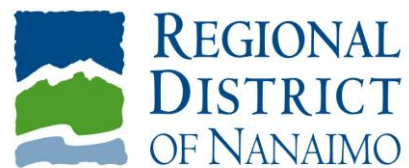


2017 Annual Report

Implementation & Progress



July 11, 2018



ESTABLISHED 1967

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the third annual report that includes quantitative data used to monitor progress in advancing the 11 goals set out in the Regional District of Nanaimo's Regional Growth Strategy. In 2017, progress towards the (RGS) goals is mixed, though the majority of indicators reporting (7 indicators) are either improving or stable. Data is not yet sufficient to provide a comprehensive analysis of trends as this is only the third monitoring report. Two indicators have moved away from the desired regional goals.

The results of the 2017 report builds on previous years reporting to show progress, specifically gains in transit ridership and state of growth in the region arising from the implementation of RGS policies and action designed to contain growth in well-defined areas.

Moving towards target

Goal 3: Indicator #7 - Number of households within a set distance (400 m) of employment lands, shopping, schools, transit and recreation facilities. The target is to increase the number of households in reasonable proximity to services. While the data is limited, it does show an increase consistent with the target of households living within close proximity to bus stops, employment lands and shopping within the RDN.

Goal 3: Indicator #8 - Per capita transit use has increased. The increase in per capita transit use continues to show a positive, upward trend within the RGS reporting period of 2011 to 2017. In 2017, per capita rides increased from 17.8 in 2011 to 19.8 in 2017.

Goal 7: Indicator #17 - [Unemployment] employment rate and labour force participation. The target to maintain an Unemployment Rate between 3-6% and to increase labour force participation rate was met. In 2017, the unemployment rate was 5.7% and the labour force participation rate was 51.6% in 2015 compared to 62.8% in 2017.

Moving away from target

Goal 5: Indicator #14 – The amount of land classified as Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL). Since 2015, the amount of PMFL has decreased by 394 hectares. In 2017, 130,600 hectares or about 63% of the region remain as PMFL.

Goal 6: Indicator #15 - The total number of rental units affordable to households with incomes below 50 percent of the median for the region. Based on the past six years, the trend shows a rise in renter households between 2011 and 2014 spending more than 30% of their income on housing. This trend reversed from 2015 and 2016, but has since rebounded over the last two years to 2011 levels.

Summary of approach

Through the collaborative efforts of member municipalities and the RDN to share data, it is anticipated that future years' reporting will allow for initial year-to-year assessment, three-year average as well as a few six-year average trends to constructively assess progress and to help inform opportunities for improvement.

1 TRADITIONAL TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) respectfully acknowledges and recognizes the Coast Salish Nations whose territory we live, work and play on.

2 OVERVIEW

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)¹ is a strategic plan adopted by the RDN Board that aims to establish a more sustainable pattern of population growth and development in the region over a 25 year period. The RGS encourages and directs most new development in the region within designated Growth Containment Boundaries, thereby keeping urban settlement compact, protecting the integrity of rural and resource areas, protecting the environment, increasing servicing efficiency, and retaining mobility within the region.

The RGS represents a commitment by the RDN and its member municipalities to take a series of actions to improve the quality of life for present and future residents of the region. Part of this commitment involves being accountable to residents about how the RGS is being implemented and the level of progress being made towards reaching the goals of the RGS.

The 2011 RGS addresses implementation in Section 5, stating that:

“Being accountable for progress towards achieving the goals of this RGS requires a commitment to implementation, target-setting, establishing indicators, and monitoring”.

Reporting on annual progress shows a commitment to implementation and fulfills a requirement under the *Local Government Act* “to prepare an annual report on implementation and progress towards the goals and objectives of the RGS” (RGS Policy 5.2.1).

This Annual Progress Report briefly describes the RGS purpose, vision and goals in order to set the stage for documenting the actions taken in 2017 by the RDN and member municipalities towards implementing the RGS. This report also incorporates performance indicators from the RGS Monitoring Program, where data is available, with the intention of tracking trends over time to achieve the goals of the RGS. In addition, Appendix 1 of this report includes a summary of actions taken to implement the RGS since it was updated and adopted by the RDN Board on November 22, 2011.

¹ On November 22, 2011, the RDN Board adopted "Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1615". This document replaced the 2003 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) and represents the second time that the RGS has been fully reviewed and updated since it was first adopted in 1997.

3 RGS ROLE & PURPOSE

The purpose of the RGS is to:

"promote human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources".

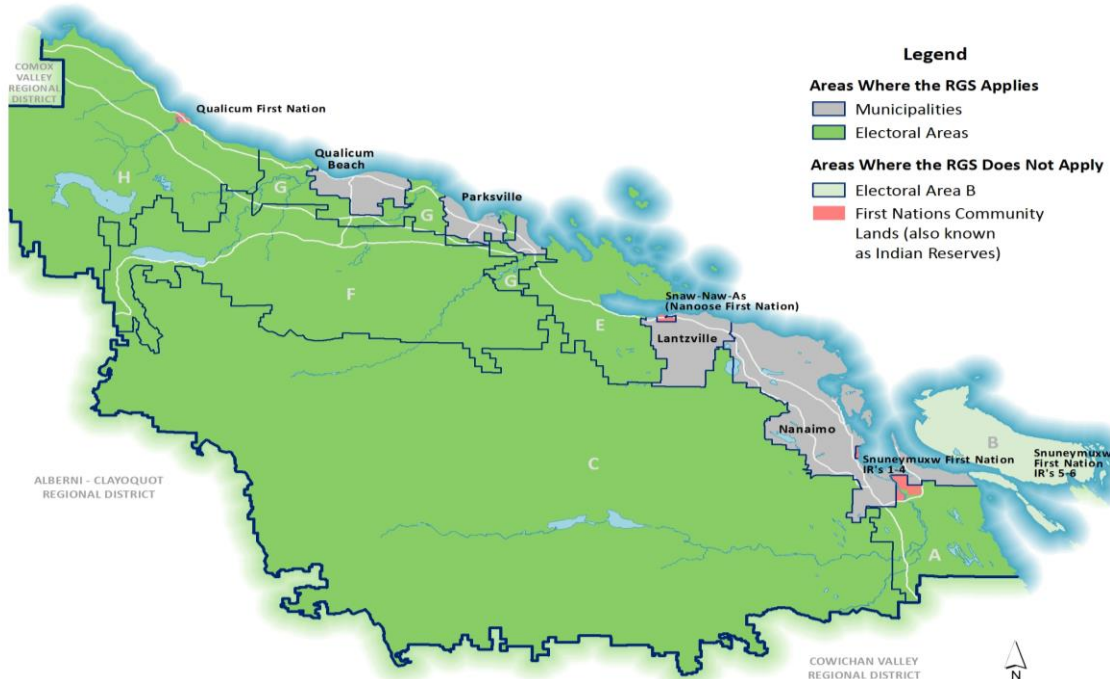
Ultimately, it is a coordinated plan to manage growth in the region in a sustainable manner.

The first RGS was adopted in 1997 in response to residents' concerns about the impacts of rapid population growth and development in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Given that the impacts of growth cross jurisdictional boundaries, it was recognized that a coordinated approach to community planning was necessary to effectively address growth management issues.

The RGS provides a framework for member municipalities and the RDN to coordinate growth management issues that cross local government boundaries. The RGS also provides a mechanism to connect with provincial ministries and agencies who have jurisdiction in areas that impact land use and community planning and whose resources are needed to implement projects and programs. Inter-jurisdictional coordination is essential to protecting our environment and achieving a high quality of life for present and future residents in the region.

