



The Corporation of **THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER**  
**COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT**

**REPORT**

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To: Mayor Darrell R. Mussatto and Members of Council

From: Suzanne A. Smith, Planner, Community Development

SUBJECT: "THE SUSTAINABLE CITY AWARD" PROGRAM.

Date: October 20, 2009 File No: 3325.09.04

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*The following is a suggested recommendation only. Please refer to Council Minutes for adopted resolution.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**PURSUANT** to the report of the Planner dated, October 20, 2009, entitled "The Sustainable City Award" Program":

**WHEREAS** the City has had great success in honouring achievements in the City through awards celebrating design excellence, environmental initiatives, heritage efforts and youth activities;

**WHEREAS** the City's Official Community Plan is centred on the vision of becoming a more sustainable community;

**AND WHEREAS** sustainability, as defined in the Official Community Plan, is based on the successful integration of the concepts of the environmental, social and economic implications of our policies plans and actions;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** staff be directed to implement this signature award, "The Sustainable City Award" to raise awareness of the need to consider and address the social, economic and environmental implications of projects and initiatives in our community in an integrated manner.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Current City of North Vancouver Awards;
2. The Sustainable City Awards Program.

## **PURPOSE**

This report serves to introduce a signature award, "The Sustainable City Award". The award will raise awareness of sustainability by acknowledging achievements in the City in a Community (individual, non-profit organization) or Business (development project, business, corporation) that has demonstrated excellence in addressing social, environmental and economic considerations in an integrated manner. In addition, this umbrella award will highlight the City's commitment to fostering a more sustainable community.

## **SUSTAINABILITY COMMENTS**

The City seeks to raise awareness of the notion of sustainability as an integrating tool beyond the greening of our communities. The key components of sustainability can be represented as three circles with one for each of the environment, economy and community (social). These three related components of sustainability represent the need to achieve vital and complete neighbourhoods and communities.

It is anticipated that the new award will inspire a higher level of integration of environmental, social and economic considerations in new developments, business and community driven projects and initiatives.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **More than Green**

The word Sustainability has become widespread in the mainstream vocabulary. However, the concept of sustainability is often mistakenly used interchangeably with "green" initiatives such as stream restoration and energy conservation. The economic and social components of sustainability are often overlooked.

A survey of sustainability awards around the globe reinforces the notion that few communities are addressing the three areas of sustainability collectively.

### **The City Perspective**

The City has taken a purposeful approach to sustainability, through its Official Community Plan, defining sustainability as seeking a balance and integration of the economic, environmental and social aspects of planning for our future. This approach, and the projects and programs that flow from it have established the City as a leader in sustainability.

As in other areas such as climate change, the contributing factors are more varied than just environmental and require the consideration and application of economic and social factors to create solutions i.e., creating compact, complete communities which result in more efficient urban forms and require less commuting.

### **Awards to date**

To date the City has, with great enthusiasm, honoured and celebrated the achievements of non-profit groups, individuals, development projects and other initiatives with awards administered through its advisory bodies (Attachment #1). This has enabled the City to celebrate excellence through Design Awards, Environmental Stewardship Awards, Heritage Awards and Youth Awards.

"The Sustainable City Award" would not replace any of the existing awards which serve specific purposes but would add to the City's awards program an umbrella or signature award that recognizes projects and initiatives that address economic, environmental and social principles in an integrated manner.

### **THE CITY AWARD**

"The Sustainable City Award" is divided into two categories (Attachment #2). There is a Community (individual or non-profit organization) and a Business (development project or business or corporation) category. There is no minimum or maximum size for the projects or initiatives to be given consideration under the awards program.

Projects or initiatives must illustrate integration across all three components of sustainability. Awards will be presented to those projects or initiatives that go above and beyond current standards; which establish best practices and illustrate an integration of the three components of sustainability while showing leadership and commitment.

The award submissions will be referred to a meeting of the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) for evaluation and consideration. The award(s) will be selected by the APC with input from staff as needed.

