



FONVCA AGENDA

THURSDAY Jan 20th 2011

Place: DNV Hall 355 W. Queens Rd V7N 2K6

Time: 7:00-9:00pm

Chair: Diana Belhouse - Save Our Shores

Tel: 604-987-1656 **Email:** none

Regrets: Cathy Adams, John Hunter

1. Order/content of Agenda(*short)

2. Adoption of Minutes of Nov 18th

<http://www.fonvca.org/agendas/jan2011/minutes-nov2010.pdf>

3. Old Business

3.1 Council Agenda Distribution - continued

-Basic Agenda listing still missing from District Dialogue

3.2 Update on OCP Process

3.3 Tree Bylaw – DNV council 1st Q 2011

-North Shore News Articles

<http://www.nsnews.com/columnists/3877419/story.html>

<http://www.thetrecouncil.org.nz/index.php/page/links/>
<https://fp.auburn.edu/sfws/YaoqiZhang/UrbanForestryProject/Tree%20Ordinances%20as%20public%20policy%20and%20participation%20tools%20.pdf>
<http://haltonhelps.org/Tree%20Protection%20Measures%20in%20other%20Municipalities.htm> ← many links

<http://www.thetrecouncil.org.nz/index.php/page/links/>
<https://fp.auburn.edu/sfws/YaoqiZhang/UrbanForestryProject/Tree%20Ordinances%20as%20public%20policy%20and%20participation%20tools%20.pdf>
<http://haltonhelps.org/Tree%20Protection%20Measures%20in%20other%20Municipalities.htm> ← many links

3.4 Healthy Neighbourhood Funds FONVCA

<http://www.fonvca.org/agendas/jan2011/Healthy%20Neighbourhoods%20Fund%20and%20CA%20Policy%20under%20review.pdf>

\$271.51 covered FONVCA budget shortfall of 2010

4. Correspondence Issues

4.1 Business arising from 15 regular emails:

4.2 Non-Posted letters – 2 this period

5. New Business

Council and other District issues.

***5.1 BC renames Ministry**

Ministry of Community and Rural Development
 → Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
<http://www.gov.bc.ca/cscd/>

***5.2 On Integrated Resource Recovery**

http://www.ruralbc.gov.bc.ca/library/Webinar/Slides/IRR_Presentation.pdf

5.3 DNV Lease Returns – John Hunter

***5.4 Metro Vancouver Transit Market Share**

www.th.gov.bc.ca/transit_plan/Provincial_Transit_Plan_LR.pdf

12% in 2008 & 12% in 2010

Projected 17% for 2020 & 22% in 2030

<http://www.publicpurpose.com/ut-19802008jtw.pdf>

“Because the number of older people is expected to increase significantly over the next ten years, the proportion of auto trips is expected to increase based on today’s travel behavior”

http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/gateway/reports/pdr-supp/Trip_Diary_Summary-TransLink.pdf

***5.5 GHG of High Rise vs. Single Family Homes**

Virtually the same ... if based on GHG/sq-ft

<http://cedb.asce.org/cgi/WWWdisplay.cgi?0601129>

5.6 Beginning of the end of Community Policing

http://www.bclocalnews.com/greater_vancouver/northshoreoulook/community/113374254.html

***5.7 Urban Water Use in Canada**

http://poliswaterproject.org/sites/default/files/report1_full.pdf

The larger the city, the more one pays/unit of water!

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/0B6E24B6-0421-4170-9FCF-9A7BC4522C54%5C2008MunicipalWaterPricingReportMunicipalWaterPricing2004Statistics.pdf>

5.8 Garbage & Recycling

GVRD Fees rise to one of highest in North America

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Higher+dumping+fees+aim+ed+reducing+garbage+landfills/4035345/story.html>

A good overview is at

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/msw99.htm#links>

5.8b Tax Cuts – “The stuff that dreams are made of”

http://www.cfib-fcei.ca/english/advocacy/british_columbia/58-budgets_public_finance/2311-municipal_spending_unsustainable.html

5.9 Green Building Strategy – Better allows Bigger

Council gave 3rd reading to bylaws on Monday Jan 10/2011

5.9b DNV 2011 Draft Financial Plan

To confirm FONVCA meeting with staff for Feb 17 or Feb 24

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Legal Issues

***Smoking**

<http://www.nsnews.com/health/health/3877402/story.html>

*Tracking all vehicles → Tracking all people → All people tracking

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/news/3997801/story.html>

Fine Print Matters – Especially for an OCP

<http://www.nsnews.com/news/news/4000035/story.html>

6.2 Any Other Issues (2 min each)

***Civility Matters**

<http://www.neh.gov/news/humanities/2005-01/civility.html>

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/news/3997849/story.html>

7. Chair & Date of next meeting.

Thursday February 17th 2011

ATTACHMENTS -List of Recent Emails to FONVCA

OUTSTANDING COUNCIL ITEMS -Cat Regulation Bylaw;

Review of Zoning Bylaw; Securing of vehicle load bylaw;

Snow removal for single family homes bylaw.

FONVCA Received Correspondence/Subject
15 November 2010 → 16 January 2011

LINK	SUBJECT
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/Monica_Craver_25nov2010.pdf	Building Mountain Biking Trails
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/Cathy_Adams_2dec2010.pdf	DNV bestows an Award of Honour
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/Monica_Craver_9dec2010.pdf	Exposing the Myths of Mountain Biking
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/Wendy_Qureshi_11dec2010.pdf	DNV Municipal Tax Growth
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/Monica_Craver_13dec2010.pdf	Mountain Biking – Filming Permits
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/Monica_Craver_15dec2010.pdf	Mountain Biking Impact on the Environment
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/Monica_Craver_15dec2010b.pdf	Mountain biking impact on soil
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/Translink_Listens_15dec2010.pdf	Survey of stakeholders groups
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/Wendy_Qureshi_19dec2010.pdf	Lynn Valley Densification
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/Jeanine_Bratina_5jan2011.pdf	Relocation of Edgemont Community Policing
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/John_Hunter_5jan2011.pdf	Comments on OCP Draft #1 (Nov 19/2010)
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/Monica_Craver_5jan2011.pdf	Mountain Biking
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/Monica_Craver_8jan2011.pdf	Mountain Biking on Fromme
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/Wendy_Qureshi_9jan2011.pdf	MHO overstepping on OCP
http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2010/15nov-to/Monica_Craver_15jan2011.pdf	Mountain Biking

Past Chair of FONVCA (Jan 2007-present)

Jan 2011	Diana Belhouse	S.O.S.	
Dec 2010	John Hunter	Seymour C.A.	← Meeting with DNV Staff on Draf#1 OCP
Nov 2010	Cathy Adams	Lions Gate C.A.	
Oct 2010	Eric Andersen	Blueridge C.A.	
Sep 2010	K'nud Hille	Norgate Park C.A.	
Jun 2010	Dan Ellis	Lynn Valley C.A.	
May 2010	Val Moller	Lions Gate C.A.	
Apr 2010	Paul Tubb	Pemberton Heights	
Mar 2010	Brian Platts	Edgemont C.A.	
Feb 2010	Special		
Jan 2010	Dianna Belhouse	S.O.S	
Nov 2009	K'nud Hill	Norgate Park C.A.	
Oct 2009	Dan Ellis	Lynn Valley C.A.	
Sep 2009	Brian Platts	Edgemont C.A.	
Jul 2009	Val Moller	Lions Gate N.A.	
Jun 2009	Eric Andersen	Blueridge C.A.	
May 2009	Diana Belhouse	S.O.S	
Apr 2009	Lyle Craver	Mt. Fromme R.A.	
Mar 2009	Del Kristalovich	Seymour C.A.	
Feb 2009	Paul Tubb	Pemberton Heights C.A.	
Dec 2008	Dan Ellis	Lynn Valley C.A.	
Nov 2008	Cathy Adams	Lions Gate N.A.	
Sep 2008	Brian Platts	Edgemont C.A.	
Jul 2008	Diana Belhouse	Delbrook C.A.	
Jun 2008	Eric Andersen	Blueridge C.A.	
May 2008	Herman Mah	Pemberton Heights C.A.	
Apr 2008	Del Kristalovich	Seymour C.A.	
Mar 2008	K'nud Hille	Norgate Park C.A.	
Feb 2008	Lyle Craver	Mount Fromme R.A.	
Jan 2008	Dan Ellis	Lynn Valley C.A.	
Nov 2007	John Miller	LCCRA	
Oct 2007	Cathy Adams	Lions Gate N.A.	
Sep 2007	Diana Belhouse	Delbrook C.A.	
Jul 2007	Eric Andersen	Blueridge C.A.	
Jun 2007	Brian Platts	Edgemont C.A.	
May 2007	Dan Ellis	Lynn Valley C.A.	
Apr 2007	John Miller	Lower Capilano R.A.	
Mar 2007	Cathy Adams	Lions Gate N.A.	
Feb 2007	Diana Belhouse	Delbrook C.A.	
Jan 2007	Brian Platts	Edgemont C.A.	

FONVCA

Minutes November 18, 2010

Place: DNV Hall, 355 West Queens

Time: 7:00pm

Attendees

Eric Andersen	Blueridge C.A.
Brenda Barrick	Inter-River.
Diana Belhouse	Delbrook C.A. and SOS
Cathy Adams (Chair)	Lions Gate N.A.
Val Moller	Lions Gate N.A.
John Hunter (notes)	Seymour C.A.
Corrie Kost	Edgemont C.A..

Regrets: Dan Ellis, Lyle Craver, Paul Tubb

The meeting was called to order ~ 7:05pm

1. ORDER / CONTENT OF AGENDA

Added agenda items:

- 6.2e regarding DNV advisory committees
- 6.2f regarding the future Metro Vancouver Public Hearing on Regional Growth Strategy, and
- 6.2g regarding tankers in Vancouver Harbour

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – Oct. 21, 2010

<http://www.fonvca.org/agendas/oct2010/minutes-sep2010.pdf>

The minutes were adopted. Concerns had been expressed in a previous meeting with too many links in minutes, causing longer and perhaps more confusing minutes. Corrie observed that links are in the minutes is so you do not have to go another document to find your target document. **It was decided to monitor the situation.**

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 Council Agenda Distribution

Basic Agenda listing still missing from District Dialogue. **Action: Corrie and Cathy will send the letter previously drafted re this to DNV.**

3.2 Renewal of web site FONVCA.ORG

Renewal has been done for 3yrs (to Nov 2013) at cost of \$334.60. Members who have paid \$20 are:

Lynn Valley C.A.	Lions Gate N.A.
Save our Shores	Blueridge C.A.
Edgemont C.A.	Norgate Park C.A.
Seymour C.A.	Delbrook C.A. (correction)

Cathy approached the DNV clerk who seemed open to funding the FONVCA website from the

Healthy Neighbourhood Funds; however Cathy did not ask for it at this stage. The yearly fund limit has not been increased from \$10,000 since 1997; **Cathy will ask how much is being used each year with a view to asking that it be raised if justified.**

Cathy will ask for our website costs and printing cost for 2010 to be recovered from this fund. As for those C.A.s who have already paid, FONVCA will **Corrie will write a letter to each C.A. as to what has been done with their donations.**

3.3 Update on OCP Process

Discussion of the potential conflict between Local Area Plans (“LAPs”) and the OCP ensued, with concern expressed that there is the perception that there is a hidden agenda to dispense with LAPs by turning them into “policies” – thus stripping them of the requirement to hold public hearings upon subsequent conflicts. Staff may see LAPs as impairing growth or as an added administrative burden.

It was pointed out that all surveys of OCP wishes are “self-selection” type and may not exclusively involve people from DNV or even be representative of the typical DNV resident. A meeting schedule for further public OCP information receipt, and reviews, has been issued.

FONVCA will meet with Staff and Roundtable Members at their request Dec. 9, 7 PM, District Hall.

Concern was expressed at the shifting end point of the OCP process being too close to the next municipal election which could threaten to abort adoption of a new OCP, as apparently happened once before in DNV history.

Note that the regular FONVCA meeting of Dec 16th has been cancelled.

3.4 Tree Bylaw

There is considerable material in the package on this issue and some discussion of it took place. A public hearing will be held in the future and we should expect at least a 10 day notification period.

NS News Article by Councillor Roger Bassam

<http://www.nsnews.com/stories/3819609/story.html>

DNV looks at new tree bylaw - NSNEWS

http://www.nsnews.com/story_print.html?id=3746085

-Articles by International society of Arboriculture

<http://www.isa->

[arbor.com/education/onlineResources/treeOrdinanceGuidelines.aspx](http://www.isa-arbor.com/education/onlineResources/treeOrdinanceGuidelines.aspx)

and detailed 181 page guidelines..

<http://www.isa->

[arbor.com/education/resources/educ_TreeOrdinanceGuidelines.pdf](http://www.isa-arbor.com/education/resources/educ_TreeOrdinanceGuidelines.pdf)

- Proposed Tree Compensation Model (page 62 attached)
http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council_Agendas_Minutes/101005CWAA.pdf
and déjà vu articles
http://theoakvillewatchdog.blogspot.com/2007_03_01_archive.html
http://theoakvillewatchdog.blogspot.com/2007_09_01_archive.html 30/

4. CORRESPONDENCE ISSUES

4.1 Business arising from 8 regular e-mail

No action required.

4.2 Non-posted letters – 0 this period.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Council and other District Issues

Special Notifications:

Cathy Adams to send a note (card) of condolences to Mayor Richard Walton on the passing of his father. (He subsequently expressed his thanks to FONVCA for the gesture)

Cathy Adams to send an email expressing FONVCA's appreciation to Mayor & Council for presenting Corrie Kost an Award of Honour from DNV.

5.1 Property Taxes Keep Piling Up...

"Highway Robbery" from

<http://www.nsnews.com/news/news/3826077/story.html>

"Metro Residents face tax increase" from

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/stories/3751888/story.html>

"Stop raising property tax to pay for transit projects"

http://www.vancouversun.com/story_print.html?id=3662897

Translink 2011 Supplement Backgrounder & Details

http://beta.images.theglobeandmail.com/archive/00997/TransLink_funding_s_997764a.pdf
[http://www.translink.ca/en/site-info/document-library-result.aspx?id=\(1422CC18-0809-4583-8F9C-4A805AF0417C1&rel=\(2091EA29-0CD6-49CC-A55B-617D0DC2B663\)\)](http://www.translink.ca/en/site-info/document-library-result.aspx?id=(1422CC18-0809-4583-8F9C-4A805AF0417C1&rel=(2091EA29-0CD6-49CC-A55B-617D0DC2B663)))

Note: SeaBus upgraded to 15 minute frequency all day every day

5.2 EPA Report of Composting

http://beyondrecycling.org/pdf_files/FinalReport.pdf

The executive summary – particularly on tipping fees – is well worth a read.

There were short discussions on 5.1 and 5.2.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Legal Issues

a) Metro Vancouver to take Port to court if tax dispute not solved

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/news/3686902/story.html>

Has potential to resolve tax dispute with our port lands.

6.2 Any Other Issues (2 min each)

a) UN Report on economics and ecosystems and biodiversity

http://www.unep.ch/etb/publications/TEEB/TEEB_interim_report.pdf

Sun article "Underpricing "nature's bounty" costs trillions

<http://www.vancouversun.com/technology/news/3698238/story.html>

Similar study done for Greater Vancouver

<http://www.vancouversun.com/travel/stories/3737115/story.html>

See also the TEEB Interim/final Reports

<http://www.teebweb.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=u2fMSQoWJf0%3d&tabid=1021&language=en-US>

http://www.teebweb.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=bYhDohL_TuM%3d&tabid=924&mid=1813

b) Expect Municipalities to endorse Mounties.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/news/3686899/story.html>

c) Landfill for carbon sequestration)

<http://www.osti.gov/bridge/servlets/purl/795745-EMfXDz/native/>

d) To Bury or to Burn

<http://www.aps.org/publications/apsnews/201010/letters.cfm>

A low-tech/proven sequestration technology.

Note: Plastics in landfill are ~ 100% sequestered

http://epa.gov/climatechange/wyacd/waste/downloads/ICF_Memo_Carbon_Sequestration_in_Landfills.pdf indicated

generally 75% carbon sequestration for landfill material.

There appears to be no clear winner to the Bury vs Burn debate. Details in the implementation are the determining factor.

e) FONVCA is no longer getting letters advising of advisory committee openings/appointments. Eric has asked DNV to inform C.A.s by e-mail but there has not been a reply to his letter yet.

f) Corrie advised of the upcoming Metro Vancouver Public hearings on RGS (Regional Growth Strategy), advertised in local papers. The Tues Nov 30th meeting hearing will be held at 6pm at Pinnacle on the Pier, 138 Victory Ship Way, City of North Vancouver

g) John advised that certain individuals and groups are spreading misleading information regarding tankers in Vancouver Harbour and BC waters.

7. CHAIR AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Chair: John Hunter Seymour CA.

Date: Thursday January 20, 2010

Attendees of FONVCA/STAFF Draft OCP Meeting of Dec 9/2010

John Hunter	Seymour C.A.	hunterjohn@telus.net
Jamie Leigh	Lower Cap. C.A.	Jamie.leigh@shaw.ca
Ross Taylor	DNV Staff	taylorr@dnv.org
Vince Verlaan	HB Lanarc	vince.verlaan@hblanarc.ca
Mark Ely	Roundtable	klarely@shaw.ca
Krista Tullock	Roundtable	ktulloch@shaw.ca
Brenda Barrick	Inter-River C.A.	stampergb@shaw.ca
Cathy Adams	Lions Gate N.A.	cathyadams@shaw.ca
Val Moller	Lions Gate N.A.	vmoller@telus.net
Corrie Kost	Edgemont C.A.	corrie@kost.ca
Richard Walton	Mayor DNV	rwalton@dnv.org
Alf Cockle	Blueridge C.A.	aacockle@telus.net
Derek Slack	Deep Cove R.A.	slack.derekh@gmail.com
Katherine Fagerlund	Deep Cove R.A.	ekfagerlund@telus.net
Diana Belhouse	Delbrook C.A. & S.O.S	604-987-1656
Robin Hicks	Councillor DNV	rhicks@dnv.org
Dan Ellis	Lynn Valley C.A.	ellis7880@shaw.ca
Fred Smith	Roundtable	fasmith@shaw.ca
Sarah DalSanto	DNV Staff	DalSantoS@dnv.org
Susan Haid	DNV Staff	HaidS@dnv.org
Brian Bydwell	DNV Staff	Brian_Bydwell@dnv.org

Tree protection laws serve everyone's interest

BY TODD MAJOR, SPECIAL TO NORTH SHORE NEWS NOVEMBER 24, 2010

Is there trouble in the urban forest?