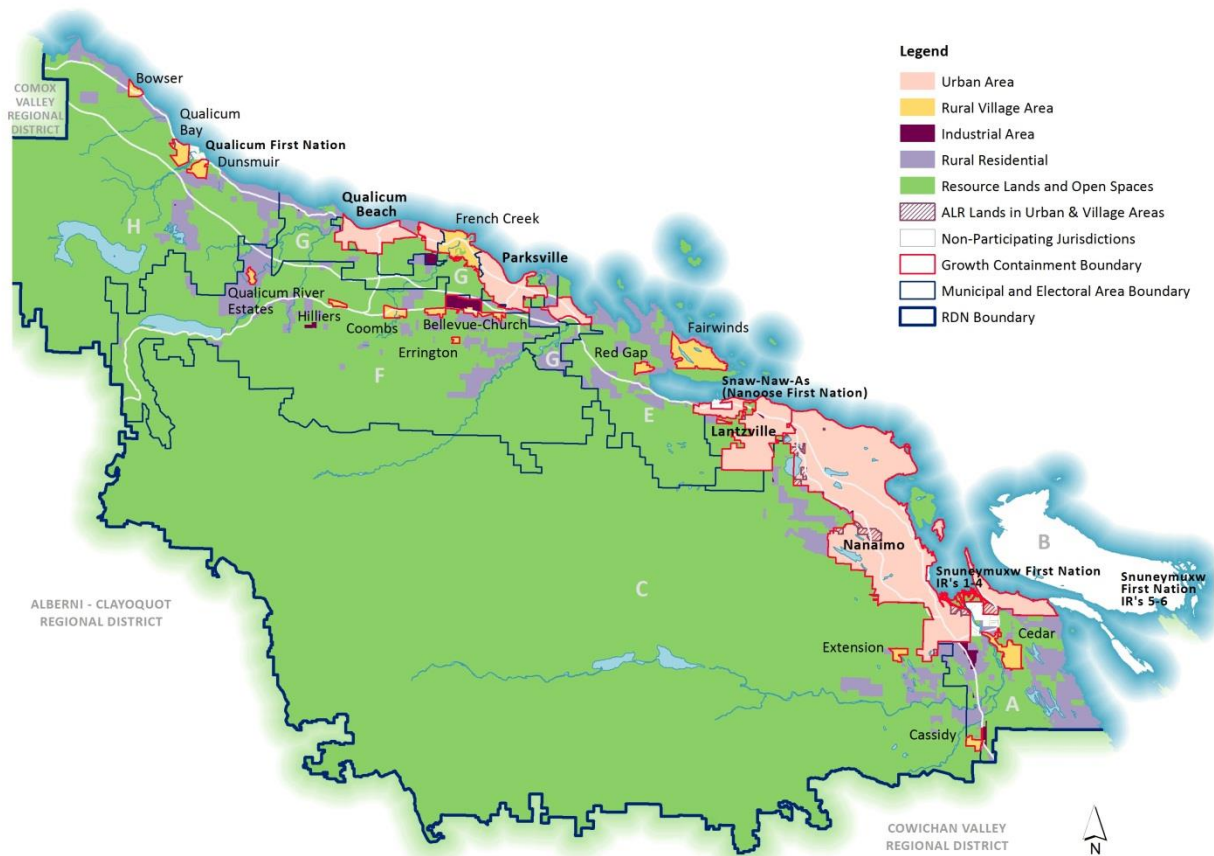
The RGS applies to six electoral areas and four municipalities within the region as shown by the map below. The RGS does not apply to Gabriola, Decourcy and Mudge Islands (Electoral Area B) as they fall under the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust. It also does not apply to lands under the jurisdiction of, First Nations including Qualicum First Nation, Snaw-Naw-As and Snuneymuxw.

Map 1: RGS Application



The RGS uses a line on a map called a Growth Containment Boundary (GCB) to separate areas designated for future growth from other areas where environmental protection and resource values are a priority. Lands designated as Urban Area within municipalities are intended to absorb the majority of the region's future growth. In the RDN's electoral areas, land designated as Rural Village Areas are intended to accommodate lower levels of growth more compatible with their rural settings. Development within the GCB (Urban and Rural Village Areas) is intended to be diverse and provide places for people to live, work, learn, shop and play. This may also include lands to be conserved to support ecosystem functions or other green space purposes. Land outside of the GCB is intended to support ecosystem functions and rural uses that require only limited infrastructure and services to be viable.

Map 2: RGS Growth Containment Boundary and Land Use Designations



4 RGS VISION

The vision of the RGS is documented below and represents the foundation for the goals and policies in the RGS.

The region will be recognized for an outstanding quality of urban and rural life that is grounded in a strong commitment to protecting the natural environment and minimizing harm to life-sustaining ecological systems. Working in partnership with interested organizations, the RDN and its member municipalities are committed to achieving:

- High standards of environmental protection that preserve habitat, enhance ecological diversity, and maintain air and water quality;
- Enhanced food security in the region;
- Urban development that is contained and distinct in form and character from rural development;
- Complete, compact communities designed to provide housing that meets the needs of all households, and that provide excellent access to nearby workplaces, goods and services, learning institutions, recreation opportunities, and natural areas;
- Expansion and enhancement of mobility options that reduce automobile dependency;
- A strong and resilient economy based on agriculture, natural resource assets, tourism, and information age industries and services, such as health and education; and
- Efficient, state-of-the-art servicing, infrastructure and resource utilization.

5 RGS PRINCIPLES

The goals and policies of the RGS are grounded in the following sustainability principles that are intended to guide how decisions are made regarding the future life of the region:

- Decisions and actions have regard for local and global consequences;
- The interconnectedness and interdependence of natural and human systems are recognized and respected;
- The healthy functioning of ecological systems is nurtured;
- The qualities of place that create pride and a sense of community are nurtured;
- Efficiency, including the concept of zero-waste, is optimized;
- Equity amongst all citizens and across generations, including future generations is ensured;
- Decision-making processes are based on participation, collaboration and cooperation with citizens, other authorities and organizations; and
- We are accountable for our decisions and actions.

6 RGS GOALS, INDICATORS & TARGETS

The RGS is based upon 11 goals that work towards achieving the collective vision of regional sustainability. Policies in the RGS provide the direction to take specific actions to implement the RGS goals.

In January 2015, the RDN Board approved a final list of 22 indicators and related targets to measure the region's progress towards the 11 goals of the RGS. Targets and Indicators are closely linked. Indicators tell us whether or not the results of our actions are consistent with achieving our targets. Targets are a specific result to achieve over time within a social, cultural, economic or environmental system.

| Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption | |
|---|--|
| Indicator | Target |
| #1 Total community greenhouse gas emissions | Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 33% below 2007 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050 |
| #2 Per capita non-renewable energy use | Reduce per capita energy use |
| #3 Total community energy use | Reduce total energy use |
| Goal 2: Protect the Environment | |
| Indicator | Target |
| #4 Total water consumption | Reduce water consumption decrease the average residential and commercial water use by 33% between 2004 and 2018. |
| #5 Surface water quality (Community Watershed Monitoring) | Improve surface water quality |
| #6 Amount of land in protected areas | Increase amount of land in protected areas |
| Goal 3: Coordinate land Use and Mobility | |
| Indicator | Target |
| #7 Number of households within a set distance of employment lands, shopping, schools, transit and recreation facilities | Increase the number of households living within close proximity to places to work, play, learn and shop |
| #8 Per capita transit use | Increase per capita transit use |
| Goal 4: Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth | |
| Indicator | Target |
| #9 Population inside and outside the Growth Containment Boundary(GCB) | Increase the proportion of the population living within the GCB |
| #10 Density of dwelling units inside and outside the GCB | |
| #11 Diversity of land use (ratio) inside the GCB | Increase the land use diversity inside the GCB |

| Goal 5: Enhance Rural Integrity | |
|---|---|
| Indicator | Target |
| #12 The number of new lots/units created through subdivision inside and outside the GCB | Increase the proportion of development inside the GCB |
| #13 Number of parcels with Farm Status | Increase the number of parcels with Farm Status |
| #14 The amount of land classified as Private Managed Forest Land | Increase the amount of land available for natural resource uses (farm, forestry, outdoor recreation) |
| Goal 6: Facilitate the provision of affordable housing | |
| Indicator | Target |
| #15 The total number of rental units affordable to households with income below 50% of the median income for the region | Increase the proportion of households living in housing that meets their needs (appropriate, adequate, adaptable, sustainable, affordable and attainable) |
| #16 The portion of units in each housing type inside the Growth Containment Boundary (Diversity of housing types in GCB) | Increase the portion of non-Single Family Dwellings inside the GCB |
| Goal 7: Enhance economic resiliency | |
| Indicator | Target |
| #17 [Unemployment] Employment rate and labour participation rate | Maintain an unemployment rate between 3 – 6% and increase the labour Force Participation Rate |
| Goal 8: Enhance food security | |
| Indicator | Target |
| Number of parcels with Farm Status | Same as, Goal 5: Indicator #13 Increase the number of parcels with Farm Status |
| Goal 9: Pride of Place | |
| Indicator | Target |
| #18 The amount of publicly owned land designated for parks and community use (including land in protected areas, community use parks and recreational facilities) | Increase the amount of land for parks and recreational facilities |
| #19 Per capita length of maintained public trails (including trails, paths, laneways) | Increase the per capita length of maintained trails |
| Goal 10: Provide Services Efficiently | |
| Indicator | Target |
| #20 Per capita waste disposal | Decrease the per capita amount of waste going to the landfill (amount of waste sent to the landfill per person) below 350 kg/person |
| #21 Per capita cost to provide water and sewer systems | Decrease per capita cost of water and sewer |
| #22 Per capita length of roads (length of paved roads per person) | Decrease the per capita length of roads |
| Goal 11: Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions | |

7 RGS IMPLEMENTATION

Section 5.2 of the RGS addresses implementation and identifies specific projects that are intended to work towards achieving RGS goals. Implementation is an important part of being accountable to RDN residents about what is being done to achieve the goals they identified as important.

7.1 RGS Monitoring Program

To ensure consistent monitoring and reporting on the indicators, the RDN has established a RGS Monitoring Program that includes an annual report and a public website that regularly updates the indicators as new information becomes available.

RGS Annual Report - 2017

This annual report is an attempt to measure progress by incorporating select indicators to help gauge the effectiveness of RGS policies and implementation to achieve the goals of the RGS. Since the monitoring program was initiated it has not always been possible to provide information for all 22 indicators annually. This challenge continues to be addressed through collaboration with the member municipalities, various RDN departments and external agencies. As a result, this Report includes both information of key initiatives and quantitative data. Where member municipalities have submitted quantitative data for indicators for the first time, this information is used to establish a baseline starting in 2017 which will be used for comparison in subsequent years.

Data Limitations

This report refers to many sources of information, including information produced by the member municipalities, various RDN Departments, Statistics Canada and the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Every reasonable effort has been made to use comparable data with consistent geographies and methodology. Where data limitations exist, these are noted within the document content, chart or table.

RGS Monitoring Website

The RDN's website is intended to be highly accessible and visually oriented experience. Reporting is ongoing and the indicators are updated as data becomes available. Ideally, most indicators will be updated on an annual basis.

