

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING INITIATIVE

Implementation Plan
2014

SHAPING OUR
FUTURE



CSPI IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

1 | Introduction

The Community Sustainability Planning Initiative (CSPI) was completed to identify initiatives that support sustainability by enabling the community to build on existing successes and identify future opportunities. The project looked to position the community to capitalize on unique advantages, encourage emerging sustainability trends and technologies, leverage opportunities, attract partnerships, and support growth and innovation. Sustainability in the CSPI process was about exploring ways to support our community’s economic, environmental and social needs both today and in the future.

The CSPI was completed in February 2013, and Council adopted each of the following four plans:



While the Community Sustainability Strategy serves as a high-level guiding document and a lens for future policy and planning projects, the Green Community Plan, Green Economic Investment Study and Green Energy Plan provide strategies, recommendations and actions that are more detailed about specific topics.

2 | Purpose

As one of its key objectives for 2014, Council directed staff to complete a CSPI Implementation Plan. The purpose of this plan is to consolidate and organize the strategies, recommendations and actions of the CSPI documents into one plan that promotes a strategic and orderly approach to achieving them.

3 | CSPI Plans

Community Sustainability Strategy

The Community Sustainability Strategy (CSS) is the overarching guiding document of the CSPI that provides a coordinated approach to sustainability. It outlines five statements of what a sustainable community looks like, and includes an updated Sustainability Charter.

CSS Future States

- Our community is healthy and enjoys a good quality of life
- Our community's resources and assets are managed effectively and efficiently
- Our natural environment thrives
- Our local economy is prosperous
- Our community is compact, connected and complete

From these future states, the CSS describes eight long term strategies to support and guide actions, recommendations, and ideas developed in other City documents and decision making processes. Overall, the eight CSS strategies were intended to not only guide the recommendations of the GCP, GEIS and GEP, but also be a lens through which other City plans and documents could be understood in terms of addressing sustainability objectives.

CSS Strategies

- 1: Encourage Neighbourhood-level Planning
- 2: Transform & Learn through Innovation
- 3: Integrate Asset Management & Land Use Planning
- 4: Manage Natural & Agricultural Assets
- 5: Water, Energy & Waste Management
- 6: Integrate Transportation Options
- 7: Motivate Champions to Lead by Example
- 8: Motivate Behaviour Change

Green Community Plan

The GCP responds to recent industry practices and trends, and identifies strategies for the public, community stakeholders and the City to work collaboratively towards a greener community.

3 themes | 12 strategies

Green Economic Investment Study

The GEIS examines direct and indirect means for the City and its partners to advance a green economy.

7 objectives | 24 recommendations

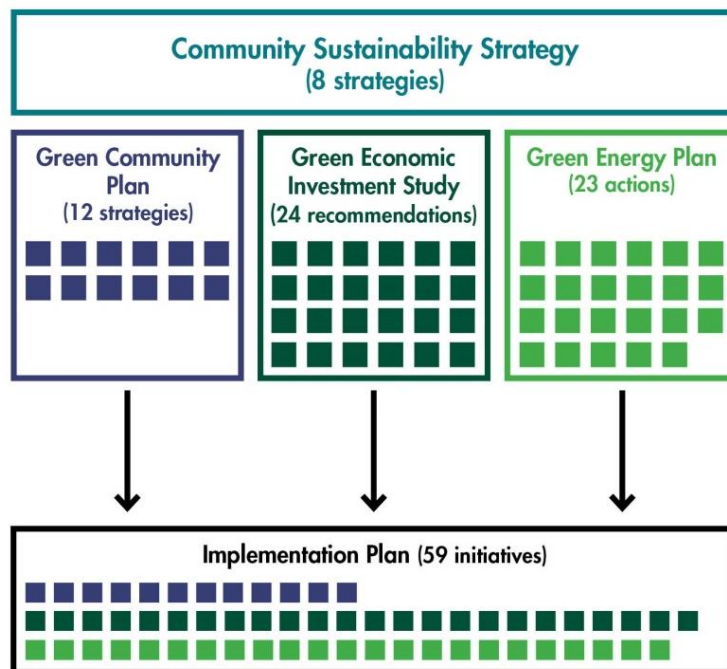
Green Energy Plan

The GEP assists the implementation of OCP policy by recommending strategies and actions to reduce energy use and GHGs.

5 themes | 13 strategies | 23 actions

Consolidated initiatives

The CSS is an overarching guide for City documents and contains a number of long term strategies, while the GCP, GEIS and GEP contain strategies, recommendations and actions. These documents are all organized in different ways, which presents a challenge for coordinating and tracking progress towards achieving the strategies, recommendations and actions. As shown below, the 12 strategies from the GCP, 24 recommendations from the GEIS, and 23 actions from the GEP have been consolidated into 59 initiatives in the CSPI Implementation Plan. Throughout this plan the strategies, recommendations and actions are collectively referred to as initiatives.