Do we have trouble with our trees or is the vocal minority just raising a ruckus over nothing?

Over the past several months there has been some heated debate about the District of North Vancouver's tree protection bylaw. Some residents are in favour, some are not.

Some residents want more protection of our urban forests; others want the municipality to stop infringing on individual rights.

Perhaps some perspective might help frame the debate.

In this day and age, most informed people around the world agree that trees in forests and cities need legislative protection. A 2003 study of tree protection legislation in European cities found that of 34 major cities studied, 25 have tree protection bylaws on public and private land. The study was conducted by Ariane Schmied and Werner Pillmann, of Vienna, Austria. The study found that private land owners in that city argued that "private (land) ownership was being restricted through the tree protection law."

Sound familiar? Schmied and Pillmann summarized the primary reasons for tree protection laws as: protection against erosion, water retention (storm water management), climate protection and health; wind protection; protection against air pollution; protection of species, biotopes and habitats; regeneration through nature; creative architectural and urban functions, and road safety.

I am sure most people who are at least a little bit informed and even marginally civilized will agree that those are justifiable reasons for having a tree protection bylaw. It is important to realize that Europeans have a greater appreciation for their trees and forests -- urban or rural, since they have cut most of them down over the past several hundred years, so what they have left is quite precious.

The Schmied and Pillmann study showed that Vienna, Brussels, Bern, Geneva, Prague, Berlin, Dortmund, Düsseldorf, Essen, Hanover, Munich, Frankfurt, Paris, Budapest, Bologna, Florence, Amsterdam and Bratislava all have tree protection laws on public and private lands. Those laws govern, to varying degrees, the removal of trees as dictated by size, height, diameter, location. They require a permit to remove and most of those laws stipulate a fine for illegal removal.

Similar laws are in effect in most cities across Canada and the U.S. Most of those laws have exemptions in specific instances but almost universally in effect is the requirement for compensation to remove a tree.

Compensation amounts vary, with the usual requirement being "cut one, plant one." Some jurisdictions use financial compensation to protect heritage trees, to undertake arboricultural operations on protected areas, to fund public education or to plant on city land when replanting on private property is not possible or desired.

The study notes that the oldest tree protection law in the last century was enacted in

1930 in Geneva. It also notes that tree protection laws began appearing more frequently in Europe after the Second World War due to a lack of firewood, likely in an effort to prevent large-scale cutting of the remaining war-ravaged trees.

Tree protection laws are nothing new and they serve the community's interest.

In his Nov. 12 letter to the editor of this paper, District of North Vancouver Coun. Roger Bassam said the district's proposed tree bylaw "appears to be a reasonable balance between property rights and community responsibilities."

Compromise is a difficult thing to obtain these days in our ever more polarizing society and the government bureaucracy is already too big and too far reaching into our personal lives. But if you want to live in a civilized community, there has to be rules, like it or not.

The North Shore has a beautiful sense of place because of the trees, which are the urban forest legacy for our children. So if residents are allowed to cut trees in an unregulated manner, soon enough the North Shore will look like every other new and treeless subdivision -- nothing more than a clear cut desert void of the natural beauty that gives the North Shore its karma.

I believe no person should come to live on the North Shore if they don't like trees and lots of them, so please, don't move into the forest only to cut it down to create a desert so you can sit in the sun a few days a year.

An interesting difference in some of the European tree laws, compared to any North American tree law, is the "Obligation to Conserve" as a requirement of law. An obligation to conserve speaks loudly to the fact that we do not own our trees, we only get to rent them for our lifetime, and then they are passed onto our children. I think this "obligation" sentiment is lost on many selfish, consumptive and shortsighted Canadians. Perhaps we need to adjust our perspective and think about our trees more in a future tense instead of the present tense.

Todd Major is a journeyman horticulturist, garden designer, writer, consultant and organic horticulture teacher. For advice contact him at stmajor@shaw.ca

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Tree Ordinances as Public Policy and Participation Tools: Development in Alabama

Yaoqi Zhang, Bin Zheng, Brenda Allen, Neil Letson, and Jeff L. Sibley

Abstract: Following a brief overview of the historical evolution of tree ordinances in the United States, this paper focuses on the development of tree ordinances in the state of Alabama to demonstrate how the tree ordinances evolve into law and the role such ordinances have on urban trees. Even though tree ordinances have a long history in the United States, they have been rapidly developing since the 1970s. Among the 100 municipalities that have some type of tree ordinance in Alabama, based on this investigation, the major responsibilities of tree ordinances include: having a tree commission (board), defining tree planting, removal and replacement of trees on public land, public tree protection and care, tree species selection, and dead tree removal on public and private property. Considering the broadness and complexity of urban trees, this paper indicates tree ordinances provide not only a legal framework, but also an effective tool to engage public participation and awareness of urban trees in the process of formulating, implementing, and amending of the tree ordinances. Development of tree ordinances requires government support, citizen participation, and consideration of local resources.

Key Words: Green Law; Landscape Ordinance; Public Attitude; Public Survey; Southeast United States.

As a legal framework, tree ordinances are developed to provide authority, offer guidance to residents, and specify the rights, responsibilities and minimum standards to regulate human relationships regarding trees. They also frame and coordinate individual interests concerning trees. Tree ordinances can help society adapt to economic and societal forces in a meaningful way by promoting proper urban forest management.

When utility companies need to remove or trim trees on private lands, what rights do landowners have? When accidents happen, such as damage caused by falling trees, who is responsible? On public land, what are the rights and responsibilities for local government and each citizen concerning trees? Who is the governing authority and management organization for urban forests and what should the budget level be? Tree ordinances are an effective public policy and planning tool to help local governments and policymakers better manage trees.

This paper first introduces the nature of public goods of urban trees, which theoretically justify the importance of tree ordinances to urban forestry. What follows is a brief review of the historical background of tree ordinances in the United States to show practical causes leading to the emergence and development of tree ordinances. Included is an examination of the development of tree ordinances in Alabama based on a collection of tree ordinances. From said examinations, tree ordinances evolve in response to change in each city in providing a legal framework. Meanwhile, the process of developing tree ordinances is an effective tool to engage public and stakeholders' participation, and an important educational tool to raise public awareness of urban trees and the environment.

ROLE OF TREE ORDINANCES FOR SUSTAINING PUBLIC GOODS OF URBAN TREES

Urban forests are economic goods that provide a variety of benefits. Trees in urban landscapes moderate temperature and microclimates, thereby saving energy (Heisler 1986; Oke 1989;

McPherson 1990). Urban trees can improve air quality (Smith 1981; Nowak and McPherson 1993), help stabilize soils, reduce erosion, improve groundwater recharge, control rainfall runoff and flooding (Sanders 1986), provide animal habitat to sustain biodiversity (Johnson 1988), make neighborhoods more aesthetically appealing, and add to the value of property (Schroeder 1989). Evidence also shows that urban forests may reduce human stress levels (Ulrich 1984), promote social integration of older adults with their neighbors (Kweon et al. 1998), and provide local residents with opportunities for emotional and spiritual fulfillment that help them cultivate a greater attachment to their residential areas (Chenoweth and Gobster 1990). The presence of trees and "nearby nature" in human communities generates numerous psychosocial benefits. Hospital patients were observed to recover more quickly and require fewer painkilling medications when they had a view of nature (Ulrich 1984). Having trees within high-density neighborhoods lowers levels of fear, contributes to less violent and aggressive behavior, encourages better neighbor relationships and better coping skills (Kuo 2003). Office workers with a view of nature are more productive, report fewer illnesses, and have higher job satisfaction (Kaplan 1993).

Urban forests can also be a potential detriment if not well-managed and maintained. All trees, no matter how long-lived, eventually decline and die. Therefore, trees impose some risk during their life cycles. Destruction of property, personal injury, and even death can be caused by falling trees. Some trees create potential hazards to the public and risks to the owners (Mortimer and Kane 2004). During and immediately following catastrophic storm events, urban trees are more prone to disruptive results due to clogged streets and accesses, disrupted utility service, damaged property, loss of city services, increased debris removal, increased recovery costs, and a threat to public safety (Letson 2001; USDA Forest Service 2003). In many regions of the U.S., urban trees contribute to the potential of wildfire hazards (Long and Randall

2004). The risk of wildfire depends on nearby land use, vegetation near homes, and building design and materials. The presence of and spatial configuration of various tree species can also be a concern.

Urban trees have positive and negative impacts on neighborhoods and the surrounding community. Positive impacts include what both tree owners and other citizens can enjoy, negative impacts indicate what citizens may suffer from. Trees are also a type of public good that causes a free rider problem where people obtain the benefits without bearing the costs. There are many potential conflicts involving trees and people within the community. These externalities and conflicts usually result in a call for laws and regulations—such as tree ordinances—as legal provisions adopted by local or community governments.

Since trees in urban settings are part of the landscape and are used for public and private benefit, tree ordinances are often specified in the context of green laws and landscape ordinances. In many states and communities, a tree ordinance is often a component of a landscape ordinance that has been enacted to: 1) establish urban tree management programs, 2) establish new landscape plantings following construction, and 3) preserve existing natural amenities, including historic trees, forest lands, wetlands, and unique habitats. In the western and southern United States, these laws are usually called ordinances with the exception of Florida, where they are referred to as landscape codes. In other parts of the country they are found in sections of zoning ordinances and municipal codes (Abbey 1999), which are a systematically arranged, comprehensive collection of laws.

With other green laws and landscape ordinances, tree ordinances are used as public policies to shape the urban and suburban landscape. Tree ordinances are also a planning tool. Abbey (1998) argued that “laws are now supporting design, and designers are assisting with the establishment of law. Many of such green laws are being written by design professionals.” Tree ordinances have been developed to supplement zoning, tree planting, and conservation, especially for new development sites. Tree ordinances are also used to provide a framework for new home builders and public citizens and to delegate responsibility to a public official, such as a director of parks and recreation or a director of public work, for planting and maintaining street trees (Barker 1975). Tree ordinances have been approved or considered as effective policy tools to promote urban trees in the United States (e.g., Davis 1993; Cooper 1996; Schroeder et al. 2003; Galvin and Bleil 2004).

Tree ordinances are usually initiated in response to community motivations as well as political will. Public attitude and preference are important when developing or amending tree ordinances. Usually, as a community grows and expands, population density increases and conflicts rise. Tree ordinances were initially written for protection of public trees, but have gradually moved toward greater regulation. In recent years, serious attention has been given to the importance of municipal liability (Tereshkovich 1990). Many tree ordinances have emerged due to a specific, local issue where there is a conflict between trees, people, or some other interests. For example, off-street parking and vehicle use area (PVA) landscape requirements were a very common “first-generation-limited-use” type of landscape ordinance in many U.S. cities (Abbey 1998). Similarly, Frischenbruder and Pellegrino (2006) uses eight recent case studies to generalize the proposal of using greenways to reclaim nature in Brazilian cities. The following sections will first demonstrate the development of tree ordinances in the United States, then provide further infor-

mation using tree ordinances in the state of Alabama as a case study. The conclusion generalizes how to use tree ordinances as a public policy and participation tool to promote urban forestry.

TREE ORDINANCES IN MANY UNITED STATES CITIES

Legislation has been widely used to protect trees and to develop urban forests for a very long time in Europe (Schmied and Pillmann 2003). In the United States, the earliest tree ordinance was drafted around 1700 by William Penn in order to set standards for tree planting in some of the early settlements around Philadelphia (Zube 1971). This law is also considered as the earliest of all recorded landscape ordinances (Abbey 1999). The Territory of Michigan enacted a law that specified which trees that could be planted on boulevards and squares in the City of Detroit in 1807. In Mississippi, the commission charged with selecting the state’s capital city recommended that every other block be filled with native vegetation or be planted with groves of trees in 1821 (Zube 1971).

During the late 18th Century, trees were established in village greens and streets throughout the eastern United States to emulate those found in European cities. By the 1890s, management of public shade trees had clearly become an important part and duty of municipal governance. To address the ambiguous problem between private property and the public right-of-way, “Nail” laws (using nails to distinguish which shade trees were public) were adopted in the New England area to enable towns to take definite steps to distinguish which shade trees were public: Massachusetts in 1890, Connecticut in 1893, Rhode Island and New Hampshire in 1901, Vermont in 1904, and Maine in 1919 (Ricard 2005). Washington D.C. passed a tree ordinance in 1892 to prevent girdling, bricking, wounding, destroying or harming trees in any manner on public or private property or to use them to tie horses. In Maine, the Supreme Court ruled in 1907 that private property such as tress was subject to reasonable regulatory limitations (Durkesen and Richman 1993).

Even though tree ordinances appeared a century ago, only in recent decades have tree ordinances and related green laws become widely adopted in American cities. In 1976, The National Arbor Day Foundation unveiled its Tree City USA recognition program that requires a tree ordinance as one of its four requirements of designated communities. In 2006, there were 3,213 Tree City USA communities, suggesting that an additional number of municipalities have tree ordinances now. Tree ordinances have primarily been used to protect public trees. As of 1984, only one hundred communities nationwide with tree protection laws on private land could be identified (Coughlin et al. 1984). A Michigan State University survey of over 1000 communities reported that 13% had tree preservation ordinances and restrictions on cutting trees on private property (Kielbaso 1989). In a Missouri survey, 22% of respondents said they had a “comprehensive tree ordinance” on public property, but only 13% of respondents stated their communities had a “comprehensive tree ordinance” that defined tree preservation requirements during development (Treiman and Gartner 2004). Since different surveys employed different standards and for various purposes, interpretation of results has varied application. However, it is clear that the United States is currently experiencing a revolution in green laws and tree ordinances that began in the mid-1980s and has continued to increase.

The field of urban forestry as well as tree ordinances is developing hand in hand with urbanization. After World War II, America’s

demographics shifted toward urban areas with more people living in cities than in rural areas for the first time in history. Along with this urbanization was an increase in the amount of developed acres, built space, and impervious surface. Urban sprawl is viewed as a national problem facing American people. A decreasing supply of environmental services is reflected in deteriorated water and air quality as more greenspace is replaced by impervious surface. As discussed earlier, tree ordinances are not just for protecting trees. More importantly, they are often used for regulating relationships among people. In many cases, legal issues and court decisions call for more specific laws regarding tree matters (Merullo and Valentine 1992). The current generation of regulations is increasingly strident and sophisticated (Duerksen and Richman 1993).

Urban forestry and tree ordinances have also evolved with economic development. By the mid-1970s, as Americans were becoming wealthier, urban areas were becoming increasingly crowded. As urban citizens experienced more stress in their daily lives, they began seeking outlets. Dickerson et al. (2001) reported strong community characteristics in educational level, annual per-capita income, average price of home, total population, and poverty level to have a strong relationship with municipal tree ordinances. Education about the ecological, psychological, and economic value of trees and the environment has also promoted the demand for urban trees. The growing demand for urban trees from both public and private land, and a growing number of legal issues engage community motivations and political will to have tree ordinances and to use such as public policy and planning tools for community development.

CASE OF ALABAMA: THE DEVELOPMENT OF TREE ORDINANCES

Alabama is comparatively a rural state with some representative characteristics for most of the southern United States. The development of tree ordinances in Alabama to some degree can reflect many other states in the south.

Urban trees are an important part of Alabama's history, with tree planting being the most common "community forestry" activity. Currently, Alabama has more than 200 million urban trees, covering 48% of the urban areas, and 6.3% of the state (Dwyer et al. 2000). Since Alabama has such a favorable climate for tree growth and abundant forest resources, the presence of trees is sometimes taken for granted. Many of the state's urban trees were planted and have received some level of management. As early as 1763, the British planted live oaks along the streets of Mobile. In the early 1800s, mulberry trees were planted along the streets of Cahaba, the state's first capital city, and evidence exists of experiments with other tree species as well (Letson 2002). Compared with other states, Alabama has maintained a relatively rural identity longer than most. Therefore, Alabama's urban forest is relatively less-managed even though it has a much better climate for urban trees and does not suffer from the insect and disease pests that devastated large portions of northern and eastern urban forests. Only since the 1960s, as Alabama has become more urban, have city trees become even more important to people.

The Town of Silverhill in Baldwin County, passed the first recorded tree ordinance in 1935, which defined the pruning zone around its street trees. In Mobile County, adjacent to Baldwin County, the City of Mobile, the third largest city in Alabama, was the second city to have a tree ordinance. The original tree or-

dinance was passed and the state's first Tree Commission was formed in 1961. The Mobile Tree Commission holds the distinction of being the only one enacted by a state legislative act. Authority was given to the city to protect live oaks in specific areas. Subsequently, Mobile's tree ordinance was included in the "Zoning Ordinance of the City of Mobile" that was first adopted in May 1967, and later amended in April 1992 and November 2005.

Twenty-nine years after the formation of Mobile Tree Commission, Foley became the second Alabama city to create a tree commission, through a local municipal ordinance. Huntsville, the fourth largest city, is also one of the early Alabama cities to have a tree ordinance, adopting its tree management ordinance in August 1981. In the 1980s and 1990s a trend developed, spreading tree boards and ordinances across the state (ACES 2002). Tree ordinances and green laws became more and more important to local governments interested in managing Alabama urban forests.

Since tree ordinances can be incorporated with other acts, regulations, and codes, it is often difficult to determine which cities have tree ordinances. The Tree City USA list from the National Arbor Day Foundation, which requires a city to have a tree ordinance for such recognition, has 81 Alabama cities on the list. However, the reality is that some cities do have tree ordinances that are not on the Tree City USA list.

A survey was conducted to collect and assemble comprehensive information regarding tree ordinances in Alabama in 1996, followed by a second survey in 2006 to gain more updated information. Both surveys used similar methodology, which was to identify tree ordinances in all cities and towns in Alabama. Letters were sent to each municipal clerk or mayor requesting information regarding landscape or tree ordinances, or city codes regulating trees if they did not have landscape or tree ordinances. Meanwhile, there was a search for tree ordinances on city websites. In cases when the survey did not receive a response, there was an e-mail follow-up with phone calls, and a second letter. A total of 300 surveys were sent to the most populated cities and towns. Since Alabama is comparatively a rural state, all cities and towns with more than or close to 1000 people were contacted. The study received approximately 130 responses in each of the two surveys: some respondents sent their tree or landscape ordinances or website addresses while others simply replied that they did not have an ordinance.