RGS Monitoring website: www.rdn.bc.ca/rgsmonitoring

8 PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE RGS

In addition to specific implementation projects of the RGS, the RDN and the member municipalities actively make decisions and take actions that affect the goals of the RGS. The following summaries, grouped by each RGS goal, report on the RDN and member municipality initiatives and actions to achieve the goals of the RGS. Where information is available, select indicators have been updated to track progress towards the RGS goals.

8.1 Goal 1 – Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption

Regional Actions

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction

In 2016², within the RDN, 3,465,732m³ of landfill gas was captured through the landfill gas collection project.

Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre Co-generation System

In 2017, the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre co-generation system converted waste gas (methane) into 448,500 kilowatt hours of electricity, which is sold back to the electrical grid. This amount of energy production is equivalent to the power usage for 41 homes for one year.

RDN Remains Carbon Neutral

In 2017, the RDN remained Carbon Neutral by applying 2,907 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e) through utilizing carbon offsets generated from the landfill gas collection project. A total of 21,123 tonnes of carbon offsets were verified and validated arising from the existing landfill gas collection project. 5000 tonnes of carbon credits have been listed through the Community Carbon Marketplace that are now available from Cowichan Energy Alternatives to corporate entities whose objective is to achieve carbon neutrality.

Green Building Incentives

The RDN and the member municipalities delivered green building incentives to residents who improved the performance of their homes. In 2017, the RDN programs delivered \$36,600 in green building incentives and rebates. The Green Building Incentive Program issued 153 individual rebates for: wood stove exchanges (126), renewable energy systems (6), home energy assessments (18), oil to pump rebates (1) and site-cut timber (1). There was one (1) uptake of the electric vehicle charging station rebate in 2017.

² The Provincial Re-Trac Connect BC Waste Disposal Calculator is made available each year in July. Due to this, the value included in this report is for 2016.

Green Building Series

The Green Building series included a tour of the Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre, a 25 unit affordable housing complex designed to the Passive House Standard.

Climate Change Actions and Energy Efficiency Measures

In April 2017, the Province of British Columbia adopted the BC Energy Step Code as regulation. To support the Province's initiative, the RDN received grant funding from BC Hydro's Sustainable Communities Program to provide region wide education and to build awareness amongst the construction industry about the BC Energy Step Code.

Sea Level Rise Adaptation Program

In 2017, the RDN received \$150,000 from the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. These funds enable the RDN to proceed with the technical work needed to acquire coastal floodplain mapping. When completed, this information will be used to update land use regulations relating to the management of lands in coastal areas and bring the RDN into compliance with the Provincial Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines.

The Coastal Floodplain Mapping project is part of the RDN's Sea Level Rise (SLR) Adaptation Program. The SLR Adaptation Program is a RGS implementation item with the goal of enabling the RDN to adapt to the projected impacts associated with sea level rise (SLR).

City of Nanaimo

Nanaimo's Energy Management Program

Through the City's Strategic Energy Management Program, it has saved 787,878 kilowatt hours of electricity, 3,876 gigajoules of natural gas consumption, and reduced emissions by 215 tonnes CO² (equivalent) by completing a mix of building, lighting, and systems upgrade projects.

Climate Adaptation/Resilience Strategy

The City received \$175,000 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in 2017 to complete a Climate Change Resilience Strategy (CCRS) to prepare for climate change. A major component of the CCRS will be to understand the impacts of sea level rise on the coastal portions of Nanaimo.

Reservoir No.1 Energy Recovery Facility

As part of the facility upgrade, the control building incorporated an energy recovery system to translate the hydraulic energy from the available head to electricity during reservoir filling. This new energy recovery equipment will enable the City to sell generated power back to BC Hydro.

Incorporating energy recovery equipment at the design stage is a new practice for the City and is regarded as one of the first of its kind in BC.

Energy Efficiency Upgrades

The City's Corporate Energy Conservation Policy sets an energy conservation target of 1% reduction per year in the overall energy consumption of City owned and operated buildings. Implementation actions for 2017 included:

- The new refuse collection fleet is CNG powered. This change is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 25%.
- The Beban Park lighting upgrade has resulted in the replacement of 500 lights with T5 and T8 fluorescent fixtures at Frank Crane Arena and Beban Pool. As well as reducing operating costs, the upgrade has significantly improved the facilities lighting.
- A City wide LED streetlight conversion project was initiated in 2017.

City of Parksville

Parksville continues to participate in the regional Green Building Incentive Program, including woodstove rebates.

Town of Qualicum Beach

In preparation for the implementation of the BC Energy Step Code, Building Department staff completed additional Step Code training in 2017. This training was made possible through grant funding received by the RDN from BC Hydro.

District of Lantzville

Lantzville continued to participate in the provision of green building incentives through the RDN, including incentives for rainwater harvesting, wood stove exchanges, solar hot water, home energy assessments and electrical vehicle charging stations.

8.1.1 RGS Indicator #1: Total greenhouse gas emissions

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 33% below 2007 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050

The RGS Indicators #1- 3 relies on information from the Province of BC's Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) for the amount of emissions created by the on-road transportation, buildings, and solid waste sectors. This information is used to help monitor the increase or decrease of regional greenhouse gas emissions, which are the primary contributor to climate change.

Table 1 provides a summary of how different sources contributed to the regional "carbon footprint". Based on the available data it appears that on-road transportation is the overall greatest contributor to GHGs while solid waste is the least. Between 2010 and 2012 the GHG relating to solid waste significantly reduced from 68,618 co²e to

15,044 co²e. This change may be attributed to the landfill gas collection project, noted above under RDN Actions.

Table 1: Regional GHG by Source (2007, 2010, 2012)

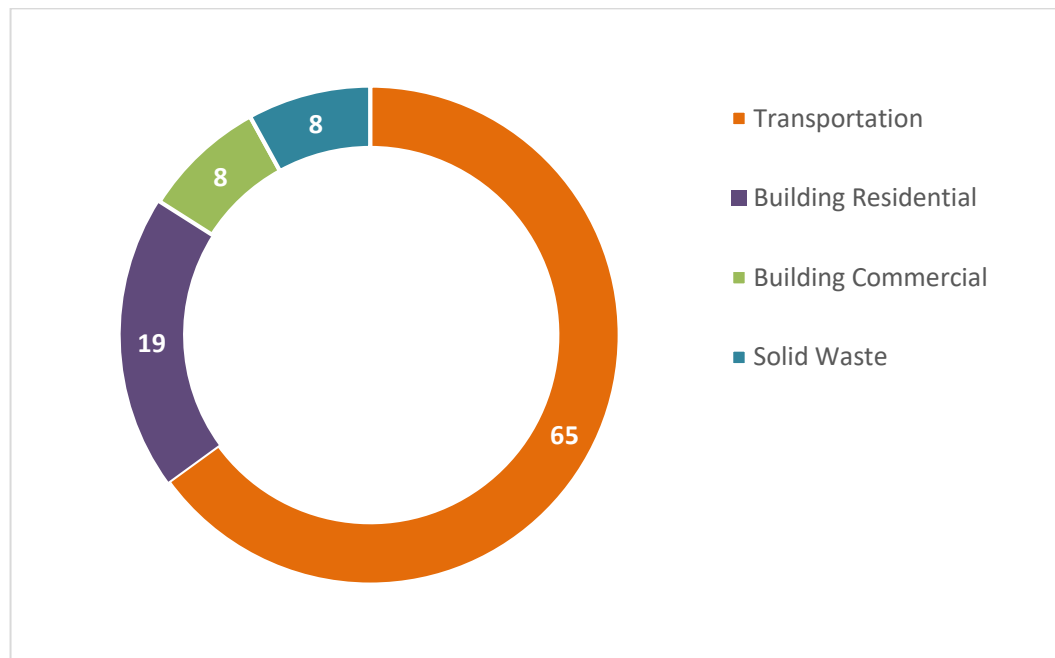
| Year | On-road Transportation | Buildings Residential | Buildings Commercial | Solid Waste | Agriculture | Total CO2E(t) |
|------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 2007 | 527,905 | 163,021 | 71,088 | 60,888 | 18,570 | 841,472 |
| 2010 | 561,685 | 161,333 | 68,660 | 68,618 | NI* | 860,296 |
| 2012 | NI* | 155,101 | 62,670 | 15,044 | 4,976 | 237,791 |

*NI – no information available

Unfortunately beyond 2010, on-road transportation data is not available for the RDN and no new data has been released since 2012. This is a significant change to the RGS monitoring program that prevents reporting on GHG emissions in the region, especially on-road transportation which has historically been the largest contributor to GHGs.

For example, in 2010 an estimated 65% of GHG emissions was attributed to on-road transportation followed by residential buildings at 19%, commercial buildings at 8% and solid waste accounted for 8%. See Chart 1.

Chart 1: Percentage of Regional Greenhouse Gases by Source (2010)



Goal 1 - Key Findings

While GHG and energy consumption data is not available for the 2017 period, action to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate continue to be implemented across the region. For example, the Green Building Incentive Program continues to attract applications for funding to help residents implement more environmentally friendly home practices. Another response to climate change is building resiliency and capacity to adapt. In 2017, both the RDN and the City of Nanaimo launched climate adaptation initiatives to help communities adapt to the projected impacts of sea level rise.

