
TO: MEMBERS OF COUNCIL **DATE:** 2008 October 15

FROM: MAYOR D. CORRIGAN **FILE:** PL 76500 20
Reference: Sustainability Planning

SUBJECT: BURNABY ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

PURPOSE: To propose Terms of Reference for development of the Burnaby Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council endorse the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, as outlined in this report.
2. **THAT** Council send a copy of this report to the Environment Committee for information.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

At its meeting of 2007 July 09, Council endorsed my recommendation that the City embark on the preparation of Environmental and Social Sustainability strategies. The strategies are intended to complement the Economic Development Strategy completed and adopted earlier in the year. The purpose of the three inter-related strategies is to ensure that the City continues to move towards becoming a more liveable, vibrant, and sustainable community – a place that facilitates an engaged and active citizenry, a healthy economy, and strong respect for and stewardship of our natural environment. The vision put forward in my report was that Burnaby has the opportunity to be one of the most economically, environmentally and socially sustainable cities in the region – if not in Canada.

This report presents the proposed approach and terms of reference for the preparation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

2.0 CONTEXT

As Burnaby has developed from a rural to suburban to an increasingly mature and integrated urban centre, the City has consistently sought to ensure the protection of its

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significant natural attributes and to manage its growth to achieve a balance of economic, social and environmental outcomes. The City's commitment to preserving and enhancing its natural environment and ecosystems, as it has continued to grow, is clearly evident in Burnaby's parks and open spaces that encompass over 5,400 acres of land. We have preserved about 25% of our land base to protect forested and mountain areas, watercourses, freshwater lakes, natural bogs, ravines and coastal and estuarine areas. As residents of Burnaby, we are deeply connected, proud and protective of the City's parks and natural areas as places like Burnaby Mountain, Barnet Beach, Burnaby and Deer Lake, Central Park, Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park and many other natural amenities directly contribute to the quality of our lives today and ensure the livability of our community for future generations to inherit.

As the City continues to grow, however, we are continually confronted with increasingly complex and difficult challenges as we seek to minimize our impacts on the environment to ensure the long-term protection and health of our natural areas, sensitive habitats and critical ecosystems at a local, regional and global scale.

The City's responses to these challenges were captured in a series of environmental principles that formed the foundation of the City's State of the Environment Report (SOER) adopted in 1993. Principles for making environmentally responsible decisions were developed through community input and discussion. The process for development of the SOER resulted in a comprehensive framework for identifying and addressing environmental issues and concerns in the City within four broad categories of Growth Management and Land Use Planning, Environmental Quality, City Operations and Shared Stewardship.

The principles and strategic directions of the SOER were also incorporated into the City's Official Community Plan (OCP) to set directions for a more complete and environmentally aware community through:

- incorporating environmental principles as an integral part of assessing growth management options, land use and transportation plans;
- preserving and enhancing the ecological systems and diversity of the City and region;
- providing, maintaining and protecting a comprehensive mix of park and open space opportunities sufficient to meet the changing needs of the community;
- encouraging environmental stewardship and protection of Burnaby's natural legacies, and leading by example; and
- providing opportunities for meaningful community participation in environmental decision-making.

Some of the City's specific achievements that reflect its commitment to the meaningful integration of environmental principles in all City policy, decision making and operating procedures include:

