



## REQUEST FOR DECISION

SLRD Regional Growth Strategy Annual Report - 2022

**Meeting date:** December 14, 2022

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**To:** SLRD Board

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### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board accept the annual update report on 2022 Regional Growth Strategy activities, as presented.

### KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:

Section 452 of the *Local Government Act* (LGA) sets requirements for regional districts with adopted regional growth strategies (RGS). Specifically, a regional district must

- a) establish a program to monitor its implementation and the progress made towards its objectives and actions, and
- b) prepare an annual report on that implementation and progress.

Note at the May 24, 2017 Board meeting it was resolved:

*THAT the Board revise the RGS monitoring program thereby directing: 1) staff to prepare annual reports on RGS implementation and progress, as required by s. 452 of the Local Government Act; and 2) staff to retain consultants to monitor RGS and ISP indicators only every 2-5 years to better reflect data availability.*

In 2021 Indicator Monitoring was completed for the years 2016-2020. As such, this annual report provides an update on activities related to RGS Collaborative Planning & Information Sharing and RGS Implementation.

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with an update on the ongoing activities associated with the RGS over the past year, pursuant to the *LGA* requirement above.

### RELEVANT POLICIES:

[Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008](#)

### BACKGROUND:

The RGS was adopted by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Board in June, 2010 by acceptance of all member municipalities and participating electoral areas (excluding Electoral Area A, which is not a party to the RGS) as well as all seven adjacent regional districts (affected local governments). The RGS provides a “*broad policy framework describing the common direction that the regional district and member municipalities will follow in promoting*

*development and services which are sustainable, recognizing a long term responsibility for the quality of life for future generations”.*

Based on a 20-year planning approach, the RGS is to “*guide development and encourage collaborative approaches to a sustainable future*”. The RGS has eleven goals with a set of indicators identified for each goal. Thirty-one indicators in total are used to monitor progress toward these goals. As stated in the RGS Bylaw, monitoring has two purposes – to measure progress in RGS implementation and to measure substantive improvements in the core conditions or results that are targeted by the RGS. The SLRD RGS indicators were monitored in 2021 for the 2016-2020 time period.

Included below is a summary of ‘general work’ conducted in associated with the RGS and ‘works specific to goals & strategic directions’ – which provide an update on implementation and progress.

[2016-2020 Indicator Monitoring Report Snapshot](#)

**SUMMARY:**

Over the past year, work associated with the RGS focussed on collaborative planning & information sharing and RGS implementation. Outstanding Board resolutions associated with the RGS are also included below, as well as information about the next RGS review timeline and potential items to be addressed during a review process.

Collaborative Planning & Information Sharing

**RGS Steering Committee Meetings**

As no RGS Amendment Applications were received in 2022, RGS Steering Committee meetings focused on Collaborative Planning & Information Sharing and RGS Implementation:

- A key purpose of the RGS Steering Committee is to serve as a forum where regional and inter-municipal trends can be discussed, information shared, problems and opportunities identified, and solutions defined for issues of common concern.
- Another key purpose of the RGS Steering Committee is to guide implementation of the RGS.

The RGS Steering Committee met in June of 2022. Regional Roundtable Updates were shared. SLRD staff also shared the work underway on the SLRD Climate Action & Resilience Framework. The RGS Steering Committee met in November of 2022. Regional Roundtable Updates were shared.

**Intergovernmental Advisory Committee Participation**

Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley Regional District both have RGS Review processes underway, and SLRD staff have participated on Intergovernmental Advisory Committees in support of these processes – providing input and ensuring alignment on inter-regional issues.

### RGS Implementation

\*Implementation and progress updates listed by relevant goal and strategic direction; not all strategic directions are included in this staff report.