8.2 Goal 2 – Protect the Environment

Regional Actions

RDN Water Services continued to achieve Goal 2 by pursuing watershed and environmental protection, including:

Watershed Protection and Enhancement Measures

- Upgraded 15 wellheads to protect aquifers in our region and over 120 well owners received support in testing their water quality through the Rural Water Quality Stewardship Rebate Program.
- Supported the installation or expansion of 45 residential rainwater harvesting systems across the region through the Rainwater Harvesting Incentive Program.
- Supported watercourse restoration projects on Plum Creek Wetland, Millstone River and Walley Creek.

Water Quality Program

- Added 15 new volunteer observation wells to the Groundwater Monitoring Network in the region, in the priority areas of Nanoose, French Creek and Cedar-Yellowpoint.
- Analyzed trends in groundwater level data collected through the Provincial Observation Well network in our region and the RDN Volunteer Observation Well Network, producing “State of our Aquifer” reports for 18 aquifers.
- Established a hydrometric (streamflow) monitoring station on Nanoose Creek in partnership with Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development.
- Established lake level gauges on Quennell Lake and Holden Lake (Area A).
- Completed physical stream assessments on Cat Stream (Nanaimo) and Annie Creek (Area H).

Public Outreach & Education

- Continued community outreach including workshops, school watershed field trips, events and community displays, totaling over 40 occasions.
- Continued residential irrigation check-up service, providing on-site assessments and recommendations to improve outdoor water efficiency for 18 top water users in community water service areas.

City of Nanaimo

- The Buttertubs Marsh Pilot Study was completed. Key components of the pilot included the completion of a Stormwater Management Model to determine the economic value of the marsh and a Natural Capital Asset Management Plan to integrate results into Asset Management Plans.
- New storm water management policies were incorporated into the City's Manual of Engineering Standards, which will be implemented into the design consideration of all new development.

City of Parksville

- Continued to promote the Green Shores approach to finding ecological solutions to shoreline development.
- Continued to participate in the RDN's Drinking Water Watershed Protection Function.

Town of Qualicum Beach

- Completed the installation of a rain garden at the Crescent/Memorial Intersection to help filter water run-off from the roadway and to avoid excessive surface water flow from the commercial core.
- The Town received a grant to improve trails near the Heritage Forest.
- A review of the Town's Tree Policy was initiated.

District of Lantzville

- Continued to provide educational information to residents concerning water conservation and implemented water restrictions.
- Continued to participate in the RDN's Drinking Water Watershed Protection Function.
- Continued to provide information to residents concerning outdoor burning.

8.2.1 RGS Indicator #4: Total water consumption

Target is to decrease the average residential and commercial water use by 33% between 2004 and 2018.

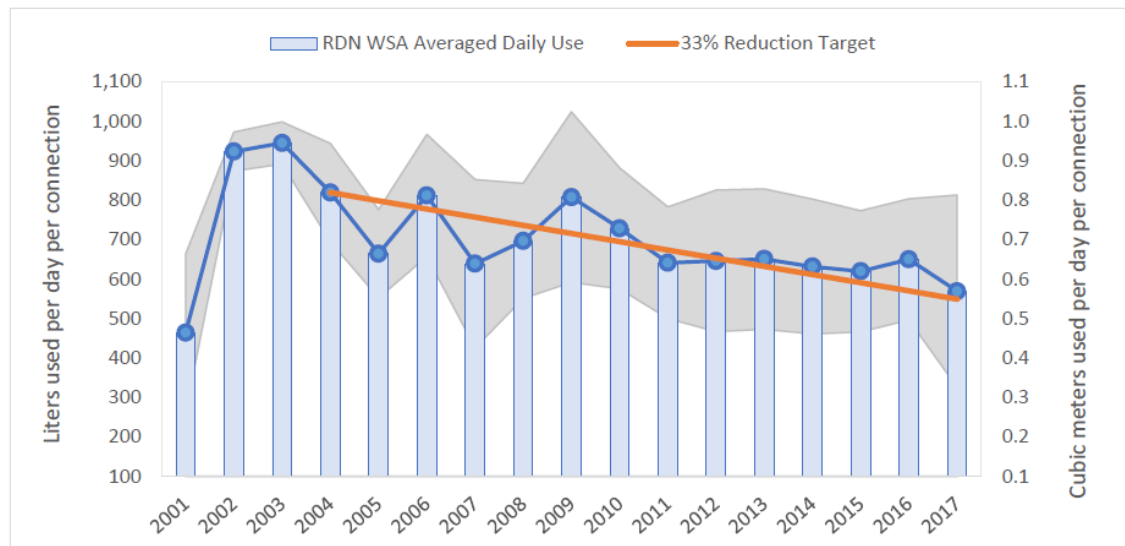
Water is recognized as a vulnerable resource, and it is critical for the health of all ecosystems and human communities. While water supply may seem abundant in the region, long dry summers put pressure on local water resources at the same time water use is at its highest. This indicator is a measure of water conservation and tells us if the amount of water consumed is increasing or decreasing.

For the period 2004 to 2017³:

- The City of Nanaimo had a 15% decrease in water consumption while population increased in the same period by 16%
- The District of Lantzville had a 20% decrease in total water consumption
- The RDN (all nine) Water Service Areas had a 31% decrease in total water consumption

For all three areas combined, the average water consumption decreased by 22% since 2004. The findings show gradual progress towards the regional goal.

Chart 2: RDN Operated Water Services - Average Annualized Daily Water Use



Source: RDN draft Water Conservation Plan, 2018

Goal 2 - Key Findings

Across the region on-going actions have been implemented to enhance existing programs aimed at watershed protection as well as to gain groundwater data to assess the state of the aquifers. Most notable is the progress that has been made in the reduction in water consumption. Since 2004, water consumption has decreased by 22%

³ The RDN's 2018 Water Conservation Plan and trend analysis is in development. When completed detailed water consumption and water quality will be available for future years' reports.

8.3 Goal 3 – Coordinate Land Use and Mobility

Regional Actions

During 2017, the RDN achieved the following regional transportation goals:

Regional Transit

- The Kids Ride Bus program was expanded to 7 days a week.
- Conventional and Custom (handyDART) Transit both received a reduction in fares for Seniors/Youth and Custom riders.
- The RDN and BC Transit evaluated the viability of local transit initiatives as well as inter-regional transit between the RDN and Comox Valley Regional District as part of the 2018/2019 Annual Operating Agreement.

City of Nanaimo

Linley Valley West Access

Road improvements to link Rutherford Road to Linley Valley Drive were completed. The works included the addition of a round-about and new side walk network to service a new/expanding development area in North Nanaimo.

Improvements to Departure Bay Beachfront

The Departure Bay Beachfront Improvement Project was completed in 2017. The improvement works included the installation of new pedestrian access ramps and handrails; new LED streetlights and walkway lights; new water and electrical services for events and vendors; improvements to parking facilities; and replacement of old storm drains on Loat Street and Departure Bay Road. In addition to these improvements, a Snuneymuxw First Nation public art installation is also planned for 2018.

Re-Imagining Project

The Terminal/Nicol Re-Imagined Streetscape Project study was completed in 2017. The aim of the study was to explore options to improve multi-modal transportation along a key corridor in the City's downtown. Following completion of the study, the results were presented to City Council and the Province for consideration.

Pedestrian Enhancement

- Georgia Avenue Greenway Project was completed. This project has resulted in the construction of a pedestrian/cycle bridge over the Chase River and Harewood Bikeway extension (Third to Fourth Street).
- The Port Drive Waterfront Master Plan was completed. The Plan sets out how a multi-use bike and pedestrian pathway can be achieved between Departure Bay and the Nanaimo River Estuary.

- Support for the foot passage ferry between Vancouver and Nanaimo was continued. Island Ferry Service and the Nanaimo Port Authority agreed on terms that may lead to the company signing a lease for marine space.

City of Parksville

Transportation Master Plan

The update of the Transportation Master Plan was completed. This Plan now incorporates alternative modes of transportation into the overarching transportation plan for the City.

Corfield Street Upgrade and Jensen Greenway Project

Improvements were made to the road, water, sewer and drainage on Corfield as well as a new multi-use greenway was added along the Jensen Avenue alignment from Corfield to McVickers Street. This project is intended to improve pedestrian and cycling safety and formalize traffic lanes and parking on Corfield Street from Highway 19A to Stanford Avenue.

Town of Qualicum Beach

The multi-year Memorial Avenue Active Transportation and Utility Upgrade Project continued. In 2017, the lower 1/3 of the Memorial Avenue pathway was completed and protected walkways and crosswalks were installed at key locations.

8.3.1 RGS Indicator #7: Number of households within a set distance (400 m) of employment lands, shopping, schools, transit and recreational facilities.

RGS Target is to increase the number of households living within close proximity of places to work, play, learn and shop.

The RGS encourages the RDN and member municipalities to direct new development into mixed use centres where households are closer to employment and services needed on a daily basis. These compact communities enable more people to walk, cycle or use public transit, as the cost to provide public transportation services and infrastructure to compact communities is much lower than spread out communities. This indicator is a measure of how compact, complete and connected a community is.

Over a two year period, there has been a increase consistent with the target of households living within close proximity to bus stops, employment lands and shopping within the RDN.