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- ***Protection of Greenspace and Biodiversity:*** protection of significant park, open space and ecologically sensitive areas through our community planning processes and land acquisition program. As mentioned earlier, the City's parks and open space lands now account for about 25% of the City's land base. The continuing importance of these long standing programs is demonstrated by the fact that 1,500 of the City's 5,400 acres of park and open space lands were acquired since 1996. The City's park master plans and environmental management programs, together with our contributions to a regional biodiversity strategy serve to ensure healthy, functioning and sustainable ecosystems at a local and regional level.
- ***Protection of Watercourses:*** comprehensive protection of watercourses through the City's open watercourse bylaw, the City's Environmental Review Committee (ERC) and adoption of streamside protection requirements within the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw that exceed requirements of Provincial regulations.
- ***Innovation in Stormwater Management:*** adoption of stormwater management requirements for significant commercial, residential and industrial developments to improve water quality and reduce peak stormwater flows. These standards include detention, permeable surfaces, and other best management practices in line with the City's Integrated Stormwater Management Plans (ISMPs) for our major watershed areas. In addition, as part of this approach, the City is currently piloting alternative street design concepts to further advance stormwater management objectives.
- ***Leadership in Energy Efficiency:*** continued leadership in reducing energy use through participation in the annual Commuter Challenge to encourage alternate forms of transportation, development of the City's Drive Smart program to reduce vehicle idling, implementation of a bio-diesel fuel strategy to improve fuel efficiency and reduce emissions in the City's fleet, support for use of energy efficient materials and green building techniques in new construction, and completion of the City's Energy Fit program to achieve energy savings in 49 civic facilities throughout the City.
- ***Environmental Stewardship:*** ongoing recognition and support of community stewardship as a fundamental component of environmental protection. Important outreach and stewardship initiatives include the Burnaby Streamkeepers Program, World Rivers Day and Environment Week events, and Environment Awards and Stars Program. The support and development of our community environmental volunteers, stewards and leaders is fundamentally important to achieving our goals for protection and enhancement of the health of our natural environment.
- ***Reducing Solid Waste and Chemical Use:*** leadership to reduce the introduction of chemicals into the environment through the City's *Integrated Pest Management Policy*, educational programs for sustainable lawn care such as "Let

it Grow, Naturally!”, and the City’s recent cosmetic pesticide bylaw initiative. In terms of solid waste reduction, the City has implemented a comprehensive program for collection of yard waste, encouraging recycling, waste diversion and composting, and other broader waste material recovery and collection programs.

- **Sustainable Transportation:** a balanced approach to facilitate alternative modes of travel by transit, bike and walking to reduce our dependence on single occupant vehicles and achieve reductions in our regional greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and reduce urban run-off. Burnaby’s ongoing contributions include the incorporation of transit facilities within our community plans, creation of an extensive network of Urban Trails, Bikeways and Cycle Roads, and provision of facilities for pedestrians through the creation of walkable, compact and complete urban centres, and provision of sidewalks, park trails, and other infrastructure for pedestrians.
- **Sustainable Purchasing Policy:** The City is continually seeking ways to advance environmentally responsible procurement initiatives, and is currently in the process of establishing Sustainable Purchasing Guidelines to ensure that purchasing decisions achieve benefits in reducing environmental impacts, encouraging social improvement, and leveraging fiscal responsibility. Examples of current sustainable purchasing practices include the use of vegetable oil-based inks for printing equipment in the print shop, increased use of recycled content products for in-house printing, and the purchase of new City fleet vehicles (Smart fortwo, Honda Fit) which have a smaller ecological footprint, lower emissions and reduced fuel consumption.
- **Green Buildings:** recognition of the value and contribution of green building design and construction to the environment. For both civic and private building development, the City supports innovation in energy and water conservation through administration of the BC Green Building Code amendments, and incorporation of *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)* principles into new building construction. Recent City building projects for the Edmonds Town Centre Library and Fire Hall #7 include the incorporation of green building features. The City has also supported and learned from new environmental sustainability practices incorporated by Simon Fraser University’s UniverCity project, and other private sector developments.
- **Sustainable Community Development:** The City’s Official Community Plan and related policies and programs have successfully promoted the development of more sustainable community centres in our designated Town Centre and Urban Village areas. This has resulted in centres that are complete and compact, that have an improving balance of jobs, housing, services and natural amenities, that are served by transit, connected by greenways, and sensitive to ecosystems. UniverCity, a master-planned sustainable residential community designed in

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partnership with the Simon Fraser University Community Trust, received the American Planning Association's inaugural National Planning Excellence Award in 2008 for innovation in green community planning. The City of Burnaby also previously received the Fraser Basin Council's Overall Sustainability Award, recognizing Burnaby's continued commitment to environmental protection, economic development and community livability.