<p><b>GOAL 1 Focus Development into Compact, Complete, Sustainable Communities</b></p> <p><i>1.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree that:</i></p> <p>a) <i>The Settlement Planning Maps will be used in conjunction with Official Community Plans to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Direct growth and settlement development towards Member Municipalities and existing SLRD Master Planned Communities;</i></li> <li>• <i>maintain the rural, low density character of Serviced Residential and Rural Residential Areas; and</i></li> <li>• <i>protect and maintain Non-Settlement Areas. Official Community Plans should:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) <i>establish policies that are consistent with the Regional Settlement Planning Map;</i></li> <li>(ii) <i>direct major settlement growth to the Urban Areas and Master Planned Communities;</i></li> <li>(iii) <i>prevent major settlement growth in Non-Settlement Areas; and</i></li> <li>(iv) <i>encourage Smart Growth strategies appropriate to the settlement types and local circumstances</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>IMPLEMENTATION &amp; PROGRESS UPDATE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Growth and development have continued to be directed to Member Municipalities and existing SLRD Master Planned Communities. Non-settlement Areas have been protected.</li> <li>- No new RGS Amendment Applications or boundary expansions have occurred.</li> <li>- There has been no increase to the Urban Areas designation under the RGS Settlement Mappings (note any changes in land use designations are typically only considered during an SLRD RGS Review or as part of a Member Municipality comprehensive OCP Update).</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOAL 2 Improve Transportation Linkages and Options</b></p> <p><i>Regional Preferred Modes of Transportation Priorities (Table 5 in RGS Bylaw)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Sea-to-Sky Regional Transit Service</i></li> </ul> <p>IMPLEMENTATION &amp; PROGRESS UPDATE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SLRD continues to lobby and advocate for Provincial support toward Regional Transit funding and implementation where opportunities exist.</li> <li>- Regional Transit infrastructure is being provided for as part of the rezoning processes for Furry Creek Neighbourhood, Britannia North, and Lil'wat Mainstreet Development (Mt. Currie)</li> </ul>
<p><i>Regional Preferred Modes of Transportation Priorities (Table 5 in RGS Bylaw)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Complete Friendship Trail connecting Pemberton and Mount Currie</i></li> </ul> <p>IMPLEMENTATION &amp; PROGRESS UPDATE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- funding was acquired in 2022 to plan the Friendship Trail route through Mt. Currie. Lil'wat Nation Lands and Resources Department was engaged by SLRD and is leading the process of community consultation on trail route and best model for future management of</li> </ul>

<p>the trail through Lil'wat Nation reserve lands. Once complete the SLRD will look for funding to construct the section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VOP will be constructing the section between Pemberton Portage Road and Pemberton Farm Road East, and they are on the permit/approvals stage now with construction planned for 2023.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Regional Preferred Modes of Transportation Priorities (Table 5 in RGS Bylaw)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Maintain and enhance Sea-to-Sky Trail</i></li> </ul> <p>IMPLEMENTATION &amp; PROGRESS UPDATE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See Goal 6 below.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Regional Preferred Modes of Transportation Priorities (Table 5 in RGS Bylaw)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Seek opportunities to implement pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure in conjunction with other capital projects</i></li> </ul> <p>IMPLEMENTATION &amp; PROGRESS UPDATE:</p> <p>Active transportation infrastructure is being incorporated into the master planned communities of Britannia Beach and Furry Creek, as part of rezoning and development permit processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Encourage Complete Streets designs in all new development and road projects.</i></li> </ul> <p>IMPLEMENTATION &amp; PROGRESS UPDATE:</p> <p>Complete Streets design principles being incorporated into the commercial development programs for the master planned communities of Britannia Beach and Furry Creek as part of the rezoning and development permit processes.</p>

<p><b>GOAL 3 Generate a Range of Quality Affordable Housing</b></p>
<p>3.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:</p> <p>a) Establish collaborative and consistent affordable housing policies, targets and tools to generate an adequate supply of quality affordable housing and a diversity of housing types for employees, seniors and people in need in the region.</p> <p><i>This will be pursued by requiring a description of affordable housing policies, targets and tools within member municipality Regional Context Statements and SLRD Official Community Plans. Specifically, statements/descriptions should include the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Inclusionary zoning requirements with aggressive targets, preferably at a minimum of 15 % affordable housing in perpetuity (e.g. purpose built rental, cooperative housing, etc.);</i></li> <li>• <i>Tools to secure affordable housing in perpetuity through deed/title restrictions and price controls;</i></li> <li>• <i>Strategies for the acquisition of community land banks for housing;</i></li> <li>• <i>Incentives and/or targets for affordable rental housing.</i></li> </ul> <p>IMPLEMENTATION &amp; PROGRESS UPDATE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SLRD Affordable Housing Initiatives and Development Applications include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Affordable Housing Design Guidelines – OCP Amendment Bylaws currently at 3<sup>rd</sup> reading;</li> <li>o 15% affordable housing secured as part of the Furry Creek Neighbourhood zoning amendment bylaw, with 60 affordable rental and 60 affordable ownership units being provided and covenanted for employees; currently at 3<sup>rd</sup> reading;</li> <li>o 15% affordable housing being secured as part of the Britannia North zoning amendment bylaw; currently at 1<sup>st</sup> reading.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Lil'wat Mainstreet Development – 53 affordable rental units being provided, with 36 covenanted and under a Housing Agreement Bylaw; Amendment Bylaws at 3<sup>rd</sup> reading;
- WedgeWoods Estates – zoning amendment application for WedgeWoods Estates to permit additional subdivision of existing Strata Lot 12 into 6 non-market single family lots, and subdivision of Strata Lot 108 to create 12 additional market lots. All of these homes would be required to have a minimum of one covenanted long-term rental suite.