Since there were not many cities that had tree ordinances, the two surveys were combined with the information collected from other sources. It was determined that 83 municipalities have some type of tree or landscape ordinance addressing matters related to trees. In about 20 cities, the City Code contains at least some regulations specifically dealing with trees, landscape and zoning ordinances, city beautification, and other parameters. Only approximately 20 cities have self-contained and well-developed tree ordinances or landscape regulations (meaning the ordinance is independent rather than included in the city code). These cities include Abbeville, Ashville, Auburn, Decatur, Dothan, Eufaula, Fairhope, Florence, Gulf Shores, Helena, Hoover, Huntsville, Mobile, Moundville, Opelika, Red Bay, Tuscumbia, and others.

After reviewing and examining the tree ordinances collected in Alabama, a summary of the major components was created (Table 1). From the compilation, the top six issues addressed were: 1) having a tree commission or board, 2) tree planting, removal and replacement on public land, 3) public trees protection and care; 4) tree species selection recommended to be planted,

5) dead or deceased tree removal on private property, and 6) definition of street trees. Except for Mobile and Huntsville, all other cities have developed their tree ordinances after 1985.

Table 1: Major issues addressed by tree ordinances in Alabama cities.

Issues Addressed	# of cities
Amended at least once	13
Having tree commission (board)	73
Tree planting, removal and replacement on public land	70
Public trees protection and care	68
Tree species selection recommended to be planted	57
Dead or deceased tree removal on private property	51
Definition of street trees	34
Nuisance trees	32
Private trees protection	32
Spatial requirement (e.g., distance from curb, sidewalk, street corners and fireplugs, distance between trees)	31
Penalty for violation	27
Arborists licensed and bonded	20
Tree topping, pruning and corner clearance	19
Tree removal and protection on development sites	12
Tree preservation and planting credit	9
Heritage trees	5
Tree protection close to or under utilities line	1

Data sources: Authors' compilation from surveys conducted in 1996 and 2006. The data set included 81 cities.

TREE ORDINANCES AS PUBLIC POLICY AND PARTICIPATION TOOLS

Almost all Alabama cities regulating trees have city tree commissions (or tree boards) that take the responsibilities of initiating and amending the tree ordinances (Table 1). In Alabama, tree ordinances have most often started following the establishment of a city tree commission (board). Tree commissions play an important role in engaging public participation technically and politically. For example, the first tree ordinance in Montgomery (the capital of Alabama) was passed in 1984. Montgomery formed a five-member tree commission filled exclusively by city personnel to allow the city to meet one of the Tree City USA standards. In 2001, local citizens formed the Montgomery Tree Committee (MTC). The group's intent was to create an informally structured urban tree advocacy group that would promote a municipal urban forestry program. The MTC wrote a project proposal for the City of Montgomery to develop a comprehensive urban forestry plan. The proposal was approved by the U.S. Forest Service and awarded funds to implement the plan in 2002. With the committee's efforts, the City of Montgomery hired its first urban forester in 2004. In September 2005, Montgomery passed an ordinance providing minimum landscape requirements for off-street parking. The MTC, incorporated as a nonprofit membership organization and in 2006, was recognized as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation by the Internal Revenue Service. The MTC began working with the City of Montgomery to merge ordinances and tree regulations to create a comprehensive and functional tree ordinance in November 2007. The revised ordinance gave the urban forester and the municipal government policies, guidelines, and authority needed to manage trees on public property.

Tree ordinance development involves various stakeholders, particularly builders, utility companies, and new home owners. For example, Huntsville, the fourth largest city in Alabama,

adopted its tree ordinance in August 1981. Huntsville's tree ordinance primarily addressed right-of-way trees and responsibility for their care, causing some conflicts among the utility companies, the owners of right-of-way trees, and the City. At the time, the development of the tree ordinance proved to be a complicated process. According to former City Forester Chuck Weber (1982), Huntsville passed another landscape ordinance "Zoning Ordinance of the City of Huntsville, Alabama" in 1989 which included Article 71, "Off-Street Parking and Vehicle Use Area (PVA) Landscaping Requirements." The essential purpose of this ordinance was to improve the visual appearance of PVA while preserving trees and other landscape elements so as to protect streams and watercourses from excessive runoff.

In February of 2004, Huntsville's City Council adopted a complete revision of the city's standards for tree work, paying more attention to forest management and education than regulation. Negotiations took place for over two years before the Tree Commission arrived at wording which all parties could agree. The more challenging issue was related with power-line clearances. Huntsville has a long growing season and tremendous species diversity, but these assets mean either severe line-clearance pruning or frequent re-pruning of fast-growing trees. The compromise that broke the logjam was to increase the clearance distance around distribution lines to 4.57 m (15 ft) for nine fast-growing species (hackberry/sugarberry, box elder, silver maple, tree-of-heaven, cottonwood, princess tree, Siberian elm, black cherry, and loblolly pine), while leaving the clearance for other species at 3 m (10 ft).

The new tree ordinance in Huntsville reflects compromise and collaboration between utility companies, city government, and individuals. While the utility companies had an obligation to provide safe and reliable utility service to its customers, some trees were topped and became unsightly. The city and utility company worked out a solution to completely remove old, poorly trimmed trees, and replant them with new ones on private property. The new tree ordinance required utility companies to cut and remove trees at their expense, the city to take responsibility for planting new trees, with private households responsible for tree maintenance.

In the City of Auburn, the tree commission, developers, and builders worked together in an attempt to keep mature trees on private property. For every large tree retained, the developer or builder receives credit for two to three trees. The Auburn landscape ordinance is targeted at developers and is designed to encourage the planting and retention of larger growing, long-lived tree species and to discourage problem species such as "Bradford" pears and crapemyrtles.

Tree ordinances are also an important tool in planning and coordinating within governmental agencies and being consistent with other codes and regulation. For example, Mobile's tree ordinances are included in several places such as the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Mobile, Subdivision Regulations for the City of Mobile, and The Land Use Administration Section of Urban Development. The Mobile Planning Commission requires a buffer planting strip or a wooden privacy fence of 1.83 m (6 ft) in height.

In Auburn, the city's tree and green ordinances are mostly defined in the Auburn Landscape Regulations and the Auburn Zoning Ordinance of 2006. Proposals made by the Auburn Tree Commission go to the City Planning Committee which refines and adapts them prior to referral to the Auburn City Council for approval. The City appointed an urban forester in charge of city trees and provides "Best Practices" to developers and pri-

vate citizens. In the Auburn Zoning Ordinance, the most related components are land use classification, requirement of open space, buffer-yard, plant materials, and minimum plant size.

Public support is critical for the approval and implementation of tree ordinances. According to a survey report (Zhang et al. 2007), over 85% of the respondents would support their local government developing tree ordinances imposing guidelines on builders and developers regarding trees on new construction sites. The survey indicated that about 75% of the public would support a local tree ordinance imposed on public property, with less support for tree ordinances to govern trees on private property. The survey results imply that before passing a tree ordinance to govern trees on private property, a careful and well planned communication plan must be developed to gain public support. This is not surprising since the "taking issue" of private property rights has been a big concern across the United States. Tree and land ordinances face similar "taking issue" challenges (Durkesen and Richman 1993). As population increases and land development expands, trees on private property must be included in tree ordinances. Cooper (1996) demonstrated a successful example of using tree ordinances to protect and replace trees on private lands.

CONCLUSION

Tree ordinances emerge and evolve in response to urban, societal, and economic changes. Just as other laws and regulations target specific issues, tree ordinances are governing policies for urban tree management. In the United States and in Alabama more specifically, regulations on public land are more developed and have received more public support compared with private land management. Tree ordinances are gradually evolving to address emerging issues of growth and conflict. Several cities in Alabama have amended their tree ordinances due to meet these dynamics. When situations change and new conflicts emerge, a tree ordinance should be amended. For example, it was primarily in conflicts among utilities companies and owners of right-of-way trees in the City of Huntsville that led to the change of the city tree ordinances. Tree ordinances are specifically designed as public policy and planning tools for individual municipalities and must meet local needs (Miller 1997). From this aspect, we anticipate the integration of tree ordinances with environmental protection (e.g., riparian buffer) and new developments will become more important.

Unlike many laws and regulations, tree ordinances are more successful when they include public participation and citizen leadership. Financial support from federal and local government and private sources often play a critical role in helping nongovernment organizations and citizens effectively participate. For example, city tree commissions are usually established through the public taking responsibility for developing and amending tree ordinances in the U.S., and especially in the Alabama. At the same time, developing tree ordinances is a great opportunity to engage public participation, solve local issues through negotiation and compromise, and create a policy that works for the community.

More importantly, tree ordinance implementation and compliance is largely dependent on public participation considering many tree ordinances contain regulations that are voluntary, difficult to monitor, and effectively enforce. Citizens should be strongly encouraged to participate in administration of tree ordinances with decision-making authority, or in an advisory role. Nichols (2007) suggests citizen bodies such as tree com-

missions, vegetation committees, tree review boards, urban forestry advisory boards, environmental commissions, and planning commissions must be involved. A wide public participation can not only help address the issues of the stakeholders of a city, but also provide an education tool for the public about tree ordinances, with eventual help in implementation.

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Yaoqi Zhang (Corresponding Author)
School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
Auburn University
Auburn, AL 36849, U.S.
Yaoqi.Zhang@auburn.edu

Bin Zheng
School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
Auburn University
Auburn, AL 36849, U.S.

Brenda Allen
School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
Auburn University
Auburn, AL 36849-5418, U.S.

Neil Letson
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
P.O. Box 302550
Montgomery, AL 36130-2550, U.S.

Jeff L. Sibley
Department of Horticulture
Auburn University
Auburn, AL 36849-5418, U.S.

Subject: Fwd: changes? Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund and CA Policy under review

From: Cathy Adams <cathyadams@shaw.ca>

Date: Tue, 11 Jan 2011 23:39:57 -0800

To: Corrie Kost <corrie@kost.ca>

resending this - sent on Jan. 5th / 2011 to FONVCA@fonvca.org, only (Not to Corrie Kost, but you should have seen it???)

Date: Wed, 05 Jan 2011 11:15:10 -0800

To: FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

From: Cathy Adams <cathyadams@shaw.ca>

Subject: changes? Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund and CA Policy under review

Forwarded to FONVCA

This is an email exchange I have had with the District in regards to the Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund.

I received an answer to the question of budget amount for this fund, and on how well used it is. In fact, what was originally \$10,000 is now \$5,000 - and it seems that the amount is spent each year.

The District also indicates that they intend to update the guidelines for this fund later this year.

Also of interest - I had an indication from the Clerk's office late last year that they intend to update the community association policy. From a Dec. 10th email from Natasha Letchford:

"The entire Community Association Policy is under review, we are in the preliminary stages of that review and have yet to determine the scope."

Natasha Letchford
Deputy Municipal Clerk
The District of North Vancouver

Cathy Adams

Date: Wed, 05 Jan 2011 10:03:37 -0800

From: Sarah DalSanto <DalSantoS@dnv.org>

Subject: RE: Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund

To: "cathyadams@shaw.ca" <cathyadams@shaw.ca>

Cc: Penny Chester <ChesterP@dnv.org>

Hi Cathy

The Healthy Neighbourhoods Funding Guidelines (that reference the \$10,000) was developed in 1997 and is currently outdated.

In recent years the budget for this fund has actually been \$5,000 and is largely spent every year.

We will update the Healthy Neighbourhoods Funding Guidelines this year – once work on draft OCP eases to a slower pace. J

The \$5,000 budget for this fund, however, is likely to remain substantially as is.

Regards

Sarah

From: Cathy Adams [<mailto:cathyadams@shaw.ca>]

Sent: Tuesday January 04, 2011 1:22 PM

To: Penny Chester; Sarah DalSanto

Subject: Re: Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund

Hello Penny and Sarah

On behalf of FONVCA, thank you for the DNV cheque to assist in the cost of our website, etc. We appreciate the support, which we understand was paid out of the Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund.

At a FONVCA meeting, we were wondering about how well this fund is being used by community associations in the District. How much of the \$10,000 budget is being applied for each year, and is the amount adequate? As FONVCA members, we have only anecdotal information.

I would be interested to have some information on this, and would report back to FONVCA. Could either of you give me a call, or

send an email with some specifics? No rush - at your convenience. This may be a hectic week, with everyone at the hall back to work after the Christmas break.

Thanks very much,
Cathy Adams
for FONVCA

(604) 987-8695

At 08:54 AM 11/18/2010, Cathy Adams wrote:

Thank you, Penny.
I will get back to you on this next week.
Cathy Adams

At 04:07 PM 11/16/2010, you wrote:

Hi Cathy,

Further to your request below, after discussion with Sarah Dal Santo, we are pleased to consider FoNVCA's application for reimbursement from the Healthy Neighbourhood fund. In order to process your application, we would require you to fill out the attached application form and return it directly to me along with documentation supporting your expenditures. Upon receipt, I will process a request for reimbursement.

Please do not hesitate to call should you have any further questions.

Penny Chester
Sustainable Community Development
604 990-2421

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Cathy Adams [mailto:cathyadams@shaw.ca]
Sent: Friday November 12, 2010 11:25 PM
To: Penny Chester; 'Cathy Adams'
Cc: Sarah DalSanto
Subject: Re: Request re: Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund

thank you - I appreciate you letting me know, and look forward to speaking to Sarah next week.
Cathy Adams
(604) 987-8695

At 04:39 PM 11/12/2010, Penny Chester wrote:

Hello Cathy,

We have received your request to apply for funding from the Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund on behalf of FoNVCA. We need to review the status of our 2010 budget in order to respond to your request. Sarah Dal Santo, Section Manager of Policy Planning, manages this account and is not in the office today. However, she will get back to you early next week.

Thank you,

Penny Chester
Sustainable Community Development
604 990-2421

Please consider the environment before printing this email.



What is IRR?

1-Principles

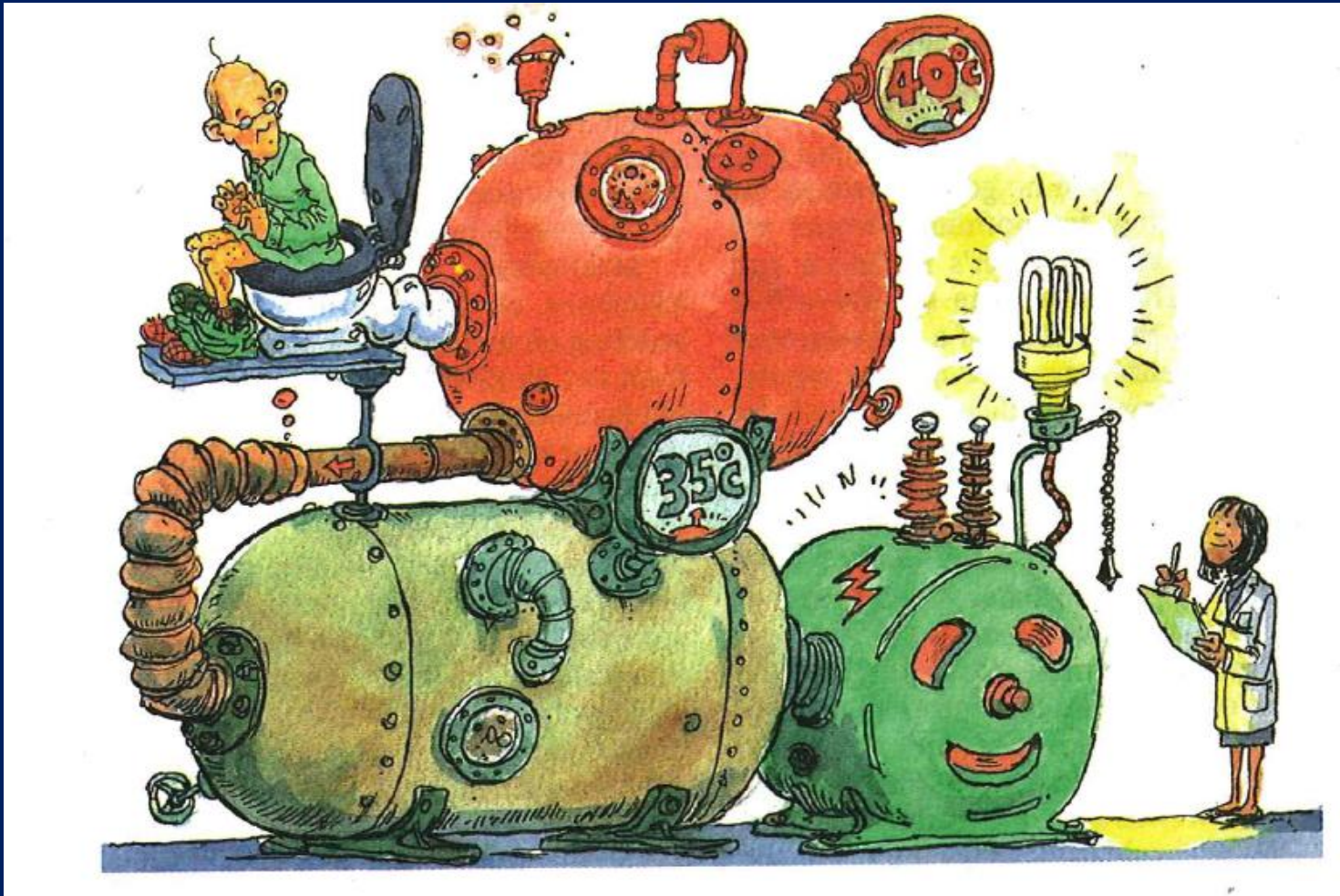
- Whole-Systems Approach
- Consider Partnerships
- Design With Nature
- Every Waste is a Potential Resource
- Use Each Resource More Than Once
- Approach Waste from a “Value” Perspective
- Assess Opportunities: Markets, Resources, Users, & Systems



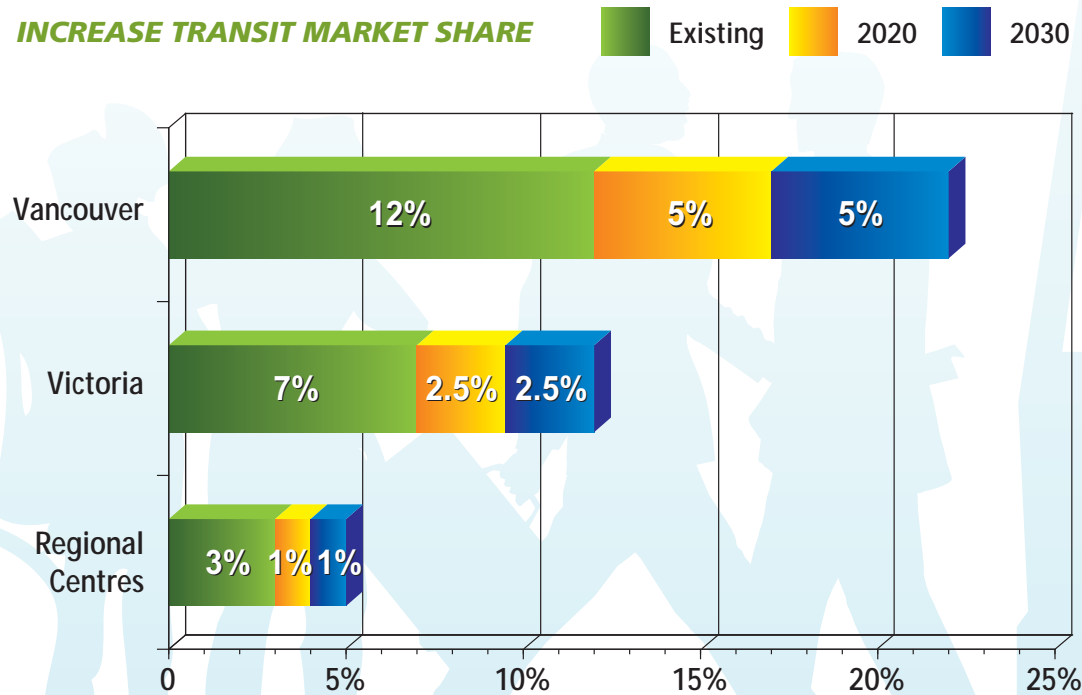


What is IRR?

