# Municipality of North Cowichan
# Official Community Plan Advisory Group
# ADDENDUM AGENDA

Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 5:00 p.m.
Electronically

**Pages**

# North Cowichan OCP Update

Climate and Ecology Context

Christopher Osborne, Planning Manager, 11 August 2021

# Outline

- Recap: what is an OCP?
- Draft Table of Contents
- Concepts (scientific, ethical)
- Policy Frameworks
- Policy Headings
- Next Steps

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# What is an Official Community Plan?

"A statement of objectives and policies to guide planning and land use decisions within the area covered by the plan, respecting the purposes of local government."

- *Local Government Act, S. 471*

1. **VISION AND GOALS**

2. **INTRODUCTION**

    a. **History & Context**

    b. **Legislative Authority**

    c. **OCP Update Process**

3. **VISION, PRINCIPLES & GOALS**

    a. **Vision**

    b. **Principles**

    c. **Goals & Targets**

4. **CLIMATE CHANGE & EQUITY FRAMEWORKS**

    a. **Climate Action & Ecological Impacts Statement**

    b. **Social Justice & Equity Statement**

    c. **Goals and Targets**

5. **THOUGHTFUL GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

    a. **Description, Objectives, Directions & Indicators**

    b. **Land Use Map & Designations**

    c. **Community Character & Local Areas**

    d. **Infrastructure**

6. **RESILIENT SUPPORTIVE, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES**

7. **AFFORDABLE LIVING & DIVERSE HOUSING MIX**

8. **REGENERATION & PROTECTION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

9. **FOOD SECURITY & LOCAL AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS**

10. **LOCAL REGENERATIVE ECONOMY**

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# Scientific Concepts:

- The world is currently in ecological overshoot caused by human activity

- Sustainability requires living within the regenerative capacity of the biosphere

- Biodiversity loss is as much of a threat as climate change, and there exist further planetary boundaries that are threatened

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# Scientific Concepts:



**Planetary Boundaries:**

Climate Change is not the only game in town!

# Ethical Concepts:

- Base policies on science, not wishful thinking

- Recognize importance - but also limitations - of local action

- Distinguish between actions that reduce our collective footprint, and those that increase it (albeit more efficiently)

# The problem with "Sustainability"

- In ecological overshoot, <u>any</u> additional growth however efficient, smart, clean or green, uses energy/resources, creates wastes, and exacerbates overshoot.

- Fundamental acts of consumption are often called "sustainable" by virtue of being more efficient (e.g. EVs). Truth in Advertising Matters!

- Truly sustainable acts serve to reduce (absolutely, not relatively) the size of the collective human footprint.

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# How do we deal with this locally?

- We can't fix it by ourselves – recognize global structural change is needed, which goes well beyond local OCP considerations

- We can't change the regional and national context (laws and powers)

# How do we deal with this locally?

We **can**:

- be honest

- pursue metrics directly tracking wellbeing

- prioritize policies/acts that serve local environmental and social wellbeing

- re-localize economic activity (less reliant on imports or vulnerable to events far away)

- increase local resilience to the impacts of CC

- pursue economic security and move from "more" to "better"

# What do such policy frameworks look like?

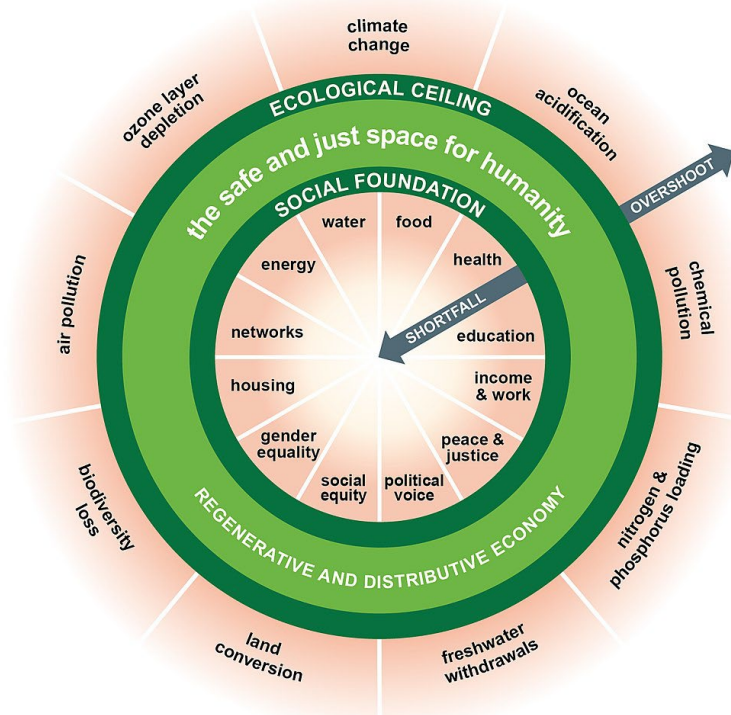Predicated on Ecological Economics:

Economy, Society, Environment: A Nested Relationship

**Environmental Integrity**

**Human Health and Well-being**

**Robust and Resilient Economy**

# Predicated on Ecological Economics:



One Planet Living

Doughnut Economics

# Who's taken this approach?





- Saanich CA
- Oxfordshire UK
- Durban SA
- Elsinore DK

- Nanaimo CA
- Amsterdam NL
- Brussels BE

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# OCP Policy Headings

6. **RESILIENT, SUPPORTIVE, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES**
   a. **Safe & Healthy Community**
   b. **Transportation**
   c. **Parks, Recreation & Public Realm**
   d. **Arts, Culture & Heritage**

7. **AFFORDABLE LIVING & DIVERSE HOUSING MIX**
   a. **Housing Affordability**
   b. **Housing Mix & Diversity**

8. **REGENERATION & PROTECTION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**
   a. **Retaining & Creating Space for Nature**
   b. **Housing Mix & Diversity**

9. **FOOD SECURITY & LOCAL AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS**
   a. **Local Food and Agriculture**

10. **LOCAL REGENERATIVE ECONOMY**
    a. **Localized Economy**
    b. **Low Consumption and Regeneration**
    c. **Serving Wellbeing**

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# Next Steps

- Capture proposed concepts in s.4 draft

- Start populating the policy headings in s.6-10 with local-specific policies

- Provide first draft to the SC for review and prompt for additional policy ideas for inclusion

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