*h) Work collaboratively to address impacts of short-term nightly rentals and home 'sharing' on housing supply.*

*This will be pursued through bylaw enforcement, business licences, exploring the use of property rental programs matching business owners with property owners for workforce housing and targeted communications and outreach efforts.*

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

- SLRD Bylaw enforcement continues to be complaint based; no zoning amendments or regulatory changes occurred in 2022.

**GOAL 4 Achieve a Sustainable Economy**

*f) Implement the recommendations of the Northern SLRD Economic Development Assessment, Strategy and Action Plan and the Northern SLRD Economic Development Governance Model Feasibility Study, including working to establish an inclusive, multi-party regional economic development committee.*

*Implementation will be pursued by undertaking a series of strategic initiatives outlined in the reports that will guide future investment in the Lillooet area economy in collaboration with the St'át'imc*

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

The SLRD, with funding from Northern Development Initiatives Trust (NDIT), supported the Bridge River Valley Community Association (BRVCA) to undertake economic development activities in Area A, with a focus on relationship building, affordable housing, resident/business attraction and tourism marketing. Also with funding from NDIT, the SLRD supported the Lillooet Learning Communities Society in its effort to establish the Lillooet Area Community Connect Innovation HUB, which is intended to become a hub to bring people and organizations in the Lillooet region / northern St'át'imc Territory together to build a collaborative approach to community economic development. The SLRD also applied for (and was awarded) NDIT's annual Grant Writing Support grant, which enabled the BRVCA to hire a local grant writer to assist Area A and B community organizations to access funding for community and economic development programs, projects and services.

*i) Support the economic viability of the local agricultural sector. This will be pursued by developing regulations that strengthen the capacity of local farmers to produce and reach their markets and highlighting/recognizing the importance of agriculture to the region's economy in decision-making.*

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

- Implementation of the Electoral Area B, District of Lillooet and St'at'mic Agricultural Plan, Pemberton Valley Agricultural Plan, and Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan continues to support the economic viability of the local agricultural sector. SLRD regulatory amendments continue to support agriculture.



- Two Good Food Gatherings were hosted in 2022, hosted by the Squamish Food Policy Council and supported by the SLRD and District of Squamish. The gatherings focussed on exploring opportunities for local procurement – connecting farmers and restaurants as well as institutions and policy makers.

**GOAL 5 Protect Natural Eco-system Functioning**

*f) Take an active approach to responsible vegetation management, including, where appropriate, consideration of alternatives to herbicides in rights-of-way maintenance, and cost-effective measures to control the spread of noxious weeds and alien invasive species. This will be pursued by promoting alternatives to chemical treatments; enforcing SLRD and member municipality Soil Deposit and Removal bylaws; supporting the works of the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council and Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society; and investigating the introduction of a noxious weed bylaw and awareness program (e.g. restricting fill movements, etc.).*

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

Annual funding supports the works of the *Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council and Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society* to provide for the service of invasive species management and control within the SLRD. In 2022 this annual funding was \$75,000, with the District of Squamish, RMOW, Village of Pemberton, District of Lillooet and SLRD Electoral Areas all contributing. Additionally, in 2022 \$30,000 in Area B PILT funding was provided to *Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society* for the Rehabilitation McKay Cr. Wildfire Area.

