



2009

SMART PLANNING FOR COMMUNITIES





COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY – SMART PLANNING

WHAT IS SMART PLANNING (FORMERLY INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING)?

Smart Planning encourages communities to take a fresh look at their future and take proactive steps to get there. Smart Planning provides a framework for community sustainability planning, i.e. helps communities plan for their own needs while ensuring that the needs of future generations are also met and does so by incorporating an integrated approach that considers broader environmental, economic and social considerations in each planning process beyond current conventional planning frameworks.

(Survey adapted from the Ministry of Community Services Smart Planning Community Assessment Template, 2007, www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/programs/documents/MCS_community_assessment_template.doc)

PURPOSE OF THIS TEMPLATE

The purpose of this community assessment survey is to assist you in assessing your community's readiness to engage in integrated community sustainability planning, or Smart Planning. It is intended to help your community take stock of: the priority areas in your community; the plans and capacity you have in place to address these priority areas; and the next steps for moving forward with sustainability planning.

HOW TO USE THIS TEMPLATE?

As collaboration, public engagement and education are all key aspects of Smart Planning; this survey is intended to involve a wide range of community stakeholders. The information contained within this survey will be used to determine what resources are required and what the next steps are for initiating a Smart Planning process in the Central Kootenay Regional District area.

THE FOLLOWING SURVEY CONSISTS OF FIVE AREAS

- A. Community Context (Community)
- B. Assessing the Sustainability Dimensions of Your Community's Vision (Community)

LOCATION OF RESPONDENT

Please indicate the where within the RDCK you reside or own property: _____

A. Community Context

One starting point for assessing your community's readiness for Smart Planning is to identify current realities and priority areas within your community. This section will help you identify the strengths, challenges, opportunities and priority areas within your community as they relate to the sustainability of your community.

Section A.2 Individual & Community Well-being should be answered by considering the context of community well-being (community spirit, sense of community, art, heritage, culture, health, education, volunteerism, housing, social support and access to community services, etc.).

A.1 Community - General

a) What things make your community special & unique?	1. 2. 3.
b) What are the three biggest challenges that your community faces?	1. 2. 3.

A.2 Individual and Community Well-being

a) What are the greatest strengths of your community?	1. 2. 3.
b) What are the most significant challenges relating to individual and community wellbeing?	1. 2. 3.
c) What are the most significant opportunities for your community to progress towards sustainability?	1. 2. 3.
d) What are the most significant priority areas with respect to moving your community towards a more sustainable future?	1. 2. 3.
e) What are the top three action ideas for addressing sustainability for the community?	1. 2. 3.

A.3 Economy

a) List the top economic strengths of your community?	1. 2. 3.
b) What are the main economic challenges facing your community (i.e. labour, unemployment)?	1. 2. 3.
c) What are the top three opportunities for improving your community economy?	1. 2. 3.
d) What are the top three economic priorities (+/-) for your community?	1. 2. 3.
e) What are the top three infrastructure priority areas which need to be addressed?	1. 2. 3.

	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor	N/A
f) Please rate the general condition of your community infrastructure, i.e. roads, hospitals, schools, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A.4 Environment

a) What are the top environmental assets for your area?	1.					
	2.					
	3.					
b) What are the greatest environmental or ecological challenges facing the community?	1.					
	2.					
	3.					
c) What are the main environmental priority areas which need to be addressed within your community?	1.					
	2.					
	3.					
d) What actions could be taken to enhance your community's environment?	1.					
	2.					
	3.					

Community Aspect Categories (through a sustainability lens)

The community Aspect Categories are organized into four main areas: Community Capacity, Governance Networks, Natural and Built Environment, and Social and Cultural Dynamics.

A.6 Community Capacity

Community Capacity focuses on the networks within the community that ensure prosperity and well being.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
a) Economic Development						
The economic base of our community is reasonably diverse.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our community recognizes and seizes new or changing business opportunities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is sufficient industrial space available in the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is sufficient commercial space available in the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is a skilled labour pool within the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local products and services are purchased rather than those from out-of-area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wealth generated within the community remains here.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Food						
There is access to healthy affordable food choices within the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are opportunities for residents to cultivate their own food sources including education programs on production and storage of foods.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is access to locally grown and produced foods including fruits, vegetables and meat and dairy products.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Learning						
There is a strong public education system within the community that provides opportunity and choice for students from kindergarten through post secondary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
There are opportunities for advanced education and training within the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are learning opportunities for basic life skills development and literacy training within the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are community facilities available for residents to gain access to the internet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Affordability and Housing						
The average middle income earner in our community can afford to buy a home.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are a variety of housing choices within our community. (single family homes, multi-family homes or apartments)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are rental homes available within our community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is sufficient availability of seniors and congregate care housing within our community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A.7 Governance Network						
Governance Network focuses on the leadership and collaboration of groups of people within the community.						
a) Governance and Partnerships						
Community members actively participate in the governance of the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth are taking active leadership roles within the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community leaders and officials cooperate with businesses and business associations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community members are engaged in local issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Members representing interests of the public, private and government sectors jointly participate in community decision making.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Community Groups						
There is a strong volunteer base within the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is a diverse base of community groups serving many needs within the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Collaboration						
Community members feel informed about the activities within their community and consulted on community issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are clear community plans or visioning documents that serve as a guide for long-term planning in the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities for communication with community leaders are frequent and engaging.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community members feel empowered to speak about issues within their community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A.8 Natural and Built Environment

