

It's Growth... but is it SMART GROWTH???

A Sustainability Checklist from the Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan

Use this checklist to help assess whether or not a proposal will contribute to a healthy & sustainable community. Not every plan will incorporate all the elements listed below. But, a preponderance of 'no' responses indicates that a plan needs significant work before it can be considered to be of real & long-lasting benefit to your community.

I. Key Elements			
	Yes	No	Comments
Have local residents, not limited to only those immediately bordering a development, been consulted in a meaningful way?			
If local residents have been consulted, are they generally supportive of the plan?			
Are there clearly defined & demonstrated economic benefits of the development for the local community, beyond just employment (e.g., ongoing use of local goods & services)?			
Is the plan integrated into plans for the community &/or region as a whole, e.g., transportation, wildlife corridors, regional parks?			
Does the plan include housing for low-income people, people with disabilities & other sectors?			
Will wildlife & wildlife habitats be safeguarded &/or enhanced?			
Does the plan demonstrate consideration of alternative forms of energy, e.g., wind, solar, geothermal?			
Does the plan speak to the local setting, i.e., is there anything to indicate that the plan has been developed with awareness of local history, ecology, economy, adjacent land uses & other factors?			
Does the plan require significant amendments to the community's Official Community Plan or other related documents?			

II. Built environment, land use & natural resources			
	Yes	No	Comments
Is the proposal on a 'brownfield" (previously used) site?			
Does it minimize use of: 1. Land (e.g., by clustering of homes)? 2. Energy (including extensions of roads, sewer, water mains, etc)? 3. Water (what type of landscaping is it encouraging)			
Does it incorporate water saving devices, e.g., greywater reuse?			
Have any opportunities been taken to incorporate the use of renewable energy sources (e.g., wind, solar, geothermal)?			
Does the plan reduce waste production & encourage waste re-use & recycling?			
Does it preserve natural systems, e.g., wetlands, streams, ravines & hydrologic patterns?			
Does the plan address possible issues such as flooding, soil erosion, or geotechnical hazards?			
Does the plan encourage the reduction of hard surfaces in order to assist with storm water management?			

III. Landscape, wildlife & habitats			
	Yes	No	Comments
Are wildlife habitats - e.g., wetlands, grasslands, woods, etc. – protected via restrictive covenants or other means? If so, is it clear who will be monitoring these restrictive covenants?			
Does the plan connect wildlife habitats to regional wildlife corridors?			
Are proposed parks & natural areas adequate in size, location & functionality, or are they only those areas unsuitable for development?			
Does the plan follow the Province's "Best Management Practises"?			

IV. Access & transport			
	Yes	No	Comments
Will the plan reduce the number of car or truck journeys through, e.g., mixed use development?			
Is it accessible via all modes of transport, including walking, cycling & public transport?			
Does it include accessibility for all people, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> the elderly <input type="checkbox"/> families with young children <input type="checkbox"/> people with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> &/or people living on low or modest incomes? 			

V. Economy & employment			
	Yes	No	Comments
Does the plan provide clear & well-documented information regarding costs to the taxpayer for upgrade &/or construction & long-term maintenance of roads, sewers & other infrastructure?			
Does the plan encourage a link between local goods & services & local consumers?			
Does it include a clear plan for increasing employment opportunities for local people?			
Does it demonstrate how the proposed development will result in investment in the area's strengths, skills & research capacities?			
Does it provide explicit opportunities to create or develop local community enterprises, e.g., home-based businesses?			

TOTALS

	Yes	No
Section I (Key Elements)		
Section II (Built Environment)		
Section III (Landscape)		
Section IV (Access)		
Section V (Economy)		
GRAND TOTALS		

Is this a “Smart Growth” development plan? Yes No

If you answered “no”, what steps will you take to make your concerns known?

- Call or write members of city council
- Call or write to the developer
- Call or write the property owner
- Speak to your friends and/or neighbours
- Get involved with a local ‘smart growth’ advocacy group! For more information, please call Eric Kowalski at the Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan at 545-8572, or e-mail us at info@socialplanning.ca