicate progress to the community

**Step 9.0 - Celebrate successes and document Lessons Learned**

9.1 - Hold recognition events

9.2 - Communicate progress to the community

**Step 10.0 - Document lessons learned. improve the process, start all over again**

10.1 - Solicit feedback from the community.

10.2 - Document lessons learned.

10.3 - Improve the process.

10.4 - Start all over again.

## 6.0 - Sustainable Community Building Blocks

The Sustainable Planning Steering Committee is creating *citizen advisory groups* to report on the current situation and identify suggestions for moving forward with activities or projects for each community building block. When moving from a Sustainable Maturity Model Level 1 to a Maturity Model Level 2 (Awareness), it is recommended that the steering focus on no more than five to eight building blocks. As the process matures, more building blocks can be added to the plan. The **bolded** building blocks are those the Vision 2020 Steering Committee has decided to focus on first.

1. **Sustainability Education and Learning**
2. **Sustainable Community Health and Wellness**
3. **Recreation, Arts, and Culture**
4. Green Spaces and Natural Habitat
5. Healthy Local Food Production
6. **Sustainable Infrastructure**
  - 6.1 **Water and Sewage**
  - 6.2 **Waste Reduction and Recycling**
  - 6.3 **Roads and Traffic Management**
7. **Energy Efficiency and Renewables**
8. Air Quality and Atmospheric Change
9. Land Use and Urban Form
10. Community Development (municipal, commercial, housing)
11. **Community Economic Development**
12. Municipal Services

	Sustainable Community Building Blocks	Community Capital					
		Economic	Social	Environment	Physical	Human	Culture
1	Sustainability Education and Learning						
2	Community Health and Wellness						
3	Recreation, Arts, and Culture						
4	Green Spaces and Natural Habitat						
5	Healthy Food Production						
6	Sustainable Infrastructure						
6.1	Water and Sewage						
6.2	Waste Reduction and Recycling						
6.3	Roads and Traffic Management						
7	Energy Efficiency and Renewables						
8	Air Quality and Atmospheric Change						
9	Land Use and Urban Form						
10	Community Development						
11	Community Economic Development						
12	Municipal Services, Governance, Regulations, and Bylaws						

The Sustainable Community Building Blocks connect to Community Capital. For instance, sustainability education and learning is required to improve all dimensions of community capital.

## **6.1 - Sustainability Education and Learning**

The foundation of community sustainability must be the implementation of sustainability concepts, knowledge, and skills in all our community education and learning organizations.

This includes elementary schools, high schools, colleges, universities, and continuing education organizations. Most importantly, this also includes parents and families.

This building block is the foundation of community sustainability.

The Saskatchewan Centre of Expertise on Education For Sustainable Development ([www.saskrce.ca](http://www.saskrce.ca)) is one of over fifty members of the United Nations University global network. The mission of the SaskRCE is to promote sustainability education and research within all schools.

*{excepted from Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit – see references}*

Education is held to be central to sustainability. Indeed, education and sustainability are inextricably linked, but the distinction between education as we know it and education for sustainability is enigmatic for many. The following section describes the components of education for sustainability.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) carries with it the inherent idea of implementing programs that are locally relevant and culturally appropriate. All sustainable development programs including ESD must take into consideration the local environmental, economic, and societal conditions.

As a result, ESD will take many forms around the world.

*{excepted from Sustainability Education Guide – see references}*

Major components of sustainability education include:

**A focus**...on the complex relationships between ecological systems, economic structures, and community dynamics. To provide a depth of knowledge and the tools with which students, teachers, and parents can work toward lasting societal change.

**A process**...community and project-based, that supports student investigation and participation. To provide teachers and students opportunities to learn by *doing*, including exposure to diverse viewpoints, and development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

**An approach**...Integration of new and existing curriculum. To provide a framework for cross-curricula collaboration among all disciplines. An evolution of environmental education which includes traditional disciplines such as science, mathematics, social science, and the arts, and integrates environmental, global, and multi-cultural education.

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**A method**...of discussion and dialogue to address diverse interests. To provide a process that allows examination of controversial subjects and complex decision-making. Students, teachers, parents, and community leaders will learn communication and dialogue skills that will engage all participants, allowing them to address diverse views, and devise viable solutions to complex problems.

**The use**...of appropriate technology to develop relevant projects. To provide students access to new technology and the tools that help decision-makers become more efficient and effective.

*{The following is excerpted from Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit – see references}*

Education is an essential tool for achieving sustainability. People around the world recognize that current economic development trends are not sustainable and that public awareness, education, and training are key to moving society toward sustainability. Beyond that, there is little agreement. People argue about the meaning of sustainable development and whether or not it is attainable. They have different visions of what sustainable societies will look like and how they will function. These same people wonder why educators have not moved more quickly to develop education for sustainability (EfS) programs. The lack of agreement and definition have stymied efforts to move education for sustainable development (ESD) forward.

It is curious to note that while we have difficulty envisioning a sustainable world, we have no difficulty identifying what is unsustainable in our societies. We can rapidly create a laundry list of problems - inefficient use of energy, lack of water conservation, increased pollution, abuses of human rights, overuse of personal transportation, consumerism, etc. But we should not chide ourselves because we lack a clear definition of sustainability. Indeed, many truly great concepts of the human world - among them democracy and justice - are hard to define and have multiple expressions in cultures around the world.

In the *Toolkit*, we use three terms synonymously and interchangeably: education for sustainable development (ESD), education for sustainability (EfS), and sustainability education (SE). We use ESD most often, because it is the terminology used frequently at the international level and within UN documents. Locally or nationally, the ESD effort may be named or described in many ways because of language and cultural differences. As with all work related to sustainable development, the name and the content must be locally relevant and culturally appropriate.

An important distinction is the difference between education *about* sustainable development and education *for* sustainable development. The first is an awareness lesson or theoretical discussion. The second is the use of education as a tool to achieve sustainability. In our opinion, more than a theoretical discussion is needed at this critical juncture in time. While some people argue that "for" indicates indoctrination, we think "for" indicates a purpose. All education serves a purpose or society would not invest in it. Driver education, for example, seeks to make our roads safer for travelers. Fire-safety education seeks to prevent fires and tragic loss of lives and property. ESD promises to make the world more livable for this and

future generations. Of course, a few will abuse or distort ESD and turn it into indoctrination. This would be antithetical to the nature of ESD, which, in fact, calls for giving people knowledge and skills for lifelong learning to help them find new solutions to their environmental, economic, and social issues.

## **6.2 – Sustainable Community Health and Wellness**

{The SaskRCE as a working group on community health. See [www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/10](http://www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/10) for the Health Working Group blog.}

Saskatchewan has a rich history as a leader in health care. Saskatchewan is home to a large number of Aboriginal medicine people and healers, whose sacred knowledge is threatened. Aboriginal culture relies on the oral tradition of passing knowledge from one generation to the next, a tradition that is currently endangered as a result of the misappropriation of Aboriginal culture and the influx of Aboriginal youth to urban centers. This rich medical and health knowledge must be properly revered and nurtured for the future. The First Nation's ideal that medicine is not for sale complements the Western medicine tradition in Saskatchewan found in the principles underlying Medicare. Tommy Douglas introduced universal hospitalization in Saskatchewan in 1947. Douglas introduced to Canadian culture the idea of universality in health care. In 1947, he stated that hospitalization fees were to be paid out of the treasury. Instead of the burden of those hospital bills falling on sick people, it is spread over all the people." Twelve years later (1959), Douglas announced the coming of the Medicare plan that would be universal, pre-paid, publicly administered, provide high quality care, including preventive care, and be accepted by both providers and receivers of the medical service. The issue of Medicare is revisited time and time again by politicians and is Douglas's legacy to Canada, providing egalitarian health care to all citizens, regardless of race, gender or social status.

Human health is central to developing human capabilities and promoting well-being, both essential to sustainable livelihoods and sustainable development. The legacy of Saskatchewan in innovation in health continues with commitments to Primary Health Care by regional health providers along with formal commitments by the Province of Saskatchewan to the concept in 1993 and reaffirmed in 2001. Primary Health Care was usefully defined in 1978 in the Declaration of Alma-Ata from the international conference convened by the World Health Organization. It involves a commitment to health for all as a fundamental human right and encourages active promotion of health and well-being along with prevention of illness. Health is seen as a responsibility of everyone and, as such, requires broad education for citizens. Individuals are to play an active (versus passive) role in their own health with health issues being addressed where people live and work. Saskatchewan has also developed the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) whose research foci are those "areas critical to the health and well-being of Saskatchewan's population" The SHRF has identified Saskatchewan's provincial health research priority areas, some of which the RCE will work towards synergistically. Further, the province of Saskatchewan has recently (re)approved midwifery. This revitalization of midwifery represents a further shift of the Saskatchewan population towards their ownership over health concerns. Finally, population health in the region is integrally linked to the health of

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our local ecosystems with individuals needing to understand these relationships. Broad based education on the environmental impacts of air pollution, water pollution, and toxic chemicals in our communities are central to developing regional strategies to advance population health.

*{Excerpted from Healthy People, Healthy Province – see References}*

Sustainable Health and Wellness is about creating communities where it is easy for people to live, work and play in healthy ways. There are many things we can do to prevent or lessen health problems, instead of just treating them after the fact. We can, for instance:

- ensure expectant mothers understand the importance of eating the right foods and avoiding tobacco and alcohol;
- promote physical activity as a means of preventing heart disease, diabetes and other health problems;
- provide low-income families with access to nutritious food through community gardens and good food box programs; and
- pass laws that make it illegal to sell cigarettes to youth.