The awards will be presented by Council during a Council meeting, with the involvement of the Chair) of the APC. The Awards presentation will be made in conjunction with the national World Town Planning Day in November 2010.

Zero, one or more awards will be made on an annual basis for outstanding illustration of sustainability principles. If no eligible nominations or applications are received for the various award categories, awards will not be made.

## **NEXT STEPS**

If approved, Information about the new award program would be made available on the City's website and awareness of the program generated throughout the year. Submissions would be received in September 2010 with the inaugural "Sustainable City Awards" held at a Council meeting in November 2010 in conjunction with World Town Planning Day.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There will be some additional staff time involved in the review and selection of awards. This staff time will be covered within the existing budget.

## **INTER-DEPARTMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been completed with input from the Community Development Department, Engineering, Parks and Environment Department and Finance Department. This report has been reviewed by the Civic Projects Team and comments have been incorporated into the report.

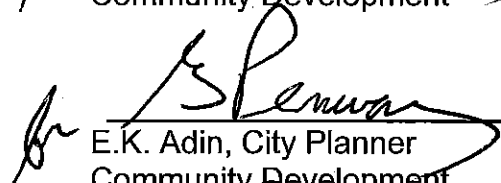
## CORPORATE PLAN AND/OR POLICY IMPLICATIONS

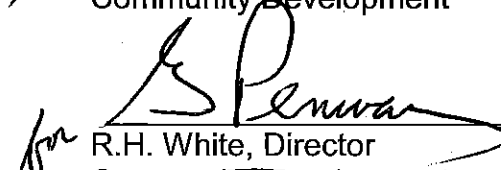
The introduction of "The City Award" as the signature award for excellence in the integration of sustainability principles takes its lead from the Official Community Plan, both its vision and implementation. The proposed award program would serve to raise awareness of sustainability in the community and signify the City's ongoing commitment in the area.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

  
S.A. Smith, Planner  
Community Development

APPROVED BY:

  
E.K. Adin, City Planner  
Community Development

  
R.H. White, Director  
Community Development

REVIEWED BY:

  
A.K. Tollstam  
City Manager

Attachments

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## **Current City of North Vancouver Awards**

### **Environmental Stewardship Awards**

**What:** to promote community based environmental stewardship to aid in the restoration and enhancement of shared resources, build awareness, provide public education, and recognize the volunteer actions of residents and businesses.

**Who:** Individuals, groups, community associations, schools, businesses and associations.

**Criteria/Ex's:**

- \*Greenhouse gas reduction
- \*community education
- \*naturescaping your yard
- \*native streamside planting
- \*stream cleanups
- \*pollution prevention

### **Heritage Awards**

**What:** to give recognition to those who have made a significant effort in support of heritage conservation in the City. To raise awareness.

**Who:** individuals, community organizations.

**Categories:**

- \*Residential or Commercial Heritage Conservation
- \*Small scale Heritage Improvement
- \*Heritage Project Achievement
- \*Heritage Awareness Achievement

### **Advisory Design Panel Awards (revised)**

**What:** to give recognition of their contribution to the promotion of design excellence in building and landscape architecture.

**Who:** applicants, designers

**Categories:**

- \*Streetscape Design – residential, commercial, mixed use
- \*Landscape Design
- \*Sense of Place
- \*Green Building/ Site Innovation
- \*Compact Design Innovation
- \*Sustainable Design Excellence

### **Civic Youth Awards**

**What:** recognizes youth between 10 and 21 for noteworthy achievements and contributions to the community.

**Who:** youth between 10 and 21 years of age.

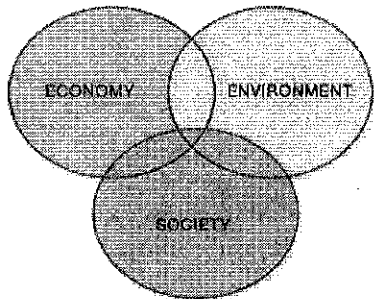
**Categories:**

- \*Youth Recognition Award
- \*Youth Community Enhancement Award
- \*Random Acts of Kindness Award
- \*Outstanding Youth-Friendly Business Award
- \*Outstanding Supporter of Youth Award
- \*Outstanding Youth Team Award
- \*Youth Centennial Scholarship



## “THE SUSTAINABLE CITY AWARD” PROGRAM

The City of North Vancouver’s **Community Vision** is *to be a vibrant, diverse and highly livable community that strives to balance the social, economic and environmental needs of our community locally*. Achieving this vision involves taking an integrated approach to projects, programs and initiatives – one that considers and responds to the social, economic and environmental implications of actions.