2-Techniques



INCREASE TRANSIT MARKET SHARE



Transit market share is the percentage of travel taken by public transit compared to all other modes of travel, including automobile use.

For Metro Vancouver, the transit market share is about 12 per cent during weekdays. *The Provincial Transit Plan* will result in increasing transit market share by five per cent to a total of 17 per cent by 2020. By 2030, transit market share is expected to increase by an additional five per cent as people get out of their cars and onto the expanded transit network.

In the Victoria Regional Transit System, the present transit market share is about seven per cent. *The Provincial Transit Plan* is aimed at increasing transit market share by 2.5 per cent by 2020, bringing the total market share to 9.5 per cent. By 2030, market share is expected to grow by an additional 2.5 per cent to 12 per cent in the region.

Other communities around the province have transit market share of about three per cent. *The Provincial Transit Plan* will increase market share in these centres by at least one per cent to four per cent by 2020. By 2030, market share is expected to reach five per cent.

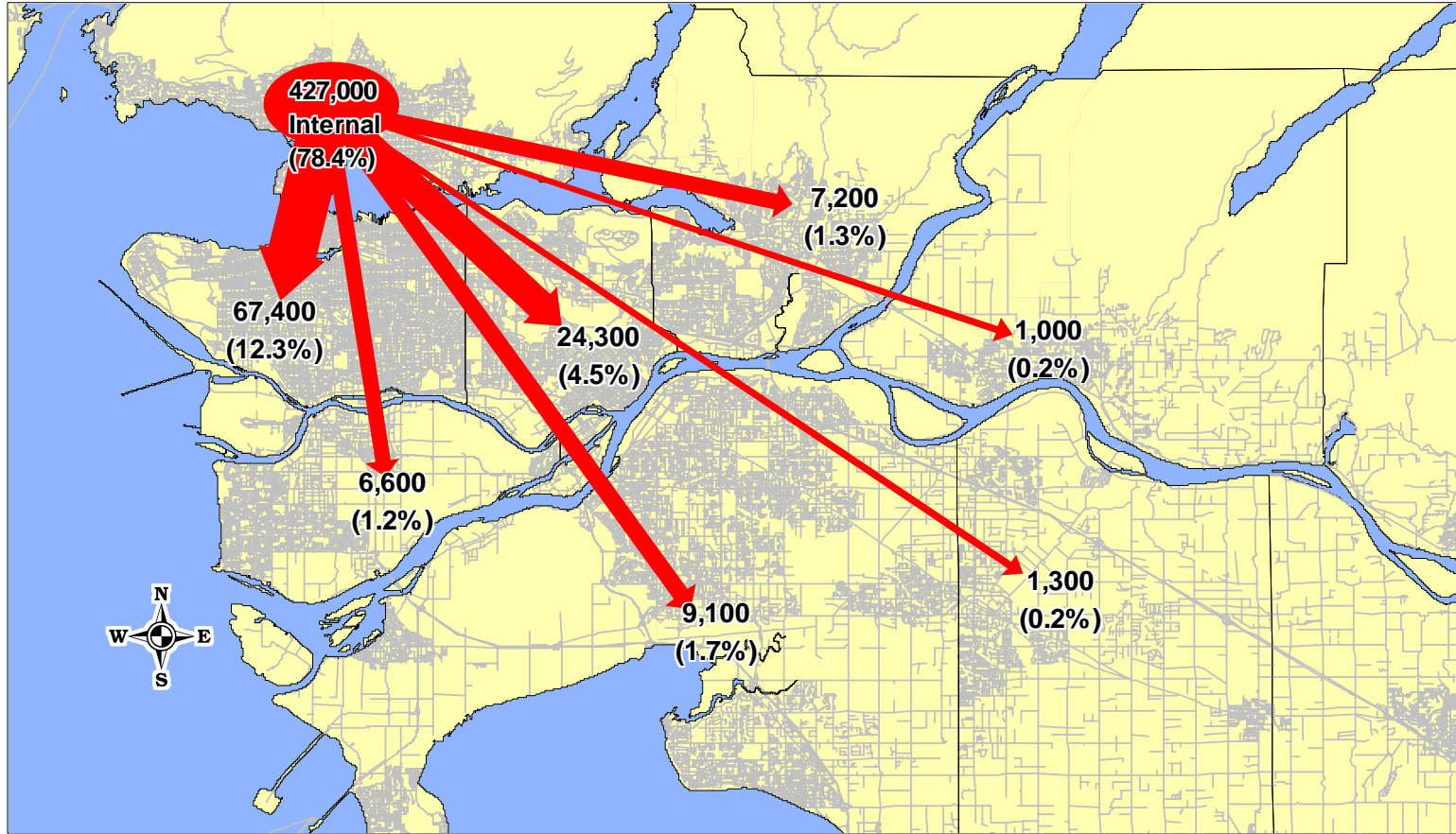
- Improve transit fare compliance and rider safety with improved security on and around transit, particularly rapid transit
- Expand transportation services for seniors and those with mobility challenges

CHANGING URBAN FORM

Studies show people tend to live and work close to transit stations and corridors in urban centres. As we expand our transit system, population densities will increase. This creates opportunities to save energy through fewer car trips, shorter travel times, more efficient

heating and cooling of living and working spaces, and other energy saving lifestyles. For example, condos and townhomes need less energy to heat than stand alone houses. The result will be lower GHG emissions and more sustainable communities.

**Exhibit 21: Distribution of Daily Trips Leaving the North Shore
(West Vancouver, North Vancouver City, North Vancouver District)**



Trips Leaving North Shore Sub-Area

The North Shore sub-area has the lowest number and proportion of trips leaving the GVRD. Of all the trips travelling to other GVRD sub-areas, 58% are destined to Vancouver/UEL and 21% are destined to Burnaby/New Westminister. The remaining trips are evenly distributed to the other Greater Vancouver sub-areas.

Trips Destined To:	Number of Trips	Percent
Within Sub-Area	427,000	78.4%
Other Sub-Areas	116,900	21.5%
Outside the GVRD	300	0.1%
Total Trips	544,200	100%



METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT JOURNEY TO WORK 1980 & 2008

Metropolitan Areas	1980	2008	Change	Major Transit Improvements
Atlanta	7.3%	3.6%	-51.0%	Metro expansion
Austin	3.1%	3.0%	-2.8%	
Baltimore	10.2%	6.6%	-35.7%	New metro & light rail, commuter rail expansion
Birmingham	2.6%	0.9%	-66.2%	
Boston	12.6%	11.7%	-7.4%	
Buffalo	6.6%	3.4%	-48.1%	New light rail
Charlotte	2.6%	2.3%	-10.8%	
Chicago	16.5%	11.3%	-31.4%	
Cincinnati	5.7%	2.6%	-55.0%	
Cleveland	7.8%	3.9%	-49.4%	
Columbus	4.2%	1.7%	-60.0%	
Dallas-Fort Worth	3.5%	1.7%	-52.5%	New light rail and commuter rail
Denver	6.2%	4.9%	-21.2%	New light rail
Detroit	3.6%	1.8%	-50.1%	
Hartford	5.3%	2.6%	-51.2%	
Houston	3.0%	2.6%	-12.5%	New light rail
Indianapolis	3.2%	1.2%	-61.4%	
Jacksonville	4.5%	1.2%	-73.4%	
Kansas City	3.8%	1.5%	-59.8%	
Las Vegas	2.2%	3.7%	67.6%	
Los Angeles	5.9%	6.3%	7.2%	New metro, light rail & commuter rail
Louisville	4.5%	2.1%	-53.0%	
Memphis	4.7%	1.2%	-74.2%	
Miami	4.9%	3.7%	-23.7%	New metro & commuter rail
Milwaukee	7.1%	3.7%	-48.1%	
Minneapolis-St. Paul	8.6%	4.8%	-44.8%	New light rail
Nashville	3.5%	1.1%	-69.4%	New commuter rail
New Orleans	10.4%	2.6%	-74.5%	
New York	28.2%	30.4%	7.9%	
Oklahoma City	1.1%	0.5%	-53.3%	
Orlando	1.7%	1.6%	-8.6%	
Philadelphia	12.5%	9.3%	-26.0%	
Phoenix	2.0%	2.6%	28.9%	
Pittsburgh	11.0%	5.8%	-47.3%	
Portland	8.1%	6.4%	-21.5%	New light rail
Providence	4.5%	2.7%	-39.6%	
Raleigh	3.1%	1.1%	-66.0%	
Richmond	6.2%	2.1%	-66.6%	
Riverside-San Bernardino	0.9%	1.8%	100.2%	New commuter rail (shared with Los Angeles)
Rochester	5.2%	2.3%	-56.5%	
Sacramento	3.4%	2.9%	-15.7%	New light rail
Salt Lake City	4.6%	3.3%	-29.2%	
San Antonio	3.3%	2.6%	-22.2%	
San Diego	3.6%	3.4%	-5.1%	New light rail and commuter rail
San Francisco	16.1%	14.4%	-10.4%	Expanded metro

San Jose	5.7%	3.6%	-36.7%	New light rail and commuter rail
Seattle	8.1%	8.0%	-1.7%	New commuter rail
St. Louis	4.9%	2.7%	-44.4%	New light rail
Tampa-St. Petersburg	1.7%	1.4%	-19.2%	
Tucson	3.0%	3.0%	-1.3%	
Virginia Beach	4.6%	2.1%	-53.5%	
Washington	14.8%	13.4%	-9.2%	Metro expansion, commuter rail expansion
Average (Unweighted)	6.2%	4.3%	-30.3%	
National (All Areas)	6.4%	4.9%	-23.4%	

Data from US Bureau of the Census

Metropolitan areas as defined in 1980 and 2008.

Los Angeles-Riverside and San Francisco-San Jose 1980 areas split into separate areas in 2008

Comparing High and Low Residential Density: Life-Cycle Analysis of Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

by **Jonathan Norman**, (Grad. Student, Dept. of Civ. Engrg., Univ. of Toronto, 35 St. George St., Ontario, Canada M5S 1A4 (corresponding author). E-mail: jon.norman@utoronto.ca), **Heather L. MacLean**, M.ASCE, (Asst. Prof., Dept. of Civ. Engrg., Univ. of Toronto, 35 St. George St., Ontario, Canada M5S 1A4. E-mail: hmaclean@ecf.utoronto.ca), and **Christopher A. Kennedy**, (Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Civ. Engrg., Univ. of Toronto, 35 St. George St., Ontario, Canada M5S 1A4. E-mail: christopher.kennedy@utoronto.ca)

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Document type: Journal Paper

Abstract: This study provides an empirical assessment of energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with high and low residential development. Three major elements of urban development are considered: construction materials for infrastructure (including residential dwellings, utilities, and roads), building operations, and transportation (private automobiles and public transit). Two case studies from the City of Toronto are analyzed. An economic input–output life-cycle assessment (EIO-LCA) model is applied to estimate the energy use and GHG emissions associated with the manufacture of construction materials for infrastructure. Operational requirements for dwellings and transportation are estimated using nationally and/or regionally averaged data. The results indicate that the most targeted measures to reduce GHG emissions in an urban development context should be aimed at transportation emissions, while the most targeted measures to reduce energy usage should focus on building operations. The results also show that low-density suburban development is more energy and GHG intensive (by a factor of 2.0–2.5) than high-density urban core development on a per capita basis. When the functional unit is changed to a per unit of living space basis the factor decreases to 1.0–1.5, illustrating that the choice of functional unit is highly relevant to a full understanding of urban density effects.

ASCE Subject Headings:

-  [Residential location](#)
-  [Emissions](#)
-  [Energy consumption](#)
-  [Canada](#)
-  [Buildings, residential](#)

Community cop shop finds a new home at district hall



RCMP Cpl. Peter DeVries and District of North Vancouver Mayor Richard Walton stand at the new Community Safety Services Centre, which opened at district hall earlier this month.

Rob Newell photo

By [Greg Hoekstra - North Shore Outlook](#)

Published: **January 12, 2011 11:00 AM**

Updated: **January 12, 2011 11:42 AM**

Community policing has a new home in North Vancouver.

Last week the RCMP and District of North Vancouver announced the opening of a new facility, the Community Safety Services Centre (CSSC), at district hall.

The volunteer-run CSSC replaces the Edgemont Community Policing Centre, but offers the same services.

RCMP spokesman Peter DeVries said the facility will act as a “nerve centre” where residents can get info on crime prevention and community safety measures.

Some of the volunteer-run programs offered include Speed Watch, the Graffiti Eradication Program and Lock Out Auto Crime.

DeVries said the move is part of a greater “reorganization and rethinking” of community policing in North Van. By moving locations, the district will save on brick-and-mortar costs, he added.

“It’s about cost-effectiveness,” said DeVries. “The services will still be the same and there will still be a neighbourhood

officer in touch with the community.”

Similar centres located in Lynn Valley and Lower Lonsdale are still in operation, DeVries said, but in the future it's possible all three could be amalgamated.

“A number of options are being explored,” he said.

In a press release, district Mayor Richard Walton said council appreciates the work of volunteers and the police and welcomes them to their new home.

RCMP and North Vancouver District invite the public to visit the new location at 355 West Queens Road between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday. For more information call 604-990-7455.

ghoekstra@northshoreoutlook.com

Higher dumping fees aimed at reducing garbage in landfills

BY KELLY SINOSKI, VANCOUVER SUN DECEMBER 29, 2010



The price for dumping mattresses or box springs at transfer stations is going up.

Photograph by: Glenn Baglo, Vancouver Sun, Vancouver Sun

The cost of dumping an old mattress or box spring is going up.

Starting on Jan. 1, the City of Vancouver will start charging a \$20 fee for all mattresses and box springs brought to the Vancouver South transfer station and the Vancouver landfill in Delta.

The measure is aimed at reducing the amount of garbage being dumped at the landfills, especially if the waste can be recycled.

To donate or recycle an old mattress or box spring, call the Recycling Hotline of B.C. at 604-RECYCLE or visit <http://www.metrovancouverrecycles.org>

(select "furniture and mattresses" category) for pick up and drop off options across Metro Vancouver.

Those who still want to drop off a mattress or box spring at the dump or transfer station are advised to keep them separate so they will remain clean and can be recycled. Up to four mattresses per customer will be accepted at the transfer station and a maximum of eight mattresses at the landfill.

Meanwhile, also starting in January, clean wood waste, including unpainted, unstained, untreated solid wood, plywood, particle board and oriented strand board, will be accepted at \$63 per tonne, the same rate as yard trimmings. Clean wood waste will be composted rather than landfilled.

The details on new fees are:

-- Tipping fee for garbage will be \$97 per tonne.

-- Minimum rates for garbage loads will remain at \$20 during peak hours (weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., including holidays) and \$10 during non-peak hours for up to 210 kg and 100 kg, respectively.

-- Yard trimmings and clean wood tipping fee will increase to \$63 per tonne, with the minimum rate remaining at \$6 for up to 100 kg.

ksinoski@vancouver.sun.com



Wastes - Non-Hazardous Waste - Municipal Solid Waste

You are here: [EPA Home](#) [Wastes](#) [Non-Hazardous Waste](#) [Municipal Solid Waste](#) [MSW Disposal](#) MSW in the US: Facts and Figures

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in the United States

2008 Facts and Figures

This fact sheet is the latest publication describing the national waste stream based on data collected from 1960 through 2008. It contains information on the benefits of recycling, as well as data on waste generation, recycling, and disposal. It's also accompanied by data tables that present detailed data that is produced each year. Also included is a summary of our methodology for developing this data.

The full report incorporating these data tables is produced every other year. The full report contains 2007 data:

1. MSW generation, recovery, and disposal from 1960 to 2007;
2. Per capita generation and discard rates;
3. Source reduction (waste prevention);
4. Materials (e.g., paper, glass, metals, plastic) that comprise MSW, as well as products (e.g., durable and nondurable goods, containers, packaging) found in the waste stream;
5. Aggregate data on the infrastructure for MSW management, including estimates of the number of curbside recycling programs, composting programs, and landfills in the U.S.; and
6. Trends in MSW management from 1960 to 2007, including source reduction, recovery for recycling (including composting), and disposal via combustion and landfilling.



EPA plans to update the full report every two years.