Our understanding of what keeps people healthy has grown. At one time, the health system focused its attention on treating individuals when they became sick.

However, we came to understand that what we eat, how active we are, and whether we use tobacco and alcohol affect how healthy we are. This *lifestyle approach* helps individuals reduce their health risks by changing their behavior.

Today we recognize that the picture is even bigger. The *population or community health approach* reveals that the health of the community and province is influenced by many factors beyond health care and individual behavior. Today we understand that having community and family supports, a good job, and a healthy environment have a significant effect on our health.

People are much more likely to be healthy if they live in communities where it is “easy” to be healthy.

### **6.3 - Healthy Local Food Production**

{From the SaskRCE has a Working Group on Local Food Production. See [www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/14](http://www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/14) for the Health Working Group blog.}

“Within the Saskatchewan RCE, food production has always been central to Saskatchewan livelihoods. Saskatchewan was historically called the “breadbasket of the world” based on its wheat exports. However, agricultural livelihoods face the many challenges of low prices, high input costs, a high dependence on increasingly scarce fossil fuels, and ecological challenges associated with crop monocultures and soil degradation. These challenges also present opportunities to move from highly mechanized agriculture to more sustainable forms that focus on local food production and farm self-sufficiency. Similarly, opportunities exist to reduce vulnerability and risk by reorienting ranching and other forms of livestock production away from intensive industrial processes to structures that are more profitable for individuals and family farms. ESD can help consumers understand where their food is coming from with greater transparency between farmers and consumers. Consumers want to know more about food safety, nutrition, treatment of animals, environmental impacts, and working conditions including wage levels. ESD can enable more healthy food consumption where the true costs of food are reflected in fair prices for local producers mediated through new regional relationships. Local food production can also enable individuals and communities to promote their own food security and self-sufficiency by acting in an integrated way as producers, consumers, and managers of wastes. Consumers can be empowered with the knowledge needed to discern food quality along with the skills needed for nutritious food preparation of basic foodstuffs.

With the centrality of market institutions in the modern global economy, building wise consumers and business practices that simultaneously meet economic, social, and ecological bottom lines is central to achieving sustainability. The full life-cycle costs of products and services need to be understood by all if market prices are to reflect their true costs rather than offloading externalities on other organizations, communities, and future generations. At the same time, many livelihood opportunities are available at a local level to meet needs outside of the market (for example, through voluntary activity or individual production aimed at meeting one's own needs). A focus on wise production, consumption, and waste minimization enables important linkages to be made between rural and urban communities and is facilitated by a regional approach to ESD. “

*{Excerpted from Healthy Food Healthy Community – see References}*

A vision of a healthy community always includes a multitude of ways to access healthy food, but there are many other benefits that arise from creating healthy food through a Healthy Communities process. These include:

- enhanced personal health
- economic development
- more meaningful jobs
- increased community spirit

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- reduced overlap and duplication in services and programs
- increased viability of smaller family farms
- protection of rural culture
- improved water and air quality
- economic and environmental stability
- safe and supportive communities

There are many common elements among Healthy Community and community food initiatives, such as:

- acknowledgement of access to healthy food as a basic need and an important determinant of health
- recognition of the inter-relationship of economic, environmental and social issues
- incorporation of the principles which promote building of healthy public policy, creating supportive environments, strengthening community actions and developing personal skills
- emphasis on multi-sectoral participation; a food-secure community requires co-operation among all those involved in the food system, including growers and producers, citizen groups, community agencies, governmental organizations, businesses, academic researchers and environmental advocates
- promotion of adequate incomes for both consumers and producers• promotion of local and diverse food production
- promotion of environmental sustainability and the protection of local agricultural lands and fish habitat
- support efforts to improve to improve water and air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- support for food-based community economic development.

People who support community food production advocate for a food system where both individual and community needs are met. Community healthy food approaches the issue of food access from a population health perspective.

Advocates for community healthy food come from a variety of disciplines, professions and organizations, which adds valuable diversity to our understanding of the problems and issues. By working together to increase healthy food at the community level, we are helping to establish safe and supportive environments in which our children, our grandchildren and we can thrive.

## **6.4 - Recreation, Arts, and Culture**

### **6.4.1 – Recreation**

{From the City of Melville web site –[www.city.melville.sk.ca](http://www.city.melville.sk.ca)}

The benefits of recreation can be summed up in four major areas, Personal, Social, Economic and Environmental.

The personal benefits of recreation include:

- Recreation is an essential mechanism to manage stress.
- Recreation is an essential source of self-esteem and positive self image.
- Active people live longer and healthier.

The social benefits of recreation include:

- Community recreation builds strong communities by helping to reduce alienation and anti-social behaviors, promoting ethnic and cultural harmony, building strong families and laying the foundation for community pride.

The economic benefits of recreation include:

- A healthy, active workforce is a productive workforce. There are less incidences of absenteeism, less employee turnover and greater output by a healthy staff.
- Special events in a community inputs large sums of money into the local economy.
- Recreation plays a vital role in tourism by having programs and facilities that bring money into the community.
- The incidence of crime and vandalism decreases the more active a community is in their recreation.
- Greater participation in recreation activities means tremendous cost savings in health care costs.

The environmental benefits of recreation include:

- The provisions of clean, friendly parks has a tremendous impact on the image of the community and the decisions prospective citizens make about the community.
- Investing in the environment through parks and the provision of open space in residential areas leads to an increase in neighbourhood property values through accessibility to environmentally friendly green spaces and associated recreation opportunities.

## 6.4.2 – Arts and Culture

### {From Choreographing Community Sustainability – see References}

Contemporary cultural planning practice places emphasis on the need to more fully integrate cultural development and planning processes within broader community planning processes, a direction echoed in emerging research and policy literature on community sustainability.

Many Canadian municipalities and city regions have recognized the importance of cultural development and planning in contributing to community identity and the ability to attract and retain business, residents, and visitors. For example, the City of London, Ontario, released The Creative City Task Force Report in 2005. One of the objectives of this task force was to devise strategies to address the issue of out-migration to larger national and international centres. By evolving the city as a creative hub and attracting creative industries, London strives to halt this pattern and address a waning economy.

More generally, as government, non-governmental agencies, business, and the not-for profit sector actively seek sophisticated solutions that increase the economic strength of society and community, they increasingly turn to culture and creativity.

On an international level, UNESCO's Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity observes: Business and culture, often seen as mutually opposed, are uniting to create an entirely new economic landscape where creativity and culture are essential raw materials of the production cycle just as coal and steel have been since the industrial revolution. In order to flourish creative enterprises increasingly group together in Creative Clusters, pooling together resources into networks and partnerships to cross-stimulate activities, boost creativity and realize economies of scale. In some countries, such as the UK, the government and public policy makers have realized the social and economic potential of this development and are playing an important role in creating an enabling environment for these clusters to grow. (UNESCO, 2005, p.1)

The notion of creative assets being the driving energy behind the development of creative and competitive cities, creative clusters, and the new creative economy has been well documented by Charles Landry (2000), Richard Florida (2002), Jon Hawkes (2001), and Hans Mommaas (2004). Nonetheless, many cultural managers continue to suggest that cultural activities are traditionally thought of as 'soft resources' by local government and therefore are not considered essential contributors to economic viability.

### **Culture and community sustainability**

A model of community sustainability incorporating four dimensions or pillars – cultural, environmental, social, and economic vitality – has emerged as a global

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pattern in response to concerns for the viability and resiliency of rural communities through urban centres. The Cultural Development Network of Australia, a leader in this area, hosted the 4th Pillar Conference in November 2004. Its Director made this statement: [The] ‘triple bottom line’ model should be expanded to include ‘cultural’ along with economic, environmental and social factors in our planning for sustainability. It is an idea rapidly gaining currency around the world: governments in Canada and New Zealand have adopted the four pillars model, and the idea is second nature to many non-western countries. (Cultural Development Network, 2004, p. 1)

In 2005, the Creative City Network of Canada observed: The role of the fourth pillar – culture – in community development and sustainability has become a popular policy research focus. The contribution of culture to overall sustainability, as well as the way in which it links to the other pillars, is seen as an important topic of research inquiry, policy, and planning. As culture is more widely integrated into sustainability plans and related policies at all levels of government and in wider governance systems, the necessity of a broad understanding of its role in the community grows. (CCNC, 2005c, p. 2)

On a national level, the Canadian Prime Minister established an External Advisory Committee on Communities and Cities in 2004 to address issues of quality of life and the health and role of communities. A Final Report was submitted to the Prime Minister’s office in June 2006, outlining key findings in support of building stronger communities based on the four dimensions of sustainability: economic, environmental, social, and cultural (EACCC, 2006, p. xi). The report specifically refers to culture as equal to that of the environment, economic, and social sectors in contributing to sustainability, and argues for imbedding all four dimensions of sustainability in government planning processes.

**{From the SaskRCE Working Group on Supporting and Bridging Cultures for Sustainable Living and Community Building. See [www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/16](http://www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/16) for the Supporting and Bridging Cultures Working Group blog.}**

Canada's national identity is based, in part, on a rich and well supported multi-cultural social structure. In opposition to the US model of the “melting pot”, Canadians have chosen the “mosaic” ideal of cultural diversity. Saskatchewan is an excellent representation of the whole. Saskatchewan and Canada represent a mixture of people of various races, colours, creeds, religions, languages, nationalities, ethnic origins, and places of birth. This diversity is recognized by the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS) that was established in 1975, serving as the umbrella organization Canada's national identity is based, in part, on a rich and well supported multi-cultural social structure. In opposition to the US model of the “melting pot”, Canadians have chosen the “mosaic” ideal of cultural diversity. Saskatchewan is an excellent representation of the whole. Saskatchewan and Canada represent a mixture of people of various races, colours, creeds, religions, languages, nationalities, ethnic origins, and places of birth. This diversity is recognized by the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS) that was established in 1975, serving as the umbrella

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organization for multiculturalism in the province. MCoS notes that multiculturalism “promotes the understanding, respect, appreciation, and acceptance of all people as equal in our society”.

