

DRAFT

Sustainability Framework Working Group Terms of Reference

Overview:

At a time of new societal challenges, such as peak oil, global warming and the general degradation of ecosystems, Municipalities across Canada are beginning to address the challenge of sustainable development by recognizing that economic, environmental and social health are interdependent, and that a sustainable development approach integrates all three elements into municipal decisions. Bowen Island stands to benefit by joining other municipal leaders and developing a sustainability framework for the critical decisions that face us. The purpose of such an endeavor is to provide an overarching planning and decision-making tool that is appropriate for development in the 21st century. BIM recognized this challenge when incorporated in 2001 which is reflected in the Municipality's Mission Statement:

"In carrying out its mandate, Bowen Island Municipality will work towards conducting operations in a way that:

1. Improves the economic, environmental and social well-being for present and future generations;
2. Encourages and fosters community involvement;
3. Enhances the small, friendly, caring character of the community;
4. Maintains an open, accountable and effective operation; and
5. Preserves and enhances the unique mix of natural ecosystems and green spaces that Bowen Island possesses."

Council recognizes that a renewed commitment to sustainable development is commensurate to recent scientific and economic assessments such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports, the Stern report (2006) and the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Therefore, Council accepts the most recent scientific consensus: current economic activity is damaging planetary support systems to such an extent that it is causing social and economic harm, and that this situation will worsen significantly in the coming decades without new economic approaches.

To demonstrate a renewed commitment, Council seeks to return to its mission statement and create a means for its implementation to become more effective. To help coordinate the Municipality's initiatives, Bowen Island Municipality needs to develop a sustainability framework which outlines goals, strategies and success measures. The objective is to ensure that the Municipality's decisions and actions best support its mission.

Approach:

Currently, working groups comprised of experienced and skilled members are making significant contributions to Snug Cove planning. Council believes that a similar approach will add to the community's ability to move quickly and confidently toward a sustainable vision for Bowen Island.

Purpose:

to develop a draft report for Council on a proposed sustainability framework to enable Council, staff, and the community to make decisions that best support Bowen Island's Mission Statement:

Objectives:

1. Review the vision for Bowen Island stated in existing documents, such as the OCP and the Municipality's Mission Statement, in light of key 21st century challenges;
2. Set priorities where action is needed to achieve the vision;
3. Set achievable but ambitious goals for these priority areas;
4. Develop practical strategies to achieve the goals;
5. Suggest early actions that meet strategic goals and build energy and support for the process;

6. Develop indicators to monitor progress;
7. Build an accountability report card that can be used to monitor progress for the community and adjust plans as appropriate.

To provide additional expertise, the Working Group will hire a lead consultant to advise the Working Group:

- o On a process to develop a sustainability framework;
- o To provide access to technical expertise as needed;
- o To advise on and potentially facilitate public consultation processes.

However, every effort will be made to minimize consulting costs through the high level of volunteer expertise on the Working Group

Composition and Authority to Act:

- o The Working Group reports to Council through its Chair.
- o The Working Group has the authority to meet with Municipal staff in support of its work plan.
- o The Working Group will be chaired by Councilor Hocking, with membership of Mayor Turner, Municipal Planner Jason Smith, Contract Planner Andy Beard, Public Works Superintendent Brad Hawthorn, and three-to-four members of the public.
- o Member of the public will be solicited by advertisement and selected by Council based on their technical background in addressing and finding solutions to sustainability issues.
- o After this work plan is completed, this volunteer committee shall be disbanded, unless Council decides to extend its work.

Timeframe:

- o The draft report should be completed by October 2007;
- o Council's goal is to complete the process of developing a sustainability framework within 2007;
- o The process will include implementation of "quick win" actions within the year;
- o One goal is to implement the sustainability framework as a priority setting reference within the 2008 budget process;

Budget:

The Working Group has a budget of \$10,000 and any increase is contingent upon approval through the budget process or the obtaining of a grant