Categorized initiatives

In order to establish a strategic approach to understanding the 59 initiatives, they were examined for ways to be categorized based on commonalities and topics. This work resulted in the initiatives being separated into three categories:

- Priority (22 initiatives)
- Future (24 initiatives)
- Externally-led (13 initiatives)

The *Priority* category includes initiatives that can be examined through the major projects Council has authorized to proceed, and includes 22 of the 59 initiatives. The initiatives in this category are significant items requiring time and resources and may also provide the greatest gain, such as “Densify the City Centre”. The category is broken down further into four sub-categories that generally align with identifying the implementation tool most relevant to each initiative: OCP update, Zoning Bylaw update, in progress, and completed.

The *Future* category includes initiatives that mostly relate to raising awareness and educating people about sustainability topics and includes 24 of the 59 initiatives. The category is broken down further into four sub-categories that generally align with the type of education and awareness method: Development Bylaw, partner, program, and publish.

The *Externally-led* category includes initiatives that are within the responsibility of other agencies and the City plays a supporting role and includes 13 of the 59 initiatives. The initiatives in this category include identifying who is the lead agency.

While all initiatives should be considered for implementation, the 22 Priority initiatives are viewed as ones Council should focus on for this plan as they align with major projects authorized by Council, are in-progress or have already been completed. The remaining Future (24) and Externally-led (13) initiatives are attached in Appendix A for Council’s future consideration.

4| Implementation

Identified as one of Council’s key objectives for 2014, the CSPI Implementation Plan was completed to consolidate and organize the initiatives into one document. Not all initiatives are equally weighted with the same priority level. Some are short term and can be completed in current department work plans and Council authorized projects. Others are long term or need to be led by an external agency with support from the City.

22 Priority initiatives

The CSPI Implementation Plan specifically addresses the 22 Priority initiatives in detail because they are already underway or have been completed. Seventeen will be addressed through the current OCP and Zoning Bylaw reviews, 3 are already underway, and 2 have been completed. Additional details about them are included below, along with a summary table.

OCP & Zoning Bylaw Updates (17 initiatives)

There are two major projects underway, the Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw updates. The 17 initiatives are grouped into ‘major projects’ as an implementation tool as the initiatives will be addressed or are being implemented through these projects.

- The OCP update is being completed by Dialog and is expected to be complete by late 2015/early 2016. The update will address a number of initiatives including aligning transportation and land use planning, densifying the city centre, and developing infill guidelines.
- The Zoning Bylaw is currently being updated and modernized, which will greatly assist the City in providing efficient service to our customers and provide a document more readily and easily understood. The update is being completed by Urban Systems and is expected to be complete by fall 2014. The update will address a number of initiatives including food gardens and residential infill.

In progress (3 initiatives)

Three initiatives are being worked on by City staff as part of departmental work plans, including incorporating natural infiltration techniques into development and initiating a waste diversion program for commercial and multifamily properties. These projects are in progress and will require final approval from Council.

Complete (2 initiatives)

Two initiatives are complete, including the implementation of residential organic waste diversion and incorporating appropriate green economic recommendations into the Economic Development Action Plan.

Implementation table

The following table outlines the 22 Priority initiatives by highlighting the project that will consider its implementation, and the source CSPI Plan.

Implementation tool	Initiative	CSPI Plan
Official Community Plan	1. Encourage planning at a neighbourhood scale	GCP
	2. Identify incentive opportunities for green development	
	3. Encourage green development	GEIS
	4. Investigate district energy system potential	
	5. Densify Abbotsford's City Centre	
	6. Promote improved transit linkages	
	7. Ensure the OCP land use densities support the proposed transit network	GEP
	8. Consider creating neighbourhood plans for areas identified for focused growth	
	9. Encourage innovative infill housing in growth areas	
	10. Consider updating design guidelines and engineering standards for infrastructure to prioritize walking and cycling	
	11. Encourage transit use in the transit priority areas	
	12. Research the potential district energy systems through the neighbourhood planning process	
Zoning Bylaw	13. Encourage urban food gardens	GCP
	14. Examine opportunities for industrial land intensification	GEIS
	15. Promote use of green building technologies	
	16. Consider installing EV charging stations at key community locations and encourage in new developments	GEP
	17. Consider revising the Zoning Bylaw proactively to include anaerobic digestion provisions	
In progress	18. Identify innovative stormwater management opportunities	GCP
	19. Undertake stream classifications	
	20. Assess commercial and multi-family organics diversion	GEP
Complete	21. Complete implementation of curbside organics diversion	GEP
	22. Consider incorporating recommendations of the GEIS into the City's economic development plans and strategies	

5 | Monitoring

The above 22 Priority initiatives will be incorporated into the applicable 2014 Council priority project (ie. OCP and Zoning Bylaw). In subsequent years Appendix A will be used to identify additional initiatives that can be incorporated into future departmental work plans. In this way the City can make progress towards the sustainability objectives of the CSPI while balancing budget and resource needs of other projects and programs.

Many of the additional initiatives in Appendix A involve creating checklists, guidelines or information brochures. Examples include starting a buy-local campaign or inventorying green initiatives. In addition, many external agencies in the city are already doing many complementary sustainable projects. These sustainability achievements can be reported through the City's Communications Department and put on the website, in the "City Pages" of the local newspaper, and in news releases.