The members of the proposed SK-RCE recognize that Saskatchewan is host to many Aboriginal and immigrant cultures, each with different knowledge and strengths related to sustainability in this region. For instance, reverence for and stewardship of the land is a basic principle of Aboriginal culture. Historically, Saskatchewan's nomadic First Nation's people were confronted with constant change (i.e. drought, flooding etc.) that presented the ongoing challenge of adaptation. The idea of quick changes as a way of coping with local environmental stresses is one to be fully understood and embraced for those who wish find sustainable solutions while living in Saskatchewan. Holistic, culture-centered understandings are an alternative to purely reductionist approaches to addressing the social, economic, environmental, and health challenges in the region, many of which have roots going back to the industrial revolution. As an RCE in Saskatchewan we are in a strong position to build a community of communities, bringing together a variety of approaches and capturing synergies to build sustainable livelihoods for everyone. At the same time ESD in the SK-RCE must consciously engage and address issues of poverty, vulnerability, and inequality (both of opportunity and resources) confronting different cultural groups, especially First Nation's people in the province.

### **6.5 - Green Spaces and Natural Habitats**

*{From Conservation Action Planning Handbook – see References}*

Conservation of the Earth's rich natural diversity is a constantly evolving discipline. Our knowledge of species, natural communities, ecosystems and the processes that sustain them continue to improve. The human activities that threaten or are compatible with them are constantly changing.

Conservation Action Planning is designed to recognize this shifting nature of our knowledge and the challenges conservationists face by encouraging practitioners to view the conservation planning process not as a once-a-decade exercise but as a regular, iterative process of “successive approximations.” Conservation Action Planning encourages teams of practitioners to capture their best understanding of the conservation situation, build a set of actions based on that understanding, implement the actions, measure the outcomes of their actions, learn from these outcomes and refine actions over time.”

*{From the SaskRCE Working Group on Natural Prairie Ecosystems. See [www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/15](http://www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/15) for the Natural Prairie Ecosystems blog}*

As people move from the countryside into cities and suburbs their relationship with nature and the environment tends to decrease. Several studies have linked values and lifestyle choices to environmental knowledge, which is why it is important that people living in cities, towns, and rural areas are exposed to natural settings representative of the biome in which they live. This is especially important in the prairie region of Saskatchewan that has

one of the most transformed landscapes on the planet due to intensive agriculture. Alternative landscaping using native plant species in urban centers and rural communities would increase our familiarity with the nature of Saskatchewan. The use of native species in city landscapes such as parks would also provide opportunities for formal and non-formal education at all levels and supplement educational efforts in ecology, botany, and environment studies. Individual can also advance exposure to natural prairie ecosystems through knowledge of xeriscaping. Landscapes of native plant species within city, provincial, and regional parks would also provide people with a sense of place, one that reminds them about where they live.

## **6.6 – Sustainable Infrastructure**

*{From the SaskRCE Working Group on Sustainable Infrastructure. See [www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/17](http://www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/17) for the Sustainable Infrastructure blog.}*

Saskatchewan is characterized by extreme temperature variations from winter to summer and other extreme climatic conditions. This creates challenges for sustainable and efficient building design, especially one's that conserve energy. At the same time, the Saskatchewan prairies face significant water challenges and infrastructure costs associated with these water issues. Good housing is also central to people's well-being, their sense of belonging within a community, and their ability to sustain a livelihood. With the cold climate, Saskatchewan people must spend a considerable amount of time indoors creating a greater need for healthy homes and buildings.

Feeling at home in the prairie region in ways that economically provide for a high quality of life can help stem rural to urban migration and migration out of the province a historic challenge of the region. Buildings on the prairies have not traditionally been highly customized to local conditions nor make use of local materials. Education about what buildings and building materials are sustainable and how to build sustainably on the prairies creates livelihood opportunities in the region. Rural communities are also facing deteriorating infrastructure, especially water infrastructure, over the next 10 to 15 years that can be addressed by sustainable infrastructure initiatives. It also affords opportunities for cities to create more affordable housing and revitalized neighbourhoods. If communities are to become sustainable, citizens collectively need to be educated about the full life-cycle costs of their public and private infrastructure as opposed to merely upfront costs.

### **6.6.1 – Water and Sewage**

*{The following is from a community survey conducted by Duane Klippenstein}*

Opinions on existing and future water and sewage infrastructures were solicited by survey from the twelve council members from Regina Beach and Buena Vista and from two representatives from Kinookimaw. 11 replies were received. Thanks to all who responded.

Summary

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There was weak consensus on most issues covered by the survey.

Unanimity however was received on the following:

1. that alternative wastewater treatment technologies should be considered in addition to the traditional methods that have been employed.
2. that water supply and wastewater treatment facilities should be designed to promote future growth.

Strong consensus was received on:

1. satisfaction with the taste, safety and adequacy of water supply.
2. that economies would be realized by jointly developing and operating water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructures jointly with nearby communities on a regional basis.

### Waste Water

#### Collection

A small majority of responses (55%) were dissatisfied with the present septic pump out of holding tanks.

A slightly greater majority (64%) favoured the pursuit of a pipeline collection system.

A slight majority (60%) of respondents would be prepared to pay up to \$10000 to replace the septic tank system with a pipeline collection system.

#### Treatment

Acceptability of the existing treatment system was split equally at 50%.

Interestingly that issue was also divided along municipal lines with Buena Vista responses rejecting the existing system with Regina Beach and Kinookimaw finding it acceptable.

In terms of funding it was asked how much greater would be acceptable to pay beyond existing treatment costs: 44% would support a 50% increase; 33% would support a 25% increase and 11% would support either a 75% or 100% increase.

### Water

Several positive responses were received on the present water including satisfaction with the taste water (80%), feeling that the water is safe (91%) and that the supply is adequate for fire protection (82%).

Factors of concern included discoloration (55%) and hardness (64%).

### General

Only 10% felt that the water and sewage systems should be scaled to service current needs and 100% felt that they should be scaled to promote future growth (this anomaly occurred from non responses).

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It was felt by 78% that these facilities should be developed in partnership with neighbouring communities that 75% felt that this approach would produce economies of scale.

### **6.6.2 - Waste Reduction and Recycling**

Waste reduction is a basic component of community sustainability and often one of the first priorities. Activities can range from small efforts, like using a reusable shopping bag instead of a plastic one, to larger efforts at recycling 100 percent of household waste.

Opportunities for waste reduction include:

1. Recycling paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, tin
2. Recycling hazardous household substances
3. Recycling electronic waste (computers, televisions, etc).
4. Recycling appliances
5. Recycling building materials
6. Composting
7. Decrease items using packaging
8. Use reusable bags for shopping

Education is an important component of recycling in order to increase the number of families and individuals who regularly recycle their waste products.

### **6.6.3 - Roads and Traffic Planning**

Roads and traffic planning are important sustainability issues for both large and small communities.

As the use of automobiles increases, our road and bridge infrastructure is increasing challenged.

The community sustainability plan must include both strategies for improving and maintaining the existing road and bridge infrastructure but also consider how to reduce the load on community infrastructure by reducing the use of automobiles for activities that could be done by walking, biking, car pooling, or using municipal transportation.

## **6.7 - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**

More communities across Canada and Saskatchewan are recognizing the importance of adopting community-wide energy conservation programs. These programs can help local municipalities and residents manage energy costs, as well as reduce the production of

harmful carbon dioxide emissions, which causes global warming. Energy conservation is increasingly important for many communities, especially as energy use increases. And indeed, energy use is expected to continue increasing: The United States Department of Energy in the Energy Information Administration projects a [54 percent increase](#) in energy use worldwide by 2025.

However, many analysts believe that half of Saskatchewan's new energy needs could be met through 2025 by comparatively cheap conservation measures.

A program tailored for the South Shore's specific community needs, and one that involves wide community support, will provide a host of additional benefits including conserving energy, money, and resources; strengthening our local economy; and creating jobs.

The program should be based on the principles of conservation first, then using renewable energy whenever possible, and then using non-renewable energy as a last resort.

The principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle can also make significant reductions in our energy use.

## **6.8 - Air Quality and Climate Change**

**{From the SaskRCE Working Group on Climate Change. See [www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/9](http://www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/9) for the Climate Change Working Group Blog}**

The Saskatchewan prairie region has been identified as one of the most vulnerable ecosystems to climate change. Due to its already naturally dry climate, this area is vulnerable to small changes and extreme weather conditions associated with climate change. For instance, prolonged droughts or sudden floods are likely to have a devastating effect. Heavy cultivation and fragmentation of land by human activities throughout large parts of Saskatchewan increase the impact of extreme conditions due to erosion prone cultivated fields and heavy water use for irrigation.

While the region is highly vulnerable to climate change it is, at the same time, a significant contributor for a number of reasons. The largest increase in contributions of greenhouse gas emissions has occurred from industrial development in Saskatchewan. New forms of development that do not have these impacts or minimize these impacts need to be explored. At the same time, transportation in Saskatchewan makes use of substantial fossil fuels. The great distances between cities and towns in Saskatchewan and the lack of frequent passenger trains both between and within communities makes personal transportation a further source of CO<sub>2</sub> emission and air pollution. Highly mechanized, intensive agriculture focused on exports from the region also contributes substantial transportation emissions. As a landlocked province lacking waterways for shipping, transportation costs and fossil fuel use have historically been high. Since everyone in the region contribute to CO<sub>2</sub> emission in a diversity of ways, each one of us can do his or her share in reducing it. We therefore believe that education on climate change is an important issue in the Saskatchewan RCE.