Table 2: Total Number of Households within 400 m of Services (2015, 2017)

| | Bus Stops | Schools | Employment Lands | Shopping Centre |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Nanaimo | 36,411 | 18,930 | 6,671 | 10,714 |
| Parksville | - | 1,025 | 3,837 | 2,446 |
| Qualicum Beach | - | 1,165 | - | 1,005 |
| Lantzville | 1,021 (1,064)* | 192 (191) | 1,201 | - |
| Electoral Area** | 3,664 (3,292) | 996 (1,628) | 8,741 (8,400) | 597 (377) |

* Values shown in brackets are for 2015.

**The category "RDN Electoral Areas" does not include Area 'B'

8.3.2 RGS Indicator #8: Per capita transit use

RGS Target is to increase per capita transit use

Since 2015, the number of bus rides has steadily increased. In 2015-16, there were 2,737,848 rides taken in the RDN compared to 3,093,311 in 2017-18. Within the same periods, per capita rides also increased from 18.2 in 2015-16 to 19.8 in 2017-18. This change may, in part, be attributed to the 5,000 hour conventional transit service that took place in 2017.

Table 3. Transit rides – total and per capita

| Year | Transit Rides | Transit Rides Per Capita |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 2011-12 | 2,614,421 | 17.8 |
| 2012-13 | 2,593,016 | 17.7 |
| 2013-14 | 2,739,904 | 18.7 |
| 2014-15 | 2,725,378 | 18.6 |
| 2015-16 RGS baseline | 2,737,848 | 17.5 |
| 2016-17 | 2,830,691 | 18.2 |
| 2017 - 18 | 3,093,311 | 19.8 |

*Year based on Annual Operational year from April 1 to March 31.

**Totals include handyDART and Gabriola Island's Community Bus Services.

Goal 3 – Key Findings

The results appear to indicate that the relationship between land use and access to transit are moving in the right direction. As the region grows, provisions in support of the transit network should remain a priority to not only reduce carbon emissions, but to also promote connectivity and to encourage a choice of transportation modes.

8.4 Goal 4 – Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Villages & Urban Growth Centres

Regional Actions

Bowser Village Center Wastewater Project

In March 2017, the RDN was awarded \$7,590,328 from the Federal-Provincial Clean Water and Wastewater Fund to establish a wastewater system for the Bowser Village Center located in Electoral Area 'H'. Within the remainder of the year, a Petition to establish a sewer service area was passed and the Regional Board approved the bylaws to establish the Bowser Village Sanitary Sewer Service.

Fairwinds Landing at Schooner Cove

Within the existing Fairwinds Village Mixed-Use zone, the RDN Board approved a re-development proposal to re-purpose an existing building to include 11 dwelling units and a range of commercial uses. The development also includes a new six-storey residential building containing 39 dwelling units and a minor commercial area. This project increased the diversity of housing available in an area where single-residential dwellings is the prominent form and promotes walkability as a result of added provisions for a publicly accessible boat launch, waterfront boardwalk and internal pathways.

City of Nanaimo

Hospital Area Plan and Parking Study

Both the Hospital Area Plan and Parking Study was initiated. The Area Plan is in response to development challenges and is intended to result in a better plan for the densification and design of development around this key Urban Node. In tandem with the Area Plan, a parking study was initiated to address issues related to parking impacts on and around the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital.

8.4.2 RGS Indicator #10: Density of dwelling units inside and outside of the Growth Containment Boundary

RGS Target is to increase the density of dwelling units within the Growth Containment Boundary

This indicator monitors the density inside the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB) compared to outside the GCB. This shows whether or not the majority of growth is happening in designated growth areas. This indicator can also be used to show if development is occurring at densities needed to support walkability and efficient servicing.

4.1

units/hectare
inside GCB
2017

In 2017, the density of dwelling units per hectare has increased in one of the Urban Areas, as intended. The City of Nanaimo increased from 4.68 units/hectare in 2015 to 4.87 units/hectare in 2017.

The average density of dwelling units within the GCB is 3.74 units/hectare in 2017. Of the urban areas, the Town of Qualicum Beach has the highest density of dwelling units (6.48 units/ha) followed by the City of Nanaimo at 4.87 units/hectare. The data also shows an increase in the Rural Village Centers from 2.03 units/ha in 2015 to 2.06 units/ha in 2017, while the District of Lantzville is unchanged.

Table 4: Density Units Per Hectare Inside/Outside GCB (2015, 2017)

| | Nanaimo units/ha | | Parksville units/ha | | Qualicum Beach units/hectare | | Lantzville units/hectare | | Electoral Areas units/hectare | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
| | Inside | Out | Inside | Out | Inside | Out | Inside | Out | Inside | Out |
| 2015 Baseline | 4.68 | - | - | - | - | - | 0.85 | 0.02 | 2.03 | 0.06 |
| 2017 | 4.87 | - | 4.44 | - | 6.48 | 0.3 | 0.85 | 0.02 | 2.26 | 0.06 |

*Data for 2015 did not include the Town of Qualicum Beach or the City of Parksville.

** Developable land within the City of Nanaimo and City of Parksville entirely inside GCB.

8.4.3 RGS Indicator #11: Diversity of Land Use (ratio) inside the Growth Containment Boundary

RGS Target is to increase the land use diversity inside the Growth Containment Boundary

This indicator shows the proportion of different land uses (as a ratio) within the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB). This is an indicator of how complete a community is based on the existing mix of residential, commercial, industrial, institutional and recreational uses. This indicator applies to Urban Areas in municipalities and Rural Village Centres in electoral areas.

The ideal land use mix to support complete, compact communities, identified in the Rural Village Centre Study (2013), is 10-15% public uses, 10-40% commercial and employment uses, and 50-80% for residential uses. In electoral areas, since 2015, Commercial has increased by 1% and Mixed Use has decreased by 1%. While this is considered a change (not a regression), the land use ratio for Rural Village Centres remains consistent with the desired ratio.

Table 5: Diversity of land uses in Urban & Rural Village Centres the RDN (2015, 2017)

| Year 2017 | Residential (%) | Commercial (%) | Industrial (%) | Mixed Use (%) | Institutional (%) | Recreational (%) |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Electoral Areas | 61 (61)* | 7 (6) | 11 (11) | 5 (6) | 6 (6) | 10 (10) |
| Lantzville | 62 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 34.5 |
| Parksville | 33 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 20 | 7 |
| Qualicum Beach | 70 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| Nanaimo | 69 (67) | 1 (1) | 9 (8) | 5 (5) | 3 (5) | 13 (13) |

*Values shown in brackets are for 2015.

**Parksville - "Institutional" is interpreted as Public Institutional (P1) zoning that includes shore land, which accounts for a higher proportion of land in this category.

***Nanaimo – "Commercial" is interpreted to include only those lands zoned Commercial. No residential or non-commercial uses. Where both residential and non-commercial are also permitted these lands are categorized as "Mixed-Use".

Goal 4 – Key Findings

The results indicate that the RGS policies appear to be effective in advancing the RGS Goal 4: Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres. Further years' data is needed to determine if the changes reflect a positive trend over time.

8.5 Goal 5 – Enhance Rural Integrity

Regional Actions

Electoral Area 'H' Official Community Plan Review

After a two-year review process with extensive community engagement, the Electoral Area 'H' Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw 1335.06 was adopted on December 12, 2017.

Town of Qualicum Beach

The Town launched their Official Community Plan Review in 2017 with a strong commitment to public engagement. A town-wide Quality of Life survey received over 2,000 responses and 38 community consultation meetings were held. Based on this input, draft policy options were prepared and shared with the public and Council. The Town's OCP review process is scheduled to conclude in 2018.

District of Lantzville

The District of Lantzville completed the public engagement component of their Official Community Plan review in 2017. The first draft of the proposed changes were made available in October 2017. The OCP review is scheduled to conclude in 2018.

8.5.1 RGS Indicator #12: The number of new lots/ units created through subdivision inside and outside the GCB

310

new lots
inside GCB

38

new lots
outside GCB

RGS Target is to increase the proportion of development inside the GCB

The RGS encourages most new development to locate within the GCB, where residents are close to services they require on a daily basis. Outside of the GCB, land is maintained for rural and resource uses and open space.

This indicator tells us the proportion of new development inside and outside the GCB. The RGS designates the GCB as the area for future development and growth

In 2017, a total of 348 lots were created in the RDN electoral areas, Lantzville, City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and City of Nanaimo, 310 lots were created inside the GCB and 38 lots were created outside of the GCB.

Table 6: By Area - number of residential lots/units created by subdivision in/outside of GCB

| | Nanaimo | | Parksville | | Qualicum Beach | | Lantzville | | Electoral Areas | |
|---------------|---------|-----|------------|-----|----------------|-----|------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| | Inside | Out | Inside | Out | Inside | Out | Inside | Out | Inside | Out |
| 2012 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 0 | 38 | 5 |
| 2013 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 0 | 0 | 28 |
| 2014 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 2017 Baseline | 227 | - | 50 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | 30 | 37 |

*Data for 2012 – 2016 not available for the City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville or the Town of Qualicum Beach.

** Developable land within the City of Nanaimo and City of Parksville entirely

8.5.2 RGS Indicator #13: Number of Parcels with Farm Status

RGS Target is to increase the number of parcels with Farm Status

This indicator indicates the number of parcels of land with Farm Class in the region. Farm Status is determined by BC Assessment and it is based on land use qualifying for agricultural use, which includes lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and outside of the ALR. This information provides an indication of how much land is being used to produce food in the region.

The data represents the 2017 baseline which shows that there are a total of 713 parcels with Farm Class status as determined by BC Assessment in the RDN. Progress towards the RGS target will be measured against this value in future years' reporting.

