

A14 - Accepting Change: Finding Public Support for Environmental Initiatives

Presentation # title: Accepting Change: Finding Public Support for Environmental Initiatives

Presenters:

Nancy McLean – BCSLA, PIBC

Robin Clarke - Registered Professional Forester

Abstract

Rapid changes in the way that governments and businesses must respond to environmental requirements are a fact of life. How can planners, land appraisers, landscape architects and agronomists all work together to provide information to clients on making beneficial changes? Can a template including LEED standards and Sustainable Sites Initiative standards be applied to diverse development to demonstrate economic and environmental benefits? Can easier access be made for clients to see improvements to re-sale of property as the result of making changes to building types, construction methods and rain water collection? Can waste of all types be made not only acceptable but desirable in its reuse? A panel will discuss various aspects of these possibilities and provide ways for diverse professionals to work with clients.

Speaker Biography

Nancy McLean is a registered landscape architect and professional planner currently working for the Corporation of Delta as the Senior Planner/Landscape Coordinator. Mike Van Ham currently works for Sylvis Environmental on such projects as the afforestation of landfill sites. Robin Clark is a registered professional forester who works with First Nations groups and companies on reforestation and removal of invasive species and assessment of carbon footprints of companies. Sandy James is a Community Planner with the City of Vancouver who organizes major projects such as the City Greenway Program using community volunteers. Nicole Stefanelli is the President of Urban Impact Recycling Company who have provided tree planting in wildlife areas to offset their carbon footprint. Urban Impact utilizes 30 collection vehicles to service all its customers and operates a 40,000 square foot Materials Recovery Facility in North Richmond. In 2006, Urban Impact collected and diverted 22,500 metric tonnes of recyclable material from our local landfills! We congratulate all of our customers on this achievement. Our goal is to provide our customers with cost effective, easy-to-use and superior recycling and waste management services! We look forward to showing you what a difference we can make.

Robin Clark, Robin B. Clark Inc. Robin is a registered professional forester who owns a natural resource consulting business based in Vancouver. Robin's designs and implements projects with government and industry but his main focus is with BC First Nation communities. Projects cover a wide spectrum of topics including, ecotourism strategies, groundwater protection plans, 50 year land management plans, invasive aquatic species removal and carbon sequestration projects. With the Corporation of Delta, projects related to growing trees and shrubs to sequester carbon began in 2005 with funding from Natural Resources Canada. Since then funding for plantation maintenance has come from the Corporation of Delta. In 2007, two carbon planting projects and one in 2008 were completed by Robin's company with funding from Urban Impact Recycling in partnership with the Corporation of Delta.

Presentation # 2 title: Energy Efficiency Labelling of Private Homes for Sale

Presenters:

Jim Bennett - Victoria Real Estate Board

Tony Joe - Victoria Real Estate Board

Abstract

A Pilot project of the Victoria Real Estate Board, the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources, The Climate Change Secretariat and BC HYDRO Beginning on June 1, the Victoria Real Estate Board (VREB) in conjunction with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, the Climate Change Secretariat, the Salt Spring Island Energy Strategy and BC Hydro will undertake a special energy labelling pilot project of homes for sale in the communities of Oak Bay and Salt Spring Island. VREB Past President, Tony Joe, says the six-month pilot project will see REALTORS® working with sellers to understand the importance of energy efficiency in today's real estate marketplace. Tony adds that the project will also help buyers, 'It will provide buyers with 'green' information about homes for sale as the energy audit information will be added to Multiple Listing Service (MLS®) information sheets that REALTORS® make available to prospective purchasers.' Speaking at the BC Land Summit at Whistler, B.C. on May 22, Mr. Joe will explain how the VREB obtained initial support in principle from the provincial government participants and then funding support to make it all happen. He will also discuss the training program the VREB has developed for its REALTORS® so that they fully understand and can implement the program. 'We see this pilot project as complementing the initiatives of both the provincial government and BC Hydro with respect to energy efficiency and private homes,' Joe added. He noted that other stakeholders are beginning to call for legislation by 2012 to make energy labelling of private homes for sale mandatory. 'Given that the real estate profession will be on the front lines in implementing such requirements should the government decide to introduce them, we decided to develop this pilot project now with the goal of seeing what issues will be involved and how such a program could best work for the benefit of both sellers and buyers,' said Joe.

Speaker Biography

Tony Joe Speaker Bio A born and raised Victorian, Tony has been a licensed Realtor since 1991. His highly productive team, Tony Joe & Associates, have garnered the highest production awards both locally and also globally with RE/MAX International having served hundreds upon hundreds of home buyers and sellers. While President of the Victoria Real Estate Board in 2008, one of his mandates was the development and creation of 'The Green Task Force', charged with researching and devising plans relating to energy efficiency and environmental stewardship which ultimately benefits consumers and the clients all Realtors serve. He is also a recognized community leader in meeting the challenge of housing homeless in Greater Victoria. Early on in his volunteering, he served a short stint with the Youth Employment Project where he learned in depth about the homeless problem facing the downtown core area of the region. Realizing that homeless affects an entire community and that Realtors sell communities, his affiliation with the Victoria Real Estate Board has been allowed him to make a significant contribution to this growing issue. Tony is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Rotary International, Victoria Chinese Commerce Association and the Values Based Business Network. He has volunteered on the Youth Employment Project, 150 Years in Golden Mountain, the Victoria Dragonboat Festival and regularly volunteers at his local Blood Clinic. In his free time, Tony enjoys golf, travel, writing and performing Improv comedy. Jim Bennett is entering his fifth year as the Government Relations Coordinator at the Victoria Real Estate Board. Prior to joining the board staff, he served as a cabinet appointee in the government of Premier Bill Bennett and later joined the public service as a senior communications officer for the Ministry of Advanced Education. In the Greater Victoria community, Jim serves as Chair of the Capital Regional District's Housing Action Team, as a member of the United Way's Impact Council on Housing, and as a member of the Community Social Planning Council.