C9 - Inconvenient Truth & Convenient Opportunity: Climate Change, Land Management & Planning For Mitigation & Adaptation

Presentation # 1 title: Inconvenient Truth and Convenient Opportunity: Land Management and Melding the Mitigation and Adaptation Agendas

Presenter:
Alex Boston - HB lanarc Consultants Ltd.

Abstract
Amongst the greatest changes BC communities will confront in the 21st century are a GHG regulatory wave, and the impact of a changing climate. With forecasted increases in intense precipitation, flooding and sea level rise, and rapid growth in transportation emissions driven by low-density development, land management is BC's inconvenient truth. While typically treated as isolated responses, this session will show how integrating adaptation and mitigation agendas can strengthen program management and develop synergies. It will provide practical guidance to a range of disciplines involved in adaptation and mitigation planning. The presentation and discussion is informed by collaboration with local climate protection leaders across BC, Canada and the US. It will cover the following themes: -Action Planning Framework: Although many of the technical elements are different, the action planning process for advancing robust mitigation and adaptation agendas is the same. Moreover, the process is a subtle but important modification of existing, effective planning processes. The essential soft-strategic and hard-technical skills in each step of the process will be examined. Key resources and general sources of information will be identified. -Building a Business Case: While emission reduction and climate change adaptation are critical objectives, strong adaptation and mitigation agendas establish business cases with a rich appreciation of the triple bottom line benefits to a local government, e.g.: fiscal performance, livability, resilience, asset management, human health, risk management. The benefits and the methodologies to establish them (e.g. life cycle analysis, integrated resource management, integrated design) will be briefly explored. This process will bring to the fore some of the other critical changes that can dovetail a local climate protection agenda such as rising energy costs, resource decline, amenity migration. -Institutional Capacity Building: Capacity building underpins each stage in successful action planning. These activities include cultivating champions, innovative financing, rich engagement and education, and strategic management. Strategic management underscores the principle of integration over initiation, i.e. wherever possible, actions favour mainstreaming into current activity rather than developing new programs; and that adaptation and mitigation responses have been carried out for generations, but more conscious efforts will translate into greater potency. -Clear Plans, Critical Policies and Catalyst Projects: Some of the impediments to effective mitigation and adaptation are over planning and under acting, inertia, and a sense of being overwhelmed by the magnitude of the challenge. Good plans provide high-level direction with a long-term perspective, as well as identify a number of actions that can immediately start to build capacity inside local government and the community, establish momentum, and underscore the potential for further meaningful action. Criteria for identifying these critical policies and catalyst projects will be identified. Additionally a range of actions will be evaluated for their potential to advance mitigation, adaptation, or complementary agendas. This latter segment can involve discussion in small groups or the entire group to strengthen policy and project design. This session is designed as a solo activity, but I would be happy to co-present on a panel with a complimentary resource person. This could also be featured in the Change in Motion theme.

Speaker Biography
Before directing Climate Protection and Sustainable Energy with HB Lanarc, Alex Boston led climate and energy policy at the David Suzuki Foundation. He works with municipalities and developers to strengthen climate protection programs and policies, and senior governments to harness capacity towards these ends. He is currently leading engagement and research for the BC Government-UBCM Green Communities Committee, established to provide direction to the province and local governments on going carbon neutral and developing complete, compact communities. Alex worked with the US Green Building Council, US Conference of Mayors, Clinton Climate Initiative, City of Seattle and leading local governments across the US to develop strategic climate action guidance through the website

GreenPlaybook.org. He has been an advisor to all 14 provincial government departments in establishing their internal GHG management strategies. He led the Canadian outreach and educational activity of the Great Lakes Climate Impacts initiative of the Union of Concerned Scientists. He was lead researcher for the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities and a British Council Scholar at Oxford's Environmental Change Institute where he earned his MSc. Alex's best practice knowledge across many jurisdictions is reinforced by an appreciation of best process. He combines strategic planning, meaningful engagement, governance know-how, technical knowledge, and innovative policy to design pragmatic, high-impact programs. He grew up in Chilliwack. When not working to protect the climate, Alex revels in its magnificence around the rainforested BC Coast where he lives.

Presentation # 2 title: A New Tool for Climate Change Adaptation Planning

Presenters:
Jennifer Hill - CitySpaces Consulting Ltd.
Trevor Murdock - Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC)

Abstract
Local governments including council members, engineers, public works staff, planners and other land-use practitioners will increasingly have to make decisions about actions to help their communities to adapt to climate change. To make adaptation decisions, these users need locally-relevant climate change information including, future climate change projections, how communities could be impacted by those changes and possible options for adapting. A gap now exists between the sophisticated scientific research on climate change and the type of information that decision-makers need to take action on climate change. There is a need to develop ways to transfer this knowledge from sophisticated in-depth science to credible, concise and relevant information for decision-makers. Our presentation will introduce a preliminary version of a web-based climate change planning information tool, crafted to meet the needs of local governments, planners and other land use practitioners in addressing climate change. The tool aims to provide intuitive access to locally relevant information about climate change for community decision-makers, and in so doing help communities learn about and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Specifically the web-based tool aims to provide in an easily accessible manner: -climate change future projections by region; -past climate trends by region -ready-to-use images and/or text summaries that can be incorporated into reports or presentations to build awareness among council, senior decision makers and the public about the need to act on climate change; -case study summaries that tell stories about the kind of impacts that climate changes might have on communities; -suggested adaptation strategies based on what other communities have done and the particular climate change scenario. Our presentation will use a live internet link to demonstrate the preliminary version of the web-based tool. It will be interactive, engaging the audience by asking them to select options to demonstrate the tool and for their feedback on the tool's usability and performance.

Speaker Biography
Jennifer Hill joined CitySpaces in 2004 following completion of a Master in Science in Planning (UBC). Jennifer has spearheaded the company's entry into the area of climate change adaptation planning. She has written about the key role that planners have to play in climate change adaptation, worked on plain language summaries of the CIP/NRCan-funded municipal case studies on climate change impacts, and is developing climate change learning modules for CIP. She has tenaciously researched the subject of climate change impacts and planning, interviewed many players and continues to build the company's corporate knowledge base in this area.

Trevor Murdock is Associate Director and climate scientist at the University of Victoria's Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC). Trevor joined the Canadian Institute for Climate Studies in 1997 and was instrumental in changing the focus to regional applications through PCIC. He has contributed to a range of initiatives including the development of online climate scenarios mapping tools and the delivery of workshops, presentations and training for laypersons, decision makers and the general public. Trevor brings a heightened awareness of the need to make climate change science applicable to a broader audience, in particular planners.