Table 7: Number of parcels with Farm Status

| | City of Nanaimo | City of Parksville | Town of Qualicum Beach | District of Lantzville | Electoral Areas |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 2017 Baseline | 45 | - | 28 | 12 | 628 |

*Data not available for the City of Parksville.

8.5.3 RGS Indicator #14: The amount of Land Classified as Private Managed Forest Land

RGS Target is to increase the amount of land available for natural resource use (farming, forestry, outdoor recreation).

Private Management Forest Lands (PMFL) is a BC Assessment property classification established to encourage private landowners to manage their lands for long-term forest production. The majority of these lands are located outside the GCB. Decreases to the amount of PMFL can reflect the pressure to convert forested land to residential, commercial and other uses that are contrary to RGS goals to protect rural lands for rural uses.

In 2015, the region had a total of 130,994 hectares of PMFL compared to 130,600 hectares in 2017. The data shows PMFL decreased by 394 hectares or 0.19%. This change is contributed to the subdivision and sale of PMFL lands, which are re-classified by BC Assessment as a result of a change of primary use from forestry to residential.

In 2017, an estimated 130,600 ha or 63% of the RDN's land base remains within the PMFL.

Table 8. The amount of Private Managed Forest Land

| | City of Nanaimo | Town of Qualicum Beach | District of Lantzville | Electoral Areas |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 2015 Baseline | 160 | 129 | 723 | 129,982 |
| 2017 | 160 | 129 | 723 | 129,588 |

*The City of Parksville does not have any lands designated Private Managed Forest Land.

Goal 5 - Key Findings

The results indicate that the RGS policies in support of protecting the characteristics of rural areas appear to have an effect in containing growth within the well-defined areas where the majority of growth is intended to occur. To better understand the RGS policies intended to support an increase in the number of parcels classified as Farm Class and PMFL, further years' data is needed.

8.6 Goal 6 – Facilitate the Provision of Affordable Housing

Regional Actions

Emergency Shelter and Food Materials

The RDN completed the annual update to the extreme weather brochure and poster, which was distributed to social service providers and made available on RDN buses.

The brochure provides information on the location and contact information for emergency shelters, extreme weather shelters, hot meal programs and food banks in the region. The brochure also provides bus route information to help locate these services.

Oceanside Health and Wellness Network

With an Island Health Grant, OHWN hosted a community forum in the fall of 2017 to advance understanding and progress towards goals around child wellness and mental health for young adults.

Oceanside Community Map of Service Agencies

The RDN assisted the Oceanside Homelessness Network in updating the Oceanside Community Map of Service Agencies. The map is now a handy pocket-size, fold out map that highlights the locations of local social services as well as applicable bus routes and contact information for the service providers.

City of Nanaimo

Affordable Housing Strategy

The City launched a process to develop an Affordable Housing Strategy in 2017. The aim of the strategy is to establish the priorities for the City of Nanaimo to address affordability across the housing continuum over the next ten years. The process will include an Affordable Housing Discussion Paper that outlines the issues and opportunities, which will be followed by an Affordable Housing Implementation Plan.

City of Parksville

The City continued to offer the option to expedite building permits, including those intended for affordable housing.

Town of Qualicum Beach

As part of the Town's Official Community Plan review process, affordable housing has been identified as a major topic for discussion. As a result, draft policies to address these concerns have been developed for further consideration as part of the ongoing review process.

8.6.1 RGS Indicator #15: The total number of rental units affordable to households with incomes below 50 percent of the median for the region.

RGS Target is to increase the portion of households living in housing that meets their needs (appropriate, adequate, adaptable, sustainable, affordable and attainable).

The RGS seeks to increase the stock of affordable market and social housing for seniors, youth, those with special needs, those with moderate or low incomes, and people experiencing homelessness. This indicator tells us the amount of documented market rental units that are affordable to those with lower incomes in the Nanaimo and Parksville Census Agglomeration.

26%

units > \$786
2017

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) establishes the affordable rent threshold (ART) for lower income households based on a household spending 30 percent or more of before tax income for housing that is adequate, suitable and affordable.

36%

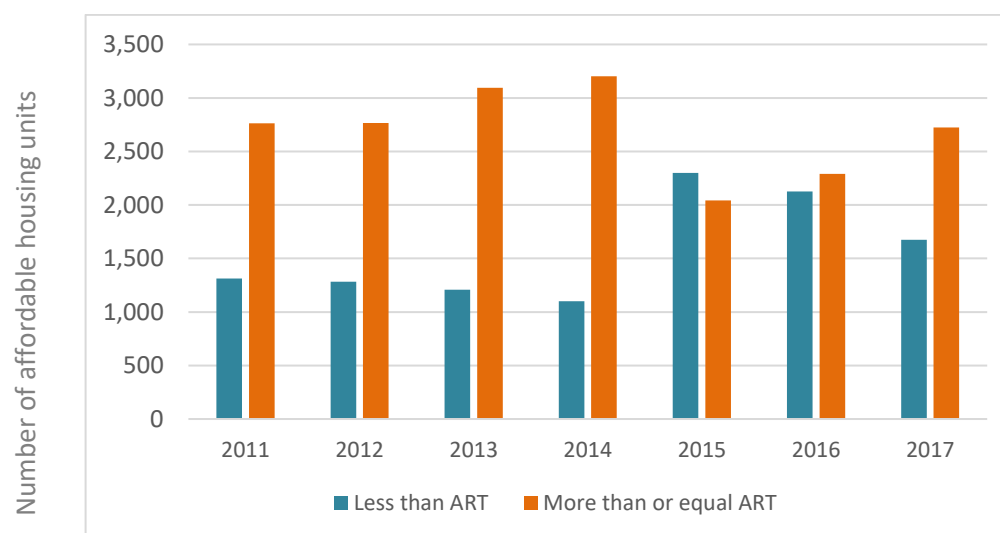
units > \$786
2015

According to the CMHC, there was a rise in the number of renter households paying more than 30 percent of their income on housing from 2011 to 2014. This trend reversed from 2015 and 2016, but has

since rebounded over the last two years within the Nanaimo and Parksville Census Agglomeration⁴.

Over the past two years, the portion of households living in housing that meets their needs (less than the affordable rent threshold) has decreased from 36% (2,301) in 2015 to 26% (1,675) in 2017, within the Nanaimo and Parksville Census Agglomeration.

Chart 3: Total number of rental units affordable to low income households



Data source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2011 – 2017

Table 9: Total number of renter households more or equal to the affordable household threshold (2011-2017)

| Year | Renter households more than or equal to ART | Amount of Change between years (renter households) |
|---------------|---|--|
| 2011 | 2,764 | NA |
| 2012 | 2,765 | +1 |
| 2013 | 3,095 | +330 |
| 2014 | 3,201 | +106 |
| 2015 Baseline | 2,042 | -1159 |
| 2016 | 2,290 | +248 |
| 2017 | 2,724 | +434 |

Data source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2011 – 2017

⁴ The [Nanaimo and Parksville Census Agglomeration](#) includes the City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach, French Creek, District of Lantzville, Electoral Area A, Electoral Area C, Snuneymuxw First Nations Lands, and Snaw-Naw-As First Nations Lands.

8.6.2 RGS Indicator #16: The portion of units in each housing type inside the GCB (Diversity of housing types in the GCB)

RGS Target is to increase the portion of non-Single Residential Dwellings inside the GCB

This indicator tells us how well different housing needs can be accommodated in the region. The majority of housing in the region is detached single family dwellings. Increasing the diversity of housing types is important to improving choice to meet different needs and can improve affordability.

The target to increase the portion of non-single family dwellings inside the GCB generally remained static between 2015 and 2017 for both Urban Centres and Rural Village Centres (RVC), despite the increase in the number of overall new units. The Urban Centres non-single residential units in 2015 made up 34% of the mix compared to 35% in 2017. In RVCs, 27% of the housing type was non-single residential in 2015 compared to 26% in 2017.

Table 10: Portion of Units in Each Housing Types Inside the GCB

| | Single Residential (units) | | Ground Oriented (units) | | Apartments (units) | | Uncategorized (units) | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | Urban | RVC | Urban | RVC | Urban | RVC | Urban | RVC |
| 2017 | 30,303 (65%) | 4,982 (74%) | 10,249 (22%) | 1,518 (23%) | 5,952 (13%) | 54 (1%) | - | 135 (2%) |
| 2015 Baseline | 28,014 (66%) | 4,751 (73%) | 8,669 (21%) | 1570 (24%) | 5,472 (13%) | 50 (2%) | - | 161 (1%) |

*Parkville information not available for reporting period

**Qualicum Beach information not available for 2015; included for 2017

Goal 6 – Key Findings

Progress on the targets intended to support adaptable, accessible, affordable, and attainable housing appear to have regressed to 2011 levels over the last two years. Comparably, there appears to be little change since 2015 in the portion of non-single residential housing types within the GCB.

8.7 Goal 7 – Enhance Economic Resiliency

Regional Actions

Northern Community Economic Development Service

The RDN continued to deliver the Northern Community Economic Development (NCED) Program to provide support for economic development initiatives in Parksville, Qualicum Beach and Electoral Areas 'E', 'F', 'G', and 'H', to advance the Board's vision for a resilient, thriving and creative regional economy.

In 2017, the function disbursed over \$28,000 in economic development grants in School District 69 communities. A few of the projects funded include the BladeRunners' Youth Employment Program, renovations of the Qualicum Beach Fire Hall, ECHO Players' Society mural and Entrepreneur's Toolkit.