These and many other initiatives and achievements on environmental issues and matters give Burnaby much to be proud of and establish a sound basis for our future. Through the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, I want to ensure that we can continue to protect our environment, and build on our successes. Further, I want to ensure that we are looking forward and preparing the City to meet the many serious and substantial environmental challenges that we will face in the future.

To this end, I envision the development of an Environmental Sustainability Strategy that is coordinated and integrated with the many other activities and programs of the City. The Strategy should take into account our role and the role of others in environmental matters at a local, regional, provincial, national and global level. I also want to ensure that the Strategy is both innovative and pragmatic, and will build on our current environmental achievements and assets to set new directions for the future, while respecting the reality of the limitation of City resources and mandates. I also want to ensure that our environmental approaches support and balance the social and economic objectives of our community. In addition, the strategy should advance our standards for environmental protection and enhancement through specific actions and programs that are flexible and adaptive to allow for changes in priorities and trends to increase our resiliency to new environmental challenges.

Overall, the Environmental Sustainability Strategy should advance Burnaby's leadership role in developing a green community that is vibrant and sustainable – a place that facilitates a healthy economy, community livability, and a strong respect for stewardship of our natural environment.

3.0 PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY PROCESS

The proposed process for completion of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy is presented below. A summary Terms of Reference for the Strategy is presented in *Appendix 1 and 2*. As outlined below, key components of the structure for completing the Strategy is the formation of a 'Blue Ribbon' Steering Committee to guide the process, and the use of a '*Community Dialogue*' approach to provide the broadest opportunity for the community to contribute to the Strategy.

3.1 Purpose and Scope

By building on the City's natural attributes, environmental achievements, and existing goals and directions of the SOER and the City's Official Community Plan, as outlined in Section 2.0 above, the Environmental Sustainability Strategy will seek to strengthen and focus Burnaby's approaches to environmental protection and enhancement and to support the social and economic objectives of our community.

The key challenge of the Strategy will be to define and achieve the goals that will make us an even more environmentally sustainable city in the future. The Strategy will seek to foster and support the appropriate roles for our partners in environmental issues. The overarching purpose and function of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy will be to provide a frame of reference to guide the City's decisions and resource allocations for environmental policies, programs and initiatives.

3.2 Key Outcomes

The development of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy provides an opportunity to revisit and update the City's environmental goals and priorities, to build an action plan on the foundations of our existing environmental achievements, and to set directions and policies to carry us well into the future. The Strategy will ensure that the City is well positioned to address and respond to arising environmental challenges and opportunities.

At a minimum, the Strategy will involve our City staff, residents, business, partners, community organizations, agencies and stewards in the:

- development of a consolidated inventory of established environmental policies, programs, initiatives, projects and achievements;
- identification of existing and emerging environmental issues and trends that may influence the City's approach to environmental management;
- assessment of the effectiveness and appropriateness of the City's existing environmental policies, programs and initiatives;
- identification of opportunities to build and enhance the City's environmental approach;
- identification of the appropriate roles for the City, other levels of government and the community in advancing Burnaby's environmental programs and initiatives; and
- definition of environmental principles, goals, objectives and actions to guide the City's future decisions and resource allocations in response to environmental issues.

Overall, the completion of the review process will result in a contemporary, resilient, progressive, community based, and socially and economically sound Environmental Sustainability Strategy for the City.

3.3 *A Community Dialogue Approach*

The City has been actively involved in building communities using inclusive decision-making and significant community involvement to develop its land use and other key social, economic and environmental strategies and plans. Broad community involvement ensures that our plans and policies respond to community needs and issues, balance competing objectives, achieve broad understanding and acceptance, and maintain community commitment and support over the long term.