**GOAL 6 Encourage the Sustainable Use of Parks and Natural Areas**

*d) Continue supporting the development of the Sea to Sky Trail as a regional amenity, and continue advancing the goals of the Sea to Sky Recreation Trails Program. As trails are developed, they will be designed to be compatible with farm and ranching operations. This will be pursued in collaboration with provincial, regional and local land managers including the Agricultural Land Commission, land owners in the ALR, clubs and stakeholders to preserve and maintain existing trails and plan new trails for the future.*

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

- In 2022, funding was acquired and permit/approval applications submitted for the final section connecting Whistler and Pemberton (Gord’s Garden to Nairn Falls). Construction is scheduled for 2023. Work is also under way for construction of the Cheakamus Canyon highway section, linking Cheakamus Canyon and Chance Creek. Construction is scheduled for 2024, the SLRD has approximately 1/3 of the funding in place and have grant applications in process for the balance.
- Between 2016-2020 SLRD worked with farmers to fence all sections of the trail that abut farm land, provided signage and farm gates where requested. Once the SRW is in place with Sunstone, SLRD will work with the developer to fence those sections if requested.

**GOAL 7 Create Healthy and Safe Communities**

*c) Undertake integrated, coordinated emergency preparedness planning on a regional basis, including strategic planning for fire protection services, natural hazards management, extreme weather events, other large-scale emergencies, and expanding 911 emergency services. This will be pursued by a Regional District committee and staff.*

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

Completed projects include:

- UBCM Community Resiliency Investment – FireSmart for Economic Recovery 2021
  - o Provided FireSmart services at the homes of x101 seniors aged 65+ in the DOL and Areas A and B
- Rural Community Development Fund – Develop a Business Case for Lillooet River Sediment Removal
- UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - Upper Paradise Valley Flood Risk Assessment

Ongoing projects include:

- UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Lillooet River Sediment Removal and Mt Currie landslide monitoring (final report pending)
- NDMP Intake 6 – SLRD Risk Prioritization Study Phase 2 (expected complete in March 2023)
- UBCM Community Resiliency Investment – FireSmart Community Funding and Supports 2021 (expected complete in Jan 2023)
  - o Development of Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans for all four electoral areas
  - o FireSmart vegetation debris removal service
  - o FireSmart rebate program
  - o FireSmart home ignition zone assessments
  - o FireSmart education days
  - o Hosting Community FireSmart Resiliency Committees
- UBCM Community Resiliency Investment – FireSmart Community Funding and Supports 2022 (expected complete in Dec 23)
  - o FireSmart vegetation debris removal service
  - o FireSmart rebate program
  - o FireSmart home ignition zone assessments
  - o FireSmart education days
  - o Hosting Community FireSmart Resiliency Committees
- Ryan River modelling and Floodplain mapping (expected complete in Apr 23)
- CISM Training and Backup Generator for SLRD EOC (expected complete in Mar 23)
- UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Lillooet River Sediment Removal and Mt Currie (expected complete in Jan 23)

Extreme weather events:

- Completed exercise: 3 Oct 22 Joint DOS / VOP / Flood Response EOC Exercise simulating atmospheric river causing simultaneous evacuations across Sea to Sky region
- Hosting monthly: Sea 2 Sky Regional Emergency Program Committee meetings and Regional Emergency Support Services working group
- Co-Hosting Semi-annually with Fraser Basin Council: Lillooet area wildfire round table

Other large-scale emergencies:

- Ongoing response to impacts from Nov 2021 Atmospheric River
  - o Ongoing evacuation order and State of Local Emergency for Reid Rd community, Electoral Area A
  - o Ongoing risk assessment: Jason Creek debris flow hazard affecting Reid Rd
- Response completed: Support for Electoral Area A Bridge River Valley communities isolated due to avalanches caused by Jan 22 atmospheric river
  - o Helicopter re-supply of remote communities (food, medication)
  - o Maintaining satellite comms with community until Telus restored

- Response completed: Evacuation order and SOLE related to Downton Creek wildfire, September 2022
  - o Evacuations on x6 private properties in SLRD Electoral Area B, plus BC MoE Rec Sites and Trails

Expanding 911 emergency services:

- Monitoring nation-wide upgrade to Next Gen 911, anticipating staged roll-out over the coming years

**GOAL 8 Enhance Relations with Indigenous Communities and First Nations**

b) Continue to support the creation of SLRD-Indigenous Liaison Committees to work on information sharing protocols, learning resources, and engagement tools on matters of joint interest such as land use planning, servicing, economic development, etc. This will be pursued through discussions with Indigenous communities, First Nations and relevant member municipalities.