- [Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2008 \(PDF\)](#) (12 pp, 1.22MB)
- [Data Tables 2008 \(PDF\)](#) (58 pp, 945.86K)
- [Methodology for MSW Characterization Numbers \(PDF\)](#) (12 pp, 65K)
- [Methodology for Estimating MSW Recycling Benefits \(PDF\)](#) (11 pp, 101K)

You will need Adobe Reader to view some of the files on this page. See [EPA's PDF page](#) to learn more.

For additional information on the recycling benefits developed through the Waste Reduction Model (WARM), see [Solid Waste Management and Greenhouse Gases: A Life-Cycle Assessment of Emissions and Sinks](#).

MSW Characterization Reports from Previous Years

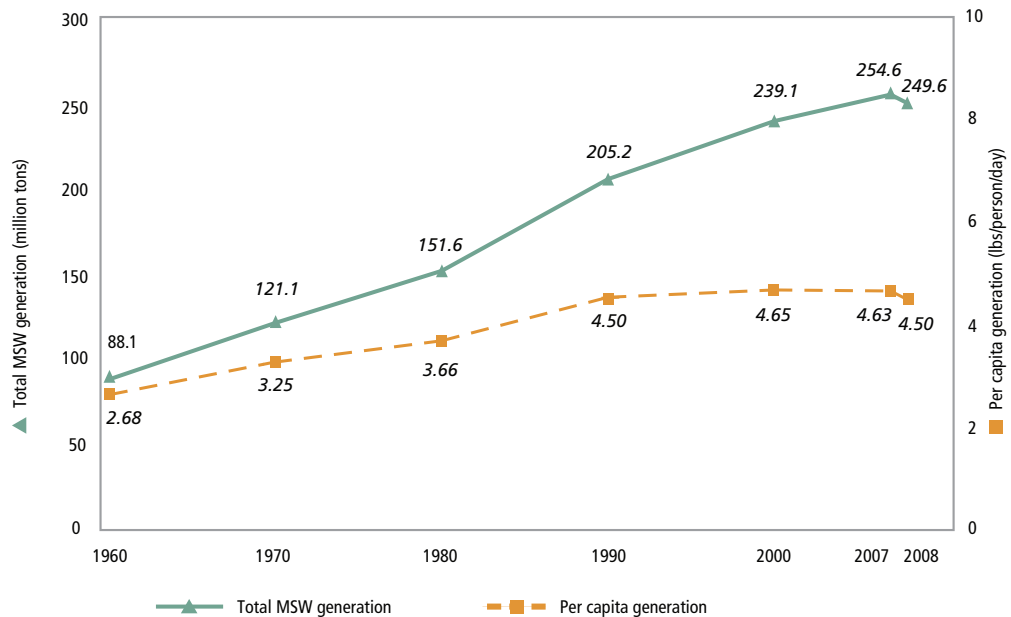
- [2008 Facts and Figures Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#) (12 pp, 1.22M)
- [2008 Data Tables \(PDF\)](#) (58 pp, 945.86K)
- [2007 Facts and Figures \(PDF\)](#) (177 pp, 5.8MB)
- [2007 Facts and Figures Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#) (12 pp, 506K)
- [2006 Facts and Figures Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#) (11 pp, 882K)
- [2006 Data Tables \(PDF\)](#) (56 pp, 2.4MB)
- [2005 Facts and Figures Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#) (12 pp, 532K)
- [2005 Facts and Figures \(PDF\)](#) (164 pp, 2.5MB)
- [2003 Facts and Figures Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#) (12 pp, 626K)
- [2003 Data Tables \(PDF\)](#) (40 pp, 7MB)
- [2001 Facts and Figures \(PDF\)](#) (183 pp, 850K)
- [2000 \(PDF\)](#) (177 pp, 842K)
- [1999 \(PDF\)](#) (144 pp, 425K)
- [1998 \(PDF\)](#) (167 pp, 924K)
- [1998 Data Tables \(PDF\)](#) (36 pp, 153K)
- [1997 \(PDF\)](#) (182 pp, 560K)
- [1996 \(PDF\)](#) (168 pp, 515K)
- [1995 \(PDF\)](#) (144 pp, 299K)

Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2008

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has collected and reported data on the generation and disposal of waste in the United States for more than 30 years. We use this information to measure the success of waste reduction and recycling programs across the country. These facts and figures are current through calendar year 2008.

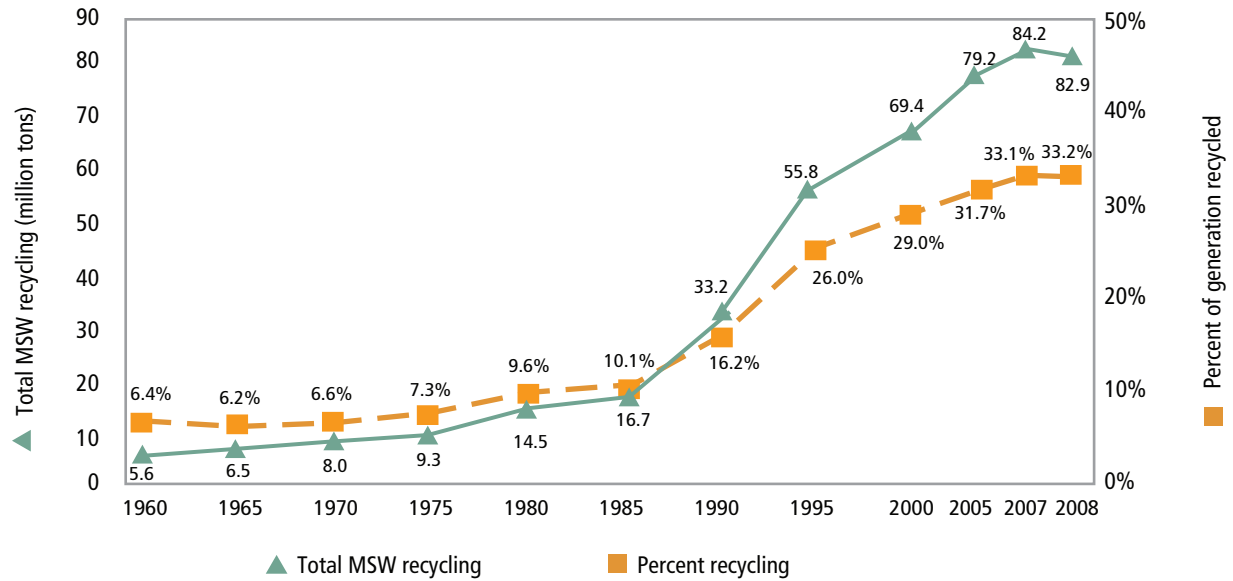
In 2008, Americans generated about 250 million tons of trash and recycled and composted 83 million tons of this material, equivalent to a 33.2 percent recycling rate* (see Figure 1 and Figure 2). On average, we recycled and composted 1.5 pounds of our individual waste generation of 4.5 pounds per person per day.

Figure 1. MSW Generation Rates, 1960 to 2008



* The previously published 2007 recycling rate, 33.4 percent, was revised to 33.1 percent in this year's report, based on updated data (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. MSW Recycling Rates, 1960 to 2008



Trends in Municipal Solid Waste in 2008

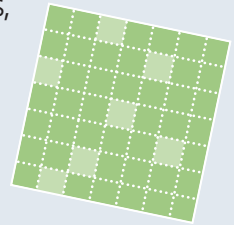
Our trash, or municipal solid waste (MSW), is made up of the things we commonly use and then throw away. These materials range from packaging, food scraps, and grass clippings, to old sofas, computers, tires, and refrigerators. MSW does not include industrial, hazardous, or construction waste.

In 2008, Americans recovered about 61 million tons (excluding composting) through recycling. Composting recovered 22.1 million tons of waste. We combusted about 32 million tons for energy recovery (about 13 percent). Subtracting out what we recycled and composted, we combusted (with energy recovery) or discarded 3 pounds per person per day.

In 2008, office-type paper recovery rose to about 71 percent (4.3 million tons), and about 65 percent of yard trimmings were recovered (see Figure 3). Metals were recycled at a rate of almost 35 percent (see Table 1). By recycling more than 7 million tons of metals (which includes aluminum, steel, and mixed metals), we eliminated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions totaling close to 25 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂E). This is equivalent to removing more than 4.5 million cars from the road for one year.*

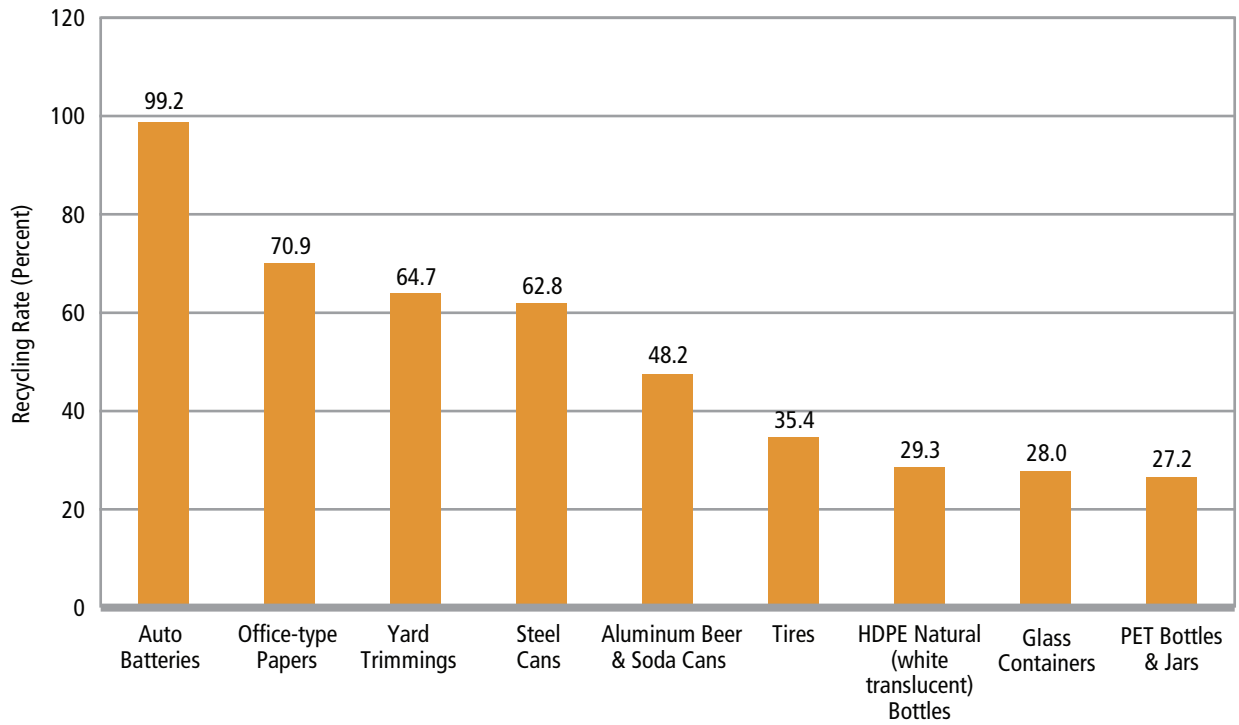
About 135 million tons of MSW (54 percent) was discarded in landfills in 2008 (see Figure 4).

Over the last few decades, the generation, recycling, composting, and disposal of MSW have changed substantially. While solid waste generation has increased, from 3.66 to 4.50 pounds per person per day between 1980 and 2008, the recycling rate has also increased—from less than 10 percent of MSW generated in 1980 to over 33 percent in 2008. Disposal of waste to a landfill has decreased from 89 percent of the amount generated in 1980 to 54 percent of MSW in 2008.



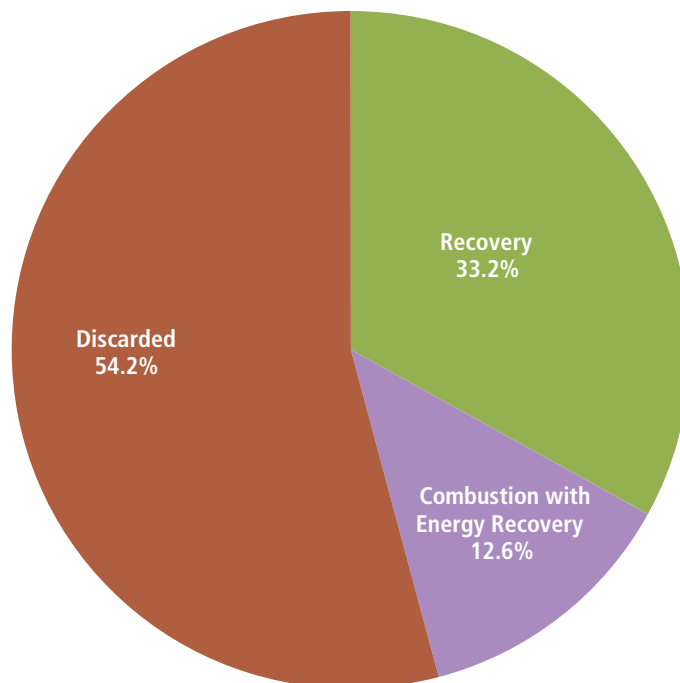
* All benefit calculations in this fact sheet are derived from EPA's WASTE Reduction Model (WARM). Please see www.epa.gov/warm

Figure 3. Recycling Rates of Selected Products, 2008*



*Does not include combustion (with energy recovery).

Figure 4. Management of MSW in the United States, 2008



Sources of MSW

We estimated residential waste (including waste from apartment houses) to be 55 to 65 percent of total MSW generation. Waste from commercial and institutional locations, such as schools, hospitals, and businesses, amounted to 35 to 45 percent.

Nationally, we recycled and composted 83 million tons of municipal solid waste. This provides an annual benefit of 182 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions reduced, comparable to the annual GHG emissions from more than 33 million passenger vehicles.

Analyzing MSW

We analyze waste by material, such as paper and paperboard, yard trimmings, food scraps, and plastics, and by major product categories, which include durable goods (such as furniture), nondurable goods (such as paper or clothing), containers and packaging (such as milk cartons and plastic wrap), and other materials (such as food scraps).

Materials in MSW

Total MSW generation in 2008 was 250 million tons. Organic materials continue to be the largest component of MSW. Paper and paperboard account for 31 percent, with yard trimmings and food scraps accounting for 26 percent. Plastics comprise 12 percent; metals make up 8 percent; and rubber, leather, and textiles account for almost 8 percent. Wood follows at around 7 percent and glass at 5 percent. Other miscellaneous wastes make up approximately 3 percent of the MSW generated in 2008 (see Figure 5).

Figure 5. Total MSW Generation (by material), 2008
250 Million Tons (before recycling)

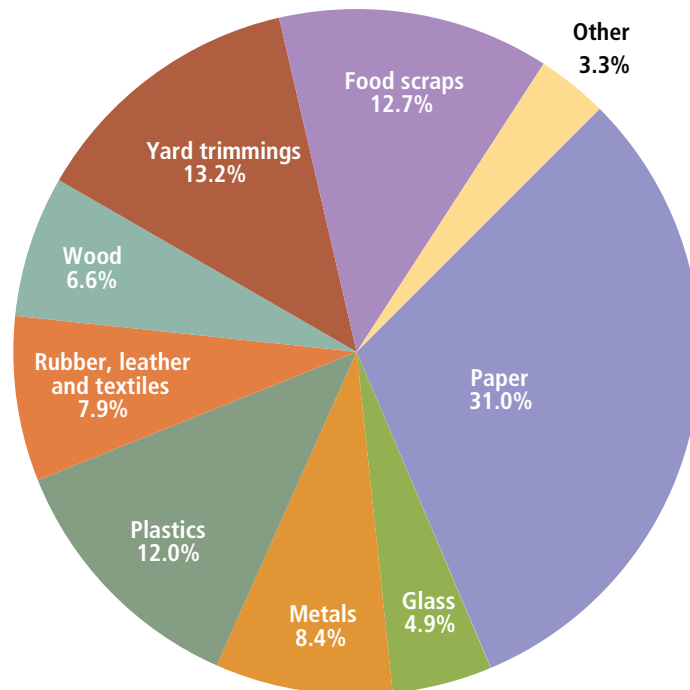


Table 1. Generation and Recovery of Materials in MSW, 2008*
(in millions of tons and percent of generation of each material)

Material	Weight Generated	Weight Recovered	Recovery as Percent of Generation
Paper and paperboard	77.42	42.94	55.5%
Glass	12.15	2.81	23.1%
Metals			
Steel	15.68	5.29	33.7%
Aluminum	3.41	0.72	21.1%
Other nonferrous metals†	1.76	1.21	68.8%
Total metals	20.85	7.22	34.6%
Plastics	30.05	2.12	7.1%
Rubber and leather	7.41	1.06	14.3%
Textiles	12.37	1.89	15.3%
Wood	16.39	1.58	9.6%
Other materials	4.50	1.15	25.6%
Total materials in products	181.14	60.77	33.5%
Other wastes			
Food, other‡	31.79	0.80	2.5%
Yard trimmings	32.90	21.30	64.7%
Miscellaneous inorganic wastes	3.78	Negligible	Negligible
Total other wastes	68.47	22.10	32.3%
Total municipal solid waste	249.61	82.87	33.2%

* Includes waste from residential, commercial, and institutional sources.

† Includes lead from lead-acid batteries.

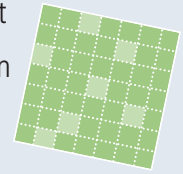
‡ Includes recovery of other MSW organics for composting.

Details might not add to totals due to rounding.

Negligible = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

Significant amounts of material from each category were recycled or composted in 2008. The highest recovery rates were achieved in yard trimmings, paper and paperboard, and metals. About 21 million tons of yard trimmings were composted, representing a five-fold increase since 1990. We recycled more than half the paper and paperboard we generated. Recycling these organic materials alone kept 26 percent of MSW out of landfills and combustion facilities. Recycling amounts and rates (recovery as a percent of generation) for all materials in 2008 are listed in Table 1.

Recycling and composting 83 million tons of MSW saved 1.3 quadrillion Btu of energy, the equivalent of more than 10.2 billion gallons of gasoline.



Products in MSW

The breakdown, by weight, of waste generated in 2008 by product category is shown in Figure 6. Containers and packaging made up the largest portion of MSW generated: 31 percent, or about 77 million tons. The second largest portion came from nondurable goods, which amounted to about 24 percent, or about 59 million tons. Yard trimmings make up the third largest segment, accounting for 13 percent, or almost 33 million tons.

