

Building *SustainAble* Communities

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Soft Path to Water-Centric Sustainability: Conversations with Elected Officials

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The challenge for high growth communities...

**Make informed choices that will
produce cumulative benefits over time,
and thereby ensure long-term
community vitality and livability**



The Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC....



... provides a partnership umbrella for
an array of *on-the-ground* initiatives that promote
a 'water-centric' approach to community planning

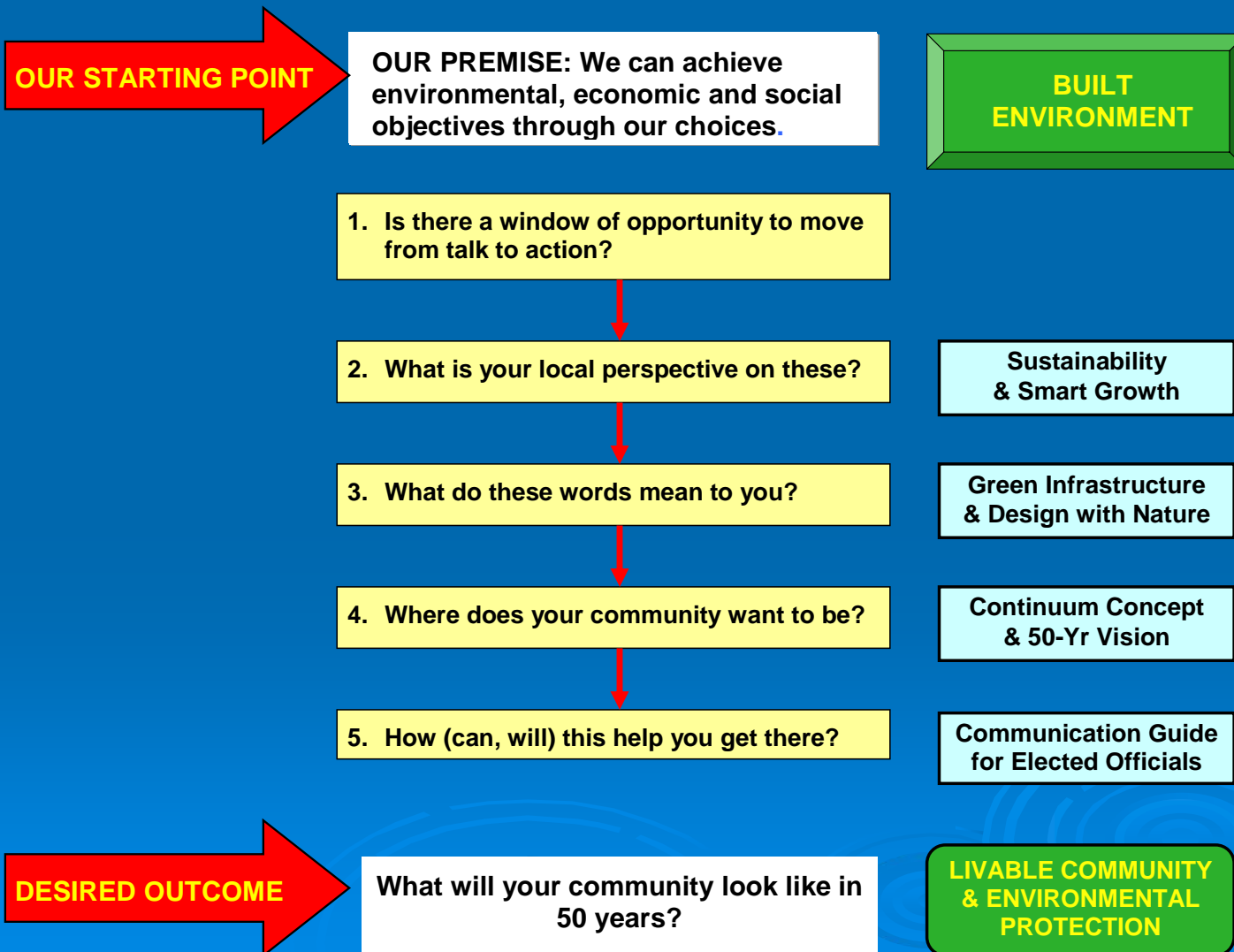
Build a Vision, Create a Legacy

- **Issue:** How Will We Accommodate Settlement Pressures?
- **Impact:** The Landscape is Being Transformed
- **Sustainability:** *Means Design with Nature*
- **Built Environment:** We Can Improve It
- **Natural Environment:** We Can Protect It
- **Cumulative Benefits:** Accrue Over Time
- **Desired Outcome:** Sustain Community Livability


We are building capacity through Convening for Action programs:

- **South Okanagan** –
Water for Life & Livelihoods
- **Vancouver Island** –
*Framework for Water-Centric
Land Development Approvals*
- **Greater Vancouver** –
*Celebrating Green Infrastructure
& Showcasing Innovation*

Conversation Template



Key Messages from Conversations with Elected Officials:

1. Growth and Settlement
 2. Water for Life & Livelihoods
 3. Settlement in Balance with Ecology
 4. Communities in Balance with Water
 5. Design with Nature
 6. Leadership
 7. Communication
 8. Implementing Change
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1. Growth & Settlement

- Doubling the population will require changes in the way we develop land and how we use water

2. Water for Life & Livelihoods

- In a fully integrated landscape, water is the unifying element. If we get the water part right, then other parts will be more likely to follow**

3. Settlement in Balance with Ecology

- **Settlement and ecology are equal values, and they must be as much in balance as possible for the wellbeing of human and natural systems**

4. Communities in Balance with Water

- ***Water OUT = Water IN***
is a 'mind map' for dealing with uncertainty and managing risk related to water supply, water use and runoff

5. Design with Nature

- **We can improve the built environment.**

We can protect the natural environment.

We can sustain community livability

6. Leadership

- **Alignment at a regional scale will help individual mayors lead the move from talk (interest) to local action (practice) on the ground**

7. Communication

- **Seek to understand and ‘connect the dots’ by having conversations**



8. Implementing Change

- **Inform, inspire and enable people to work together through partnerships to act now**

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The Way We Develop Land Determines How Water is Used and How Water Runs Off the Land

**So, We Can Achieve Cumulative Benefits
One Site at a Time**

**By Implementing 'Design with Nature'
Infrastructure Practices & Regulation**



The report on these conversations is titled:

*Water – Choosing Sustainability for Life & Livelihoods:
Convening for Action in British Columbia*

To download a copy, go to:

www.conveningforaction.ca