## **6.9 - Land Use and Urban Form**

When people talk about urban or municipal planning, they generally refer to land use planning. Planning in this context is a firmly established institution that is guided by provincial statutes and municipal by-laws, administrative regulations, negotiations and business relations. The process variously involves municipal officials, politicians, planning and architectural design professionals, community groups and individual citizens. The land use planning system consists of a set of procedures for drafting plans and determining applications for development. The objectives and scope of the system are determined by government policy and local interpretation. Very little is specified as to the scope and content of planning policy, other than its regulatory focus, which is usually on land use.

The land use planning system is centrally concerned with the amount and location of development, along with its characteristics. Land use plans provide the framework within which the criteria for making regulatory decisions are established. They are intended to link decisions about land to economic, social and environmental considerations as well as providing a means of coordinating and regulating the flow of development projects.

However, there are many other different types of planning processes that occur at the municipal level. Some are closely tied to land use planning while other focus on other things such as the financial resources and fiscal reality of the municipal administration.

## **6.10 - Community Development (Municipal, Commercial, Residential)**

Buildings account for over 50 percent of the energy consumed in Canada. This includes energy for heating, cooling, hot water, lights, and appliances.

In order to slow down global warming, communities will need to reduce the overall use of petroleum based energy by at least 20 percent by 2020. For the South Shore this means building more energy efficient houses, commercial, and municipal buildings.

Sustainability should seek to enhance and preserve the natural environment, economic well being, social responsibility and cultural preservation. The concept of sustainable development, although complex, is becoming increasingly important for the both the province and the South Shore. The practice of sustainability is about creating new ways to live and prosper while ensuring an equitable, healthy future for all people and the planet.

This is consistent with the definition of sustainable development offered by the United Nation' Brundtland Commission, which states, "Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." For the purposes of this report, this understanding of sustainability has been further refined. A more specific definition has been adopted that recognizes the three underlying principles of sustainability that have been identified by Vision 2020 as a priority:

- Effective wastewater management

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- Reduced waste
- Increased energy efficiency

The Municipalities should support LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and commit to obtaining LEED certification (or the equivalent) for all municipal building and that all retrofit projects undertake an assessment of LEED. Leading by example is an excellent way to improve the sustainability of the South Shore as well as to encourage the development community's dedication to achieving the same level of sustainability. It is the intention of this plan to provide recommendations that will make it easier for the private sector to follow the Municipalities leadership in this area.

### **6.11 – Community Economic Development**

The South Shore, working with the new Enterprise Region, needs to develop a Community Economic Development strategy and plan.

Regina Beach and Buena Vista today are primarily dependent on summer visitors and jobs outside of the community for economic growth. The communities are adding residents without expanding the base of businesses to support the larger population.

A natural economic development fit for the South Shore is to develop more eco-tourism. This can build on the current summer residents but also work to expand tourism in the fall, winter, and spring.

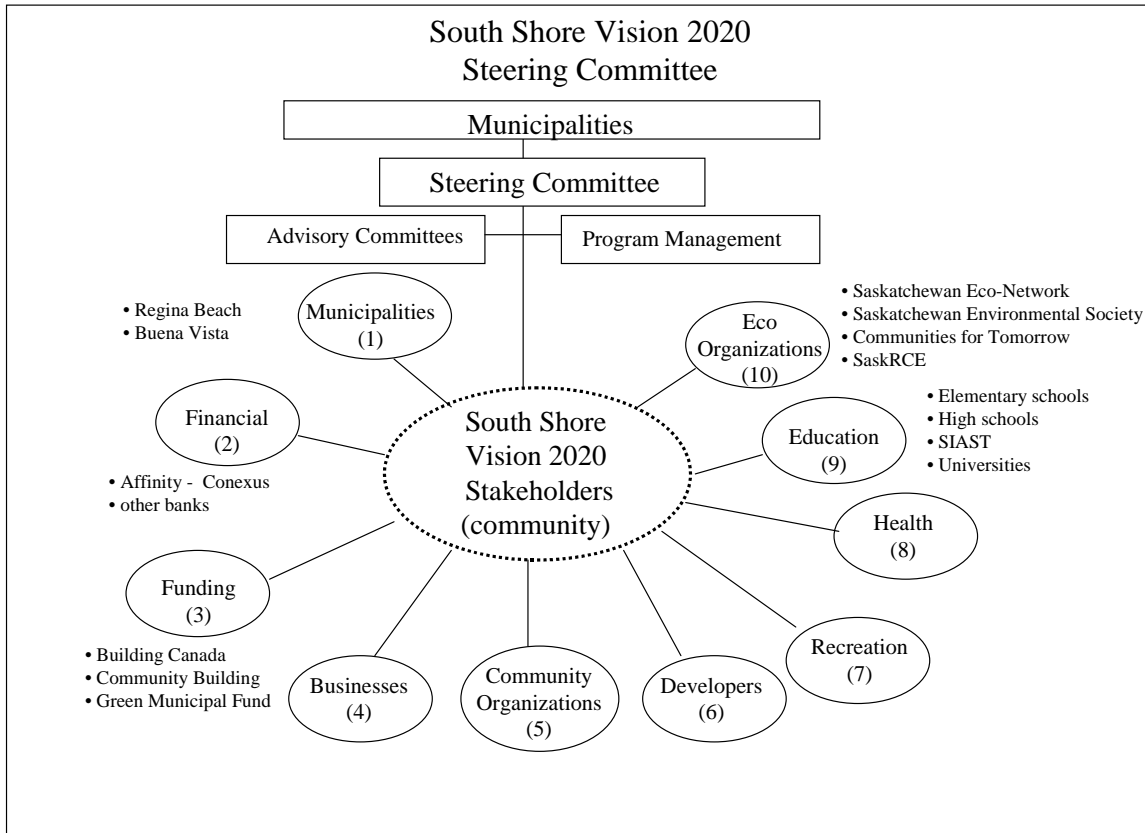
### **6.12 - Municipal Services**

Municipal Services include:

1. Planning
2. Policies
3. Regulations
4. Bylaws
5. Fire and police
6. Emergency services
7. Road maintenance
8. Purchasing

The municipalities of Regina Beach and Buena Vista have a major influence on developing community sustainability. Through their planning, regulation, bylaw, and purchasing activities they set the direction for the community. The municipality needs to model the behaviors they need to achieve the goals of the community sustainability plan.

## 7.0 - Vision 2020 Governance



The Vision 2020 process and plan require the support of the Municipal governments of the participating communities.

The support is in the form of a municipal resolution from participating Councils supporting the goals of sustainability and the development of the Vision 2020 process and plan.

To assist the Councils, a formal Steering Committee needs to be created. The membership of the Steering Committee should include two Council members from each municipality participating in Vision 2020 and community members representing key stakeholders. The total number of Steering Committee members should be in 9-13 range.

The Steering Committee forms Community Advisory Committees (Green Team) for each Sustainability Building Block being targeted. Each Community Advisory Committee needs 3-5 members. The goal is to engage approximately 40-50 people in the Vision 2020 process in order to achieve a critical mass of support within the community.

## 8.0 - Developing Sustainability Measurement Indicators

{Summarized from the Environment Canada Developing Community Sustainability Indicators website (see References)}

Comments specific to the South Shore Vision 2020 plan are enclosed in *<brackets>*.

The steps outlined in the following pages are designed to serve as a checklist of steps that should be taken in developing a [sustainability indicators](#) program. They provide a starting point and should be considered as a set of guidelines which the user can customize to meet their own needs.

### Steps of Indicator Development

1. [Finding a Vision of Sustainability](#)
2. [Audience and Purpose](#)
3. [Indicator Framework](#)
4. [Indicator Selection Criteria](#)
5. [Identification and Evaluation](#)
6. [Choose Final Indicators](#)

#### *Step One: Finding A Vision of Sustainability*

In order to start developing Sustainability Indicators, first determine what kind of sustainability goals need to be achieved for your community. A working definition of these goals should be found before any indicators can be decided upon.

A visioning exercise can be used to accomplish this task. This approach establishes a vision of how your community should look in order for it to be considered a sustainable community, and the goals to be achieved in order for that vision to become a reality.

*{A preliminary vision has been identified for the South Shore. This Vision needs to be validated and modified based on community meetings and feeds in 2009.}*

Each vision will be individual to the community creating it, as every community will express different requirements to sustain themselves and their environment. Typically, the vision will be synthesized in some form of vision statement that outlines the principles defining their sustainable community. These principles will indicate the issues with which the community is concerned.

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The "Single Scenario Approach" is one way to approach this visioning task. It involves developing a set of assumptions that reflect a community's best prospects for the future. Out of this process, a vision statement is produced and serves as a starting point for the development of a framework for a plan of action.

### ***Step Two: Audience and Purpose***

Once the vision for the sustainable community is defined, a target audience must be considered. Who is going to use the information which you will be providing? Determining your audience allows you to establish the format and the number of indicators required.