The generation and recovery of materials in the product categories, by weight and recovery as a percent of generation, are shown in Table 2. This table shows that the recovery of containers and packaging was the highest of the four product categories, with about 44 percent of the generated materials recycled. Steel, paper products, and aluminum were the most recycled materials by percentage in this category. More than 63 percent of steel packaging (mostly cans) was recycled. Sixty-six percent of paper and paperboard containers and packaging was recycled, including nearly 77 percent of all corrugated boxes. The recycling rate for aluminum packaging was 38 percent, including just over 48 percent of aluminum beverage cans.

Figure 6. Total MSW Generation (by category), 2008
250 million tons (before recycling)

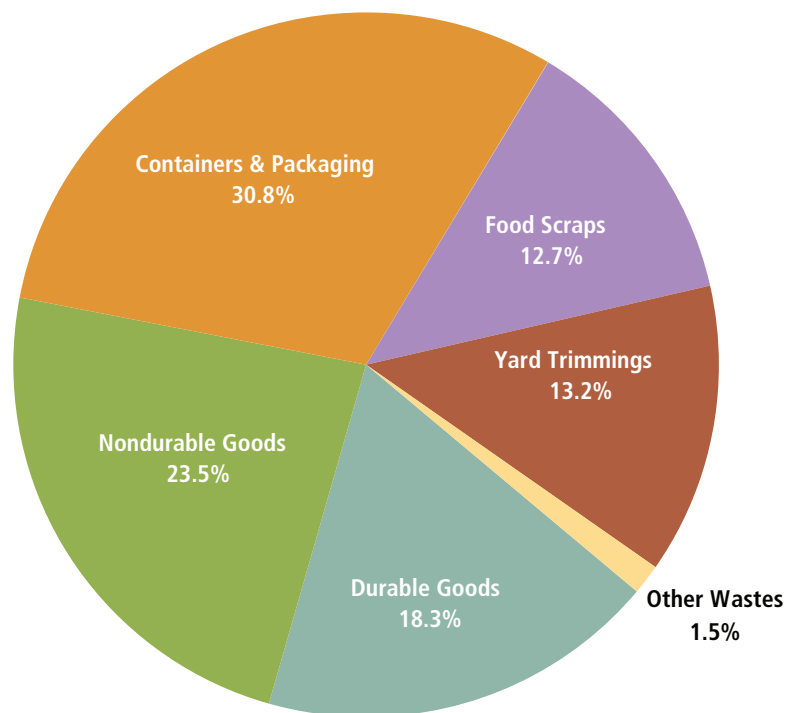


Table 2. Generation and Recovery of Products in MSW, 2008* (in millions of tons and percent of generation of each product)

Products	Weight Generated	Weight Recovered	Recovery as Percent of Generation
Durable goods			
Steel	13.13	3.68	28.0%
Aluminum	1.31	Negligible	Negligible
Other non-ferrous metals†	1.76	1.21	68.8%
Glass	2.10	Negligible	Negligible
Plastics	10.52	0.39	3.7%
Rubber and leather	6.34	1.06	16.7%
Wood	5.68	Negligible	Negligible
Textiles	3.35	0.44	13.1%
Other materials	1.48	1.15	76.2%
Total durable goods	45.67	7.93	17.4%
Nondurable goods			
Paper and paperboard	39.12	17.86	45.7%
Plastics	6.52	Negligible	Negligible
Rubber and leather	1.04	Negligible	Negligible
Textiles	8.78	1.45	16.5%
Other materials	3.25	Neg.	Neg.
Total nondurable goods	58.71	19.31	32.9%
Containers and packaging			
Steel	2.55	1.61	63.1%
Aluminum	1.88	0.72	38.3%
Glass	10.05	2.81	28.0%
Paper and paperboard	38.29	25.08	65.5%
Plastics	13.01	1.73	13.2%
Wood	10.71	1.58	14.8%
Other materials	0.27	Negligible	Negligible
Total containers and packaging	76.76	33.53	43.7%
Other wastes			
Food, other‡	31.79	0.80	2.5%
Yard trimmings	32.90	21.30	64.7%
Miscellaneous inorganic wastes	3.78	Negligible	Negligible
Total other wastes	68.47	22.10	32.3%
Total municipal solid waste	249.61	82.87	33.2%

* Includes waste from residential, commercial, and institutional sources.

† Includes lead from lead-acid batteries.

‡ Includes recovery of other MSW organics for composting.

Details might not add to totals due to rounding.

Negligible = less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

Table 3. Generation, Materials Recovery, Composting, Combustion With Energy Recovery, and Discards of MSW, 1960 to 2008 (in million of tons)

Activity	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2003	2005	2007	2008
Generation	88.1	121.1	151.6	205.2	239.1	242.2	249.7	254.6	249.6
Recovery for recycling	5.6	8.0	14.5	29.0	52.9	55.6	58.6	62.5	60.8
Recovery for composting*	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	4.2	16.5	19.1	20.6	21.7	22.1
Total materials recovery	5.6	8.0	14.5	33.2	69.4	74.7	79.2	84.2	82.9
Combustion with energy recovery†	0.0	0.4	2.7	29.7	33.7	33.1	31.6	32.0	31.6
Discards to landfill, other disposal‡	82.5	112.7	134.4	142.3	136.0	134.4	138.9	138.4	135.1

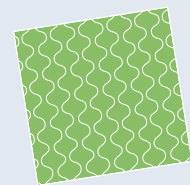
* Composting of yard trimmings, food scraps, and other MSW organic material. Does not include backyard composting.

† Includes combustion of MSW in mass burn or refuse-derived fuel form, and combustion with energy recovery of source separated materials in MSW (e.g., wood pallets, tire-derived fuel).

‡ Discards after recovery minus combustion with energy recovery. Discards include combustion without energy recovery. Details might not add to totals due to rounding.

Around 28 percent of glass containers were recycled, while about 15 percent of wood packaging—mostly wood pallets—was recovered. More than 13 percent of plastic containers and packaging was recycled, mostly from soft drink, milk, and water bottles. Plastic bottles were the most recycled plastic products. Recovery of HDPE natural (white translucent) bottles was estimated at about 29 percent. PET bottles and jars were recovered at 27 percent (see supporting 2008 MSW data tables).

Every ton of mixed paper recycled can save the energy equivalent of 185 gallons of gasoline.



Overall recovery of nondurable goods was 33 percent in 2008. Nondurable goods generally last less than three years. Paper products, such as newspapers and high-grade office papers were the most recycled nondurable goods. Newspapers alone were recycled at a rate of nearly 88 percent. Approximately 71 percent of high-grade office papers and 40 percent of magazines were recovered. Forty-one percent of unwanted mail, 30 percent of books, and 21 percent of telephone directories were recovered for recycling in 2008 (see the supporting data tables). Clothing and other textile products are included in the nondurable goods category. These products were recovered for recycling at a rate of almost 17 percent.

Overall, about 17 percent of durable goods were recovered in 2008. Nonferrous metals other than aluminum had one of the highest recovery rates—around 69 percent—due to the high rate of lead

recovery from lead-acid batteries. With a 99 percent recycling rate, lead-acid batteries continue to be one of the most recovered products. Recovery of steel in all durable goods was 28 percent, with high rates of recovery from appliances and other miscellaneous items.

Measured by percentage of generation, products with the highest recovery rates in 2008 were lead-acid batteries (99 percent), newspapers (88 percent), corrugated boxes (77 percent), office-type papers (71 percent), major appliances (67 percent), steel packaging (63 percent), yard trimmings (65 percent), aluminum cans (48 percent), commercial printing papers (43 percent), standard mail (41 percent), magazines (40 percent), and paper bags and sacks (38 percent) (see supporting 2008 data tables).

Recycling and Composting Collection Programs**

- Approximately 8,660 curbside recycling programs exist nationwide, down from 8,875 in 2002.
- About 3,510 community composting programs are operational, an increase from 3,227 in 2002.

Table 4. Generation, Materials Recovery, Composting, Combustion With Energy Recovery, and Discards of MSW, 1960 to 2008 (in pounds per person per day)

Activity	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2008
Generation	2.68	3.25	3.66	4.50	4.65	4.62	4.63	4.50
Recovery for recycling	0.17	0.22	0.35	0.64	1.03	1.08	1.14	1.10
Recovery for composting*	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	0.09	0.32	0.38	0.39	0.40
Total Materials Recovery	0.17	0.22	0.35	0.73	1.35	1.46	1.53	1.50
Combustion with energy recovery†	0.00	0.01	0.07	0.65	0.66	0.58	0.58	0.57
Discards to landfill, other disposal‡	2.51	3.02	3.24	3.12	2.64	2.58	2.52	2.43
Population (millions)	179.979	203.984	227.255	249.907	281.422	296.410	301.621	304.060

* Composting of yard trimmings, food scraps, and other MSW organic material. Does not include backyard composting.

† Includes combustion of MSW in mass burn or refuse-derived fuel form, and combustion with energy recovery of source separated materials in MSW (e.g., wood pallets, tire-derived fuel).

‡ Discards after recovery minus combustion with energy recovery. Discards include combustion without energy recovery. Details might not add to totals due to rounding.

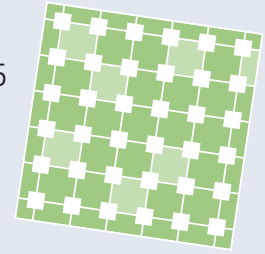
** Source: For 2002 data: *BioCycle* 2006.
For 2008 data: EPA, *Supporting 2008 data tables and figures*.

Disposing of MSW

While the number of U.S. landfills has steadily declined over the years, the average landfill size has increased. At the national level, landfill capacity appears to be sufficient, although it is limited in some areas.

- Since 1990, the total amount of MSW going to landfills dropped by about 7 million tons, from 142.3 million to 135.1 million tons in 2008 (see Table 3).
- The net per capita discard rate (after recycling, composting, and combustion for energy recovery) was 2.43 pounds per person per day, lower than the 2.51 per capita rate in 1960, when virtually no recycling occurred in the United States (see Table 4).

Recycling just 1 ton of aluminum cans conserves more than 207 million Btu, the equivalent of 36 barrels of oil, or 1,665 gallons of gasoline.



The Benefits of Recycling

Recycling has environmental benefits at every stage in the life cycle of a consumer product—from the raw material with which it's made to its final method of disposal. Aside from reducing GHG emissions, which contribute to global warming, recycling also reduces air and water pollution associated with making new products from raw materials. By utilizing used, unwanted, or obsolete materials as industrial feedstocks or for new materials or products, we can each do our part to make recycling work.

Nationally, we recycled 83 million tons of MSW. This provides an annual benefit of 182 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions reduced, comparable to removing the emissions from 33 million passenger cars. But the ultimate benefits from recycling are cleaner land, air, and water, overall better health, and a more sustainable economy.

Resources

The data summarized in this fact sheet characterizes the MSW stream as a whole by using a materials flow methodology that relies on a mass balance approach. For example, to determine the amounts of paper recycled, information is gathered on the amounts processed by paper mills and made into new paper on a national basis, instead of counting paper collected at curbside on a state-by-state basis. Using data gathered from industry associations, businesses, and government sources, such as the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Census Bureau, we estimate tons of materials and products generated, recycled, and discarded. Other sources of data, such as waste characterizations and research reports performed by governments, industry, or the press, supplement these data.

The benefits of recycling and composting, such as elimination of GHG emissions, are calculated using EPA's WARM methodology. Please see:

www.epa.gov/warm

Energy Recovered from Waste Combustion

- In 2008, about 32 million tons of materials, or 12.7 percent, were combusted for energy recovery.
- MSW combustion for energy recovery has remained fairly constant since 1990.

WARM calculates and totals GHG emissions of baseline and alternative waste management practices—source reduction, recycling, composting, combustion, and landfilling. The model calculates emissions in metric tons of carbon equivalent (MTCE), metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂E), and energy units (million Btu) across a wide range of material types commonly found in MSW. EPA developed GHG emissions reduction factors through a life-cycle assessment methodology. EPA's report, *Solid Waste Management and Greenhouse Gases: A Life-Cycle Assessment of Emissions and Sinks* (EPA-530-R-02-006), describes this methodology in detail (www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/waste/downloads/fullreport.pdf).

Full data tables on MSW characterization that support this Report and Summaries of the MSW characterization methodology and WARM are available on the EPA Web site along with information about waste reduction and recycling. Please see:

www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/msw99.htm

www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/rrr/index.htm

In percentage of total MSW generation, recovery for recycling (including composting) did not exceed 15 percent until 1990. Growth in the recovery rate to current levels (33.2 percent) reflects an increase in infrastructure and market demand for recovery over the last decade.



United States Environmental Protection Agency
Solid Waste and Emergency Response (5306P)
Washington, DC 20460

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

EPA-530-F-009-021
November 2009
www.epa.gov/wastes



Item 5.8 b



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Municipal spending unsustainable

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Municipal operating spending in the vast majority of BC's municipalities continues to grow at an unsustainable rate. The results of the 3rd annual BC Municipal Spending Watch report include:

Municipal operating spending across the province grew 2.01 times faster than inflation and population growth over the period 2000 to 2008 (the last year data is available);

Operating spending increased by 58 per cent from 2000 to 2008, while population and inflation increased by only 29 per cent over the same period;

Growth in operating spending in 2008 was 9.7 per cent higher than last year compared with a 4.0 per cent increase in population and inflation, representing the largest single year-over-year increase for the entire period under consideration;

Less than 1 in 10 BC municipal governments, representing only 1.2 per cent of the provincial population, kept operating spending growth at or below population and inflation;

If BC's municipalities had maintained better fiscal discipline over the nine year period, taxpayers would have saved \$883 million in 2008 alone, an average of \$228 per person or \$904 for a family

FOR MORE DETAILS

- BC Municipal Spending Report 2010**
Full Report
- Backgrounder**
Municipalities with populations 5-10 thousand
- Backgrounder**
Municipalities with populations 10-25 thousand
- Backgrounder**
Municipalities with populations 25+ thousand

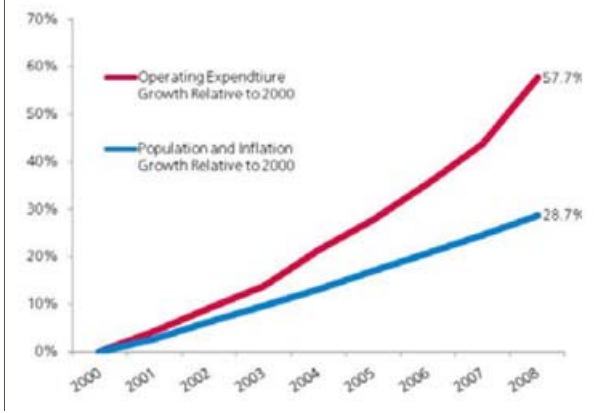
Of further interest:

- Research Report: BC Municipal Spending Watch 2009
- Research Report: British Columbia Municipal Spending Watch 2008

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British Columbia aggregate operating spending compared to population and inflation growth, 2000-2008



of four.

Failure to control operating expenditures will mean tax and user fee hikes for small business and other taxpayers across BC for many years to come.

This is a wake-up call to taxpayers. It's time to demand more accountability from municipal governments!



**CANADIAN FEDERATION
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Backgrounder: Municipalities with a population over 25,000

Operating spending growth, population and inflation growth, and per capita spending 2000-2008

	Per Capita Spending 2008	Operating Expenditure Growth 2000-2008	Population and Inflation 2000-2008	Fiscal Sustainability Gap 2000-2008	Excess Spending in 2008	If excess spending in 2008 had been eliminated, a family of 4 would have saved
Prince George	1,521	48.0%	12.4%	3.87	27,110,492	\$1,464
Penticton	2,032	67.8%	19.1%	3.56	19,436,616	\$2,361
Langford	874	200.7%	56.8%	3.54	10,920,630	\$1,674
North Vancouver-District	1,278	60.3%	17.7%	3.41	29,233,539	\$1,359
West Vancouver	1,681	52.3%	14.5%	3.19	17,010,471	\$1,588
North Vancouver-City	1,354	62.4%	22.6%	2.76	15,824,287	\$1,326
Vernon	995	77.3%	29.6%	2.61	10,287,057	\$1,070
Maple Ridge	962	82.8%	34.7%	2.38	18,692,334	\$1,011
Delta	1,354	35.8%	15.2%	2.36	20,455,511	\$822
Chilliwack	820	81.3%	34.7%	2.34	15,787,397	\$842
Langley-District	937	73.4%	31.6%	2.33	22,913,562	\$904
Coquitlam	1,080	52.4%	23.2%	2.26	25,110,960	\$827
North Cowichan	893	57.9%	25.7%	2.25	5,315,981	\$728
Victoria	1,697	53.0%	24.4%	2.18	25,985,175	\$1,270
Abbotsford	946	69.4%	32.1%	2.17	27,866,006	\$835
Langley-City	1,037	45.7%	21.4%	2.14	4,390,413	\$693
Port Coquitlam	982	50.9%	24.0%	2.12	9,703,712	\$698
Campbell River	1,172	45.1%	21.7%	2.08	5,854,063	\$1,035
Saanich	980	47.9%	23.2%	2.07	18,557,525	\$656
Kelowna	1,384	79.9%	39.5%	2.02	36,845,880	\$1,244
Vancouver	1,535	54.5%	28.4%	1.92	159,240,862	\$756
Surrey	797	82.5%	43.5%	1.90	73,827,624	\$681
Kamloops	1,277	48.0%	25.3%	1.90	16,913,192	\$785
Richmond	1,219	57.1%	31.3%	1.83	37,931,089	\$742
Nanaimo	1,190	52.4%	28.6%	1.83	15,376,210	\$803
Burnaby	1,094	47.6%	28.6%	1.67	30,833,297	\$565
Mission	1,055	53.1%	32.3%	1.64	5,250,530	\$573
Port Moody	1,151	71.6%	51.9%	1.38	4,171,067	\$528
New Westminster	1,574	34.9%	30.3%	1.15	3,410,918	\$214

Source: BC Government, Ministry of Community Services and CFIB calculations

For more information please go to www.cfib.calbc or e-mail mabc@cfib.ca.

FAQs

What is the Fiscal Sustainability Gap?