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

Area C / Pemberton: The SLRD in partnership with Líl'wat Nation and the Village of Pemberton, convened a meeting of the Nukw7ántwał Intergovernmental Relations Committee in late 2021, along with several staff-level organizing committee meetings through 2021/22. A small Nukw7ántwał Regional Gathering took place at the Ts'zil Learning Centre on September 23, 2022 with funding support from the SLRD and the UBCM Community to Community (C2C) Forum Program. The SLRD also continues to participate in the Pemberton Area Economic Development Collaborative; strengthening relationships and finding ways to collaborate on community economic development is at the heart of this work.

Northern SLRD / Lillooet: No meetings of the Northern St'át'imc Intergovernmental Relations Working Group were held in 2021/2022, however several staff-level discussions have taken place to ascertain how best to move forward. As a result of these conversations, the Northern Economic Development and Initiatives Committee (NEDIC) received a delegation from the P'egp'íg'lha Council on July 7 regarding the P'egp'íg'lha Council's Cultural Heritage Policy. The SLRD signed on to a Memorandum of Understanding, along with the Lillooet Tribal Council and District of Lillooet, to formalize support for the St'át'imc Cultural Centre project, which will include staff participation on a project Advisory Committee and likely the co-organizing of a C2C Forum in Q1 2023. The SLRD Planning Department is currently reviewing its referral process, specifically as it relates to First Nations referrals in northern St'át'imc Territory.

*f) Support an ongoing process of information sharing and mutual learning to increase understanding, build trust, and foster collaboration. This will be pursued by supporting community-to-community forums and other opportunities for mutual dialogue and discovery.*

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

The SLRD continues to support the Lillooet Learning Communities Society in its efforts to establish the Lillooet Area Community Connect Innovation HUB, which is intended to create opportunities for St'át'imc and non-St'át'imc people and organizations to come together to share information, learn, build trust and collaborate to put ideas into action.



Staff-level discussions were initiated in 2022 between the SLRD, District of Lillooet and Lillooet Tribal Council to determine the feasibility of organizing one or more C2C events in northern St'át'imc Territory / northern SLRD in 2023.

### **GOAL 9 Improve Collaboration among Jurisdictions**

*b) Encourage SLRD and member municipality staff departments (administration, planning, finance, engineering, etc.) to develop mechanisms by which they may share information, collaborate and co-operate with their respective peers across the jurisdictions including, but not limited to: regular staff meetings; referral systems; working committees; etc. This will be pursued through collaborative approaches to regional and trans-boundary issues*

#### **IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

- The RGS Steering Committee continues to be a key opportunity for planning departments to collaborate and share information. In 2021, the RGS Steering Committee met in June and November.
- SLRD Planning staff is also actively involved in the Metro Vancouver RGS Review process (Metro 2050) and Fraser Valley RGS Review process through participation on Intergovernmental Advisory Committees.

### **GOAL 10 Protect and Enhance Food Systems**

*10.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:*

*a) Implement Agricultural Plans in conjunction with Indigenous communities and First Nations, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Land Commission. This will be pursued by ensuring that local and regional land use policies and bylaws reflect and support the vision and priorities set forth in the Agricultural Plans, and by supporting local community groups, organizations and initiatives in their implementation efforts.*

*b) Preserve the agricultural land base for sustainable agriculture through the recognition that the highest and best use of agricultural land is for agriculture. This will be pursued by supporting the management of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) by the provincial government, encouraging the provincial government to protect the agricultural land base through the ALR, and utilizing appropriate Zoning Bylaw, OCP, and RGS policy tools to strictly regulate non-farm uses and the subdivision of farmland in accordance with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Regulation.*

*c) Promote agricultural viability with an emphasis on food production and sustainable practices. This will be pursued by working with other levels of government to ensure all jurisdictional regulations are aligned and beneficial to producers and food production, including pursuing strategies and actions to increase actively farmed agricultural land, encourage sustainable land-based aquaculture, emphasize food production, support local food processing and distribution, and reduce barriers to the economic viability of agricultural activities. This will be pursued further by encouraging communities to set policies/targets for local and sustainable food procurement.*