As such, in keeping with this practice, a '*Community Dialogue*' approach for the Strategy is proposed to obtain community input on emerging environmental opportunities and trends, issues and concerns, and future plans and directions. The approach would be designed to involve any member of the community from the outset of the process in the identification of issues and concerns, and to have further community dialogue sessions to help define detailed goals, objectives, and actions for the strategy.

A community dialogue approach would allow for all interested participants to learn, engage and contribute to this work at open and inclusive public forums. A series of community dialogue sessions would be open to any member from the community including residents; businesses; community stewardship groups; environmental, business, academic and non-profit organizations; field experts and other government participants.

The first general series of community dialogue sessions would involve a presentation and visual displays to communicate the City's current environmental programs and initiatives. The objective of the first series of dialogue sessions would be to set the City's environmental context to help participants identify new, emerging and other environmental issues and concerns to be addressed in the Strategy. Community input and feedback could be obtained through a facilitated question and answer discussion process. The input received would help to identify the key environmental issues, priorities and themes to be discussed in more depth at future dialogue sessions, and would inform the development of a preliminary draft of the Strategy's vision, objectives and environmental directions.

Subsequent dialogue sessions would focus in more detail on particular theme areas arising from the initial sessions. A position paper on each theme area would be prepared for presentation at the individual dialogue sessions, and could include presentations and panel discussions with leading figures and researchers for the topic under discussion. The thematic community dialogue sessions could also involve small break-out focus groups to explore the environmental topic in more detail. It is anticipated that each community dialogue session will inform and facilitate the development of draft goals, objectives and actions for each environmental theme.

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Examples of possible environmental theme areas to be discussed through the specific community dialogue session would include such topics:

- energy efficiency
- natural heritage
- biodiversity
- sustainable community development
- sustainable transportation
- water quality and conservation
- environmental stewardship and outreach
- waste management
- watershed management
- climate change

A report on the results of each dialogue session would be prepared. The input received through the community dialogue processes, staff literature research, and consultation with other stakeholders would provide the foundation for preparation of a draft of the Strategy for Council approval in principle for final public review.

3.4 *Strategy Steering Committee*

As with the Economic Development Strategy and Social Sustainability Strategy, I am asking that Council endorse the appointment of a “*Blue Ribbon*” Steering Committee to coordinate preparation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

The Steering Committee is proposed to represent not only a cross-section in environmental interest and expertise, but aspects of social and economic knowledge to ensure that a full and complete discussion and consideration of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy is undertaken. I would be seeking the appointment of 12 individuals that are leaders in their field, represent a variety of sectors, backgrounds and interests, and have a strong knowledge of and commitment to Burnaby. I propose to Chair the Steering Committee, with the Chair of the Environment Committee serving as Vice Chair. I will also request that one citizen representative from the Environment Committee be requested to volunteer to serve on the Steering Committee. The role of the Steering Committee will be to direct the process of the Strategy, receive and review the results of work completed at each stage, and to advance recommendations and materials to Council for approval as appropriate.

The Steering Committee members would be expected to participate in about 6 to 8 meetings. Meetings would be scheduled at the initiation of the process, at each phase of the community dialogue process, and at the conclusion of the Strategy development process. Given the extensive consultation to be undertaken, and the inter-related and

complex nature of the topics likely to be under consideration through the process, it is expected that the Steering Committee meetings would be distributed over a 2 year timeframe.

3.5 *Work Program and Phases*

Development of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy will be a complex task, requiring extensive research, consultation and analysis. The Environmental Sustainability Strategy is proposed to consist of about eight general phases, as referenced in *Appendix 1, attached*. Key phases include:

- Phase 1 -- Project Initiation*
- Phase 2 – Environmental Context and Inventory Review*
- Phase 3 – General Community Dialogue Sessions*
- Phase 4 – Identification of Key Environmental Themes*
- Phase 5 – Theme Specific Community Dialogue Sessions*
- Phase 6 – Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy*
- Phase 7 – Final Review of Strategy for Adoption*
- Phase 8 – Development and Implementation of Strategy Action Plan*

3.6 *Resource Requirements*

The majority of work on the Environmental Sustainability Strategy will be carried out by City staff in conjunction with the Steering Committee. However, given the magnitude of the project, and the need to proceed in a timely and efficient manner, supplementary assistance will likely be required, particularly with respect to the following:

- preparation of the Environmental Sustainability Context Document, and
- assistance with community dialogue sessions in terms of preparation of materials, coordination and facilitation.