Rural Area Signage

The RDN Rural Area Signage project was completed in 2017. The project identified opportunities for improving community identification, wayfinding and directional signage throughout the region.

Legalization of Non-Medical Cannabis in Canada

Following the Federal government's announcement to legalize non-medical cannabis by July 2018, the RDN began the process of reviewing and preparing the necessary zoning amendments to address this use.

The RDN also created a webpage to help keep residents informed of the ongoing changings: www.rdn.bc.ca/cannabis-production-facilities-faq

City of Nanaimo

Food Truck & Trailer Policy

The City endorsed a new food truck and trailer policy to allow mobile food entrepreneurs to operate. The policy provides provisions for parking to allow 12 on-street parking spaces for food truck businesses (primarily downtown) and 24 spaces in park locations throughout the city for food truck or food trailer vendors. Following this change, a number of food truck business licenses were approved for designated locations in 2017.

Development Cost Charges

The City initiated a review of their Development Cost Charges (DCCs) bylaw to ensure that the costs between existing users and new development is distributed in a fair manner.

Town of Qualicum Beach

Social Procurement Policy

In 2017, the Town awarded the contract for the Memorial Avenue Upgrades Phase 3. This contract was the first major capital project to be awarded under the Social Procurement Policy, which seeks to proactively leverage the supply chain to achieve positive community objectives.

8.7.1 RGS Indicator #17 [Unemployment] Employment rate and labour participation

RGS Target is to maintain an unemployment rate between 3 – 6% and increase the labour force participation rate

These indicators are important because changes in the labour force are the result of changes in population and economic activity.

59.1%

Employment Rate

Based on the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, the total NAC employment went from 82,300 persons of working age (49.2%) in 2015 to 102,000 (59.1%) in 2017.

5.7%

Unemployed

In 2015, the NAC unemployment rate was 4.7% compared to 5.7% in 2017, which is within the desired RGS target range of 3 – 6%. This is also less than the provincial unemployment rate of 6.6% for the same period.

62.8%

Labour Force
Participation

As illustrated here, the rise in employment has failed to reduce unemployment. This may be attributed to the rise in the number of people that used to be outside of the labour force, including people over age 65 returning to work and migration from other parts of Canada and to a lesser extent from BC.

The Labour Force Participation Rate was 51.6% in 2015 compared 62.8% in 2017.

Goal 7 – Key Findings

Overall, the changes suggest improvements in the regional labour market conditions consistent with furthering the RGS Goal 7: Enhance Economic Resiliency.

8.8 Goal 8 – Food Security

Regional Actions

Gathering for an Event in the Agricultural Land Reserve

In response to the provincial changes to the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) to allow a limited number of secondary on-farm commercial activities to take place on properties in the ALR, the RDN Board passed a resolution to seek public input into proposed zoning bylaw amendments. The proposed bylaw amendments are intended to mitigate the potential impacts to farmland associated with gathering for an event.

Composting Facility Project

The results of the Composting Facility project were made available in 2017. The results of the project indicated that producers currently have adequate access to compost and do not produce more compostable material than what they can manage on-site.

Agriculture Area Plan Website Updates

The RDN website for agricultural resources and activities within the region continued to be updated in 2017. The updates included information about existing commercial composting facilities in the region and U-map, which is an online land registry used to match farmers with landowners to support access to land available for farming.

City of Nanaimo

- In partnership with Nanaimo Food Share, the City initiated a food security assessment in 2017.
- The City worked with community partners to create a second food forest at Beaufort Park. The City now has two food forests and six community gardens on public property.

Town of Qualicum Beach

In partnership with the School District, the Town approved a proposal to establish a second community garden consisting of 50 garden plots. The community garden project would significantly expand the popular existing community garden initiative in Qualicum Beach by making more land available to residents to grow their own food.

Goal 8 – Key Findings

Consistent with RGS Goal 2: Food Security, the municipal members, including the City of Nanaimo and the Town of Qualicum Beach, have undertaken actions to advance local food security. The RDN continues to take actions to support the economic diversification of the agricultural sector.

8.9 Goal 9 – Pride of Place

Regional Actions

Recreation Programs and Facilities

The RDN's recreation programs and facilities played an ongoing role in furthering RGS Goal 9 by providing sports and cultural amenities that boost the attractiveness of the region as a place to live and visit. These include ongoing delivery of recreation programs and maintenance of facilities throughout the RDN. In 2017, the RDN expanded existing recreation programs and continued to attract sports tournaments for youth, adults and seniors.

RDN Community Celebration 50th Anniversary

This unique occasion was marked by the official opening of the Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail.

Regional and Community Parks

The RDN completed or initiated several projects to improve existing trails and other park amenities throughout the regional and community parks. A few examples include:

- Completed the Cedar Plaza Tipple development, celebrating the area's mining history.
- In partnership with the Snaw-Naw-As First Nations, the new Oak Leaf Drive Community Park (Area E) was renamed Es-hw Sme~nts (seal rock).
- Blueback Community Park (Area E) redevelopment was completed.

City of Nanaimo

Maffeo-Sutton Park Master Plan

Council reviewed the Maffeo-Sutton Park Master Plan to continue development of the park as a premier waterfront event park along the expanding waterfront walkway. Nanaimo hosted over 180 special events along the Nanaimo waterfront and at Maffeo Sutton Park in 2017.

Park Projects and Events

- The Stevie Smith Community Bike Park officially opened in 2017 and the City constructed the Harewood Covered Sport Space in conjunction with rebuilding another lacrosse/sport court at Harewood Centennial Park. The covered design reflects the agricultural heritage of the area.
- Nanaimo was selected as one of the 24 towns and cities across Canada to host the 2017 Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour. The Hometown Hockey event held in Maffeo-Sutton Park, featured an outdoor rink enjoyed by over 4,400 citizens over a nine day period from Feb. 18-26.

- Nanaimo hosted the University Soccer Nationals at Merle Logan fields in 2017.
- Over 252 hectares of additional park space was added to Nanaimo's park and trail system.

Town of Qualicum Beach

Canada 150 Mural Project

The Canada 150 celebration was a great success! A key event included the unveiling of the 19 x 5 meter mural located on the outside wall of the Village Theatre, a landmark heritage building in Qualicum Beach. The art work depicts both past and present day plays as well as local actors who have appeared in the Theatre's productions.

Goal 9 – Key Findings

The natural environment, cultural history and arts communities remains one of the region's greatest assets. This is demonstrated by the actions taken to advance Goal 9: Pride of Place.

8.10 Goal 10 – Efficient Services

Regional Actions

Strategy Planning and Community Development

With a focus on Goal 10: Efficient Services and organizational excellence, the RDN Board adopted amendments to the Regional District of Nanaimo Delegation of Authority Bylaw No. 1759 to expand the delegation authority for Development Permits. The change resulted in decreased timelines for the issuance of Development Permits and an overall positive impact on the ability of property owners and contractors to start and finish projects in a reasonable period of time, particularly when there are construction window constraints due to weather, nesting and fisheries windows.

Solid Waste

RDN Solid Waste continued to achieve the RGS Goal 10 by pursuing an approach to eliminate the need for waste disposal. Consistent with the RGS direction to achieve 'zero waste', the RDN has a region-wide diversion rate of 68%⁵ and continues to have one of the lowest provincial annual per capita disposal rates of 353.8 kg.

⁵ The Extend Producer Responsibility program reports to the Ministry of Environment on July 1st each year. Due to this, the value included in this report is from 2016.

Solid Waste Management Review

2017 marked the third and final stage of the Solid Waste Management Review. Throughout the year residents and businesses were invited to learn and have a say in the future direction of solid waste priorities for the region.

RDN Get Involved!

The Solid Waste Management Review was also the first project to be featured on the RDN's new communications platform, "RDN Get Involved!" This new on-line platform features a robust set of tools to promote and encourage communications between the RDN and its residents. With only a few clicks of the mouse, residents can view the current projects being undertaken by the RDN, participate in surveys, sign up to receive email updates, and access other project specific information.

Water Services

RDN Water Services continued to achieve RGS Goal 10 by providing community water in the RDN water service areas. Actions in 2017 included the continuation of the design and installation of the Englishman River Water Service intake and treatment project along with Parksville. The facility is scheduled to begin operations in the spring of 2019.

Wastewater Services

RDN Wastewater Services continued to achieve the RGS goal to Provide Efficient Services by providing community wastewater to lands located within the GCB. Actions in 2017:

- The replacement of the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre (GNPCC) outfall was completed.
- Construction of the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre Secondary Treatment Upgrade Project was on-going in 2017. When completed, secondary treatment will improve the quality of treated effluent in the receiving environment, replace ageing infrastructure, and provide capacity for a growing service area.
- Provided four SepticSmart public information workshops to a total of 171 participants and distributed over \$33,000 in funds for the Septic Maintenance Rebate Program.
- Established a new Land Use Agreement with TimberWest and a Shared Use Agreement with the Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club to continue to efficiently manage biosolids in a beneficial way.
- Approximately 449 megawatt hours of electricity was produced at the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre in 2017 resulting in \$50,000 in revenue through cogeneration, which is the conversion of waste gas into electricity. This is double the amount of the previous year.

RDN Electoral Areas

Emergency Planning and Disaster Resiliency

RDN actions for emergency planning and preparedness in 2017 have been consistent with RGS direction to integrate and coordinate on a regional basis among the RDN and member municipalities.