{The Vision 2020 Steering Committee needs to identify the target audience for the indicators. The audience should include community members, community organizations, municipal government, businesses, etc. It is important to match the indicator with the audience so that the indicator has meaning. }

#### **Target Audience**

#### **Indicators / Data Format**

#### **Professional analysts, Scientists**

- raw data
- highly detailed and complex indicators
- emphasis on scientific validity and system complexity

#### **Policy-makers**

- indicators directly related to:
  - policy objectives
  - evaluation criteria
  - target values

#### **Media, General Public**

- reduced set of indicators
- easy-to-understand
- represent issues of direct concern

#### **Source:**

Maclaren, 1996.

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It is important to choose a purpose for your indicators. This purpose will be useful in selecting a final set of indicators.

Once the audience and purpose are selected, its time to choose a framework for your indicators. This will determine how your indicators are grouped together and how the information provided by the indicators is related.

### ***Step Three: Choose an Indicator Framework***

Through the selection of the vision, the target audience, and the purpose, the information for selecting the framework is in place.

#### **What is a framework?**

A framework is a conceptual model from which relevant indicators can be developed and selected based on the needs of a specific target audience. A framework is a basis for indicator development, and will help in determining which indicators are chosen and how they relate to each other.

There are several kinds of frameworks, each able to organize the information in a unique way, but some are stronger or weaker depending on the purpose of the indicators and the target audience.

1. Goal-Based
2. Issue-Based
3. Sectoral
4. Domain-Based
5. Causal
6. Combination (This is a combination of two or more of the above 5 frameworks. This is a strong framework to use, as it emphasizes the strengths of the frameworks while downplaying the weaknesses.)

Under a goal-based framework, for example, indicators could be found and organized according to how they correspond to various goals such as, "Improve urban air quality" and "Reduce unemployment in our city". Under an issue-based framework, indicators might be organized into categories such as "Public Health and Safety" or "Economic Health".

For additional information please see the [SCIP Indicator Development Guidelines: Indicator Frameworks](#)

***Step Four: Indicator Selection Criteria***

The previous steps have established the foundation upon which the indicators will be based. Now, the criteria for the indicators themselves must be chosen before any specific indicators are considered.

The following is a list of the recommended criteria for choosing the indicator set:

1. Scientific Validity / Theoretical Soundness
2. Responsiveness to Change
3. Evident Links of Cause and Effect
4. Representative of Sustainability Issues
5. Accurate Time-Series Data Available or Collectable
6. Cost-Effectiveness
7. Relevant & Understandable to Users
8. Comparable Among Jurisdictions
9. Useful at Large & Small Geographic Scales
10. Comparability to Target, Thresholds or Standards
11. Integrates Social, Economic & Environmental Factors

These criteria will ensure that the information is accurate and useful, but you should not feel constrained by them. You may wish to adapt these criteria so that they fit the vision and goals you defined in steps 1 to 3.

It is also beneficial to assign priorities to the criteria, as compromises will likely be necessary during the selection of the final set of indicators. Prioritizing the selection criteria will make the final selection simpler and easier.

With the selection criteria set, and keeping in mind the vision, goals and the framework, potential indicators can be chosen.

***Step Five: Identification and Evaluation***

Now comes the time to start selecting indicators for your final set. Once the selection criteria are in place, it is a matter of finding indicators that fit as many of the criteria as possible. It may not be possible to find a perfect fit for every indicator, so some trade-offs may be necessary.

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Here are some basic tips for the selection of indicators:

- During the initial run, come up with as many indicators as possible that may fit the criteria. The list will shrink as the indicators are evaluated so a large number to begin with is desirable.
- Ask the experts: Ask the people who have intimate knowledge of the issue or can act as scientific authorities.
- Ask the audience: Ask the people who will be using the information that is provided. The more information that you have the better your final set of indicators will be.

Once an initial list is found, apply the criteria and start eliminating (or changing) indicators.

This can be done qualitatively (through discussion, debate and consensus) or quantitatively (using a "points" system based on the criteria; [see the example in the SCIP Guidelines](#))

Selecting indicators is an iterative process, so don't forget to go through the list a couple of times to ensure that as many of the criteria as possible have been met. Once this is done the final list of indicators can be drawn up.

### ***Step Six: Choose Final Indicators***

Once you have narrowed down your list of indicators it is time to select your final set. Once again, it is a good idea to test these indicators to ensure that they are going to be effective. It is helpful to ensure that:

- The indicators measure what they were meant to measure (keeping in mind, as always, the vision, goal and indicator framework.)
- The data are available. The amount of data you have (or can collect) may limit the number of indicators in the final set and require a new round of indicator selection. (Step 5)

Remember, as more data become available and the community evolves the final list of indicators may need to change. Be flexible. Factors change over time affecting the validity of indicators, at which point it would be a good idea to go back over your final set of indicators and re-evaluate it.

Having selected a final set of indicators, now would be an excellent time to write up the Indicator Profiles for them. It is important to document the indicator [metadata](#) using the Indicator and Data Profiles (see the [Templates](#) page for copies of the Profiles). The profiles can also be used in the previous steps to organize metadata that will be used to evaluate potential indicators; however it is vital that this documentation be applied to the final set of indicators.

## 9.0 - Developing a Strategy and Plan for Change

### 9.1 - Define stakeholders

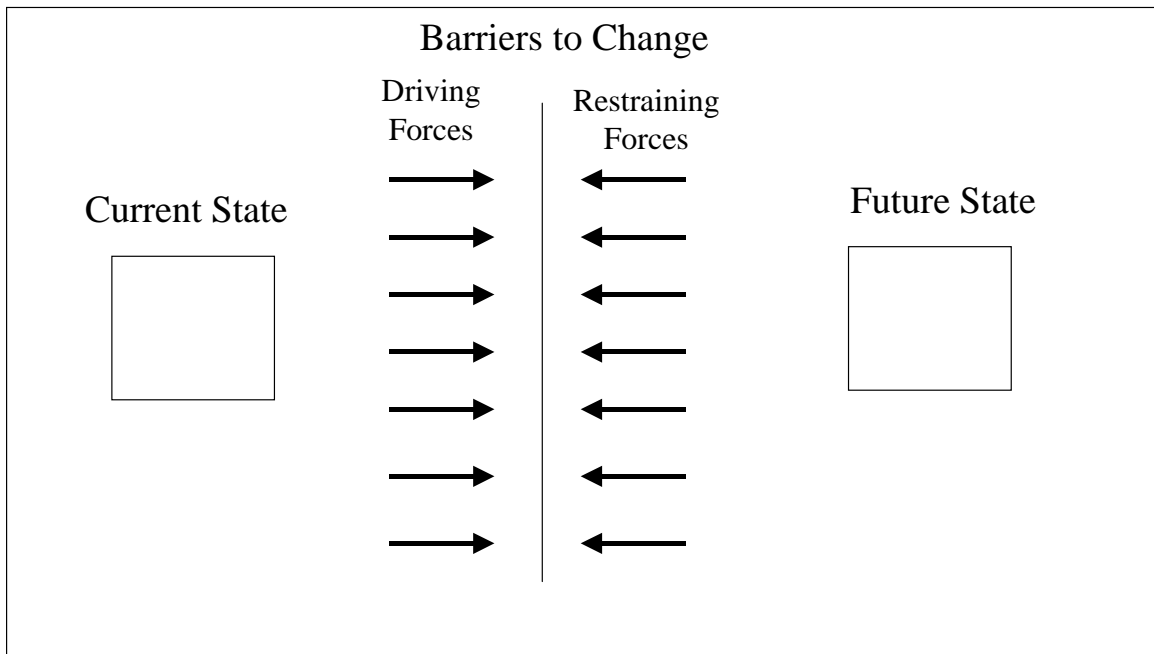
One of the most important success factors for Vision 2020 is to define the community stakeholders who need to be engaged to make the plan a success. These stakeholders include:

1. Municipal council members
2. Community organization leaders
3. Business leaders
4. Residents

Once the stakeholders are identified, their motivations, barriers, and resistance to promote sustainability on the Shore Shore can be analyzed.

### 9.2 - Analyze motivations, barriers and resistance to change

#### Driving and Restraining Forces



Force field analysis is a simple exercise to help identify if the driving forces for change are stronger than the restraining forces. The driving forces for change need to be significantly larger than the restraining forces in order for the proposed change to be successful.

### **9.3 - Hold Sustainability Townhalls (Charettes)**

Townhalls (charettes) are a good approach to collecting community input into the sustainability planning process. The following describes the process used by Kingston, Ontario.

The objectives of their charette were to:

- Create community sustainability principles
- Enhance the vision of Kingston as Canada's most sustainable city
- Identify engagement strategies

Each interactive session was introduced by a short presentation from the lead facilitator to highlight the session's focus and to provide examples. During these sessions, participants had the opportunity to network and learn from each other in small groups of four to eight people while answering guiding questions for each of these outcomes.

The first session, Creating a List of Community Sustainability Principles, took place in a World Café format.

During this session, participants discussed what two or three core principles could guide the work in each of the four pillars of sustainability – environmental, economic, social, cultural sustainability. Over the course of four rounds of discussion, participants moved sequentially through four stages of principle development: brainstorming, evolving, developing, and refining. To encourage cross fertilization and integration of disciplines, participants had 20 minutes in each round to focus on one of the pillars of sustainability before switching tables and engaging in conversation with the next pillar of sustainability. A predetermined table host remained at each table throughout the rounds to maintain continuity in conversations and to capture emerging themes. After the fourth round, community sustainability principles from each table were posted on the wall. To prioritize the proposed principle statements, participants engaged in a voting exercise referred to as “Dotmocracy”. Each participant was provided with eight dots to be used as ballots. Participants “voted” by placing their dots next to the two principles in each of the pillars of sustainability that they believed most accurately reflected the community sustainability principles.