Sufficient funds for initiation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy have been provided for within the approved 2008 Operating Budget and 2009 Provisional Budget submission under the Planning and Building Department component.

4.0 CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

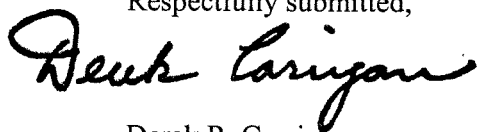
The Environmental Sustainability Strategy will be a major undertaking, but one which will yield important benefits for Burnaby. In conjunction with the recently adopted Economic Development Strategy, and Social Sustainability Terms of Reference, the Environmental Sustainability Strategy will provide a contemporary frame of reference to guide the City's decisions and resource allocations regarding environmental issues into the future.

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To advance the work, it is proposed that Council endorse the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, as outlined in this report. On completion, the Environmental Sustainability Strategy will become the key reference document for advancing the City's environmental policies, directions and actions.

With Council endorsement, I look forward to embarking on the development of the Strategy and engaging the community through the proposed dialogue process to ensure the City's continued leadership in the area of environmental sustainability.

Respectfully submitted,



Derek R. Corrigan
M A Y O R

Copied to: City Manager
Deputy City Manager
Director Planning and Building
Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

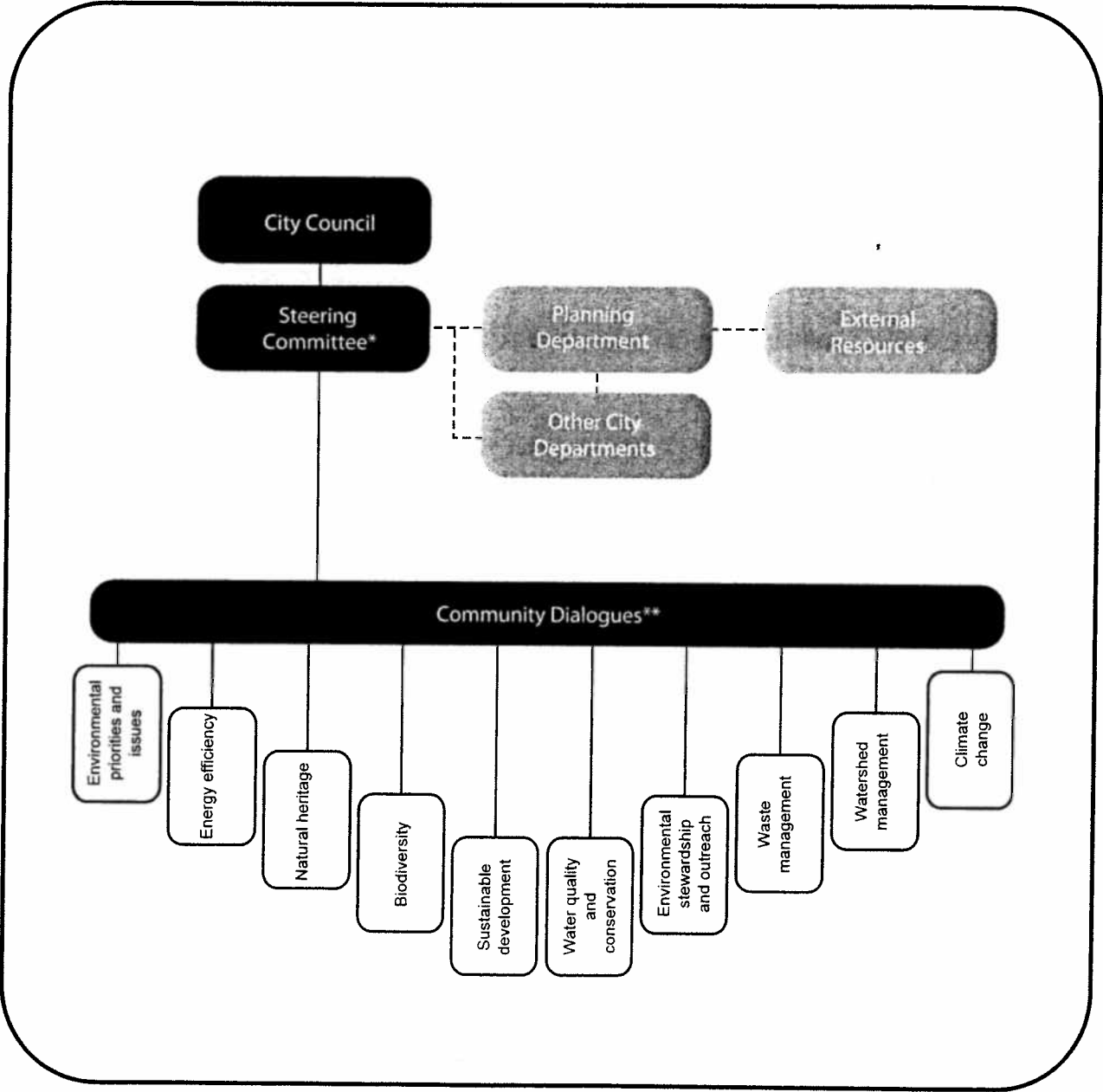
Attachments (2)