In a joint application, the RDN and the Town of Qualicum Beach received \$175,000 in funding from the Federal National Disaster and Mitigation Program to undertake a flood hazard risk assessment. The goal of this project is to identify the risk of all hazards in the region, and ultimately develop a plan to mitigate the hazards.

RDN's Emergency Notification System

The RDN established a mass notification system to deliver both text and voice calls to those signed up to receive notifications. The Alert webpage and registration was launched in May 2017.

City of Nanaimo

Solid Waste

Phase one of the new automated curbside collection for recycling and garbage pick-up was launched in 2017. The new service incorporates the collection of yard waste which was a request of many residents. Once established, the service will be expanded city wide.

Water Services

- The City began construction of the emergency water supply pump station.
- Developed a policy and strategy for water metering across the City.
- The Sanitation Department debuted a new public event in the summer called the "Nanaimo Recycles Trunk Sale". The event is aimed at keeping used items out of the landfill. Due to the success of the event, it will now become an annual event.
- The City has generated 900 megawatts of electricity from the operation of the water supply system.

Town of Qualicum Beach

Following a preliminary, internal review in 2016, a comprehensive organizational review was launched in late 2017. The aim of the review is to maximize service efficiencies.

8.10.1 RGS Indicator #20: Per capita waste disposal

RGS Target is to decrease the per capita amount of waste going to landfill below 350 kilograms/person

347

Kilograms/person
per capita waste

The amount of solid waste produced in the region reflects our stewardship of resources from consumption to disposal. This indicator shows the amount of waste being diverted through recycling and composting, and the impact on landfill capacity.

Consistent with the RGS direction to achieve 'zero waste', the RDN has a region-wide diversion rate of 68% and continues to have one of the lowest provincial annual per capita disposal rates.

The per capita amount of waste going to landfill remains stable from 2016 to 2017 at 347kg/person.

Goal 10 – Key Findings

Year-to-year the RDN and member municipalities have taken actions to retain one of the lowest annual per capita disposal rates and to invest in alternative technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the landfill. These actions help to reduce costs and to advance RGS Goal 10: Efficient Services.

8.11 Goal 11 – Cooperation Among Jurisdictions

Regional Actions

First Nations

Throughout 2017, RDN staff and elected officials met with staff and elected officials from First Nations within the region, including Qualicum, Snaw- Naw- As and Snuneymuxw. Discussions involved various planning and implementation projects related to regional growth, development applications, parks, transit, emergency planning and utilities. While some meetings were to address specific matters others were focused on strengthening relationships to facilitate stronger collaboration on issues of mutual concern.

Adjacent Regional Districts and Municipalities

The RDN continued to host and participate in meetings to network and liaise with staff at member municipalities and adjacent regional districts. On an ongoing basis, outside of these meetings, RDN staff maintains professional relationships that enable effective communication and collaboration. This allows the RDN to share information on RGS implementation activities in order to support adjacent jurisdictions with actions consistent with the direction of the RGS.

Sea Level Rise Adaptation Program – Coastal Floodplain Mapping

The RDN launched a multi-year project to acquire coastal floodplain maps for the region. When completed, this information will be shared with all RDN departments, member municipalities and First Nations communities to help inform future flood hazard risk assessments, land use planning, infrastructure and adaptation planning.

City of Nanaimo

The City and School District No. 68 formed a partnership to build and operate the new Nanaimo District Secondary School (NDSS) Community Artificial Turf field. The \$3.6 million NDSS Community Field opened with a soft launch in November and replaces the previous field.

Town of Qualicum Beach

The Town of Qualicum Beach, Emergency Services and the RDN's Emergency Services received funding to undertake a joint hazard risk assessment.

Goal 11 – Key Findings

Advancing the RGS goals of growth management in support of a more sustainable region depend on a shared understanding of the RGS goals and collaboration between all levels of governments. The noted actions (above), such as the SLR Adaptation Project demonstrate the importance of fostering relationships between local governments and different departments to advance future planning and service delivery.

9 IMPLEMENTATION – 2018

For 2018 the RDN will continue to make progress on the following implementation items:

1. Continue to monitor, evaluate and periodically report on regional economic, population, social and environmental trends and progress towards achieving RGS goals through RGS Monitoring, as set out in Policy 4.
2. Complete the RGS minor amendment approvals process to implement the Electoral Area 'H' Official Community Plan.
3. Continue to advance the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Program by acquiring coastal floodplain mapping information.
4. Complete bylaw amendments for Gathering for an Event in the Agricultural Land Reserve.
5. Continue to monitor changes to the federal and provincial legislation regarding the legalization of non-medical cannabis and consider the potential implication to land use in the region.
6. Continue to build strong relationships and pursue protocol agreements with First Nations.
7. Strengthen relationships with major institutions such as Island Health, Vancouver Island University, School Districts 68 and 69 and organizations key to furthering RGS goals (e.g., Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Groups, non-governmental/community organizations).

APPENDIX: SUMMARY OF RGS IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

| RGS GOAL / SECTION | ACTION | STATUS JANUARY 2018 |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Section 5.0 | Establish Targets & Indicators to monitor progress | The RDN launched a website for monitoring the RGS project at www.rdn.bc.ca/rgsmonitoring . Monitoring of the RGS will be ongoing |
| Section 5.0 | Corporate Implementation Strategy to show how RDN activities are consistent with RGS | To be initiated |
| 1. Climate Change | Complete Community Energy & Emissions Plan. | Completed 2013 |
| | Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan | Initiated in 2015. Acquired LiDAR in 2017. Proceeding with coastal floodplain mapping |
| 2. Environmental Protection | Advocate for provincial and federal government support to update and maintain SEI databases | Ongoing |
| | Encourage the Province to regulate groundwater, require reporting on water use and protect water resources on a watershed basis | Under the new <i>Water Sustainability Act</i> , licenses for groundwater are now required for larger water users. The RDN will continue to advocate for regulations that come out of the <i>Act</i> to protect water resources on a watershed basis |
| 3. Coordinate Land Use & Mobility | Initiate discussions with provincial and federal transportation authorities to share data collection and analysis and prepare mobility strategy | Participated in the City of Nanaimo's Transportation Master Plan. Adopted in 2014. Parksville adopted a Transportation Plan in 2017 |
| | Prepare industrial land supply and demand study and strategy (also applies to Goal 7) | Industrial Lands Study completed Spring 2013 |
| 4. Concentrate Housing & Jobs | Prepare region-wide study of Rural Village Centres | Rural Village Centres Study completed Spring 2013. |
| 5. Rural Integrity | Policy 5.13: Implementation - Study of options for more sustainable forms of subdivision - to limit sprawl and fragmentation on rural residential land | Completed October 2012 |

| RGS GOAL / SECTION | ACTION | STATUS JANUARY 2018 |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 6. Affordable Housing | Identify next steps to addressing affordable housing issues | Housing Action Plan Completed 2011 Secondary Suites Bylaw Amendments completed in Spring 2014 Participated in the City of Nanaimo's Affordable Housing Strategy |
| 7. Vibrant, Resilient Economy | Support and encourage economic development | Northern Community Economic Development Program Established in 2012 with ongoing implementation. Southern Community Economic Development Service Agreement completed in 2012 with ongoing implementation |
| | Collaborate in the preparation of a regional industrial land supply strategy and ensure that the region remains competitive in its ability to attract industrial development | Industrial Lands Study completed Spring 2013 |
| | Collaborate in the preparation of a commercial (retail and office) land strategy to ensure that the supply, location, distribution, form and type of commercial development is consistent with sustainability and growth management objectives of the RGS and supports the continued vitality of the sector | To be initiated |
| 8. Food Security | Prepare study of agriculture in the region to identify issues of and present and future needs of the agricultural sector | Emergency Livestock Evacuation Plan approved in 2013 |
| | Prepare Agricultural Area Plan Implementation | Bylaw and Policy Update project completed in 2016 Rural Areas Guide completed in 2016 Agricultural Area Plan completed in 2012; Action Plan completed in November 2013 |

| RGS GOAL / SECTION | ACTION | STATUS JANUARY 2018 |
|--|---|---|
| | | Bylaw 500 and 1285 amendments for Gather for Events in the Agricultural Land Reserve in progress in 2017 |
| 9. Pride of Place | Ongoing activities through implementation and development of parks plans and OCPs | <p>Cedar Main Street Plan adopted 2013.</p> <p>Nanaimo Cultural Plan, adopted in 2014 and now being implemented</p> <p>RDN Community Parks and Trails Guidelines approved in 2014</p> <p>RDN Community Parks and Trails Strategy for Electoral Areas 'E', 'F', 'G' and 'H' approved in 2014</p> <p>Qualicum Beach Cultural Plan completed in 2012 with ongoing implementation</p> |
| 10. Efficient Services | Prepare strategy for servicing Rural Village Centres (See Goal 4) | Will be pursued for different Rural Village Centres as funding permits. A Wastewater Service Area established for the Bowser Village Center in 2017. Detail designs for a treatment system are underway for Bowser Village Centre |
| 11. Cooperation Among Jurisdictions | Continue outreach initiatives to First Nations including signing of protocol agreements | <p>New cooperation protocol signed between RDN and Qualicum First Nation in 2016</p> <p>First handyDART servicing agreement signed between Snaw-Naw-As and RDN in 2013</p> |