*d) Strengthen regional connections with community-based food initiatives and organizations in support of an economically viable and ecologically sustainable food system. This will be pursued by recognizing and supporting the efforts and visions of community-based food system initiatives, strategies and organizations, including Indigenous communities and First Nations – and by ensuring that urban and rural planning facilitates greater connectivity in the*

*food systems, including decision-making. This may also involve the development of a Regional Food System Strategy*

*h) Seek input and advice from the local agricultural community on food system issues. This will be pursued through maintaining and regularly engaging with the Agricultural Committees, Farmers Institutes/Societies and organizations, and by working with indigenous communities and First Nations.*

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

- The SLRD continues to support (with financial and staff resources) the Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society (LAFS) in their implementation of the Electoral Area B, District of Lillooet and St'at'mic Agricultural Plan.
- The SLRD continues to support (with financial and staff resources) the Squamish Food Policy Council in their implementation of the Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan.
- Zoning amendments underway in Electoral Area C support the visions and priorities of the Pemberton Valley Agricultural Plan.
- SLRD participation in the Squamish Lillooet Food Task Force.
- SLRD developed an Agricultural Awareness Brochure (updated in 2022) as a regional resource.
- Realtor Lunch and Learn session held in Squamish in November 2022 to provide information on the ALR, SLRD zoning/permitted uses and opportunities for property owners to engage in land leasing/matching programs.
- Area B Zoning Bylaw update project currently underway to establish agriculture zones and regulations in accordance with the *ALC Act and Regulations*.
- Service Establishment Bylaw in place now for cooperation between DoL and SLRD on economic development, including agriculture.
- Wildfire Preparedness Webinars for Farmers and Ranchers – SLRD arranged for Climate Action Initiative to host two webinars in Spring 2022
- Electoral Area B Agricultural Advisory Committee and Electoral Area C Agricultural Advisory Committee continue to meet regularly to advise the SLRD Board on agricultural issues.

**GOAL 11 Take Action on Climate Change**

*11.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:*

*a) Adopt Provincial GHG reduction targets.*

*This will be pursued by incorporating targets into SLRD and member municipality OCPs and establishing/maintaining corporate and community emissions inventories. Under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act and reconfirmed through the Climate Leadership Plan (2016), the following targets are established for the purpose of reducing BC GHG emissions:*

- (i) by 2020 and for each subsequent calendar year, BC greenhouse gas emissions will be at least 33% less than the level of those emissions in 2007;*
- (ii) by 2050 and for each subsequent calendar year, BC greenhouse gas emissions will be at least 80% less than the level of those emissions in 2007.*

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

Work ongoing. The District of Squamish, RMOW, and the District of Lillooet have incorporated such GHG reduction targets into their OCPs; the SLRD and Village of Pemberton are still to incorporate such targets into their OCPs.

*b) Maintain status as BC Climate Action Charter signatories. The SLRD and member municipalities are signatories to the BC Climate Action Charter. Signatory Local Governments agree to develop strategies and take actions to achieve the following goals: “(i) being carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012, recognizing that solid waste facilities regulated under the Environmental Management Act are not included in operations for the purposes of this Charter. (ii) measuring and reporting on their community’s GHG emissions profile; and (iii) creating complete, compact, more energy efficient rural and urban communities (e.g. foster a built environment that supports a reduction in car dependency and energy use, establish policies and processes that support fast tracking of green development projects, adopt zoning practices that encourage land use patterns that increase density and reduce sprawl.)”*

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

Status maintained and work ongoing.

*e) Substantially reduce GHG emissions:*

*(i) from mobile sources*

*This will be pursued by limiting growth outside of established urban areas and prioritizing infrastructure development and policies that support preferred modes of transportation for inter and intra community travel.*

*(ii) from stationary sources*

*This will be pursued through collective prioritization of energy efficient development and may include establishing Green Building Policies, creating incentive structures, encouraging retrofit programs, exploring development controls, exploring district energy systems, and lobbying the province for building code extensions. Additionally, the SLRD and member municipalities agree to explore the BC Energy Step Code.*

*(iii) associated with solid waste management*

*This will be pursued by continuing to develop and implement policies, practices and targets toward achieving Zero Waste Goals.*

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

- Efforts to substantially reduce GHG emissions are ongoing. Growth continues to be directed to member municipalities and SLRD master planned communities. The SLRD member municipalities have adopted various levels of the BC Energy Step Code.
- SLRD continues to set maximum gross floor area for single-family dwellings as a way to encourage sustainable development.