Greenhouse Gas targets

The purpose of the CSPI is to support our community's economic, environmental and social needs. Some of the CSPI initiatives will also move the City closer to its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets identified in the OCP.

The current GHG inventory and targets in the OCP were developed in 2010 using a Provincial Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) and modeling in partnership with the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD). The Province continues to refine their CEEI reporting and have published updated data since 2010.

Although the implementation table does not have a specific initiative related to updating the GHG targets, this work will be part of the OCP update currently underway as it is a requirement of the *Local Government Act*. The GHG targets in the OCP will be reviewed in the context of updated Provincial CEEI reports and GEP modeling to ensure they are correct and relevant.

6 | Conclusion

The Community Sustainability Planning Initiative (CSPI) was completed to identify initiatives that support sustainability by enabling the community to build on existing successes and identify future opportunities. Identified as one of Council's key objectives, the CSPI Implementation Plan was completed to consolidate and organize the initiatives into one document that will enable a strategic approach to achieving them. Twenty two Priority initiatives are the ones Council should focus on as they align with major projects authorized by Council, are in-progress or have already been completed. The remaining 37 initiatives are included in Appendix A for Council's future consideration.

Appendix A | Future and Externally-led initiatives

Future (24 initiatives)

Implementation tool	Source Plan	Initiative	CSS Strategy
Development Bylaw	GCP	Encourage innovative development techniques and standards (2.1.2)	4
	GEP	Consider incorporating transit priority measures into transportation and roadway planning and design standards (3-2)	6
		Encourage "district energy ready" heating systems in identified district energy opportunity areas (9-2)	5
Partner	GCP	Promote partnerships for continued research (environmental stewardship) (2.3.2)	4
		Encourage private land stewardship (2.3.3)	4, 7, 8
	GEIS	Support green business programs (G.4)	7, 8
		Support build-out of the food manufacturing sector (M.3)	4, 7
	GEP	Contribute to the Ministry of Agriculture draft bylaw development process for on-farm anaerobic digestion systems (11-1)	2, 5
		Consider promoting alternative renewable energy sources (8-1)	5, 8
Program	GCP	Develop education and awareness programs (sustainability) (2.3.1)	4, 8
	GEIS	Encourage demonstration of new technologies in City projects (D.2)	2, 7
		Consider developing green economic catalyst initiatives (G.3)	2, 7
		Assess potential for attracting green light industry (M.1)	7
	GEP	Concentrate transit frequency along core transit routes in the Transit Future Plan (3-1)	6
		Explore working with BC Transit to provide a neighbourhood transit pass option in transit-oriented neighbourhoods (4-2)	6
Public	GCP	Create a resource guide for property owners (environmental management) (2.2.3)	4, 8
		Educate the public on green development practices and encourage their implementation (2.3.4)	4, 8

GEIS	Inventory green businesses in Abbotsford (G.1)	7
	Highlight best practices in all sectors (G.2)	7
GEP	Consider creating a sustainability checklist for new developments to use as a reference (1-4)	7
	Consider creating a TDM strategy appropriate for Abbotsford (4-1)	6, 8
	Consider promoting existing programs that provide incentives for green renovations (6-1)	5, 8
	Consider creating an education program to promote highly energy efficient new buildings and technologies (7-1)	5, 8
	Consider promoting energy conservation in agricultural operations (11-3)	5, 8

Externally-led (13 initiatives)

Implementation tool	Source Plan	Initiative	CSS Strategy	Lead
External	GCP	Identify enhancement opportunities (environmental areas) (2.2.2)	4	FVWC
	GEIS	Promote the development of an Agricultural Leadership Centre (A.1)	2, 4, 7	ACES
		Support programs to enable youth farming (A.2)	4	BC Young Farmers
		Investigate opportunities to expand local food and food products (A.3)	4	AFCMS, CFSE, TA
		Support for utilization of agricultural waste (A.4)	2, 5, 7	BCMA
		Promote spending in the local economy (C.1)	8	LOCO BC
		Support the development of green jobs within the development sector (D.6)	8	UFV
		Support eco-industrial networking (M.2)	7	Local businesses
		Make Abbotsford a leader in green aviation technologies and processes (T.2)	2	AAA
		Facilitate the advancement of the alternative fuel industry (T.3)	2	BCMA

		Promote sustainability achievements of educational institutions (R.1)	7	UFV, SD#34
		Encourage research and training (green enterprise and economic development) (R.2)	2	UFV, SD#34
	GEP	Consider supporting promotion of local food systems (12-1)	4	AFCMS, CFSF, TA

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Acronyms

- AAA: Abbotsford Airport Authority
 ACES: Agriculture Centre of Excellence in Sustainability
 AFCMS: Abbotsford Farm & Country Market Society
 BCMA: BC Ministry of Agriculture
 CFSF: Community Futures South Fraser
 FVWC: Fraser Valley Watershed Coalition
 SD#34: School District 34 (Abbotsford)
 TA: Tourism Abbotsford
 UFV: University of the Fraser Valley