The second session “Creating a Shared Vision” took place in round table discussions and participants were asked to describe what the City of Kingston would be like in 5, 25, and 50 years if it achieved the vision of being Canada's most sustainable city. From this discussion, a wealth of ideas, dreams, vision, and milestones emerged.

The third session “Identifying Engagement Strategies” took place in round table discussions and asked stakeholders how they would like to be involved in the longer term process of developing an ICSP and what they envisioned the next steps would be. Concurrent to these sessions and throughout the Charrette, participants posted brightly coloured “sticky notes”

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on a large wall poster to highlight programs, actions, and initiatives already underway or currently being planned in Kingston. This mapping exercise in community sustainability initiatives was an important first step in understanding and aligning current sustainability activities, promoting integration and collaboration, minimizing duplication, and determining where there are gaps. The day concluded with a large group discussion of “Next Steps and Recommendations”.

## Appendix A - Project Inventory

*{Projects will be added to the plan as they are identified and approved by the Municipal councils}*

### A.1 – Buena Vista Waste Water Treatment (Feasibility Stage)

### A.2 – South Shore Eco-Recreation Centre (Pre-Feasibility Stage)

One of the first sustainable community projects planned is the South Shore Eco-Rec. This environmentally friendly building, with exciting initiatives in energy reduction, fits perfectly within the top three pillars of the South Shore Sustainable Community Plan:

#### I - Economic

- economic stimulus will be provided by creating business opportunities
- job creation
- tourism opportunities: Sask Tourism recently held a forum on the potential in the Last Mountain Lake Area
- grant opportunities from inter-municipal co-operative strategies
- funding opportunities for economic stimulus, green initiatives

#### II - Social

- gathering place for youth to seniors
- health and wellness benefits: swimming casts a wide net of usage
- conference centre will offer cultural and educational opportunities
- spa, wellness and fitness centre: increased health, alternative therapies
- greenhouse spaces planned for the future reusing humidity from ozonated pool
- increase availability for competitive sport
- daycare facilities identified as a high level need in the community
- healthy restaurant would serve the public and cater to the conference centre

#### III Environmental

- innovative green strategies that will put the South Shore community on the map for environmental stewardship and innovation
- proposed initiatives include: alternative heat and energy source, geothermal, solar panels, solar heating
- green interpretive centre
- environmental footprint reduced to minimum
- reduce, reuse, recycle will be adopted by the South Shore Eco-Rec Centre
- showcase pilot project for other communities to follow

## Appendix B - Preliminary Meeting Survey Results

### Sustainable Community Plan Survey Results

A preliminary survey was done with approximately 60 South Shore residents at the initial Sustainable Community Planning meeting, held June 11, 2008.

32 surveys were handed in; many people were in groups of two and three. Only one additional survey was mailed in later. The handout on June 11<sup>th</sup> re: input into the Mission Statement, Value Statement and resulted in zero feedback to this date.

### Survey Breakdown

14 - RB, 17 - BV, 1 - Kinookimaw

Invitations were extended to community members from the South Shore. The author noted at the meeting that there was a lack of parents who have young children present, which was reflected in the daycare interest at the South Shore Eco Rec when many feel strongly a daycare is needed within the community. Therefore, the reader needs to keep in mind that the following results do not represent as large a cross-section of the community as, for example, a mailed survey would produce.

Phase Two of the South Shore Sustainable Community Plan Public Engagement Session will include a more in-depth survey focusing on the Future Vision and Sustainable Community Building Blocks. Public Action Communities will be created to report in eight weeks on the status of their “building block” and make recommendations that will roll into the planning and final version of South Shore: Vision 2020.

It was a clear mandate from the initial representatives of the South Shore communities to proceed with sustainable development from this first survey. Waste Water Management was extremely important, with Waste management and recycling running a close second.

Passionate responses to protecting wildlife habitats and maintaining and improving the quality of water, shoreline and fishing at Last Mountain Lake were reflected in the survey results. Lower down on the temperature rating of importance was increasing our community use of renewable energy (wind, solar, earth heat, etc) for electricity and heat.

South Shore residents scored just about off the charts for adopting lifestyle changes to help reduce energy consumption and green house gas production with 29/32 changing to florescent light bulbs and 27/32 low flush toilets. Local food consumption was low at 17/32 - albeit the question should have incorporated ie: Lumsden gardens, as true “local” food is scarce.

Composting was a surprising low at 9/32 of respondents saying they composted.

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Developing a multi-use eco friendly community centre as important to the future of community had an “important/very important” lean... while providing community recreation, leisure and health services through this centre as important raised the bar with “important and somewhat important” in 24/30 with 2 N/A. Increased economic growth through a conference centre and restaurant as important to the future of South Shore? With 3 N/A there were a total of 8/29 respondents didn’t think it important with 11 the highest score at important. Increased eco-tourism was luke warm at 8/28 somewhat important and 6/28 as very important.

Out of 32, 20 respondents said they would use the pool with visits going from 2/day to 20 x’s per month. 8 persons said they would not use while 5 were unsure. 19 respondents said they would use the fitness centre, with 6 no and 6 not sure.

As previously mentioned the stats of this survey is not representative of the entire south Shore community which is reflected in the following survey results for use of the daycare facilities a resounding 30/32 with only 2 not sure. South Shore School has approximately 165 students and a greater majority of both parents work outside the community. Private babysitting spaces are limited and numbers appear to be holding at the pre-school level for school starts.

The complete survey results follow.

**Community Survey #1, June 11, 2008**

The Town of Regina Beach and the Village of Buena Vista are exploring the feasibility of developing an eco friendly multi-use Community Centre. The proposed Community Centre will include an indoor pool, health & wellness centre (exercise & fitness), day care, conference centre, and restaurant. The Centre will be an expanded version of the Craik Eco-Centre. No taxpayer money will be used to develop or operate the Centre. Part of the feasibility process is to develop a Preliminary Sustainable Community Plan for the South Shore. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey about sustainable development and the Eco-Rec Community Centre.

**RESULTS - OUT OF 32 SURVEYS**

1. Sustainable Development is an important issue for the South Shore communities.

- 1 Not important
- 2 Somewhat important
- 7 Important
- 10 Very important
- 11 Extremely important

N/A

2. The South Shore should begin the process of developing a Community Sustainable Development Plan.

Yes - 28    No - 1    No Opinion - 2

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3. Waste water management is an important issue to the South South.

- 0 Not important
- 1 Somewhat important
- 3 Important
- 9 Very important
- 19 Extremely important
- N/A

4. Waste management and recycling is an important issue to the South South

- 0 Not important
- 0 Somewhat important
- 7 Important
- 12 Very important
- 13 Extremely important
- N/A

5. Protecting wild life habitats is an important issue to the South South.

- 0 Not important
- 0 Somewhat important
- 5 Important
- 11 Very important
- 14 Extremely important

6. Increasing our community use of alternative energy (electricity and heat) is an important issue for the South Shore.

- 2 Not important
- 3 Somewhat important
- 11 Important
- 7 Very important
- 8 Extremely important
- N/A

7. Improving the quality of water, shore line, fish in Last Mountain Lake is an important issue for the South Shore.

- 0 Not important
- 0 Somewhat important
- 3 Important
- 16 Very important
- 11 Extremely important
- N/A

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8. Have you adopted changes in your life to help reduce energy consumption and green house gas production? *NOTE: THE RESULTS FOLLOW QUESTION*

1	Florescent light bulbs	Yes	No
2	Energy Star appliances	Yes	No
3.	Increased insulation in home	Yes	No
4.	Energy efficient windows	Yes	No
5.	Low flush toilets	Yes	No
6.	Local food consumption	Yes	No
7.	Reduced use of automobile	Yes	No
8.	Recycling plastic, tin, etc	Yes	No
9.	Lowering temprature at night	Yes	No
10.	Reducing use of air conditioning	Yes	No
11.	Composting	Yes	No

Results:

	Yes	No	NA
1	29	3	
2	25	7	
3	25	7	
4	25	4	
5	27	5	
6	17	15	
7	21	9	2
8	22	8	2
9	26	4	2
10	22	6	4
11	9	20	3

9. The development of a multi-use Eco friendly Community Centre for the South Shore is important to the future of our community.

2	Not important
7	Somewhat important
9	Important
9	Very important
3	Extremely important
2	NA

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10. Providing increased community recreation, leisure, and health services through a multi-use centre is important for the future of the South Shore.

- 1 Not important
- 2 Somewhat important
- 12 Important
- 12 Very important
- 4 Extremely important
- 1 NA

11. Providing increased economic growth in the community through a conference centre and restaurant is important for the future of the South Shore.

- 8 Not important
- 3 Somewhat important
- 11 Important
- 4 Very important
- 3 Extremely important
- 3 NA

12. Increased eco-tourism targeted at learning more about the South Shore is important to our future?

- 5 Not important
- 8 Somewhat important
- 7 Important
- 6 Very important
- 2 Extremely important
- 4 NA

Would you use the swimming pool facility in a multi-use Community Centre?

Yes **20** No **8** Not sure **5** Number of visits per month: 8/5/4/8/10/20/15/4/8 + 1  
“seasonal”

Would you use the exercise facilities in a multi-use Community Centre?

Yes **19** No **6** Not sure **7** Number of visits per month: 10/8/20/4/15/8 + 1 “daily”

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Would you use the day care facilities in a multi-use Community Centre?

Yes    No    11    Not sure    2    Number of children \_\_\_\_\_

\*This response clearly does not fit an overview of the community from the author's perspective, as the South Shore Elementary School has approximately 164 students. That a day care facility is needed in the community seems to be a well known fact.