The Fiscal Sustainability Gap measures the ratio of the growth in operating spending with the growth in population and inflation.

- ▶ A gap of 1 indicates spending growth equals population and inflation growth.
- ▶ A gap of 2 indicates spending growth is two times population and inflation growth.
- ▶ A gap of less than 1 indicates spending growth is less than population and inflation growth.

Per capita spending measures the amount of operating spending per person in each municipality.

What about capital projects?

The Fiscal Sustainability Gap doesn't include capital spending. For example, construction projects to accommodate growing populations are not included. However, once the capital project is complete, ongoing costs may shift to the operating budget.

Is inflation the best measure for municipal costs?

This report only analyzes operating spending, not capital spending, where costs fluctuate more. It is often overlooked that at least half of local government budgets goes to salaries/ benefits. Inflation is a reasonable benchmark for an annual cost of living adjustment.

Municipalities are different. How does this report compare them?

The Fiscal Sustainability Gap measures the trend in spending in a given municipality. This controls for geography, socio-economic status, history, infrastructure, or public services. In addition, CFIB's analysis of per capita spending compares municipalities of a similar size.

What is the solution?

- ▶ Municipalities should commit to spending limitations, and use practical tools such as zero-based budgeting, to honour those limitations.
- ▶ The provincial government should create an independent Municipal Auditor General.

Backgrounder: Municipalities with a population over 25,000

Municipality	Population	Fiscal Sustainability Gap 2007	Per Capita Operating Spending \$
Prince George	75,375	2.89	1,360
North Vancouver	86,954	2.82	1,164
West Vancouver	44,097	2.80*	1,972
Port Coquitlam	55,735	2.73	1,042
Penticton	34,002	2.58	1,791
North Vancouver	47,463	2.54	1,259
Vancouver C			
Langley C	25,134	2.30	1,018
Vernon	38,518	2.21	898
Chilliwack	74,819	2.21	770
Maple Ridge	73,248	2.13	883
Coquitlam	120,512	2.10	1,013
Langley D	100,049	2.09	863
Delta	101,668	1.96	1,271
Kelowna	116,479	1.90	1,293
Abbotsford	131,827	1.81	850
Victoria	82,653	1.80	1,558
Surrey	423,935	1.77	745
Richmond	186,628	1.71	1,153
Saanich	114,130	1.71	900
Kamloops	85,746	1.58	1,170
Vancouver	611,869	1.57	1,386
Campbell River	31,553	1.57	1,058
Mission	36,719	1.52	1,000
Burnaby	216,336	1.49	1,028
North Vancouver	29,436	1.48	760
Cowichan			
Port Moody	30,004	1.46	1,138
Nanaimo	83,469	1.42	1,071
New Westminster	62,607	1.19	1,552
Average			1,142

Fiscal Sustainability Gap: This ratio is calculated by dividing the percentage growth in operating spending by the percentage growth in combined population and inflation between 2000 and 2007:

- A gap of 1 indicates that spending growth was held in line with population and inflation growth
- A gap of 2 indicates spending growth increased twice as fast as population and inflation
- A gap of less than 1 indicates that spending growth was less than population and inflation growth

Per Capita Spending: This is the amount spent per person on operating expenditures like administration, police, transportation, parks, and so on. It does not include spending on capital infrastructure.

CFIB Recommendations:

Provincial Government

- Create a provincially-appointed Municipal Auditor General to undergo value-for-money audits.

Municipal Governments

- Introduce taxation and expenditure limitation laws to constrain the growth in government operating spending to no more than population and inflation growth.

- Introduce zero-based budgeting with meaningful performance targets.
- Focus on core municipal services.
- Restrict full-time-equivalent employment and wage growth by limiting the growth in employees to the growth in population.
- Ensure that capital projects are fully financed up front by including lifetime operating and maintenance expenses in the initial cost estimates.
- Restore the municipal election vote for businesses.

*Note: We changed the calculation for West Vancouver after staff expressed concerns regarding transportation costs. Transportation costs increased in 2002 after the municipality too over the cost of running local bus service. We took these costs out of the 2000-2007 calculation of the Fiscal Sustainability Gap. When leaving these costs in, West Vancouver's Fiscal Sustainability Gap increases to 4.03.

City nixes new smoking regs

Restaurant plea extinguishes patio ban

BY BENJAMIN ALLDRITT, NORTH SHORE NEWS NOVEMBER 24, 2010



Patrons of the Mosquito Creek Bar and Grill light up in an open-air area of the restaurant. City of North Vancouver council voted down a plan to ban smoking on patios, playing fields and other areas Nov. 8.

Photograph by: Cindy Goodman, NEWS photo

Smokers can still light up on restaurant and bar patios, in parks and on playing fields within the City of North Vancouver after council voted to drop plans for a uniform North Shore smoking bylaw Nov. 8.

A ban on smoking in these areas, as well as within six metres of any building's doors, was passed by the other two North Shore municipalities earlier this year.

Medical health officer Dr. Brian O'Connor came to the city in July to urge councillors to bring their bylaws in line with the neighbouring districts. Similar bans are also in place in Vancouver, Richmond, Squamish, Whistler and several other municipalities.

"Reserving the patio for smokers in a way reserves the most appealing and desirable part of an establishment for those who are in the vast minority of our community," O'Connor said in July, after pegging the city's smoking rate at somewhere below eight per cent.

Local bar owners protested against the proposal, arguing it was yet another burden for an industry already straining under the combined effects of the recession, the HST and tough new impaired driving penalties.

Kelly Neilson, proprietor of the Mosquito Creek Bar and Grill, returned to council chambers Monday to plead his case again.

"Taking away smoking from liquor primaries (bars and pubs) will be the straw that breaks the camel's back," he said. "We don't want people out in the parking lots and the streets smoking, creating a safety issue and sanitary issues. Let us take care of that, let us keep the smokers, please, on the patios. . . . This is a very serious issue for our industry."

Coun. Bob Fearnley noted that the three North Shore councils had planned to have a common standard to avoid giving one jurisdiction's businesses an advantage.

"One of the reasons why we've done that is that we certainly didn't want to have a race to the bottom," he said. "This is about smoking, something that we shouldn't be encouraging and something that has certainly killed a lot of people in our society."

"If we want to have a big impact on public health outcomes, it's about lack of exercise and poor diet," said Coun. Craig Keating.

"Maybe what we should do is say to the District of West Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver, 'When you get your land-use bylaws in place that will encourage a level of walkability like we have in our community, then maybe we'll reconsider this.'"

Coun. Pam Bookham was convinced by Neilson's argument.

"I'm not about to add to their misery on top of all the other policies that recently impacted their businesses," she said. "I'm content to leave the existing policy in place. We see the percentage of smokers go down year after year after year. It may be a matter of just another generation and it just won't be an issue."

Council voted 4-3 to defeat the common bylaw, with Mayor Darrell Mussatto and Coun. Mary Trentadue joining Keating and Bookham in the majority.

Item 6.1 Tracking...

Licence-plate readers picked to track gangsters' movement praised for their success in Florida

BY CHAD SKELTON, VANCOUVER SUN DECEMBER 18, 2010

The Vancouver police department's plans to use automatic licence-plate readers to track gangsters' movements could have a real impact on gang violence, according to one of the first U.S. police departments to deploy the technology.

"It's been great for us and, looking at what they want to do in Vancouver, I think it'll help them," said Lt. Mike Wallace, head of Palm Beach County's Gang Taskforce.

Wallace said his force has successfully used the technology to help execute arrest warrants, gather intelligence on shifting gang alliances in Florida and prove in court that someone is affiliated with a criminal group.

Automatic licence-plate readers, usually installed in a police car, use a series of mounted cameras to constantly scan for visible licence plates. Plate numbers are then automatically checked against police databases, alerting the officer inside if it finds a match against any wanted vehicles.

The \$20,000 devices can process 1,500 plates a minute.

Wallace said Palm Beach County -- an area of one million people that includes affluent Palm Beach but also a number of rural areas -- got its first plate-reader four years ago. At first, the force used it mainly to find stolen vehicles. "But once we understood the technology we thought: There's more we can do with this," said Wallace.

Soon, every time police learned gang members would be congregating, such as at a funeral or party, police simply drove one of their tracking-equipped cruisers to the scene and turned it on.

"We'll take it out and drive around at a funeral for an hour and we'll get 3,000 to 4,000 numbers," said Wallace.

Almost immediately, said Wallace, the device started paying off, alerting officers to the presence of gangsters with outstanding arrest warrants. It also helped them discover new gang members who weren't on their radar.

The technology has also come in handy in court. Under Florida sentencing rules, gang members can receive stiffer sentences if police can prove their gang ties.

Licence-plate tracking data has been submitted in Florida courts, along with other evidence, to help prove someone's a gangster, said Wallace.

Over the past five years, Palm Beach has seen a significant drop in gang murders, from 48 in 2006 to 18 so far this year.

Wallace says stepped-up investigations are the primary cause of that decline. But, he notes, many of those investigations were made possible by information supplied by the licence-plate tracker.

Wallace said his department hasn't received much push-back from privacy advocates, despite the fact that it permanently stores all plate numbers the device captures -- including those of law-abiding citizens.

David Eby, executive director of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, said before VPD deploys the devices on city streets, it should have to explain how it plans to protect citizens' privacy.

The Vancouver Sun sent a number of questions to the VPD about how it plans to deploy the devices, including whether plate numbers will be stored indefinitely. Spokeswoman Const. Jana McGuinness said she was unable to answer the questions by the paper's deadline.

cskelton@vancouver.sun.com

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Promises can depend on wording

NORTH SHORE NEWS DECEMBER 19, 2010

What makes a promise?

For some people, as soon as a person says they're going to do something, they've got their word. Other folks, especially when there's a lot at stake, want to see it in writing before they figure they have a commitment.

A trio of City of North Vancouver councillors have been hammering away at Mayor Darrell Mussatto over the past year, accusing him and his allies of that cardinal sin of elected office: the broken promise.

Or, as Coun. Pam Bookham described it, a "bait and switch" and a "major betrayal of the public process." Tough talk indeed, and likely to be prominent in November's election campaign.

But first, a little urban planning. It won't take long.

There's a band of East 300-blocks running from Keith Road in the south to 13th Street in the north. Historically, this was a single-family home neighbourhood. In 1980, city planners drew an imaginary line from north to south through the middle of these blocks. West of the line, you could now build duplexes. East of it remained single-family.

Over time, several owners of lots in the eastern part of this "midblock area" started pressing council to let them build duplexes too. It's not really fair, they argued, that their neighbours -- on literally adjacent lots -- could put up a duplex but they could not.

So in 2005, after a great deal of discussion, a survey and a public hearing, council removed the imaginary line. Duplexes for all! But just duplexes, right?

During the public hearing, former councillor John Braithwaite warned council: "Next thing will be happening, somebody will come and say 'Let's have (comprehensive) development and let's have triplexes in the same area.' Or, maybe 'Let's look at townhouses.' I know the way that the city works."

Someone get that man a cigar.

There have been lots of duplex rezonings, as promised. But in this term of council, four denser rezoning applications have come before council and all four, albeit with some tinkering, have been approved with the support of Mussatto and his allies. Through a combination of secondary suites, in-fills and subdivision, where once there were four homes, now there will be 13. Not exactly duplexes, and there are more on the way.

Alongside Bookham, Couns. Rod Clark and Bob Fearnley have fought a bitter, though unsuccessful series of battles to block the developments. Their view is that residents agreed to accept a bit more density, but only so much. But with the city having given a proverbial inch, the developers are now trying to take a mile.

When I met Bookham, she showed me copies of correspondence between the city and developers and residents, copies of reports and transcripts of meetings. Almost without exception, the new midblock rules are referred to as "duplex zoning." I should note that staff hewed tightly to the accurate but unhelpful "residential level 2" description and noted that it was council's current policy to only consider

duplex applications in that area. Policy, of course, can change in a heartbeat.

The problem is that the actual language of the official community plan changes they made in '05 doesn't prevent triplexes or subdivisions or secondary suites. "This category permits development as in the single family form, but also provides for attached forms of housing like side by side or up and down two-family residences, or low-density row or townhouses," it reads. "Most of the development in this density range will be single family or duplex units."

Most of.

"It never occurred to me that it would be necessary to put it in writing given the nature of the discussion," Bookham told me. "It had been said so many times: duplex, duplex, duplex. To me, it was in writing through the whole process."

Bookham ruefully admitted that, as a first-term councillor, she screwed up in not examining closely enough exactly what the language said.

The mayor's fourth and deciding vote comes from Coun. Guy Heywood, who wasn't on council for the 2005 hearings. While he usually finds himself siding with Bookham and company, Heywood has only the written record to go on when it comes to the midblock. So for him, subdividing a lot and putting a secondary suite in each home is within what was promised, as is building three small houses on one lot. The promise made, for him, was the promise written down. And that's fair enough.

"We said the majority of it is going to be (duplexes)," Mussatto told me. "There's always exceptions. The OCP isn't written in stone. It's a changing document. There are all sorts of different circumstances that would say to council we should support this even if it's not seen elsewhere in the neighbourhood. . . . In the midblock, 95 per cent of the rezonings we've done were duplexes. But there was the odd exception."

Mussatto is absolutely right -- none of the three- and four-unit projects required changes to the OCP. But his letter-of-the-law answer won't make a very persuasive rebuttal if a savvy mayoralty challenger wants to start banging the midblock drum. Pushy developers, unexpected density, "broken promises" -- what more could you want from an election issue?

So did Mussatto break a promise? No.

He's delivered exactly what the changes to the OCP allowed for. But what should get voters' attention is that two factions on council came away from the same meeting believing they had promised two very different things. Bookham, Clark and Fearnley, who have a heartfelt attachment to single-family neighbourhoods, thought they were making a limited concession to density. Mussatto and Coun. Craig Keating saw the door open a little wider to their vision of the city: denser, greener and more affordable.

Starting next year, the city will start work on a brand new OCP, which will somehow have to reconcile these conflicting priorities. **To the citizens that take part in that process -- and I really do encourage people to take part -- I offer this word of advice. If the future of your neighbourhood is at stake, you'd better read the fine print.**

balldritt@nsnews.com

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Item 6.2 (ref #1)

Civility in a Democracy

A Conversation with Miss Manners

NEH Chairman Bruce Cole talks with Judith Martin about how standards of behavior were adapted for an American democracy. Known to readers of her syndicated column as Miss Manners, Judith Martin is the author of twelve books, among them Star-Spangled Manners.

Bruce Cole: Have people always been interested in trying to improve their manners?

Judith Martin: No. Mid-twentieth century America had one of the cyclical attempts to overthrow etiquette. "It's artificial, it's snobbish," it's this, that, and the other. We go through that every once in a while. The French did that after the French Revolution.

There are times when etiquette can get so elaborate that it drives people crazy and interferes with their lives. Then they say, "Why don't we just throw the whole thing aside and act naturally? They act naturally, whatever that is--nobody knows what natural human behavior is--and they express themselves very freely. After the insults start flying, and then people can't stand it and they say, "Why don't we have some manners around here?" We're in that period now. But let us not forget there are periods when people disdain etiquette.

Cole: What I wanted to get at were your historic predecessors, people who wrote books--Castiglione with his *Book of the Courtier* and Lord Chesterfield's letters to his son. He was reviled, right? Samuel Johnson said Chesterfield had the manners of a dancing master and the morals of a whore. Have you heard that?

Martin: It's better than the other way around, right? Emerson said he'd rather dine with a scoundrel than someone who had no table manners.

Throughout history there has been the question: How should man live? How should we behave? How should we treat one another? The minute you have a community, you have to have some form of etiquette, of hierarchy, of recognition, just to keep people from killing one another.

Etiquette is older than law and even now divides the realm of regulating behavior with the legal system. There are a lot of problems with that these days because people keep trying to turn over matters of etiquette to the legal system, which doesn't handle them very well.

There has always been a sense of how should we behave, and usually--but not always--among people who have had the leisure to contemplate this, people like Lord Chesterfield and Castiglione.

Erasmus's reason for writing an etiquette book--where he tells students not to pick their noses and not to spit on the ground--is because if you don't know how to behave well, you will not be admitted to the circles where they make important decisions. He wanted his students acceptable to important people.

There has been etiquette throughout history. It melds with other things. It melds with religion. The Bible is full of things which are really etiquette rules, and so are other religious tracts. Every society has to have an etiquette.

Cole: You draw a distinction between etiquette and manners and morals, right?

Martin: Yes. I also draw a distinction between manners and etiquette, manners being the principles which are eternal, and etiquette being the surface behavior, which varies and changes.

Manners have a moral basis. Manners are to etiquette as morality is to the law. Matters of serious morality have to be handled by the law because etiquette depends on the consent of the people practicing it. It has no punishment other than social disapproval--on up to shunning--which can be powerful, but it's not as powerful as throwing someone in jail.

Cole: You've been advising Americans on how to behave--how to mind their manners--since 1978. How did this all begin? What in your background led you to become Miss Manners?

Martin: I was twelve or thirteen. We were living in Greece. My father was an economist with the American government, but he would take United Nations assignments one year at a time.

Both my parents were big history and archaeology buffs. We went for a vacation to Egypt and in the Cairo Museum there was a tablet that was a letter from a man to his son, a Polonius-type letter. Do this and don't do that and don't forget this and that. We started to laugh because we realized we got a very good picture of what the kid was like, as the father knew only too well.

My parents said to me at that time, "If you want to understand a society and what they do, look at their rules. Whatever they are being told not to do, that's what they are doing, because otherwise you wouldn't have to tell them not to do it."

Cole: Exactly.

Martin: One of my mother's favorite examples was the expression "everything in moderation," which I used to be able to say in Greek. She said, "People think, oh, they were such moderate people." She said, "If they were moderate people, they wouldn't have to write this on the wall to remind themselves."

Cole: Yes.

Martin: So I started reading etiquette books. I define etiquette books very loosely. I read novels with manners and philosophical and religious tracts that deal with etiquette. Then, when I went to work for the *Washington Post* as a copy girl in the women's section, which no longer exists, people called in all day long with little etiquette questions, and I used to answer them. When I got promoted beyond that, the people who had to answer the phone would run over and ask me. So I knew that I was not the only person in the universe who cared about manners, although in the seventies it certainly seemed that way.

Cole: People wanted an anchor, right?