Natural and Built Environment focuses on the systems that ensure our buildings, infrastructure and natural environment are integrated, healthy and thriving.

a) Energy

Our community leaders promote a reduction in energy consumption and maintain a leadership role.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alternative sources of energy are becoming common within the community. (solar power, wind power, geo-thermal heating, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buildings are encouraged to meet or exceed minimum standards for green buildings and energy efficiency.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

b) Water

The drinking water within the community is good quality and safe for consumption.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All residents within the community have access to drinking water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The source for the drinking water in the community is well documented and protected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community leaders actively promote water use reduction strategies. (water metering, xeriscaping, grey water recycling)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

c) Materials and Solid Waste

The community actively participates in solid waste reduction programs. (recycling, composting, re-use programs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liquid waste (sewage) is managed and disposed of responsibly. Systems are well maintained and upgraded as necessary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

d) Air Quality

Air quality within the community is good.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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e) Transportation

Transportation infrastructure is well maintained and upgrades are timely and efficient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is adequate access to public transportation for day to day use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is a trail system for walking or cycling throughout and between communities that provides a safe, accessible alternative to driving.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residents may choose not to own a car and will still be able to get to their destination relatively easy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is clear signage marking trails and streets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
f) Built Environment						
There are few conflicting land uses within the community. (industrial land near residential, farm land near urban areas, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The community core is inviting, accessible, and pedestrian friendly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The community is compact and does not spread out inefficiently.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The community is as complete as possible for its size. The day to day needs of residents can be met without leaving the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The built environment of the community is integrated with the natural features, rather than attempting to change them. (eg. streams are not diverted to accommodate development.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial and industrial developments enhance the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

g) Natural Areas						
Extensive green spaces, natural habitat, and environmentally sensitive areas are protected within the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Areas with agricultural capability are protected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community members actively participate in protecting and maintaining natural areas within the community. (ie. Community clean up days, creek restoration and environmental advocacy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural fertilizers and pesticides are encouraged and used within the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residents of the community enjoy the natural areas within the community through passive uses such as walking, hiking or picnicking.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A.9 Social and Cultural Dynamics						
Social and Cultural Dynamics focuses on the social and cultural networks that promote healthy living and increased community member interaction.						
a) Health and Social						
Health services are easily accessed within your community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health services are adequate for all ages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are adequate number of doctors, dentists & health care professional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are sufficient number of groups organizing and advocating for your communities health and social needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sense of community is strong in your community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are many community oriented activities which occur	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your community is a safe, inclusive and welcoming community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is a strong cohesion between all ages within your community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are adequate services for the economically & health challenged members of the community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Assessing the Sustainability Dimensions of Your Community's Vision

Smart Planning is characterized by thinking about the long-term future of your community and/or area. What do you want your community and/or area to look like 50 years from today? This section will assist your community to identify: whether your current vision accurately reflects the desired future for your community; the time horizon of your vision; and next steps for your community with regard to your community's vision to ensure a long-term, sustainable future.

B.1 Community Vision

a) What is your long-term vision for your community and is it identified? If yes, do you know where? (e.g. Official Community Plan)

b) If yes, what is what is the time horizon on this Vision?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years	50 years	other

c) What internal/external forces may change your community (+/-) in the future (i.e. climate change, labour shortage, economy, etc.)?

1.
2.
3.

d) If your community does not have a long term vision, do you think one is needed? Please state reasons yes or no.

	Yes	No
1.		1.
2.		2.
3.		3.

B.2 Incorporation of Community Sustainability

a) Identify ways in which sustainability has been incorporated into any existing community vision and planning?

1.
2.
3.

B.3 Incorporation of Priority Areas

a) Identify ways in which the Priority Areas (Section A) have been incorporated into the existing community vision and planning.

1.
2.
3.

B.4 Next Steps

a) Identify steps which your community could take to better plan for sustainability, for example Official Community Plan, better coordination with Provincial Government, Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Groups, etc.

1.
2.
3.

B.5 Encouraging Community Vision

a) To what extent does your community, and/or community plans reflect and encourage your community's Vision (Section B)?

1.
2.
3.

b) Identify steps that your community can take to further the extent to which any existing community plans are used to encourage your community's Vision of sustainability.

1.
2.
3.

B.6 Additional Comments