I am a resident of:

Respondents: Regina Beach – 14: Buena Vista – 17: Kinookimaw - 1

Thank you for taking time to complete this survey.

Please use the other side for additional comments about the Community Centre project and starting to develop a South Shore Sustainable Community Plan.

**Additional Comments On file**

## Appendix C - Fall consultation agenda, templates, etc

### **C.1 - Public Consultation #2 Agenda – October 4, 2008**

#### **Agenda**

#### **1. Current Situation**

#### **2. Future Vision South Shore**

Where are we headed?

Vision 2020 for South Shore.

What is the best route for South Shore to follow.

#### **3. Future Vision Breakouts: Regina Beach: Buena Vista re: *Vision: 2020***

Breakouts with citizens from each community brainstorming on a shared vision for their own town or village.

- Natural Capital – survey results: Keep natural capital as is – in favour of development?
- Human Capital – seek to maintain population stats or increase?
- Physical Capital – upgrades, expansion, new capital projects
- Economic Capital – Business expansion/retention: ideal?
- Social Capital - What is there to do? Where do people meet? How to inspire?
- Cultural Capital – identify; preservation.

#### **4. Sustainable Building Blocks**

a. Establish *citizen advisory groups* to report by November 29, 2008 on major building blocks (examples):

1. Greening the South Shore
2. Water and Sewage
3. Waste Reduction and Recycling
4. Energy Efficiency and Renewables
5. Atmospheric Change and Quality
6. Transportation Planning and Traffic Management
7. Land Use and Urban Form
8. Housing and Community Development
9. Community Economic Development

b. Appoint citizen advisory groups

c. Break-out end of session to receive collateral materials on guidelines and reporting

## **C.2 - Example Project Description**

Example: South Shore Eco-Rec Project: development

### ***South Shore Community Development Corp***

- profits go back to community
- steering committee to vote on moving forward with incorporation August, 2008 (passed)
- RB Town Council and BV Town Council need to approve moving forward with incorporation of community development corporation

Steering Committee: South Shore Eco-Rec - established

Sub Committees

Finance

Fundraising

Architects, Construction Advisory

Fitness Advisory

Daycare Advisory

Conference and Restaurant Advisory

Accomplishments

July – expanded steering committee meets

August – steering committee to vote on recommendations

- To recommend to town councils to incorporate a SS Community Development Corp
- To ask the city of Regina planners to make a recommendation on location
- To adopt a business model: move forward with project management
- To create public support by pre-selling discounted memberships; ie: \$500 x 100 = \$50,000

Current Activities

Project management, feasibility, develop collateral materials for fundraising

## **Appendix D - List of Example Measurement Indicators**

The list below compiles indicators that have been used by other municipalities for various programs. They are categorized according to a set of building blocks and sustainability issues. These indicators may be used for developing a sustainability indicators program, or may give ideas for other indicators that could be used.

### **D.1 - Education**

D.1.1 - Education levels

D.1.2 - Literacy rate

D.1.3 - Percentage of youths aged 15–18 attending school

### **D. 2 – Community Health and Wellness**

D.2.1 - Percentage of population (or households) within 400 meters of recreational or natural parks

D.2.2 - Park area per capita (e.g. protected natural and recreational green space)

D.2.3 - Area of green space per capita (green space may include protected and unprotected natural areas, recreational parks, golf courses, vacant Crown land with greens pace value, etc.)

D.2.4 - Hospital admission rate for asthma

D.2.5 - Low birth weight babies (<2500 g) per 100 live births

D.2.6 - Suicide rate (suicides per 1 000 population)

D.2.7 - Life expectancy

D.2.8 - Teenage mothers (less than 20 years of age) per 1 000 live births

D.2.9 - Infant mortality rate

### **D.3 – Local Food Production**

### **D.4 – Recreation, Arts, and Culture**

### **D.5 – Green Space and Natural Habitats**

D.5.1 - Green space as percentage of total land area (green space may include protected and unprotected natural areas, parks, vacant Crown land with green space value, agricultural land, forest land)

D.5.2 - Total area of environmentally sensitive habitat and percentage of area protected from development (i.e. protected area or covenanted land)

D.5.3 - Number of species at risk

D.5.4 - Population trends of species at risk

D.5.5 - Population trends of keystone species

**D.6 - Water quality and consumption**

D.6.1 - Municipal water consumption per capita (total, residential commercial, other)

D.6.2 - Phosphorus levels in lakes compared with water quality guidelines or objectives

D.6.3 - Percent of households with water meters

D.6.4 - Beach closures (annual number of days specified beaches closed due to unacceptably high coliform counts)

D.6.5 - Percentage of households serviced by sewage treatment (e.g., by level: none, primary, secondary, tertiary)

D.6.6 - Average annual faecal coliform level in stormwater

D.6.7 - Average annual concentrations of substances of environmental concern in sediments at selected stormwater discharges

D.6.8 – Number of occurrences of sewage effluent exceedings guidelines

D.6.9 - Drinking water quality: exceeds provincial or Canadian standards for selected parameters (e.g. trihalomethanes, coliforms, Giardia, turbidity, Cryptosporidium, trace metals, etc.)

**D.7 – Waste Reduction and Recycling**

D.7.1 - Waste generation and disposal (total and per capita)

D.7.2 - Recycling and composting participation rates

D.7.3 - Percent of households covered by blue box recycling program

**D.8 - Energy and Renewables**

D.8.1 - Energy consumption per household

D.8.2 - Energy consumption by sector

**D.9 - Air quality**

D.9.1 - Ambient levels and exceed guidelines for ground-level ozone, PM10, CO, NO, SO2, benzene

**D.10 - Transportation**

- D.10.1 - Modal split (percentage of trips by bikes, cars, passengers, transit, and walking)
- D.10.2 - Motor vehicle ownership per capita (or per household)
- D.10.3 - Annual amount of fossil fuel consumed for transportation per household
- D.10.4 - Annual costs of roads and road maintenance per household
- D.10.5 - Transit ridership (total, and per capita per year)
- D.10.6 - Amount of land used for automobile-related uses (roads, parking lots, service stations, etc.)
- D.10.7 - Length of bikeways as a percentage of total length of major vehicle lanes.
- D.10.8 - Average number of people per car per trip

**D.11 - Land Form and Use**

- D.11.1 - Total area of rural land converted to urban uses, and rate of change per 1 000 population growth
- D.11.2 - New housing starts by type (percentage of detached, attached ground, attached non-ground of total new starts)
- D.11.3 - Percent of households within 400 m of schools hospitals, transit stops, natural parks
- D.11.4 - Urban and non-urban residential densities
- D.11.5 - Percent mixed-use zoning (e.g. commercial-residential)
- D.11.6 - Average residential lot sizes (new lots and total inventory)
- D.11.7 - Renovation permits as percent of building permits
- D.11.8 - Percent of new or renovated development within the built-up area, compared with all development in the urban region or CMA
- D.11.9 - Average length of journey to work
- D.11.10 - Percent of labour force working within 400 m of home

**D.12 – Housing Development**

- D.12.1 - Average waiting time for those in need of subsidized housing
- D.12.2 - Number and percentage of households in core housing need, by tenure
- D.12.3 - Affordability (percent of households spending 30% or more of income on housing (principal, interest, taxes and utilities), by tenure)

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- D.12.4 - Adequacy (percent of housing stock below adequacy standard)
- D.12.5 - Suitability (percent of households below national occupancy standard for number of people per bedroom)
- D.12.6 - Annual total number of people using homeless shelters (annual total number of overnight stays)
- D.12.7 - Average price of serviced residential lots (total and as a percent of average price of house)
- D.12.8 - % of total housing stock made up of social housing units
- D.12.9 - Vacancy rates, by price and housing type
- D.12.10 - Supply of serviced residential land coming on stream to meet future demand
- D.12.11 - Estimates of homeless population
- D.12.12 - Changes in occupancy rates of shelter beds, using a moving 12 month average

### **D.13 – Safety, Emergencies, Natural Hazards, Extreme Events**

- D.13.1 - Accident rates (by type)
- D.13.2 - Crimes against persons (offences per 1 000 population)
- D.13.3 - Crimes against property (offences per 1 000 population)
- D.13.4 - Number of charges laid (by victim and by police) in domestic violence incidents reported to police (also as percentage of all incidents)

### **D.14 – Community Economic Development**

#### **D.14.1 - Income equity**

- D.14.1.1 - Percentage of households with incomes below Low Income Cut-off
- D.14.1.2 - Annual average (or median) household (or individual) income by group (i.e. women, men, native, immigrants)
- D.14.1.3 - Middle income earners as a percentage of total population
- D.14.1.4 - Real average weekly earnings
- D.14.1.5 - Percentage of children, elderly, and disabled with low incomes [e.g. household income below LICO (low income cut off)]
- D.14.1.6 - Ratio of income earned by richest 20% of population to poorest 20% of population
- D.14.1.7 - Total annual number of meals provided (or annual number of people served ) by food banks

**D.14.2 - Economic activity**

D.14.2.1 - Bankruptcies and incorporations (per 1, 000 population)

D.14.2.2 - Annual number of new business licences issued

D.14.2.3 - Number and value of building permits annually

**D.14.3 - Employment**

D.14.3.1 - Percent of labour force employed by sector (manufacturing, industry, agriculture, service, etc.)

D.14.3.2 - Population dependency ratio

D.14.3.3 - Percentage of Employment Insurance beneficiaries as percentage of total population aged 19–64

D.14.3.4 - Big, (> 100 employees) and small (< 20 employees) as percentages of total number of businesses

D.14.3.5 - Average number of person weeks unemployed per year by age group

**D.15 - Governance and Community Service**

D.15.1 - Percent of population voting in municipal elections

D.15.2 - Percent of population participating in voluntary community service organizations

## Appendix E – Definitions

These definitions are from the Environment Canada Developing Community Sustainability Indicator web site (see References).