Martin: I guess. People were getting good and tired of being treated rudely. When you say I tell people how to behave, I do, but they don't ask me how they should behave. They ask me how to get even with the people who are being rude to them. Everybody wants as much freedom as possible, so they don't want to recognize restrictions on their own behavior, but they certainly want to recognize restrictions on other people's behavior. If you want other

people to be restricted, then you have to accept some restrictions yourself.

Cole: Let's talk about the problem of manners or etiquette in America. I know you've explored this in your book. Is it confusing because there is no clear rule about one's place in society?

Martin: There is no aristocracy that we can copy. You are an historian. You know how aristocrats generally behave. It's not necessarily something you want to copy.

Cole: That's right.

Martin: We are in a wonderful position, and we are the greatest influence on manners in the world today, because the Founding Fathers explicitly looked at the manners they grew up with, the manners of their time, and realized that they had a very firm hierarchal court basis, and were not suitable for a republic. So they all went into the etiquette business. Jefferson wrote about etiquette, and Benjamin Franklin, of course, and others. First of all, they had to establish what would be an appropriate protocol for a republic. The reason we're so influential now is because other societies are coming into our form of government --or they are resisting it tooth and nail, in which case they are deploring what we're doing. One way or the other, it's an enormous influence.

The questions they were working on still haven't been solved. For example, how do you express respect for the dignity of high office without looking as if you're kowtowing to somebody better than you? Every president and other officials have to deal with the fact that we are all equal, yes, but we're not all equal in rank, and we want to have some dignity and some order. Jefferson thought, well, fine, just throw all the rank out. It was chaos.

Oddly enough, one of the influences on them was Venice, because Venice was determined not to have dynasties and despots. It was an oligarchy, but it was a republic and the citizens had very strong rights. We got from the Venetians things such as not allowing people to have foreign titles. When a Venetian ambassador came home, he was stripped of all his medals and titles. The titles that you hear in Venice now are either Italian titles or titles granted from the Austrians during the Austrian occupation. They had a very elaborate system of checks and balances.

The also had sumptuary laws. The sumptuary laws elsewhere in the Europe were made in order to reserve for the upper classes certain privileges such as wearing specific colors or jewels. In Venice, the intention was the opposite. They didn't want people showing off. If you were an aristocrat, you had to wear a big, black cape over your clothes.

Cole: I understand you're at work on a new book about Venice.

Martin: It's about the people who are crazy about it. Over the centuries there have been all kinds of Venetophiles--counting Henry James and Lord Byron and many, many others.

Cole: That's kind of a departure, right?

Martin: Yes, except it's a great love of mine. It's been going on for some time, since I was a child, practically.

Cole: But there's also the dark side of Venice, don't you think?

Martin: I am among those who believe that a lot of that is Napoleonic propaganda. Napoleon needed a justification for saying, "These poor, oppressed people. I have to liberate them." If they were so happy for him to come in, how come they are still angry about that?

Cole: Exactly. Yes.

You are familiar with San Rocco, the church and the Scuola. I think it was Ruskin who said, "I didn't know what painting was until I saw the Scuola."

Martin: And Henry James said that there is more genius in those four walls than anyplace else in the universe.

Cole: When is your book coming out?

Martin: Well, I have to finish it first. I have a revised edition of my first big etiquette book coming out in the spring. The Venice book will be out in the fall of 2006.

Cole: Parenthetically, I was just thinking about the way that natural rank or natural nobility was portrayed without any paraphernalia of station or rank. If you look at Charles II or if you look at the way even Washington is portrayed, the prototype comes out of Venice.

The portraiture of Titian established that whole idea, with the column in the background, the dog at the feet, but just natural innate nobility.

Martin: Fascinating.

Cole: How the Founding Fathers dealt with the new democracy is of particular interest to me. We have an initiative called We the People, in which we're trying to counter what I call "American amnesia." Americans, especially our kids, don't know enough about their history.

The Founders had to set the course. Jefferson wrote on etiquette. And so did Washington, right?

Martin: Washington copied out the Jesuits' rules, but, yes, he was also always making etiquette pronouncements and even etiquette decisions. I always quote him when people ask, "Well, if your guest is late for dinner, should you wait?" Washington never waited. He said his cook would kill him. He made the original rules of presidential protocol. The president doesn't have to return calls. He would have his levees and receive people, but he did not return calls. Still, there were people traipsing through Mount Vernon all the time to his great annoyance.

He set up that question of dignity versus equality. And I say "versus" because you have to meld them, but often one works against the other. When he gave the State of the Union address, he sat on a throne in the Capitol. There was no rebuttal allowed until he went home to Mount Vernon. People had to ride all the way out there to get any answer, which, of course, was on his turf. He was very often accused of being arrogant, but he was struggling with the paradox. Even now, every president is accused of either being arrogant or being too folksy.

Cole: It's hard to win. And, of course, there's this whole issue of how they were going to address the president.

Martin: Washington favored "Your High and Mightiness." He thought that had a nice ring to it.

Cole: I kind of like that.

Martin: He kind of liked it, too, but Adams was against it. Somebody pointed out that it was all very well for Washington, who was a tall man, but if there were a short president--and Adams was short--people would burst out laughing. So they skipped that one.

Cole: What about regional differences in manners?

Martin: There are a lot less than there were because people move around all the time and they have the same influences, just as accents are still discernable, but they are less than they were.

You can often trace manners to the conditions of the territory. Frontier manners obviously are a tremendous influence. If you live on a crowded island like England, you want to create artificial space to keep everybody from being all over you all the time. If you're out in the frontier, you need all the help you can get. Instant friendship and openness and cooperation--very nice American attributes--had a frontier basis. Then you have the Southerners, who mistakenly thought they were living the English country-house life on their plantations.

Cole: This was conditioned, too, by the waves of immigrants who had come to our shores, right?

Martin: Who brought all kinds of things. Our birthday celebrations are German, the birthday cake.

Cole: One of the things you write about is the evolution of Southern hospitality, which I found fascinating.

Martin: The plantation owners thought they were being English country gentlemen, but who was teaching etiquette to their children? The house slaves. The house slaves often came from a more elevated background than the masters. They were chosen among the slaves as the people who were more refined. They had been captured and brought over from Africa, whereas, of course, voluntary immigrants came because things weren't so great at home. The house slave, usually the mammy, taught manners to the children. So she taught them the manners she knew. The "y'all come see me" kind of hospitality is an African tradition that they brought over. Using honorary family titles, aunt so-and-so and uncle so-and-so, where there's no relationship, but to convey something between strict formality and informality--these kinds of things crept in to become what are now known as Southern manners.

Cole: The frontier and issues of space, that's uniquely American, right?

Martin: Very much so. Other countries didn't tend to have that kind of space. And they

didn't tend to have that kind of mix. From this has evolved what we think of as American manners. I always get annoyed when people think, oh, they're just watered-down English manners. Well, no, they are not.

Venice, of course, never had feudalism, because you've got to have land to have feudalism. And so they never disdained labor. In those palaces they lived above the store. The ground floor was the store room. Americans made this very deliberate choice that not only is labor dignified, but leisure is undignified. Even if you had inherited an enormous amount of money as a young man in early America and you did nothing, you were--and are--rather disdained.

Cole: Right.

Martin: I still remember when, in England, when people would say so-and-so is "in trade," meaning how disgusting.

Cole: Where do writers fit in?

Martin: Writers were often an exception, possibly because you don't really work with the hands in the same sense. In many courts, including the English, the Japanese, the Chinese, you had to be able to write poetry and so on. Writing is a highfalutin vocation.

Cole: That's what is interesting about the artists. Artists in Italy could never achieve any kind of elevated status because they worked with their hands.

Martin: But the Venetians were an exception to this snobbery. Not only were they very proud of their artists, but the Venetian glass blowers were so highly regarded that their daughters were entitled to marry into nobility.

Cole: I didn't know that.

Martin: Glass was economically important to them. And the people who worked at the arsenal were of an elevated status. Even the top people, the oligarchy, were merchants. They were all in trade.

Cole: People who have made vast fortunes, like Bill Gates, still work.

Martin: Because it's shameful not to in America. If you just live off your income, people look down on you.

We're all equal. Even the term we use for servants in this country is "help." It's a polite fiction, you know, that they are just helping us.

Cole: Yes.

Martin: There is this wonderful passage in de Toqueville where he says that the basis of American manners--as opposed to, he says, French manners where the servant is toadying up to the aristocrat because he totally depends on him, or English servant/master relations, where the master also has obligations and they realize they are in a permanent situation--is that between American master and servant, he said, they both know that the situation could be reversed tomorrow.

Cole: Exactly. So you've got to be careful.

Martin: You've got to be careful.

Cole: I'd like to explore a little further the influence of American manners. What is going on now?

Martin: Well, it's better in the sense that there is a little more recognition of people as people. It is worse in the sense that one of the problems here is that we've done away with the stages of intimacy.

Cole: You talked about the *tu*. In your book, you said the *tu* was everywhere.

Martin: You hardly hear the *vous* in Europe anymore. You hear only the *tu*. First names immediately. The idea that all formality is suspect is a really bad idea. You have rank--professionally--which you need to recognize. You need to recognize degrees of intimacy among friends and acquaintances.

Why are high school kids renting five-block-long cars with bars in them and dressing up provocatively? Because they want a little formality in their lives and they have no role models.

Cole: You had talked about one of the last bastions of etiquette being street gangs?

Martin: Oh, yes. Symbolic etiquette . . . how you look at someone, the sign of greeting, the hierarchy. People always think that poor people or people in primitive societies are bereft of manners. It works the other way. The less outside structure there is, the more inside structure grows. Among aboriginal societies, they might not be using all the tools of the dinner table, but their table manners would be much more dictated than they are in a society like ours. Street gangs have symbolic clothing, and who can talk to whom and when and how is very strictly regulated.

Cole: In Italy, I remember in the old days there were these stages in which you got to know people.

Martin: But that was nice.

Cole: It was nice. And then they would say, you know, *possiamo darci del tu*? Can we address each other informally?

Martin: Great honor.

Cole: Or the English. I remember my mentor started off by calling me Mr. Cole, then it went to Cole. You were really getting familiar. Then he called me by my first name. He had this order of familiarity.

Martin: But that's nice. You have your circle of people you're close to, people you're further away from, and so on. When telemarketers call up and say the first name, why are people so offended? Because they think, oh, it's somebody I should know. Who is it? This must be a friend of mine. It's an exaggeration of the thing I mentioned--that frontier habit of immediate friendships.

Cole: There are no distinctions.

Martin: In a civilization as it develops, etiquette is useful in making distinctions between friend and foe.

Cole: What kind of good and bad influences have American manners had abroad?

Martin: It's influenced clothing to a great extent. People are much more informal in their clothing. American blue jeans, everybody walking around Europe with these fake American sweatshirts. When they raided Tariq Aziz's house they found a copy of my book. I don't know whose it was, but I suspect that someone wanted to be able to interpret American behavior or something like that.

Cole: How does Miss Manners translate abroad?

Martin: My column has been running in the *Japan Times* forever, but I don't get mail from them. I asked once, in Japan, why. They said, well, it would be rude to ask me questions.

I have approval rights on translation. In Washington, I found someone who knew someone who was fluent in both languages, English and Japanese, her father had been a diplomat here, she grew up here, and had a great sense of humor. She told me--I have to take it on faith--that they were able to capture the tone, the kind of slightly archaic tone, and the humor. But it's not an easy thing to do. It doesn't translate easily.

Cole: I had a book translated into Japanese. The Japanese are very interested in Renaissance art. I can't even find my name in it. I'm assuming it's my book.

Martin: If you get royalties, it's your book. (Laughter.)

Cole: Very, very interesting, though.

What's also interesting is when you're talking about blue jeans and sweatshirts that there is a kind of reversal: that fashion, instead of coming from on high, it comes from--

Martin: --it comes from the street now, yes. In the fashion industry, they are all looking to see what the people in the street are wearing.

Cole: Is that a particularly new thing? Maybe I'm thinking about Franklin and rusticity.

Martin: They were also dealing in symbolism in clothing. A lot of people felt that Washington overdressed and that Jefferson didn't dress up enough.

Cole: What about people who dress casually for the opera and events like that?

Martin: It undercuts the sense of occasion. The opera shamelessly advertised, "oh, you can come in blue jeans." They undercut the sense of occasion, and the manners that go with it.

Casual Friday was a disaster on many levels. First of all, anybody with any brains realized that there was still a symbolic system, so therefore you didn't really wear the grungy old clothes you wore on the weekend. You had to have a whole other wardrobe where you were pretending to be casual, but still look important. A lot of industries are cutting back on

Casual Friday now. With it comes an attitude of, I'm my own person. You see it all the time. You go into a store and the employees will be having a personal conversation on the phone or listening to music and they feel they don't have to help you. They're at leisure. In professional behavior, you assume a persona. It's emphasized by the clothes, as we know from uniforms and the formal and informal uniform of how people dress.

Cole: This is still from the seventies, basically?

Martin: Yes, the sixties, the seventies. It's the revolt against etiquette.

Cole: But aren't men wearing more suits now?

Martin: Yes, because the cycle is beginning to change slightly. People are realizing that you can look at someone and gauge his importance.

Cole: Well, clothes make the man, right?

Martin: There's also, manners maketh man.

Cole: Are manners more necessary in a democracy than they were in the old aristocracies?

Martin: It's a little bit like language: you can't not have manners of some sort. You could have good manners, bad manners and so on. It's a bit easier in a hierarchal society, where you know automatically how to place everybody and what the proper behavior should be. I knowtow-to-you-and-you-don't-need-to-kowtow-to-me type of thing. It's harder when you're all equals and you have no way of knowing the person's place in the hierarchy. However, it's fair and we all think it's wonderful.

Cole: It's harder, though.

Martin: Yes, it's harder. Another thing is that you establish who you are much more through your manners. To use an old expression, somebody who is as drunk as a lord is still a lord, right? But if you're reeling around drunk in a democracy, in a republic, people say that's who you are--you're a drunk.

Cole: You've covered this town for a long time. What about the unspoken code between the press and members of Congress and their behavior back in the old days?

Martin: It was a convention. I'm always trying to take the boring middle route between one thing and the other. The big question which we have never solved, and I don't know the answer, is how much does a person's personal life bear on their fitness for service? Obviously, some. But does sex life bear on it? Does this? Does that? What shows character? When I was a young reporter, there was an unspoken agreement that nothing that untoward got into the papers. Now we say, and you can argue, it is relevant.

It's true, I think, when you enter high-level public service you give up a little bit of privacy. Should you have to give it all up? No. But should you be protected? I don't think so either.

Cole: Where do you draw that line, though?

Martin: Where do you draw that line, yes. And America has never decided.

Cole: I was just thinking . . . My father's highest accolade about somebody was that he was a gentleman.

Martin: Exactly. But in court societies you'd be a gentleman by birth no matter how you behaved. That's the point about America--you have to behave like a gentleman to be a gentleman. And surely that is a superior system.

Cole: That's a great way to conclude. Thank you so much for talking with me.

Martin: It's been a pleasure.

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The erosion of civility threatens our democracy

Vancouver Sun December 18, 2010

Following midterm elections in the U.S. that dealt a heavy blow to the Democrats, a humbled President Barack Obama told Americans he still believed there was hope for civility in the country's politics.

In Canada, Liberal House leader David McGuinty expressed a similar sentiment, saying on his appointment in September that his goal was to bring civility back to the Commons.

Their quest to restore some semblance of respect for differing points of view often seems hopeless in the face of shouting matches on U.S. television that pretend to be analysis, venomous campaigns that focus on personalities rather than policies and, in Ottawa, the daily onslaught of insults and invective during question period. Sadly, the abrasiveness in the political realm may reflect a broader culture of intolerance and insensitivity.

For example, technology has made it possible for people to share their opinions -- or as one media outlet puts it, to "join the conversation." But it's seldom a conversation, and more often a rant, an abusive diatribe in which cyber bullies, having vilified the originator of an article or post, or its subject, turn on one another in hateful screeds that are too rarely blocked by monitors.

Children are using profanity at a younger age than ever, according to data presented at the Sociolinguistics Symposium in the United Kingdom in September, and many possess the full vocabulary of vulgarity by the age of three or four. In all likelihood, they are learning the language at home from their parents, or on the road watching and listening as mom and dad curse other drivers and goad them with rude gestures.

Demonstrations are too often not primarily concerned with any ideology but are meant to be a provocation; their participants intend to pick a fight, and those charged with maintaining order too often are willing to oblige.

Some might argue that robust, vigorous and passionate debate is the essence of freedom of expression, human rights and the primacy of the individual.

But civility is the bedrock of our democracy; a free society cannot function for long without it. At its core, civility is the golden rule: Treat others as you wish to be

treated. It encompasses courtesy, good manners and politeness. It is behaving ethically.

In his book, *Choosing Civility*, author P.M. Forni explains the concept to students by asking for salt at dinner. Passing the pepper also, without being asked, moves the act into the sphere of ethics, he says, because it anticipates a need that may or may not become apparent, showing awareness of and consideration for another person. Civility requires that all of our actions toward others are governed by this example.

Civility is what motivates volunteer-ism, sacrificial acts to improve the lives of others.

How much more grim would our world be without food banks, Meals on Wheels, Big Brothers and Sisters, the Salvation Army, parent advisory councils, advocacy groups for the disabled and disadvantaged, fundraisers for cancer, arthritis, mental illness and other medical concerns, and the thousands of members of churches, synagogues, mosques and temples who devote so much time and money to help the less fortunate?

In a survey this past April, 94 per cent of Americans said they thought the level of civility was a problem, 72 per cent said it had grown worse and 87 per cent said the general public bore the greatest responsibility for improving it, with politicians and news media close behind.

They said the tone of civility, or rather incivility, is causing them to tune out of government and politics, and news reporting, opinion pieces and editorials in newspapers and magazines.

In other words, the loss of civility is limiting engagement in the fundamental aspects of democracy.

Civility is more than politeness. It is an expression of our acceptance of society's laws, rules and codes of conduct, explicit and implicit, that prevent our descent into anarchy. Of course, community norms are not stagnant and many of these strictures have been reformed over time.

Ethical behaviour is difficult to enforce; it's up to each individual to exercise self-restraint. Civility goes beyond holding a door open for a stranger, giving up a seat on the bus or allowing a driver to merge into traffic ahead of you. But those acts would be a good start.

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