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Burnaby Environmental Sustainability Strategy Summary Framework

Prelim. Time Line	Project Phases	Key Activities and Outcomes
2008 Fall	PHASE 1: Project Initiation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council adoption of the Terms of Reference for Strategy • Preparation of Environmental Context and Inventory Document • Appointment of Steering Committee • Initial Steering Committee Meeting
2008 Fall – 2009 Winter	PHASE 2: Environmental Context and Inventory Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee Review of Environmental Context and Inventory Document • Preparation of Community Dialogue materials and program
2009 Winter	PHASE 3: General Community Dialogue Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee Review of Community Dialogue materials and program • Completion General Community Dialogue Sessions • Documentation of results of General Dialogue Sessions
2009 Spring	PHASE 4: Identification of Key Environmental Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of Environmental theme areas for future Dialogue Sessions • Development of Draft Preliminary Vision and Objectives for Strategy • Steering Committee review of Preliminary Vision and Objectives • Preparation of theme based Community Dialogue materials and programs
2009 Summer – Fall	PHASE 5: Theme Specific Community Dialogue Sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee review of theme specific Community Dialogue materials and programs • Completion of theme specific Community Dialogue sessions • Documentation of results of theme specific Dialogue Sessions
2010 Winter	PHASE 6: Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and consolidation of inputs to Environmental Sustainability Strategy • Preparation of Preliminary Draft of Environmental Sustainability Strategy • Steering Committee review of Draft Strategy and submission of recommendations to Council • Council approval of Draft Strategy as basis for final public input
2010 Spring	PHASE 7: Final Environmental Sustainability Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of materials and input process for final public review • Completion of final public input process • Steering Committee review of final Strategy and submission of recommendations to Council • Council consideration of Final Strategy for adoption
2010 Summer – ongoing	PHASE 8: Development and Implementation of Strategy Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of Action Plan for Adopted Strategy

Proposed Structure for Development of Burnaby Environmental Sustainability Strategy



*The Steering Committee will consist of the Mayor (serving as Chair), the Chair of the Environment Committee (serving as Vice Chair), and 12 members from the community.

**The Community Dialogue Sessions as depicted are illustrative only. The specific topics and focus of the dialogue sessions will be determined as work on the Environmental Sustainability Strategy proceeds.