



Our Climate, Our Community December Consultation Highlights

More than 50 people participated in a series of consultations on December 8th and 9th 2010 to provide input on a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance energy sustainability across Nelson. There were four sessions:

- **Multi Stakeholder Workshop and Public Open House**, involving a wide variety of citizens, organizations, public institutions, utilities and businesses as well as members of Council and City staff
- **Business and Economic Development Meeting** co-hosted with the Chamber of Commerce
- **Building Sector Workshop**, involving local developers, builders, architects, renewable energy specialists

Stakeholder and Public Expectations

Nelson will develop a Plan that makes the emission reductions necessary to contribute to global climate protection, and improves the security of residents, businesses and the public sector through more integrated, sustainable land use and design, green buildings, sustainable energy supply, solid waste management and local food systems. The Plan is shaped by the recently completed Path to 2040 Sustainability Strategy.

The Plan will build on Nelson's complete, compact, highly-liveable character, heritage building preservation, and a historic commitment to energy security that began more than a century ago in establishing its own hydro-electric utility. Urban design and transportation planning will further strengthen opportunities for active transportation and enhance community safety. The Plan will strengthen the local economy by both encouraging support for local businesses, as well as providing guidance for keeping a greater percentage of the more than \$30 million the community spends annually on energy re-invested in the community.

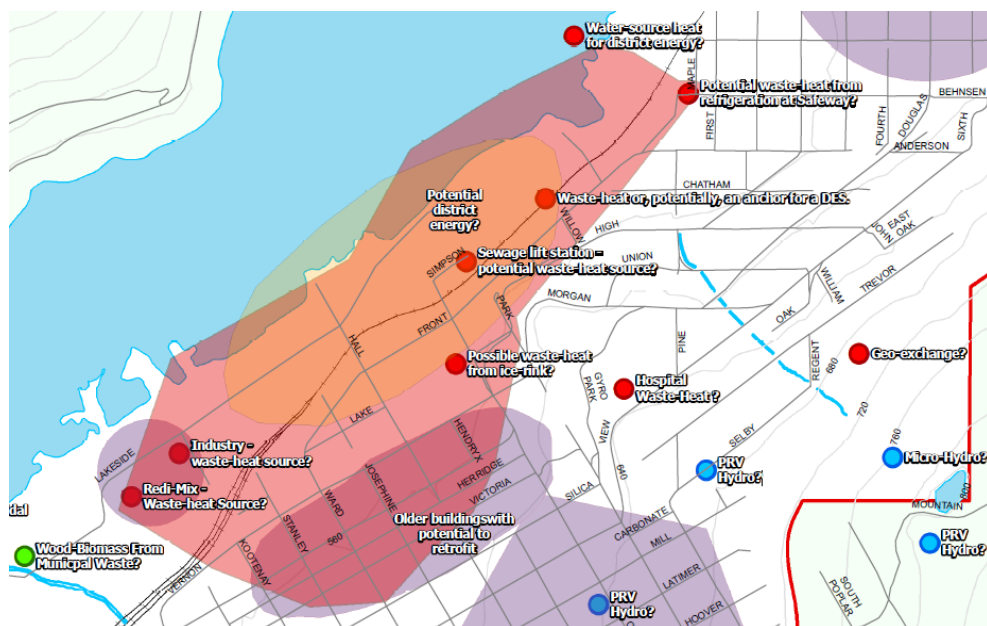
The Plan will provide direction for how to actively engage residents, businesses and the public sector in advancing energy sustainability and deep emission reductions. The Plan will capitalize on and support the entrepreneurial spirit of local residents, businesses and public institutions.

Strategy Ideas

Potential strategies were identified across every energy sector:

Renewable Energy Supply

- **District Energy:** Land use planning and policy guidance could help extend the City's current district energy plans, providing stable, affordable heating to more of the mixed-use, higher density parts of the community.
- **Building-Scale Renewables:** There are some cost effective options for promoting high efficiency wood stoves, and in some parts of the community ground source heating and solar hot water.



High Level Energy Supply Opportunities Map Outtake: Unscreened brainstorm of heat and power opportunities. ("PRV" indicates pressure reduction valves which are in the water distribution system and could potentially be used for power generation).

Buildings

- **Retrofit Strategy:** Given the age of the community's building stock, Nelson Hydro could finance the upfront costs to retrofit inefficient residential and commercial buildings and be paid back through savings on energy bills. This strategy would be a win for customers, Nelson Hydro and create local job opportunities.
- **Green Buildings:** The community is home to a significant green building community. The City could encourage the construction of high efficiency new buildings through a variety of policies and programs that further strengthen local green building capacity, reduce long term operating costs of buildings, and encourage the growth of a local green building industry with work prospects in other communities.



Green Buildings: Nelson is home to a significant green building community. Policies could promote higher performing buildings that reduce energy costs for owners and further foster the growth of this industry. Photo: Kootenay Leaf of Cascadia Green Building Council



Energy Retrofits: Nelson Hydro could potentially finance retrofits in the community's older buildings and be paid back through savings.

Transportation

- **Ride Share:** A significant underutilized resource is the empty seats of cars regularly leaving and arriving in Nelson. There may be an opportunity to utilize technology and planning to use the innovative Kootenay Ride Share program for the considerable inter-community work force and student population.
- **Active Transportation & Transit:** Building on and enhancing a series of recent City and Regional transit and active transportation plans could reduce travel costs, improve mobility and increase the convenience and enjoyment of walking and cycling for local trips.



Kootenay Rideshare: There may be an opportunity to utilize technology and policies to use the Kootenay Ride Share program to take advantage of empty seats in cars for the considerable inter-community work force and student population.

Waste

Many of the ideas would help implement the Solid Waste Management Plan being completed by the Regional District, of particular interest was:

- **Biodegradable Waste Diversion:** A significant portion of waste going to landfills is biodegradable. More could be diverted through extending yard waste pick up, promoting back yard/neighbourhood composting, re-using some wood waste for construction, and diverting untreated wood waste for energy.

Crosscutting Measures:

- **Low Carbon Local Business:** A program could be created for local businesses that would provide guidance to help them reduce energy use, cut greenhouse gases and save money by optimizing building, transportation and meetings including better access to video conferencing.
- **Buy Local:** Adding a *Think Global, Shop Local* theme to buy local programs to reduce transportation needs and support local services and manufactured goods where they exist.
- **Community Offset Program:** The City has made a voluntary commitment to go "carbon neutral" along with most other BC local governments. Money it would spend offsetting emissions from City operations emissions could be invested in community projects to reduce GHGs, such as incentivizing residential solar hot water systems.



Low Carbon Business Plans: Local businesses identified actions for reducing energy use, cutting greenhouse gases and saving money in their operations.

- **Community Food & Agriculture:** Initiatives to promote local food production and processing could improve local food security as food prices are expected to rise, as well as make a small contribution to reducing the emissions associated with much conventional agricultural production, processing and transportation.

Next Steps

A draft high level Plan will be developed informed by these ideas, further input from a Steering Committee composed of Council, city staff, and several experts in the community. The Plan will be presented to stakeholders for review and refinement in February.

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