*f) Ensure regional/municipal decision-making is structured to achieve GHG reduction targets and energy goals.*

*This will be pursued by supporting compact, complete, efficient land use patterns and using an integrated asset management approach in which consideration is given to the full costs throughout an asset’s life cycle (lifecycle costs), prioritizing opportunities for GHG and energy reduction. This may also involve expanding/updating corporate purchasing policies.*

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

Work ongoing. Development continues to be directed to Urban Areas and Master Planned Communities.

*i) Consider impacts to local community GHG emissions in decision-making around GHG-intensive industries and utilities, LNG, and commercial recreation and leisure operators.*

*This will be pursued through development approval and environmental assessment processes and lobbying efforts with provincial and federal government.*

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

Work is ongoing. Impacts to local community GHG emissions are being considered in the review of development applications and environmental assessment referral responses.

*1) Build climate resilience. This will be pursued through efforts to address the vulnerability that communities have to the environmental consequences of climate change and expand the capacity of citizens, institutions and infrastructure to respond to and influence change. Special consideration must be made for those in our communities who are most vulnerable and least able to respond or influence.*

**IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS UPDATE:**

In 2022 the SLRD updated the Area D Wildfire DPA and brought in a new Area C Wildfire DPA, with guidelines aligned with BC Firesmart. Updates are underway for the Area A and Area B Wildfire DPAs.

Outstanding Board Resolutions

*THAT the Board direct SLRD staff to prepare greenhouse gas targets based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for inclusion in the Regional Growth Strategy as part of a future Regional Growth Strategy amendment.*

*THAT at a future Committee of the Whole meeting, the Board discuss additional monitoring indicators that could be incorporated into the Regional Growth Strategy, such as: access to child care; food production; alignment of greenhouse gas emissions indicators/monitoring approach used by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and its member municipalities; and capacity of recreation amenities*

Note the SLRD RGS Steering Committee provided the following resolution prior to the Board's above resolution:

*THAT the greenhouse gas targets in the Regional Growth Strategy be revised to align with those established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.*

It was anticipated that the new SLRD Climate Action and Resilience Specialist would take on the work of updating SLRD GHG emissions reductions targets across SLRD plans/bylaws, but this position has yet to be refilled. The RGS specific targets will be updated as part of the next RGS Review, unless the Board directs otherwise.

Next RGS Review & Potential Items for Inclusion

As required under the *Local Government Act*, the SLRD must consider a review of the RGS every 5 years. As the last RGS Review was adopted in 2019, consideration of another review will take place in 2024. The RGS Review process provides an opportunity to 1) check in on existing Goals and Strategic Directions; and 2) consider the addition of new Strategic Directions – reflecting evolving Board priorities and emerging community needs.

- Opportunity to update greenhouse gas targets to align with those established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (and as per previous Board resolution)
- Opportunity to add strategic direction(s) in support of local/social procurement. For example:
  - Indigenous procurement – national target is 5%
  - local and targeted employment – City of Vancouver CBA Policy is 10% (and implemented through development applications etc.)

- local and social procurement – City of Vancouver CBA Policy is 10% (and implemented through development applications etc.)
- good food pledge and procurement goals
- Opportunity to add strategic direction(s) around child care. For examples
  - Targets
  - Other tools (dedicated space and below market rents)

**REGIONAL IMPACTS ANALYSIS:**

The SLRD RGS is an initiative of and applies to the four member municipalities and Electoral Areas B, C and D. It is a tool to support collaboration and achievement of smart growth.

**OPTIONS:**

Option 1 (PREFERRED OPTION)

Accept the annual update report on 2022 Regional Growth Strategy activities as presented.

Option 2

Do not accept the annual update report on 2022 Regional Growth Strategy activities as presented.

Option 3

As per Board discretion.

**FOLLOW UP ACTION:**

As per the Board's direction.

Submitted by: C. Dewar, Senior Planner

Reviewed by: K. Needham, Director of Planning and Development Services

Approved by: C. Dalton, Chief Administrative Officer