“The Sustainable City Award” is a signature award which will highlight and acknowledge outstanding projects and initiatives that exhibit excellence in the integration of sustainability principles.

The key components of sustainability can be represented as three circles with one for each of the environment, economy and community. We must recognize these circles not as separate, unrelated entities but as a single, vital, complete community much like the one we are working to achieve.

### Purpose of the Award:

- Annual awards to promote and encourage an integrated approach to sustainability, which is the basis of the City’s Official Community Plan;
- To give recognition to developments, projects and community initiatives which display innovative leadership in integrating aspects of sustainability (economic, environmental, social); and,
- To recognize the outstanding efforts of individuals, community groups, organizations and businesses that are helping to make the City of North Vancouver a more sustainable and liveable community.

“**Sustainability**” means managing our communities in a way that balances the social, economic and environmental implications of our activities in order to meet the needs of people today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



**Awards Description:**

The award(s) will be selected from one of the following categories:

- \*Community – individual or non-profit organization;
- \*Business – development project, business, corporation.

Zero, one or more awards will be made on an annual basis for outstanding illustration of sustainability principles. If no eligible nominations or applications are received for the various award categories, awards will not be made.

**Eligibility:**

- Projects, programs or initiatives completed in the last 18 months;
- Must be City-based or have significant benefit to the City;
- Shall illustrate best practices involving *all three* components of sustainability: social, economic, environment. Note: projects focussing on 1 or 2 components are not eligible; and,
- Must be exemplary in:
  - going above and beyond current standards towards the City's goal of a highly liveable complete community;
  - illustrating a balance between social, economic and environmental aspects;
  - providing leadership and commitment in promoting and engagement on sustainability.

Best practices could include strengthening community (building capacity), excellent community projects, improving neighbourhoods and community, improved decision making, corporate governance, sustainable small companies, and understanding/raising awareness of sustainability.

For more detailed information on sustainability and related City policies please refer to the City's Official Community Plan and Sustainability Webpage at [www.cnv.org](http://www.cnv.org).

**Nomination / Application Process:**

Nominations or applications are invited from public and from specific groups with a vested interest in sustainability including City advisory bodies. Submissions must use the specified form and are to be received by Community Development staff by September 15<sup>th</sup> of the year.

**Selection Process:**

"The Sustainable City Award" submissions will then be referred to a meeting of the Advisory Planning Commission for consideration. The award(s) will be selected by the Commission with input from staff as needed.

The awards will be presented by Council during a Council meeting, with the involvement of representatives (Chair) of the committee. The Awards presentation will be made in conjunction with the national World Town Planning Day in November.

City staff affiliated with the APC and/or other designated staff will act as resources in supporting the assessment process and Award announcements.

**Publicity:**

**1. Advertising Program:**

- City website; City Views publication;
- Advisory bodies, Chamber of Commerce, community organizations and networks, service clubs.

**2. Recognition of Award Recipients:**

- Recognized in an awards ceremony at a City Council meeting in conjunction with the National World Town Planning Day in November each year;
- Awards announced in press release, on City website and in City Views publication;
- Recognition at Volunteer Appreciation Reception;
- Letter from City naming the award recipient(s) with a brief description of each award to be sent to related professional associations and agencies as applicable to provide broader recognition.

**Further Information**

For additional information on "The Sustainable City Award", please contact Suzanne Smith at [ssmith@cnv.org](mailto:ssmith@cnv.org) or 604-990-4240.