### Definitions – sustainability

Many different definitions of sustainable development and urban sustainability have been proposed and discussed since the publication of *Our Common Future* by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), more commonly known as the Brundtland commission. The WCED (1987) defined sustainable development as: *"development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*

While there are many variations on how sustainable development should be defined, a consensus has emerged that there must be progress on three fronts — economic development, social development, and preservation of the environment — to move towards a sustainable state, and that strong linkages exist between these dimensions.

#### Source:

CMHC and Environment Canada, 1996.

World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), 1987.

### Definitions – urban sustainability

Most definitions of urban sustainability reflect the need for progress on the economic, social and environmental conditions in urban areas. Urban sustainability also implies an orientation towards the future, reflecting the importance of inter-generational equity. The literature provides many definitions of urban sustainability and its related concepts. Richardson (1989) defines sustainable urban development as:

*"... a process of change in the built environment which fosters economic development while conserving resources and promoting the health of the individual, the community and the ecosystem (recognizing that...the urban environment cannot be separated from the region of which it is a part)."*

Haughton and Hunter (1994: 27) highlight the importance of the urban contribution to global sustainability when they define a sustainable city as:

*"... one in which its people and businesses continuously endeavour to improve their natural, built and cultural environments at neighbourhood and regional levels, whilst working in ways which always support the goal of global sustainable development."*

Urban sustainability implies a balanced integration of environmental, economic and social considerations:

*"Urban sustainability involves the complex and difficult task of finding balances among social, economic, and environmental pluses and minuses, between short- and long-term considerations, and between the immediate interests of a part of the population and the more diffuse interests of everyone"* (Government of Canada, 1996).

**Source:**

CMHC and Environment Canada, 1996.  
Government of Canada, 1996. (Chapter 12)  
Haughton and Hunter, 1994.  
Maclaren, 1996.  
Richardson, 1989.

**Definitions – economic sustainability**

*Economic sustainability* implies that the local economy is both stable and diversified (Richardson 1994).

*Economic sustainability* also means that economic activities have minimal impacts on the natural environment and are efficient in their consumption of resources.

*Economic stability* can be enhanced by development of a strong local or community-based sector where local resources and local jobs meet local needs (Ekins *et al.* 1992, Richardson 1994). A global component to a local economy, however, is still important. Haughton and Hunter (1994) *caution* that too strong a shift to local economic self-reliance can be damaging to economic sustainability because of the global nature of the capitalist economic system and the opportunities for innovation that are associated with a more open local economy.

*Economic stability* can also be enhanced by the development of strengths in more than one sector or area. Change is inevitable and a community is more likely to be able to adapt when there is a broad range of economic activities.

**Source:**

Ekins *et al.*, 1992.  
Haughton and Hunter, 1994.  
Maclaren, 1996.  
Richardson, 1994.

**Definitions – environmental sustainability**

Jacobs (1991: 79-80) provides a definition of sustainability that might appropriately be labeled "environmental" sustainability:

*"Sustainability means that the environment should be protected in such a condition and to such a degree that environmental capacities (the ability of the environment to perform its various functions) are maintained over time: at least at levels sufficient to avoid future catastrophe and at most at levels which give future generations the opportunity to enjoy an equal measure of environmental consumption."*

Embodied in this definition are what Jacobs refers to as minimum sustainability and maximum sustainability. *Minimum sustainability* means not allowing environmental degradation to occur to the point where the future is characterized by environmental catastrophes, while *maximum sustainability* means providing future generations with at least the same level of environmental consumption that current generations receive.

A *weakness* of Jacob's definition (and most definitions of sustainability) is that neither minimum sustainability nor maximum sustainability imply that intra-generational equity will require improvements in environmental quality, but simply maintenance of current conditions, at a minimum. If current conditions are already severely degraded, then this conceptualization of sustainability means that future generations will inherit those conditions rather than a clean or cleaner environment.

It is clear that environmental sustainability is a *key component* of sustainability, in that both our health and economy are dependent on the condition of the environment. Clean air and water, our food, natural resources, medicines, climate regulation, etc. that come from a healthy environment are all vital necessities to a sustainable community

**Source:**

Jacobs, 1991.

Maclaren, 1996.

**Definitions – social sustainability**

The British Columbia Round Table (1993: 80–81) presents a detailed set of social sustainability principles that emphasize social equity, meeting basic needs, personal development, and responsible citizenship. *Social sustainability* is achieved when individuals in a society are able to:

- achieve and maintain personal health: physical, mental and psychological;
- feed themselves adequately;
- provide adequate and appropriate shelter for themselves;
- have opportunities for gainful and meaningful employment;
- improve their knowledge and understanding of the world around them;
- find opportunities to express creativity and enjoy recreation in ways that satisfy spiritual and psychological needs;
- express a sense of identity through heritage, art and culture;
- enjoy a sense of belonging;
- be assured of mutual social support from their community;
- enjoy freedom from discrimination and, for those who are physically-challenged, move about a barrier-free society;
- enjoy freedom from fear, and security of person;

- participate actively in civic affairs.

The Round Table contends that an additional key element of social sustainability should be community self-reliance. Self-reliance in this context does not mean that communities become isolated but rather that they develop the capacity to respond to local concerns while recognizing that local needs must be balanced against regional, provincial, national and global sustainability goals.

**Source:**

British Columbia Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, 1993.  
Maclaren, 1996.

### **Definitions – indicators**

Indicators have been defined in many different ways and from many different perspectives. A definition adapted from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD, 1994) reads as follows:

*"... a statistic or parameter that, tracked over time, provides information on trends in the condition of a phenomenon and has significance extending beyond that associated with the properties of the statistics itself."*

The following are other sample definitions of indicators:

*"Indicators are a way of seeing the 'big picture' by looking at a smaller piece of it. They tell us which direction we are going: up or down, forward or backward, getting better or worse or staying the same"* (Jacksonville Community Council, 1992).

*"An indicator is a statistic or measure which facilitates interpretation and judgements about the condition of an element of the world or society in relation to a standard or goal"* (US EPA, 1972).

While the definitions vary, there is a consensus that an indicator should be more than just a simple statistic or measurement. Unlike simple statistics, indicators provide a summary indication of a condition or problem, and permit the observation of progress or change. This progress can be measured over time or against benchmarks, targets or visions for the future.

**Source:**

CMHC and Environment Canada, 1996.  
Jacksonville Community Council, 1992.  
OECD, 1994.  
US EPA, 1972.

### **Definitions – sustainability indicators**

Sustainability indicators are selected key statistics or parameters that, tracked over time, can represent or summarize trends in social, economic, and environmental conditions.

**Source:**

CMHC and Environment Canada, 1996.

## Appendix F – References and Links

1. Choreographing Community Sustainability (Centre of Culture and Communities)  
([www.cultureandcommunities.ca](http://www.cultureandcommunities.ca))
2. Community Sustainable Indicators Program  
([www.ec.gc.ca/soer-ree/English/scip/default.cfm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/soer-ree/English/scip/default.cfm))
3. Comprehensive Guide for Sustainable Community Planning (Alberta)  
([msp.auma.ca/digitalAssets/0/249\\_MSP\\_CompleteGuidebook\\_June06.pdf](http://msp.auma.ca/digitalAssets/0/249_MSP_CompleteGuidebook_June06.pdf))
4. Conservation Action Planning Handbook (The Nature Conservancy)  
([www.conserveonline.org/workspaces/cbdgateway](http://www.conserveonline.org/workspaces/cbdgateway))
5. Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit  
([www.esdtoolkit.org](http://www.esdtoolkit.org))
6. Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit – (Portland State University)  
([www.esdtoolkit.org](http://www.esdtoolkit.org))
7. Healthy Food Healthy Communities (Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition)  
([www.ohcc-ccso.ca/en/healthy-food-healthy-community](http://www.ohcc-ccso.ca/en/healthy-food-healthy-community))
8. Healthy People, Healthy Province – The Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health (2001)  
([www.health.gov.sk.ca/health-care-action-plan](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/health-care-action-plan))
9. Indicators of Community Sustainability – University of Wisconsin  
([www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/sus/html/indicators\\_of\\_cs.html](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/sus/html/indicators_of_cs.html))
10. Planning for Sustainable Canadian Communities Roundtable (2005)  
([www.cultureandcommunities.ca/downloads/FINAL\\_ICSP-Discussion-paper.pdf](http://www.cultureandcommunities.ca/downloads/FINAL_ICSP-Discussion-paper.pdf))
11. The Natural Step Canada  
([www.thenaturalstep.org](http://www.thenaturalstep.org))
12. Saskatchewan Regional Centre of Expertise on Education For Sustainable Development  
([www.saskrce.ca](http://www.saskrce.ca))
13. SaskRCE Working Group on Climate Change  
([www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/9&page=1](http://www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/9&page=1))
14. Simon Fraser University Centre for Community Sustainable Development  
([www.sfu.ca/cscd](http://www.sfu.ca/cscd))

15. Sustainable Communities Network  
([www.sustainable.org](http://www.sustainable.org))
16. Sustainability Education Guide (California Natural Resources Agency)  
([www.ceres.ca.gov/tcsf/seg/index.html](http://www.ceres.ca.gov/tcsf/seg/index.html))
17. Understanding Community Indicators (Jacksonville, FL)  
([www.jcci.org/Indicators/understandingindicators.aspx](http://www.jcci.org/Indicators/understandingindicators.aspx))